

Berlin NewGen Chinese Film Festival



柏林华语青年电影节

2023

15-23 September
Movimento Berlin

Organized by



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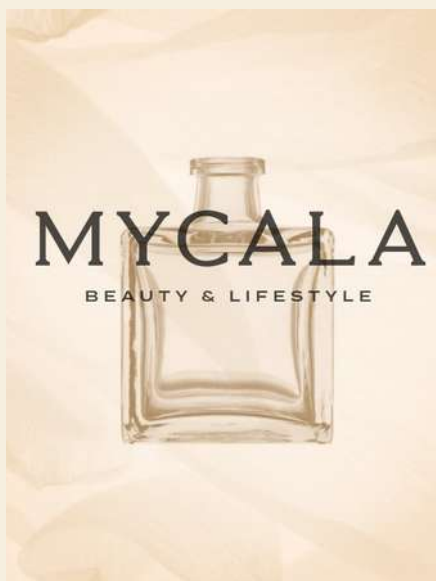


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WELCOME

欢迎

Dear guests and cinephiles!

A warm and heartfelt welcome to the second edition of the Chinese Film Festival! Since its very inception, the NewGen has remained steadfast in its commitment to nurturing and showcasing the budding talents that breathe life into the cinema screen. As we embark on this cinematic journey for the second time, we proudly uphold our tradition of spotlighting emerging filmmakers who are poised to redefine the boundaries of storytelling and creativity.

This year's festival is themed on the imagery of "Hands," which calls for exploration, courage, and innovation. It encapsulates our dedication to unearthing fresh perspectives and uncharted narratives that beckon us to explore the unexplored.

Over the course of this festival, you will witness a dazzling array of films that span genres and styles, all united by the common thread of innovation and inspiration. From captivating dramas that tug at your heartstrings, to thought-provoking documentaries that shed light on pressing social issues, to pioneering experimental audiovisual works that transport you to unknown realms—each of these cinematic gems represents the boundless potential of new talents in Chinese-language cinema.

On behalf of the Chinese Film Festival organizing committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed guests, sponsors, partners, and dedicated film aficionados who have come together to make this event possible. Your unwavering support fuels our mission to provide a platform for these rising stars to shine brightly.

Thank you and enjoy the festival!

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

**15
SEP**

FESTIVAL OPENING: NOMAD

19:30

Patrick TAM, Hong Kong
4K Restored Director's Cut

**16
SEP**

THE FUGUE OF NOSTALGIA

12:00

The Returned and the Blessed | Tinnitus | ERGE | Siam/The Time Boat |
As Long as There's Us

**16
SEP**

HER SONATA

14:30

Ripple Nipple | A Passing Cloud | Nowhere | There She Dances |
Close To You

**17
SEP**

THE DREAMINESS NOCTURNE

12:00

Of Dreams in the Dream of Another Mirror | Daughter and Son |
Everything | Sub-subconscious

**17
SEP**

THE OUVERTURE OF VISION

14:30

Hair | Smoked Fish | A Roadside Banquet | The Thing With Feathers |
Please Hold the Line

**18
SEP**

THE CORD OF LIFE

19:30

QIAO Sixue, Mainland China
Debut Feature

**19
SEP**

THE NARROW ROAD

19:30

Sum LAM, Hong Kong

**20
SEP**

SILENCE IN THE DUST

19:30

LI Wei, Singapor, France, USA, Mainland China
Documentary

**21
SEP**

ABANG ADIK

19:30

Lay Jin ONG, Malaysia

**22
SEP**

FRIDAY FANTASIA

19:30

Hourglass House | Night Carnival | Picnic Area | The Kowloon Emperor |
Rest in Peace

**23
SEP**

ANIMATION SHORT FILM COLLECTION

12:00

Trace of a Butterfly | Existence | Goldfish Bowl | The Bee and The Fly |
Elegy of Elephants | Miorror Stage | Art Brut | Tiger Stabs Tiger

**23
SEP**

FESTIVAL CLOSING: FLAMMING CLOUD

17:00

LIU Siyi , Mainland China
Debut Feature

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



Opening Film

NOMAD

4K RESTORED DIRECTOR'S CUT

1982/2023 | Hong Kong

96' | Cantonese

Cast: Leslie Cheung, Cecilia Yip, Ken Tong, Pat Ha



Friday 15 Sep
19:30

The film describes the sexuality and love of today's young generation. The scene of Ken Tong and Pat Ha making love on the tram raises controversy when it is shown. In contrast, the love between Leslie Cheung and Cecilia Yip is a kind of tender and pure. Cecilia falls in love with Leslie at first sight, they sympathize with each other and then sleep in a reasonable way. This kind of love is more graceful and sweet. Besides sexuality and sex, this film also talks about the infiltration of Japanese culture into Hong Kong. Leslie is westernized but old-fashioned inside, Cecilia is influenced by Japanese culture and ambitious. This shows the characteristics of Hong Kong's unique culture.



Patrick Tam

Patrick Tam Ka-ming is a Hong Kong film director and film editor. He is known as the seminal figure of the Hong Kong New Wave and the mentor of Wong Kar-wai.



Closing Film

FLAMING CLOUD

2023 | Mainland China

107' | Mandarin Chinese

Cast: Charles Hu, Chen Yao, Ye Zhou, Yiran Zhou, Yunlong Zheng



Saturday 23 Sep
17:00

After a bet about the existence of true love in a casino in the Kingdom of Heaven, a strange curse is cast upon a boy named Wang Sangui - anything he kisses would immediately fall into a deep sleep. In order to break the curse, Sangui embarks on a journey to seek true love.



LIU Siyi

LIU Siyi is a Chinese film director and writer. After majoring in Media and Visual Arts at Tongji University (Shanghai, China), she pursued further education of Film Production in Canada (Vancouver Film School). Cadence, one of her short films, was an official selection to the 13th China Independent Film Festival. She was selected to the China Film Directors Guild's (CFDG) Emerging Directors Program (2019) Top 5. In the 2021 China Golden Rooster Films Project Market, she was awarded "Most Promising Director", her first feature film project, Flaming Cloud was the winner of "Genre Selection" "Producers Jointly Promote Project".



Berlin Premiere

SILENCE IN THE DUST

2022 | Singapore, France, USA, China

96' | Mandarin Chinese

Documentary



Wednesday 20 Sep
19:30

Residing in the beautiful and peaceful mountains of Southwest China praised by generations of poets, three sisters and brothers' lives are forever trapped by the deadly pneumoconiosis. The entire family is stuck in this seemingly endless suffering while watching their father silently vanish from the world.



LI Wei

Li Wei was born in Fengdu, Chongqing, in 1994, and graduated from Li Xianting Film School. His debut film Enclave won the Independent Spirit Award at the 12th Beijing Independent Film Festival and was selected for the Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival, FIRST Film Festival, and other domestic and foreign film festivals. His works have been collected by New York University, Columbia University, and other institutions. He now lives and works in Chongqing.



Berlin Premiere

THE CORD OF LIFE

2022 | Mainland China

96' | Mongolian, Mandarin Chinese

Cast: Badma, Yider



Monday 18 Sep
19:30

Alus is a nomadic electronic musician, he accompanies his mother who has Alzheimer's disease back to the grassland to spend her last days together.



QIAO Sixue

QIAO Sixue was born in Inner Mongolia, China. After graduating from 3IS Ecoles & Formations d'audiovisuel à Paris de la France Academy, at the end of 2015, she worked at KOI Films Company in Paris and participated in dozens of short films. The Cord of Life is her debut feature. The project was previously selected by project markets including HAF Film Lab 2019 (Hong Kong). In 2022, the project won the Special Prize at the Project Market of Beijing International Film Festival.



Germany Premiere

THE NARROW ROAD

2022 | Hong Kong

115' | Cantonese

Cast: Louis Cheung, Angela Yuen, Patra Au, Chu Pak Hong



Tuesday 19 Sep
19:30

Chak, who runs a small cleaning company, takes over the cleaning work on his own to make a living. Hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, small businesses are closing down one by one. One day, a young single mother, Candy, comes to look for a job opportunity from Chak. She doesn't seem like a trustworthy person to Chak, but unexpectedly, she helps Chak to resolve many difficulties at work. Life seems like getting back on track. The morning sun never lasts a day, Chak's company is being accused, and at the same time, his family is facing a nightmare as well. All his hopes are dashed to pieces, but they can still try their best to resist the oppression of life and support each other through this painful year.



Sum Lam

Born in Hong Kong. Lam is an independent short film and documentary filmmaker who graduated from the School of Film and TV, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (APA FTV), majoring in directing. Lam's work is mostly focused on social issues and the lives of "grassroots" in Hong Kong. The Narrow Road is his second feature film.



Berlin Premiere

ABANG ADIK

2023 | Malaysia

115' | Malay, Mandarin, Cantonese, Sign Language

Cast: Kang Ren Wu, Jack Tan



Thursday 21 Sep
19:30

Undocumented orphans Abang and Adi adopted each other as brothers growing up. Their bond is inseparable, yet they couldn't be more different. The slightly older and deaf Abang is an altruistic do-gooder while Adi is an unrestrained rascal. Abang tries to walk the straight and narrow while their social worker strives to get them the documentation they need to move their lives forward. Adi, however, gets involved in the fatal treachery of immigrant smuggling. When his pent-up aggression leads to an unspeakable act, he's roped in and the brothers' fates are sealed. Director Jin Ong's remarkable award-winning debut achieves the verisimilitude and pathos of neorealism while offering a rare glimpse into Malaysian street life.



Jin Ong

Jin Ong, the founder of More Entertainment Sdn Bhd, has developed film and television productions since 2008. He also served as curator of the 1st and 2nd Malaysia International Film Festival. Jin is good at focusing on social issues, humanities, and morals. His perspective reflects the situation in the country (Malaysia) where he grew up, creating an indie style of realism.

SHORTS COMPETITION

Live Action Section

JURY



AMEI

Screenwriter, Writer
(former) Journalist

AMei, screenwriter, writer, former media worker. She has published a novel collection *Beijing's Night is Not Over*. Screen-written works include *Knitting*, *Under the Hawthorn Tree*, *The Law of Attraction*, *A Wedding Invitation*, *Bitter Flowers*, and *So Long, My Son*, etc. *So Long, My son* won two Silver Bears (Best Actor and Best Actress) at the 69th Berlin Film Festival, and the film won her Best Screenplay at the 32nd Golden Rooster Awards for Chinese Cinema.



LIU HUI

Producer

Liu Hui is known for producing *Lost, Found* (2018) and *Send Me to The Clouds* (2019), which are considered to be paradigmatic arthouse successes in the market. He also produced *A First Farewell* (2019), winning the best film award at Berlinale's Generation Kplus. Liu is the founder of Bad Rabbit Pictures, which is one of the boutique production houses in China with a special focus on realistic-themed films and female-related stories.



MATHEW
SCOTT

Journalist

Mathew Scott has been writing about and reviewing Chinese cinema for global platforms for more than 20 years, and his recent work can be found in *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Nikkei Asia*, and *Sixth Tone*. In 2015 he initiated the FEFF Campus programme for young critics and writers in Udine, Italy, and in 2021 he conceptualised and co-ordinated the Asian Cinema Education initiative's 10-session Journalism on Asian Cinema course.



LIU ZIYANG

Director, Artist

Ziyang Liu graduated from the University for the Creative Arts with a Distinction in Filmmaking. He was awarded the Best Director in the 4th 86358 Short Film Festival. He was on the jury of the 'Hidden Dragons' Programme at the 4th PYIFF and was recognized as one of the 'Top 5 Youth Film Directors' in the 6th China Film Director's Guild Young Director Support Program. Additionally, he showcased his work as an exhibiting artist at Documenta 15 in Kassel.



ANDREA
GUO

Actress

Andrea Guo is a young Chinese-Austrian actress, who has been working in several movies and series for Sky, Netflix, Amazon Prime, HBO, etc. for German, Austrian, as well as international TV. She plays one of the main characters for a Sky Television series *Hausen*. She's also been shooting for her first international TV series *The Swarm* produced by Frank Doelger (*Game of Thrones*), which was the opening series at Berlinale Filmfestival 2023.



Berlin Premiere

A PASSING CLOUD

2022 | Mainland China

14' | Mandarin Chinese

Cast: YONG Mei, ZHANG Tongxi



Wednesday 20 Sep
19:30

While working as a rideshare driver to support her family, Zhao Mei gives a lift to a teenage girl, Yiyi, during schooltime one day. On the way to their destination, Zhao Mei slowly begins to question her role as a mother as she learns more about her young passenger.



TANG Peiyan

TANG Peiyan was graduated from Beijing Film Academy. He also holds an MFA of Peking University.



Berlin Premiere

A ROADSIDE BANQUET

2022 | Mainland China, USA

16' | Mandarin, Chinese

Cast: Sarah Zhai



Sunday 17 Sep
14:30

An eleven years old Chinese girl turns into a feather duster at her baby brother's first birthday party, soon after learning her parents only ever wanted a boy.



PENG Peiqi

Peiqi Peng is a Chinese writer/director based in Los Angeles, with a BFA in Film and Post-Colonial Studies from Emerson College and an MFA in Directing from the AFI Conservatory. A child fantasy writer who later studied Sociology, Peng loves socially conscious female dramas with fantasy, gore and absurdist elements.



Berlin Premiere

AS LONG AS THERE'S US

2023 | Mainland China, USA

20' | Mandarin Chinese

Documentary



Saturday 16 Sep
12:00

Weaving together the memories of an oil worker, the daydreams of schoolchildren, and the nostalgic recollections of local residents, *As Long as There's Us* transcends temporality to document the past and present of an oil-producing city in northeastern China. The vibrant colors and sounds of the city, along with quiet and meditative scenes of industry and abandonment, converge at a single point in time.



Yizhuo

Yizhuo is from northeast China. She is an incoming Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology at USC, where she is committed to exploring sensory ethnography, and will have a long-term focus on global energy issues and feminist labor. She has recently earned an MFA in Documentary Media from Northwestern University. Throughout her studies and exploration of images, she fosters a deep love for documentary and experimental films.



International Premiere

CLOSE TO YOU

2023 | Mainland China

25' | Mandarin Chinese

Documentary



Saturday 16 Sep
14:30

Ten years ago, when my father was suffering from depression, my mother hid all the truth from me. Years later, she was once again in a marriage, and I noticed that she was slowly becoming happier, and the emptiness created by my dad's death only seemed to trap me. So, with some anger and confusion, I started trying to "talk" to her.



LIU Yaqin

She is a graduate student of Communication University of China, majoring in radio and television production. She started making documentaries in 2022. "I believe that documentary is a different kind of media."



DAUGHTER AND SON

2022 | Mainland China

30' | Mandarin Chinese

Cast: Chenxingzi Wu, Minghan Li



Sunday 17 Sep
12:00

Sachiko and Ming live together. Perhaps they are a couple. They discuss everyday things, slipping into different roles. They tell each other about their relationship.



CHENG Yu

In 1996, CHENG Yu was born in the dormitory of a steel factory in Jinan Province, China. He is now an independent filmmaker.



Berlin Premiere

ERGE

2021 | Mainland China

29' | Mongolian

Cast: Suldpurev, Aruna, Chanart



Saturday 16 Sep
12:00

Tengis, a Mongolian young man who was born and raised in the mainstream Chinese society, learning how to balance his Chinese and Mongolian identities, has been waiting for acceptance from three different universities in Germany over the winter vacation. Unfortunately, rejection is the gift he has been given from all three of them. He chooses to swallow the secret instead of telling the truth. Meanwhile, his parents pressure him to marry his girlfriend, Onon, who has passed the language exam and is ready to move to Germany with him.



Khereid Kherlen

Kherlen Khereid, director & production designer. Master in Film Visual Design, Beijing Film Academy. Currently studying for a Meisterschüler program in experimental film at Berlin University of the Arts (UdK).



Berlin Premiere

EVERYTHING

2022 | Mainland China

29' | Mandarin Chinese

Cast: Ruguang Wei, Zhen Xia



Sunday 17 Sep
12:00

A boy takes on an adventure with a girl who can transform into everything.



LU Helai

Screenwriter and director. Graduated from Literature Dept. of Beijing Film Academy.

Written works were selected by FIRST International Film Festival, Pingyao International Film Festival, Beijing International Film Festival, and Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival.



International Premiere

HAIR

2023 | Mainland China

5' | Mandarin Chinese

Documentary



Saturday 16 Sep
14:30

Before the Chinese New Year, an alcoholic and domestically abusive father erupts into conflict with his son, whom he has not contacted in three years. Facing the footage taken by his son, the father sheds tears for the first time.



Claude Wang

Born on October 2002, Wang is an undergraduate student at Hunan Normal University. He is an actor in the Changsha Damp Zoo Theater Troupe. He performed in plays such as *Metamorphosis* and *Reborn as a bird* and directed the drama *Xiang Lan*.



Berlin Premiere

HOURLASS HOUSE

2022 | Mainland China

21' | Mandarin Chinese

Cast: Jingyang Ni



Friday 22 Sep
19:30

The little boy wants to take an adventure in the desert, but the mother could not leave the family behind. Meanwhile, sand is pouring into the house continuously, covering the family members around him. He realizes that this is an irreversible hourglass of time...



HU Yinghai

Hu graduated from Photography of Beijing Film Academy in 2017. He is the director and cinematographer of *Summer Behind the Door*, which won the Best Cinematography at ISFVF (International Student Film and Video Festival of Beijing Film Academy), the 1st prize in Experimental Image Unit of the 13th Xianli Award, the Best Animated Experimental Short Film in the main competition unit of the 4th New Era Youth Film Season, and the 1st prize of Agnes Varda Award.



Berlin Premiere

NIGHT CARNIVAL

2023 | Mainland China

9' | Mandarin Chinese



Friday 22 Sep
19:30

On a rainy night and an empty construction site, a man drives into the zone by mistake and witnesses a car with its door left open. He accidentally finds a shiny gold bar in the car. He gets greedy and steals it, but then a mysterious figure suddenly lunges at him. After killing the sneak attacker, the man woefully leaves with the gold bar, but at that moment, a new car pulls into the site...



Joey Zhuang

Joey Zhuang, 24 years old, is from Taizhou, Zhejiang Province. He graduated from the Department of Dramatic Literature of Shanghai Theatre Academy as an undergraduate and now studies at the Department of Directing of Beijing Film Academy as a postgraduate, majoring in directing. Some of his representative works include the short film *Night Carnival* and *In Deep Water*, the play *The Death of the Lieutenant*, and the feature-length screenplay *So Long, Shitang*, etc.



Berlin Premiere

NOWHERE

2022 | Mainland China

16' | Mandarin Chinese

Cast: Zitong Zhou



Saturday 16 Sep
14:30

An ordinary female college student, Xiao Dong tries to find a hotel in Beijing to masturbate, but fails.



YAO Zirao

Zirao Yao, born in 2000. She graduated from Beijing Film Academy in 2022 majored in Film Theory. At the present she is studying Directing in the Chung-Ang University in South Korea. She devotes into not only film theory but also film making.



Berlin Premiere

OF DREAMS IN THE DREAM OF ANOTHER MIRROR

2022 | France

17' | French

Documentary



Sunday 17 Sep
12:00

The world is alive, but maybe without mirrors and images, none of it would exist. The blind create images in a different way – with sounds, textures and experiences. They are on the other side of the mirror.



ZHU Yunyi

Yunyi Zhu (b. 1988) is a Chinese artist whose practice questions memory and perception. He graduated from Tsinghua University Academy of Fine Arts in sculpture and Le Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains, he works based on the combination of a series of personal experiences relating to the uses of some of our underestimated senses in the field of art, such as touch, and the questions of memory. He transforms these experiences and memories into works by various approaches of mediums.



Berlin Premiere

PICNIC AREA

2022 | United Kingdom

16' | English

Cast: Anastasia Aush, Milan Ogier, Lily Barrett



Friday 22 Sep
19:30

At a picnic, Fiona doesn't expect to meet James, especially when she's infatuated with him, but he's her best friend's fiancé and she's about to follow him to an unknown place. That's when everything turns unexpectedly into something stranger.



LIU Daiqi

Daiqi Liu, a Chinese film director. From undergraduate, he studied in Shanghai Theatre Academy, and started to write and direct thrillers. He is always fascinated by weird and twisted stories, believing that all the truth is hidden in them. Picnic Area is his MA graduation film in London Film school.



Berlin Premiere

PLEASE HOLD THE LINE

2022 | Malaysia

19' | Chinese

Cast: Kendra Sow, Puie Heng Chen, Ruby Faye



Sunday 17 Sep
14:30

A young scam call operator is thrust into a moral dilemma as she navigates a life-changing situation.



Tan Ce Ding

Tan Ce Ding is a Malaysia-based filmmaker who works as a Director and Writer. His short film "The Masseuse" (2018) was acquired by Hollywood powerhouse Miramax Studio, to be developed into a feature film. In 2022, he directed and wrote his latest short film "Please Hold the Line", which had its World Premiere in the 79th Venice Film Festival.



World Premiere

REST IN PEACE

2023 | Mainland China

28' | Min-nan

Cast: Zenghui Cai, Weiliang Chen



Friday 22 Sep
19:30

In the early 21st century, Minnan region in China started implementing changes to funeral practices. Cremation is made mandatory for those who have passed away and inspection mechanisms have been set up by the authorities. However, the region has a longstanding tradition that believes being buried in the ground allows for a peaceful afterlife and the continuation of wealth and prosperity.



CAI Kunyu

Born in Zhangzhou, Fujian in 1997 and graduated with a master's degree in documentary directing from Beijing Film Academy. His directing career began with the production of short films such as commercial advertisements and documentaries. He worked as Script Supervisor in Xu Haofeng's 1000 Yards. *Rest In Peace* is his first fiction short film.



Berlin Premiere

RIPPLE NIPPLE

2022 | China

11' | Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese

Cast: Ziyi Zou



Saturday 16 Sep
14:30

Summer vacation is here, and fifth-grader Yuzhen finally has time to take the swimming class she's been dreaming of. But due to her physical development, she becomes the target of her classmates' teasing. To continue her dream, she makes a decision. This summer, Yu-Jin is forced to grow up and have her dreams taken away from her, and it all starts with something she can't control.



TANG Yuying

Yuying Tang, graduated from the Central Academy of Drama with a bachelor's degree in Dramatic Writing, and is now a master's student in Directing from the California Institute of the Arts.

"I am committed to creating stories with feminist themes and am still trying to explore the use of images to convey women's consciousness."



Berlin Premiere

SIAM/THE TIME BOAT

2023 | Mainland China

30' | Min-nan

Documentary



Saturday 16 Sep
12:00

My mother and I went back to our hometown to record the reminiscence of an elderly returned to his village from siam when he was three, and pieces of history concerning Japanese Invasion and Chinese Civil War.



Berlin Premiere

SMOKED FISH

2022 | United Kingdom

26' | Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese, English

Cast: Sophie Gopsill, Lorraine Tai



Sunday 17 Sep
14:30

Chinese Grandma Yu's visit to see her granddaughter in the UK is disrupted when she is racially attacked and beaten to the ground. Family members come together to help each other understand and recover from this traumatising incident.



YANG Yuye

Male, Born in 2001, Filmmaker



Jenny Xueer Wan

Jenny is a director based in London. Her passion lies in telling stories that are nuanced and culturally distinctive, but also speak to a universal audience.

Her film *Assassin* was officially selected by 5 international film festivals. *Smoked Fish* has so far been selected by 4 festivals.

For more information please visit her website:

jennyxueerwan.com



Berlin Premiere

SUB-SUBCONSCIOUS

2021 | Mainland China

31' | Mandarin Chinese

Cast: Chengzhou Zhou, Yuanjie Zhao



Sunday 17 Sep
12:00

The film is divided into five parts, each part expresses the subconscious in different forms. It is mainly in the form of the subconscious to show people's appearance and inner world. The film also combines some actual cases.



ZHOU Chengzhou

He has long given attention to problems relating to the mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and has focused his research and professional activities on such illnesses. Zhou Chengzhou's artistic theory likewise revolves around the concepts of industry, urbanization, and marginalization.



Europe Premiere

THE KOWLOON EMPEROR

2022 | Hong Kong

28' | Cantonese

Cast: Pak Him Chu, Kwok Yiu Liu, Kira Chan



Friday 22 Sep
19:30

Ah Choi encounters his associate from a previous life who reincarnated as Ah Yat. Ah Choi makes a warning to Ah Yat that the only way for him to avoid continuing his tragic destiny is he must assist Ah Choi to destroy the evil spirit through the "MaoShan" spell.



Willis WONG Man-chak

Graduated in Bachelor of Fine Arts (First Class Honour) in School of Film and Television of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts; was granted a scholarship as an exchange student in the Film School of Taipei National University of the Arts. His short films were selected in International Film Festival Rotterdam, Fresh Wave International Short Film Festival, FIRST International Film Festival etc.



Berlin Premiere

THE RETURNED AND THE BLESSED

2022 | Mainland China

9' | Mandarin Chinese

CAST: Shizhen Lin



Saturday 16 Sep
12:00

In southern China, the demolition of a small village goes quite well, as it always does. Two kids happen to get an abandoned wood-carved earth God. The story goes on like a metaphor when temples around have no interest in this earth God even the kids walk a long way to return the earth God. When they return home, they are told this wood-carved earth God is only worth the price of a can of Coke. Finally, with an innocent heart, they bury the wood-carved earth God into the ground.



LIN Shizhao

Born in 1993. Grew up in Amoy. Now studying in Taiwan as a Ph.D. student. LIN Shi-Zhao wrote short stories and film scripts, some of which got published and won several subsidiary grants in Taiwan. His first film *The Returned and the Blessed* was selected in the Film Market of *Visions du Réel* in 2023.



Berlin Premiere

THE THING WITH FEATHERS

2022 | Germany

20' | German, Persian

Cast: Mastaneh Amani, Mays Basmaji, Hossain



Sunday 17 Sep
14:30

An Iranian-Afghan family's life in Germany solely through seeing their hands. Iranian doctor Maryam came with her family to Germany for asylum two years ago. After her little daughter, Yara was born, she sticks to a strict daily studying routine, hoping to return to her medical career while her husband Hossain takes care of their baby at home. On this day, Hossain has a job interview at a photo studio, and Maryam has to reschedule her day.



XU Tianlin

Tianlin Xu is an award-winning Chinese filmmaker and media educator based in Hangzhou, China, and Hattingen, Germany, with an academic background in German studies and International Media Studies. She started filmmaking in 2009. Her debut feature-length documentary *Coming and Going* was funded by the Sundance Documentary Program and has won different awards at many International film festivals. *The Thing With Feathers* is her first feature short and got her nominations and awards at Hong Kong International Film Festival, and Golden Horse Awards. She is a mother of two kids.



Berlin Premiere

THERE SHE DANCES

2023 | Mainland China

37' | Cantonese

Cast: Suiwen Huang, Zhimei Dou



Saturday 16 Sep
14:30

Pei Qiong, a middle-aged woman in semi-retirement, is faced with a paralyzed husband who suffers an accidental stroke and a daughter who's pregnant before getting married. And the Qingming Festival is approaching. This is her life situation presented.



LI Zhong

Zhong Li, graduated from the Department of Cinematography of Beijing Film Academy and has been involved in various styles of video creation as a director or director of cinematography. As a director or director of photography, he has participated in the creation of different styles of images. He tries to reveal the deep thoughts and emotional content behind the images.



Berlin Premiere

TINNITUS

2022 | Mainland China

22' | Tibetan

Cast: Tsetan Yangkyi



Saturday 16 Sep
12:00

Tibetan girl Yuzhen returns to Lhasa from her studies in the mainland to attend her grandmother's funeral. Unexpectedly, the high altitude reaction prevents her from lighting the lamp for her late grandmother. In her dream, she finds her grandmother in a temple, and what happens along the way creates some subtle connections with real life.



Tsering Yangkyi

Born and raised in Lhasa, Tibet, Tsering Yangkyi finished her MFA in directing at the Academy of Film, Hong Kong Baptist University. She was selected into the 17th First Training Camp as one of seven directors mentored by director Anthony Chen.

SHORTS COMPETITION

Animation Short Section

JURY



MAYA
YONESHO

Experimental
Animation Director

Born in Hyogo, Japan. After working as a fine art teacher at junior high school for 6 years, she returned to university to study Conceptual Art and Animation based on Japanese Paintings. M.A. in Fine Art. Since 1997, she has been making abstract animations synchronized with language, sounds, and music about the theme - we can understand each other without necessarily understanding each other's language. Her films often use images from her daily life made while visiting or living in foreign countries. *Introspection* (1998) was made in the United Kingdom, *Üks Üks* (2003) in Estonia, and *Wiener Wuast* (2006) was made in Austria. *Wiener Wuast* was shot in Vienna with real view, with a drawing in her hand. She has done workshops in the same way in Taiwan, Norway, Croatia, Israel, Kyoto Poland, Italy, and more. She has been a lecturer at Kyoto Seika University from 2000 to 2021.



half past
selber schuld

Artist Duo

half past selber schuld lives in Düsseldorf and consists of the composer and musician Ilanit Magarshak-Riegg and the comic artist and author Frank Römmele alias Sir ladybug beetle. They work as directors, composers, musicians, actors, animators, and stage designers of their plays.



LEI LEI

Director

Graduated from China Academy of Art, her works have been selected by international film festivals such as SeeMör Film Festival Anglesey and Raindance Film Festival in the UK, and won the Best Animation in Porto Femme - International Film Festival, Atomium Film Award in Brussels Independent Film Festival, and Special Prize in CIAFF, etc. Her works are collected in the China Contemporary Animation Art Archives.



Berlin Premiere

ART BRUT

2022 | Mainland China
8' | Chinese



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

This film takes the paintings of the mentally handicapped at Nanjing Native Art Studio as its creative materials and uses animation to dynamically interpret the voices of the artists' works, recreate the world from their unique perspectives, and listen to their desires for the world and understand them. It is hoped that this movie will arouse the public's concern and care for the special people.



ZHANG Anji

Experimental Animation, Department of Animation,
Nanjing Arts Institute



Berlin Premiere

ELEGY OF ELEPHANTS

2022 | Mainland China
9' | Tibetan



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

Fleeing from poachers, the little elephant Nana was accidentally rescued by an old Dai man. The old man took good care of Nana, healing her scars. Nana gradually lost her fear of humans and became dependent on the old man. But knowing that Nana ultimately belonged to nature, the old man set her free in the mountains, where the herd of elephants resided. 30 years later, Nana has become the leader of the elephant herd. Somehow, Nana senses that the old man died. Determined, She leads the elephant herd to travel through mountains, just to offer the last elegy for the old man.



LU Sijie

Sijie Lu, a graduate of the Animation Department at the Communication University of China, specializes in 3D Animation and Visual Effects. Currently serving as an executive director at Niceboat Animation. His work *Elegy of Elephant* has received numerous accolades at international and domestic film festivals, including the Tricks for Kids Award at the 2023 Stuttgart International Animation Festival, the Silver Dolphin Award for Best Student Animation at the 15th Xiamen Animation Festival, and many more.



Berlin Premiere

EXISTENCE

2021 | Mainland China
6' | Chinese



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

If I couldn't remember him, what else can be left to prove his existence?



SHOU Wenjia

Wenjia Shou studied animation at China Academy of Art. In 2021, she directed her first film *Existence*, which was also her graduation film.



Berlin Premiere

GOLDFISH BOWL

2022 | Mainland China
10' | Chinese



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

The film tells the story of a mother and daughter who are in conflict over their studies and hobbies. The story takes place in a small town in summer. After the mother exchanges her daughter's desired gift of crayons for goldfish, the daughter earns crayons by drawing for her classmates and immerses herself in the world of drawing. Eventually, the mother discovers the crayons and the girl's doodles, over which the mother and daughter have an argument. The derivation shows the overall anxiety-inducing educational environment and uses whimsical, imaginative images to show the demands of a child's growth.



YE Yuxin



DU Xuanlin



ZHANG Ruiqi



Berlin Premiere

MIRROR STAGE

2022 | Mainland China
9' | Chinese



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

The film's topic is based on a philosophical theory: the mirror stage. By breaking the boundaries of reality, dreams and fantasy, the film shows the three phases of the mirror stage: chaos, ideal, reality.



LIU Han

Director, graduated from Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts, now lives and works in Guangzhou. He loves ruins, dreams, and circus.



Berlin Premiere

THE BEE AND THE FLY

2023 | Mainland China
7' | Chinese



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

An absurd world through the eyes of two little insects. The innocent Bee comes to live in a big city, blending himself with the scheming Fly into the local corrupt officialdom day and night, witnessing all kinds of strange things in this world. After encountering many absurd events, the Bee gradually turns into a parasite, just like his friend.



SU Xia

SU Xia is a professor and the dean of College of Film and Animation, China Academy of Art. His circular-screen work *City Square* (2010) was presented in the theme pavilion at Shanghai Expo and won many awards at both domestic and international festivals. His short fiction film *Derailment* (2014) was selected for the 38th Montreal International Film Festival. His last animation short *Gold is Eating People* (2022) was selected in a number of prestigious festivals, including the 26th Lund International Fantastic Film Festival, Annecy International Animation Film Festival, Fest Anča International Animation Festival.



TIGER STABS TIGER

2022 | Mainland China
22' | Chinese



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

Irreversible penetrations, repeated collisions, intense touches, and adhesions...bring both life and death.



SHEN Jie

Born in 1989 in Shanghai, SHEN Jie graduated from Shanghai Institute of Technology in 2012. He is one of the best animation filmmakers of the young generation. His previous works, daring to challenge the audience viewing experience, were selected by more than 80 prestigious festivals including Berlinale, Venice, Clermont-Ferrand, Annecy, Zagreb, Hiroshima, Slamdance. His last short film *SPLASH* premiered at Berlinale Shorts Competition and won prizes at Vienna Shorts, Krakow Film Festival, Animafest Zagreb, to name just a few.



Berlin Premiere

TRACE OF A BUTTERFLY

2021 | Mainland China
11' | Cantonese



Saturday 23 Sep
12:00

Life is always as light as a butterfly dance, meeting, separating, birth, and death, seem to be just the gentle flapping in the wing.

But even if life is light like this, is it really impossible to leave any traces?



XU Ran

XU Ran, female, born in Guangdong in 1998.

EVENTS

SPECIAL SCREENING: CHINA NEW SCI-FI

Curated by WU Yueqi

In collaboration with: Beijing Yuanyu Science Fiction and Future Technology Research Institute / Kapsel Magazin

Panelists: WANG Jinnkang a renowned Chinese science fiction writer / DUBOR Lukas editor of Kapsel Magazine / QIU Sheng director / ZHU Xin director / LV Shiyu director

Program:



Double Helix (2021)
QIU Sheng



Olympic (2022)
ZHU Xin



Eternal Sunday (2020)
LV Shiyu



Saturday 10 Sep 13:30



Huawei Flagship Store Berlin

N.A. TALK 2023

Pave your own way! How to Get Your Foot into the Local Industry

In collaboration with: China Contemporary Animation Art Archive Museum

Panelists:



Saturday 23 Sep 13:30



Nio House Berlin



Andrea Guo
Actress



Viv Li
Director



ZHANG Shimin
Researcher

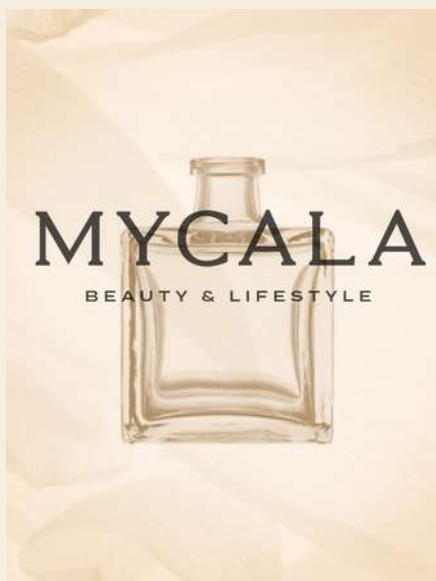


MYCALA

Wir bei MYCALA sind neugierig und wollen viel erleben und noch mehr bieten. MYACALA ist nicht nur ein Shop, sondern ein Lifestyle-Service-Konzept, das dich in eine Welt voller Schönheit, exklusiver Produkte und Unterhaltung entführt.

Wir empfehlen, was wir selber lieben und was deine Zeit und dein Geld wert sein soll. Newsletter, einzigartige Events, Memberships und persönliche Beauty-Experten, für dich als Teil unserer ganz besonderen Mycala-Community.

Schön, dass du Teil davon bist!



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NEWGEN AND OUR TEAM

Berlin NewGen Chinese Film Festival was initiated by a group of young European filmmakers and film enthusiasts with the aim of discovering a new generation of filmmakers who represent the future of Chinese-language cinema and encouraging independent, new, and innovative cinematography that shows the diversity of Chinese culture and society.

Since its inception in 2022, NewGen has successfully organized its inaugural film festival and a series of special screenings, as well as a joint activity with the China Contemporary Animation Art Archive to showcase Chinese animation.

TEAM OF NEWGEN 2023

Organized by

Alliance Cinéaste Chine-Europe

Festival Director

ZHAO Huangdan huangdan@bngcff.com

Program Director

ZHU Zijiao festival@bngcff.com

Head of Sponsorship

MA Jing

Festival Coordinator

WU Zhilin & SUN Haoyang

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ZHAO Huangdan

ZHU Zijiao

Technical Support

Yunxi

Julius Blezinger

Special Thanks To

WANG Xiaoxin

MA Min,

HUANG Yue