

For Immediate Release

CINE FAN COMMEMORATES SATYAJIT RAY AND CELEBRATES EMIR KUSTURICA

16 August 2021 (Hong Kong) – The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society will pay homage to two giants of world cinema – the legendary Indian filmmaker Satyajit RAY and Sarajevo-born Emir KUSTURICA – in its September/October edition of the repertory Cine Fan Programme.

The ten-film tribute commemorating the birth centenary of Satyajit RAY will highlight how the only Indian filmmaker to have received an Honorary Lifetime Achievement Academy Award had transcended cultural barriers in expressing shared human experience.

For the first time, the Hong Kong audience will be able to watch the 4K digitally restored version of *The Apu Trilogy* on the big screen, the original prints of which were painstakingly and miraculously rescued after a fire almost destroyed them in 1993. The three films that made up RAY's celebrated trilogy – ***Song of the Little Road*** (1955), ***The Unvanquished*** (1956), and ***The World of Apu*** (1959) – portray an eloquent humanism premised upon his faith in the individual in a changing society. ***The Lonely Wife*** (1964) and ***The Home and the World*** (1984), RAY's two exquisite period adaptations of Rabindranath TAGORE, exemplify his auteurist vision that elevates literature through cinematic translation. The unparalleled beauty of ***The Music Room*** (1958) and the *poetry on celluloid* of ***The Goddess*** (1960) earned admiration from fellow master filmmakers, including Werner HERZOG and Elia KAZAN.

Contrasting with RAY's subtlety, Emir KUSTURICA approaches and conceives magical surrealism differently, and his artistic genius in black satirical comedy is also recognised worldwide. In this Cine Fan edition, the audience can experience a selection of seven of his award-winning films, including ***When Father was Away on Business*** (1985) and ***Underground*** (1995), with which KUSTURICA became one of the few two-time winners of the Palme d'Or in Cannes. Acclaimed for their Balkanist farce marked by slapstick and subversive cynicism, ***Time of the Gypsies*** (1988) and ***Black Cat, White Cat*** (1998) further cemented his status as an auteur par excellence, earning best director kudos in Cannes and Venice.

Expanding on this edition's India theme, Cine Fan will showcase ***The River*** (1951), Jean RENOIR's entrancing first Technicolor film shot in India, which also kickstarted the career of RAY who served as an assistant director. Half a century on, this masterpiece inspired Wes ANDERSON in creating ***The Darjeeling Limited*** (2007), extending the spiritual voyage in India. Native Indian filmmaker Mira NAIR, inheriting RAY's humanistic spirit, came up with ***Salaam Bombay!*** (1988) that takes an unsentimental

yet striking look at the hard-knock lives of street children.

The two films under *The Golden Age* section – neorealist classic ***Stromboli*** (1950) and the off-beat romantic comedy ***Never on Sunday*** (1960) – coincidentally witnessed passionate affairs both on and off-screen between their directors and the leading actresses. After their collaboration, Roberto ROSSELLINI married Ingrid BERGMAN, as did Jules DASSIN with Cannes Best Actress Melina MERCOURI.

Approaching the month of Halloween, *The Taste of Cult* section returns with two thrillers by Dario ARGENTO, who has just received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 74th Locarno Film Festival. Hailed as the Italian HITCHCOCK, many credited ARGENTO's directorial debut, ***The Bird with the Crystal Plumage*** (1970) and the acclaimed ***Deep Red*** (1975) for popularising the Italian giallo genre with gripping horror in compelling narrative and striking visual style.

Those who prefer the convenience of online viewing can choose to watch three films from this edition through the CINE FAN ONLINE platform, including ***Salaam Bombay!*** and KUSTURICA's award-winning debut ***Do You Remember Dolly Bell?*** (1981) and ***Time of the Gypsies***.

The complete programme and schedule of Cine Fan's September/October edition are available at <https://cinefan.com.hk>. The public can purchase tickets to all in-cinema screenings from URBTIX outlets from 18 August. Those interested in viewing the three films on CINE FAN ONLINE (<https://cinefan.com.hk>) can book their passes from 17 September.

To download information

FTP: <ftp://hkiff.mtel.ws>
Log In: Press
Password: HK1FFPress
Folder: Cine Fan/20210817 Cine Fan SepOct 202021/

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About HKIFF Cine Fan Programme (Cine Fan)

Financially supported by the Hong Kong Film Development Fund, the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) launched the HKIFF Cine Fan Programme in 2013 to enrich and deepen the experience of Hong Kong moviegoers. The bi-monthly repertory programme features various curated contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases, presenting national cinemas, tributes to masters, digitally restored classics, and genre films while supporting Hong Kong films and film culture. At HKIFFS's invitation, local and overseas filmmakers and critics attend meet-the-audience sessions to facilitate cultural exchange across borders. In conjunction with the programme, the HKIFFS has introduced *Cine Fan Privilege Scheme* for cineastes to enjoy ticket discounts on Cine Fan, HKIFF, SummerIFF, and other associated programmes.

Official website: cinefan.com.hk

About The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to discovering and promoting creativity in film's art and culture. It organises the annual Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF). Another highlight is the Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival (SummerIFF) held every August. In 2013, HKIFF introduced the repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme to enrich and deepen Hong Kong moviegoers' experience through a monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective, and thematic showcases. In 2021, HKIFFS restructures its film industry services and set up HKIFF Industry to promote and support non-mainstream film industry development through co-production and festival strategies and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: www.hkiff.org.hk

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