

For Immediate Release

**CINE FAN KICKS OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH LUBITSCH
AND A COMPLETE ANGELOPOULOS RETROSPECTIVE**

13 December 2021 (Hong Kong) – The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society will celebrate two legends who have forever transformed cinema: Theo ANGELOPOULOS and Ernst LUBITSCH, in the January/February/March edition of the repertory Cine Fan programme.

Paying tribute to the Greek maestro on the 10th anniversary of his passing, ***An Eternal Odyssey: The Complete Theo Angelopoulos*** is a full retrospective comprising all 13 of ANGELOPOULOS's feature films and other works, many of them recently restored. The programme will feature three films that the audience can watch via the CINE FAN ONLINE platform.

An epic poet and stylist of the cinema, ANGELOPOULOS navigated distinctive aesthetics of myth and empathy, transposing the audience into a deep exploration and contemplation of exile, displacement and homecoming. His historical and political allegories, first introduced in his debut feature, ***Reconstruction*** (1970), were brought to the fullest in his epic masterpieces ***The Travelling Players*** (1975), ***Ulysses' Gaze*** (1995) and his final work, ***The Dust of Time*** (2008).

ANGELOPOULOS' international reputation reached the pinnacles with ***Journey to Cythera*** (1984), winner of Best Screenplay at Cannes; ***Landscape in the Mist*** (1988) with which he won Silver Lion for Best Director at Venice; and the Palme d'Or-winning ***Eternity and a Day*** (1998). Besides these award-winning masterpieces, his rarely-seen TV documentary, ***Athens, Return to the Acropolis*** (1983), and his debut short film, ***The Broadcast*** (1968), are indispensable for a thorough understanding of the last modernist's distinctive vision.

Commemorating the 130th anniversary of the birth of LUBITSCH, Cine Fan will showcase 11 of his features that cement his unsurpassed status for inventing the genre of sophisticated romantic comedies and pioneering film musicals. ***The Lubitsch Touch***, a hallmark adhered to his witty and ironic cinematic style, is hard to define but can be vividly experienced through his works – the style-setting ***The Marriage Circle*** (1924), his most acclaimed ***Trouble in Paradise*** (1932), and the almost-perfect ***The Shop Around the Corner*** (1940).

Renowned for his creative reshaping of actors, the German-born American director brought out Gary COOPER's comedic instincts in *Design for Living* (1933) and *Bluebeard's Eighth Wife* (1938). He also transformed the on-screen personas of Greta GARBO and Marlene DIETRICH in *Ninotchka* (1939) and *Angel* (1937).

LUBITSCH's far-reaching influence is evident in the two films under *The Golden Age* section. Frank BORZAGE's *Desire* (1936) is a fruitful collaboration, combining his melodramatic sensibility with producer LUBITSCH's sophisticated comedy. On the other hand, *Love in the Afternoon* (1957) sees Billy WILDER manifest himself as a successor to LUBITSCH, crafting his own *touches* of subtle, witty slapstick.

Inheriting the innovative spirit of the New Greek Cinema is COSTA-GAVRAS, who earned his reputation as a master of political thrillers with *Z* (1969) and *Missing* (1982), winning Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars and Palme d'Or at Cannes respectively. Based on real-life events, these two strikingly realistic dramas continue to strike a nerve in a world embroiled in political activism and repression today.

The complete programme and screening schedule of Cine Fan's January/February/March edition are now available at <https://cinefan.hkiff.org.hk/>. The public can purchase tickets to all in-cinema screenings from URBTIX outlets from 15 December. Those interested in online viewing can book their CINE FAN ONLINE passes (<https://cinefan.hkiff.org.hk/>) from 21 January 2022.

To download information

FTP: <ftp://hkiff.mtel.ws>
Log In: Press
Password: HK1FFPress
Folder: Cine Fan/20211213 Cine Fan JanFebMar 2022/

– The End –

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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 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 *CineClub* for cineastes to enjoy ticket discounts on Cine Fan, HKIFF, SummerIFF, and other associated programmes.

Official website: <https://cinefan.hkiff.org.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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