

For Immediate Release

**THE COEN BROTHERS AND JIŘÍ MENZEL  
TO DAZZLE CINE FAN AUDIENCES  
WITH BLACK COMEDIES**

**22 August 2023 (Hong Kong)** – The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society is delighted to follow the Summer International Film Festival with an exciting line-up of dark comedies by renowned American filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen, as well as a tribute to Czech New Wave maestro Jiří Menzel, as part of its Cine Fan programme from September to October.

Titled *Crimes and Misdemeanours – The Eccentric Cinema of the Coen Brothers*, this unique showcase celebrates the Coen Brothers' unconventional storytelling style with a carefully curated selection of ten films that exemplify their signature blend of offbeat narratives, intricate twists, and dark humour.

From their impressive debut with the dark and violent neo-noir film **BLOOD SIMPLE** to the critically acclaimed **FARGO**, which earned Frances McDormand her first Best Actress Oscar, and the Cannes-winning **THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE**, as well as the Oscar-winning **NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN**, the Coen Brothers' films continue to captivate audiences and garner critical acclaim.

Known for their ability to seamlessly transition between various styles and genres while maintaining their playful approach to subverting storytelling conventions, the Coen Brothers have created a distinctive cinematic universe populated by cunning criminals and eccentric characters. From the quick-thinking mob accomplice in **MILLER'S CROSSING** to the egotistical playwright in **BARTON FINK** and the dim-witted protagonist in **THE HUDSUCKER PROXY**, these unforgettable characters find themselves entangled in grisly and absurd circumstances, solidifying the Coen Brothers' reputation as one of the most original voices in filmmaking.

In addition to the Coen Brothers' retrospective, Cine Fan also pays tribute to the late Jiří Menzel, a pioneering Czech New Wave movement giant. The programme, titled *Too Absurd a Reality: A Jiří Menzel Retrospective*, showcases eight of Menzel's classic films.

Menzel's unique blend of comedic satire, whimsical storytelling, and compassionate worldview is on full display in these films. His remarkable collaboration with Bohumil Hrabal,

**The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited**  
香港國際電影節協會有限公司

Unit B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Block B, Wing Hong Factory Building, 777-783 Yu Chau West Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
香港九龍汝州西街777-783號永康工廠大廈B座3樓B室  
Tel +852 2970 3300 Fax +852 2970 3011 Website [www.hkiff.org.hk](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

one of the best-known Czech writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, resulted in five acclaimed features that vividly depict the absurdity of life under totalitarian regimes while reflecting the tumultuous history of Czechoslovakia. Cine Fan's line-up includes the Oscar-winning **CLOSELY WATCHED TRAINS**, the Berlinale Golden Bear winner **LARKS ON A STRING** (after a 21-year ban), **CUTTING IT SHORT**, **THE SNOWDROP FESTIVAL** (both from the country life trilogy), and the visually stunning epic **I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND**.

Complementing the Menzel retrospective are additional screenings of British director Carol Reed's wartime intrigue and espionage thriller **NIGHT TRAIN TO MUNICH**, as well as two classics from the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema – Frank Capra's lively romantic comedy and feelgood fantasy **MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN** and Preston Sturges' comic masterpiece **SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS**, featuring the vivacious Veronica Lake. The ingenious screenplays and timeless wit of these films offer intriguing comparisons to the dark comedies of the Coen Brothers.

For the complete programme and screening schedule of the September/October edition, please visit Cine Fan's official website at <https://cinefan.hkiff.org.hk/en>. Tickets for all screenings will be available from URBIX starting on 24 August.

– The End –

### **To download information**

FTP: [https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/Cine\\_Fan/20230822\\_Cine\\_Fan\\_Sep\\_Oct/](https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/Cine_Fan/20230822_Cine_Fan_Sep_Oct/)

### **Media Enquiry**

#### **Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF)**

Kevin CHIU

Tel: +852-2102-7383 | 9787-0905

Email: [kevin\\_chiu@hkiff.org.hk](mailto:kevin_chiu@hkiff.org.hk)

Gaby CHOI

Tel: +852-2102-7382 | 9689-2060

Email: [gaby\\_choi@hkiff.org.hk](mailto:gaby_choi@hkiff.org.hk)

#### **Strategic Public Relations Group (SPRG)**

Andico TSUI

Tel: +852-2114-4346 | 6902-3831

Email: [Andico.Tsui@sprg.com.hk](mailto:Andico.Tsui@sprg.com.hk)

Veronica LI

Tel: +852-2114-4945 | 9414-2862

Email: [veronica.li@sprg.com.hk](mailto:veronica.li@sprg.com.hk)

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Unit B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Block B, Wing Hong Factory Building, 777-783 Yu Chau West Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
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Tel +852 2970 3300 Fax +852 2970 3011 Website [www.hkiff.org.hk](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

### **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 art and culture. It organises the 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 restructured its film industry services and set up HKIFF Industry to promote and support non-mainstream film industry development through co-production, festival strategies, and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: [www.hkiff.org.hk](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

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