

For Immediate Release

HKIFF45 Concludes with Asian Premiere of Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy

12 April 2021 (Hong Kong) – The 45th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF45) draws to a successful conclusion with the Asian premiere of *Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy*, HAMAGUCHI Ryusuke's Berlinale Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize winner.

The 12-day extravaganza took place in a hybrid format for the first time by combining physical and online screenings and events, showcased over 190 films from 58 countries and regions.

In a post-screening video message to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre audience – the first in Asia to experience *Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy* on the big screen, HAMAGUCHI credited Eric ROHMER's favourite theme of coincidence as the inspiration for his triptych of short stories which delicately examining the callousness of desire and the brutality of love.

Picking up the baton from HKIFF45, Cine Fan will feature masterpieces by two supreme stylists, Douglas SIRK and Rainer Werner FASSBINDER, in its programme from May to July. From a selection of their 19 classics, the audience can take a closer look at how SIRK transformed melodrama into an art form with his expressionist imagery and critical view of post-war society and how FASSBINDER channelled his inspiration from SIRK into his style of melodramas that subverted the genre.

This Cine Fan edition will also mark the return of several screenings, including those from the *FELLINI 100* retrospective, previously cancelled due to the health crisis. More information is available at <u>http://cinefan.com.hk/</u>.

The audience can purchase tickets for the Cine Fan programme online and through all URBTIX outlets. Tickets for the rescheduled *FELLINI 100* screenings are available at the K11 Art House box office.

Details on this year's Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival (SummerIFF), to take place from 17 to 30 August, will be announced later.

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About The Hong Kong International Film Festival

The Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) is one of Asia's oldest and most reputable platforms for filmmakers, film professionals and filmgoers from all over the world to launch new work and experience outstanding films. The Festival is the largest cultural event in Hong Kong. It introduces world cinema to local audiences with the aim to enrich and deepen the experience of Hong Kong moviegoers. Committed to discovering new talent, the Festival premieres the breadth of Chinese cinema and showcases Asian talent. Festival-goers have the opportunity to enjoy world-class films, attend seminars hosted by leading filmmakers from around the world, visit film exhibitions, participate in receptions and parties, and more. The Festival draws extensive coverage from the local and international media. It continues to grow in importance as one of the premier platforms to launch films in Asia.

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 flagship, the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) in March and April. Another annual highlight is the Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival (Summer IFF) held every August. Launched in 2013, the repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme aims to enrich and deepen Hong Kong moviegoers' experience through a monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases. In 2017, HKIFFS set up the Film Industry Services Office (FIS) to promote non-mainstream film industry development through co-production and support of festival strategies and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: www.hkiff.org.hk

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