

**For Immediate Release**

## **HKIFF47 SPOTLIGHTS SOI CHEANG AS FILMMAKER-IN-FOCUS**

**3 February 2023 (Hong Kong)** – The 47<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF47) will honour Soi Cheang as this year’s Filmmaker-in-Focus.

One of Hong Kong’s most stylish and formidable directors, Cheang joins an illustrious and growing list of recent HKIFF Filmmakers-in-Focus, including Sandra Ng, Stanley Kwan, Michael Hui, Sammo Hung and Brigitte Lin.

Returning to its traditional dates after last year’s postponement, HKIFF47 will take place from 30 March to 10 April. At the centre of this year’s cinephile extravaganza is the showcase of Cheang’s 12 seminal works, the publication of a commemorative book and, in collaboration with long-term festival partner Moleskine, the release of a limited edition notebook. Cheang will also attend a Face-to-Face session to share his insights and vision with the public.

In making the announcement, Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Executive Director Albert Lee paid tribute to Cheang and said the festival was proud to recognise his indelible contribution to Hong Kong cinema.

‘Soi is a key figure among Hong Kong’s post-1997 generation of filmmakers and notable for his sombre but unmistakably personal visual style,’ Lee said. ‘He seldom deviates from mainstream storytelling conventions but innovatively explores new boundaries of filmmaking across different genres, from horror and thriller to action films. In the stark dystopia he creates, where one confronts moral bleakness and human perseverance, Soi never fails to detect a ray of hope.’

Cheang left his native Macau and joined the Hong Kong film industry at 19, gaining invaluable experience working as a production assistant and assistant director for Ringo Lam, Andrew Lau, Joe Ma, Wilson Yip and Johnnie To. His breakthrough

Page 1 of 5

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came in 1999 when he directed his debut film ***Our Last Day*** on digital video, presenting a grim worldview that returned thematically to his works throughout his career.

Since 2000, Cheang's talent as a stylish filmmaker gained notice with his breakout ***Horror Hotline... Big Head Monster*** and the compelling thriller ***New Blood***. His steady rise to prominence gathered pace with two harrowing action-romance films, ***Love Battlefield*** and ***Home Sweet Home***, which starred Karena Lam and Shu Qi.

From strength to strength, Cheang showed versatility, migrating to urban crime thrillers, and produced his most personal and unapologetic works, ***Dog Bite Dog*** and ***Shamo***. Surrounding his characters with corruption and filth, Cheang blurs the line between good and evil, using extreme situations to craft his frenzied tales of survival in startling beauty.

Cheang finally confirmed himself as a purveyor of edgy, extreme entertainment when he teamed up with Johnnie To's celebrated Milkyway Image. Together they delivered ***Accident***, an intelligent, meticulously-detailed paranoid thriller that enthralls in both cinematic and thematic ways, and ***Motorway***, which thrills with its abundant style and exceptional chase sequences. Both films competed at the Venice Film Festival.

Taking up the challenge from Wilson Yip's classic actioner ***SPL***, Cheang delivered an emotional sequel in ***SPL 2: A Time for Consequences*** that explores family ties while serving up creative, technically-ambitious action sequences. With the riveting serial killer film noir ***Limbo***, Cheang provided a complete thematic encapsulation in stunning black-and-white, illustrating a post-apocalyptic metropolis with towering heaps of rubbish and disturbing images of human suffering. This punishingly bleak vision, which premiered in Berlinale, is perhaps Cheang's darkest and most rewarding to date.

A prolific filmmaker, Cheang also helps nurture budding talents in recent years, serving as a producer for Lau Ho Leung's ***Two Thumbs Up***, Danny Wong's ***i'm livin' it***, and Lau Kok-rui's ***The Sunny Side of the Street***, among others.

The hybrid HKIFF47 will feature screenings and audience-engagement events, both theatrically in-person and online. It will unveil this year's programme in early March, including details on Soi Cheang's Face-to-Face session.

Soi Cheang's Filmmaker-in-Focus series will feature the following 12 films:

- 1999 *Our Last Day*
- 2000 *Diamond Hill*
- 2001 *Horror Hotline... Big Head Monster*
- 2002 *New Blood*
- 2004 *Love Battlefield*
- 2005 *Home Sweet Home*
- 2006 *Dog Bite Dog*
- 2007 *Shamo*
- 2009 *Accident*
- 2012 *Motorway*
- 2015 *SPL 2: A Time for Consequences*
- 2021 *Limbo*

To download more information:

[https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/HKIFF47/20230203\\_Filmmaker\\_in-Focus](https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/HKIFF47/20230203_Filmmaker_in-Focus)

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### **About Moleskine**

The timeless story of the book yet to be written

The Moleskine notebook is the heir and successor to the legendary notebooks used by artists and thinkers over the past two centuries: among them Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway and Bruce Chatwin.

At Moleskine we believe in the timeless power of handwriting as an essential expression of human civilization, a powerful act to unleash the human genius and foster the development and sharing of literacy and knowledge.

Today Moleskine is global brand which designs and manufactures objects and services to enable the expression of contemporary talent that will be the cultural heritage of tomorrow. Unleash the human genius through hands on paper to empower creativity and knowledge in each individual and the entire world. Through its platforms, Moleskine wants to contribute to the development and sharing of human knowledge and culture.

Put pen to paper, and unleash your unique voice.

### **About The Hong Kong International Film Festival**

The Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) is one of Hong Kong's most significant cultural events annually. It is Asia's longest-running platform for filmmakers, film professionals, and filmgoers worldwide to launch new work and experience outstanding films. HKIFF introduces world cinema to local audiences to enrich and deepen the understanding of Hong Kong moviegoers. Committed to discovering new talent, HKIFF premieres the breadth of Chinese cinema and showcases Asian talent. Festival-goers can enjoy world-class films, attend seminars hosted by leading filmmakers from around the world, visit film exhibitions, participate in receptions and parties, and more. HKIFF draws extensive coverage from the local and international media and has grown in importance as one of the premier platforms for launching 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 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 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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