

**For Immediate Release**

**HKIFF47 PAYS TRIBUTE TO  
JEAN-LUC GODARD × ANNA KARINA**

**14 February 2023 (Hong Kong)** – The 47<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF47) will pay tribute to the late French New Wave giant Jean-Luc Godard with an eight-film programme featuring his muse and ex-wife, Anna Karina.

It precludes the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society's celebration of Godard's work this year. The retrospective will continue beyond HKIFF47 with Cine Fan's May/June/July edition, showcasing more films by the iconic French-Swiss filmmaker, who passed away last September at 91.

Born in Paris in 1930, Godard began his lifelong love affair with cinema as a critic, advocating a new movement that sprang from an auteur's personality and predilections. He stunned the world with *Breathless*, his feature debut as a director, through unconventional camerawork, disjointed editing style, and a penchant for radical political views. By winning an unprecedented Special Palme d'Or with *The Image Book* at Cannes in 2018, Godard completed his far-reaching legacy with his final provocative collage film essay.

While Godard was a trailblazer, Anna Karina was undoubtedly the face of the French New Wave. The distinctive aura of the Danish-French actress was the core attraction of their first collaboration, *The Little Soldier*. The couple got married and soon became one of the most celebrated director-and-star tandems, lighting up the screen with their intimacy in a series of stylish and successful collaborations. They include *A Woman is a Woman*, with which Karina won Best Actress at Berlinale, and *My Life to Live*, which brought Godard Venice's Special Jury Prize.

Their chemistry and fundamental incompatibility constituted significant dynamics in *Band of Outsiders*, Godard's radically reimagined gangster film, which showcased Karina as an object of desire in a *ménage à trois* of crime. In *Alphaville*, Godard used the imaginative power of cinema to challenge technocracy and totalitarianism. Triumphant, the dystopic sci-fi noir won him a Golden Bear at Berlinale. *Pierrot le fou* mirrors the couple's

increasingly tumultuous relationship. However, the film's irresistible charm is indebted to Karina, playing an unscrupulous floozy who leads her ex-lover Jean-Paul Belmondo to his final ruin.

Chaotic crime thriller ***Made in U.S.A.*** marked the final burst of exuberance from Godard's early sixties barrage of delirious films and his last feature film with Karina. She collaborated with Godard for the last time in ***Anticipation***, one of the six short films comprising ***The Oldest Profession***. Her bleak emotional detachment as a Space Age hooker complements impeccably with his signature jarring use of provocative images.

HKIFF47 will take place from 30 March to 10 April, featuring physical, in-theatre screenings and audience-engagement events alongside a bespoke online programme. HKIFF47 will unveil this year's complete programme in March.

The Jean-Luc Godard x Anna Karina Retrospective will feature the following eight films:

- 1961 ***A Woman is a Woman***
- 1962 ***My Life to Live***
- 1963 ***The Little Soldier***
- 1964 ***Band of Outsiders***
- 1965 ***Alphaville***
- 1965 ***Pierrot le fou***
- 1966 ***Made in U.S.A.***
- 1967 ***Anticipation*** (From ***The Oldest Profession***)

**To download more information:**

<https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/HKIFF47>

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#### **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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