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**HKIFF48 SHOWCASES RESTORED CLASSICS
BY SIX CELEBRATED CHINESE FILMMAKERS**

16 February 2024 (Hong Kong) - The 48th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF48) is delighted to present six restored contemporary classics by influential Chinese filmmakers, including Zhang Yimou, Tsui Hark, and Tsai Ming-Liang.

A vanguard of Hong Kong's New Wave movement, Tsui Hark shocked the local establishment with his controversial **Dangerous Encounter - 1st Kind**, which featured violence, bloodshed, and political allusions. Initially banned for public exhibition in 1980, the film was only released after significant reshoots and re-edits. It is still widely acclaimed as a milestone in Hong Kong cinema.

This year's programme showcases two master filmmakers from the renowned Xi'an Film Studio. Wu Tianming, a former head of the studio and a prominent Fifth Generation filmmaker, presented a new form of visual and socio-political expression in **Old Well**, a meticulously observed and non-ideological portrayal of the lives of impoverished villagers in their quest for water across generations. On the other hand, Huang Jianxin crafted a bureaucratic farce in **Dislocation**, deftly using the science-fiction genre to satirise a corrupt social system.

Zhang Yimou, another talented Xi'an native who remarkably shot as well as starred in **Old Well**, demonstrated his directing skills by employing caustic irony to delve into the theme of bureaucratic negotiations through a peasant woman's relentless pursuit of justice in **The Story of Qiu Ju**, which won Venice's prestigious Golden Lion in 1992.

To complete the six-film selection, Edward Yang's **Mahjong** and Tsai Ming-Liang's **The Wayward Cloud** offer insightful and melancholic portrayals of Taiwan's rapidly changing capital. **Mahjong** is a screwball farce that exposes the manipulation and lies inherent in modern prosperity through a diverse set of characters. **The Wayward Cloud**, which won a Silver Bear in Berlin in 2005, is a quasi-pornographic musical that confronts the psychosexual disconnection and existential malaise of its characters, expressing their unspoken desires and yearnings.

HKIFF48 will take place from 28 March to 8 April, spanning 12 days. The festival will announce its complete programme in March.

Six Chinese-language Restored Classics:

- 1980 Dangerous Encounter – 1st Kind by Tsui Hark**
- 1986 Dislocation by Huang Jianxin**
- 1987 Old Well by Wu Tianming**
- 1992 The Story of Qiu Ju by Zhang Yimou**
- 1996 Mahjong by Edward Yang**
- 2005 The Wayward Cloud by Tsai Ming-Liang**

To download more information:

https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/HKIFF48/20240216_Chinese_Restored_Classics/

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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 (www.hkiff.org.hk)

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).

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