

For Immediate Release

Ishibashi to bring Hamaguchi's *GIFT* to HKIFF48

28 February 2024 (Hong Kong) - The 48th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF48) is proud to present the Asian premiere of *GIFT*, the latest collaboration between Academy Awards winner Hamaguchi Ryusuke and composer Ishibashi Eiko.

A single performance of *GIFT*, which will only ever be screened with Ishibashi's live music accompaniment, will take place at Hong Kong City Hall on 30 March.

Following *Drive My Car*'s success, Hamaguchi initially made *GIFT* as a silent film project to accompany Ishibashi's captivating live performance. From the same project, the Japanese auteur derived *Evil Does Not Exist*, which then went on to win the Grand Jury Prize at last year's Venice International Film Festival. With a similar narrative, both ecopolitical thrillers revolve around a man and his daughter whose peaceful rural lives are about to be disrupted by the construction of a glamping site.

As the composed and wordless counterpart to *Evil Does Not Exist*, *GIFT* offers an alternative perspective by utilising the same footage and scenario, creating a distinctly different experience. Ishibashi's mesmerising live score intensifies viewers' emotional connection and contemplation of the clash between man and nature, as well as good and evil.

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

To download more information:

https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/HKIFF48/20240228_Live_Music_Performance/

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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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