

For Immediate Release

HKIFF48 SHOWCASES MARTIN McDONAGH IN HONG KONG

1 March 2024 (Hong Kong) – The 48th Hong Kong International Film Festival's highly popular Masterclass series will feature the renowned British-Irish playwright and director Martin McDonagh, who will share his artistic vision and career inspiration with the audience in Hong Kong.

As part of the tribute programme, all of McDonagh's cinematic works will be screened, including his two Venice Best Screenplay winners: ***Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*** and ***The Banshees of Inisherin***.

Born in London to Irish parents, McDonagh honed his craft in the theatre, writing award-winning, thought-provoking, wickedly funny, and profound plays. He later ventured into film, where his distinct and bold worldview thrived.

His first short film, ***Six Shooter***, won an Oscar and set the tone for his subsequent works, which explore themes of violence, grief, and dark humour. McDonagh's debut feature, ***In Bruges***, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and starred Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson as Irish hitmen in a dark comedy filled with witty dialogues and escalating absurdity.

Upon moving to Hollywood, McDonagh further challenged the conventions of the crime genre with ***Seven Psychopaths***, a film that transformed writer's block into a grim comedy infused with his unique worldview and devilish sense of humour.

McDonagh received critical acclaim for his screenplay and direction in ***Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri***. Frances McDormand won the Best Actress Oscar for her remarkable portrayal of a grieving mother seeking justice for her murdered teenage daughter, with Sam Rockwell taking home the Best Supporting Actor Oscar.

In ***The Banshees of Inisherin***, McDonagh's playful and perverse sensibility as both a dramatist and filmmaker is showcased. The film is an allegory for his homeland's

tumultuous and heart-breaking history, with feuding frenemies at the centre. Colin Farrell's performance, balancing pathos and irritation, earned him the Best Actor award at the Venice Film Festival.

HKIFF48 will run for 12 days, from 28 March to 8 April. The festival will announce its complete programme and commence advance ticket sales later this month.

The works of Martin McDonagh featured in HKIFF48 are as follows:

- ***Six Shooter (2004) (short)***
- ***In Bruges (2008)***
- ***Seven Psychopaths (2012)***
- ***Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (2017)***
- ***The Banshees of Inisherin (2022)***

To download more information:

https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/HKIFF48/20240301_Martin_McDonagh/

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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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