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International
Film Festival
4-24 April 2008

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FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



This year, the Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) celebrates 21 years as a major event on the Singapore Arts calendar.

Turning twenty one has been traditionally regarded as a coming of age and, with film, it is the age one can view any film available in Singapore. At SIFF, we are commemorating this rite of passage with rejuvenation by introducing a new generation into our Organising team.

We are also proud and honoured to have the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Miles Kupa, as our patron. In the festival this year, we will commemorate the recent signing of the Singapore Australia Film Co-Production Agreement with a slate of movies in the Australian Focus segment of the Festival.

New sponsors have come on board, led by our presenting sponsor, Citibank and Citicorp, one of Singapore and the world's leading banks. In addition, The National Museum and Motorola are both valued partners with the Festival, while DHL is again our official Logistics provider. Avid, KC Dat, Health Promotion Board and La Salle School of the Arts are also on board as sponsors. To them, we are extremely grateful and we look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship in the years ahead.

In keeping with our revitalisation efforts, we have an exciting line up of films including a Singapore Panorama segment with over 10 new feature films, 55 years of Vietnamese cinema and an enhanced Silver Screen Awards, our traditional venues, Shaw Bros Lido, National Museum of Singapore, The Substation and Goethe Institute, have been expanded with the introduction of the Republic Polytechnic and Sinema @ Old School to increase our audience base.

We trust you will enjoy this year's Festival this year, and look forward to your continued support.

Geoffrey Malone
Festival Founder



PATRON'S MESSAGE



The Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) has come of age. For the past 20 years, SIFF has forged its own path; promoting film as an artistic medium, and nurturing Singaporean film talent and Singaporean films by providing young and first-time film-makers with a platform to showcase their creative works.

SIFF is also credited for bringing independent art-house productions to local cinemas, and has been acutely sensitive to the audience's changing taste in film choices over the years.

As part of its innovative industry and public engagement programs, the festival has also organised workshops, seminars and exhibitions on filmmaking to support and develop the local film industry.

Australia shares SIFF's vision and passion in film production. The recent establishment of the Australia-Singapore Film Co-production Agreement paves the way for enhanced creative media partnerships between our two nations. I am certain we will be seeing more quality Australia-Singapore productions resulting from the many active partnerships currently under way.

This year, we are partnering SIFF to mark the 10th Anniversary of Australian Film Focus. We hope the diversity and quality of local and international films available at this year's Singapore Film Festival will bring enjoyment to audiences, whether they have travelled from across town or across the world to be here.

HE Miles Kupa

Australian High Commissioner to Singapore

Patron of 21st Singapore International Film Festival



SPONSOR'S MESSAGE



Congratulations to The Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) on reaching its 21st milestone year! We applaud the SIFF in successfully promoting film as an artistic medium and bringing film appreciation to new heights. Through its efforts each year, the SIFF has gone a long way in introducing local audiences to critically acclaimed and award-winning regional and international films. In recent years, the SIFF has also succeeded in paving the way for the local film industry and providing a showcase for Asian cinema.

At Citibank, we constantly strive to bring you the best privileges and most memorable experiences to meet your lifestyle needs. Hence, we are proud to be the presenting sponsor of the Singapore International Film Festival 2008. In line with our commitment always to deliver the best to our clients, we are pleased to offer Citibank customers priority booking and privileges for this high quality event. In addition, in support of the Singapore film industry, we are also pleased to be working with Singapore directors to produce two 60-seconds short films featuring Citibank in the daily lives of Singaporeans, which we hope you will enjoy.

We look forward to sharing the excitement of this year's Film Festival with all Singaporeans.

Jonathan Larsen

*Head of South East Asia
Global Consumer Group
Chief Executive Officer
& Country Business Manager
Citibank Singapore Ltd*

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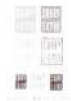
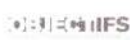
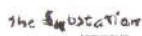
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OPENING FILM

Country: USA

Dir: Wayne Wang

April 4

TBA

THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA

Acclaimed Asian American director Wayne Wang returns to his indie roots with this bold and edgy new film about displaced young Chinese trying to redefine themselves in an alien culture. *The Princess Of Nebraska* was also based on the short stories of Li Yiyun and looks at the modern Chinese-American plight through the eyes of women.

The story unfolds over 24 hours and follows Sasha (Ling Li), a troubled young Chinese student as she travels from Omaha, Nebraska to San Francisco with the intention of getting an abortion. While in San Francisco, Sasha meets Boshen (Brian Danforth), who is the gay American lover of Yang, the father of her unborn child. Her attempts to reconnect with Yang, who is in Beijing, via text mobile messages, prove futile, as are Boshen's attempts to lure Yang to America. The lost Sasha befriends X (Pamelyn Chee), a karaoke bar-hostess with whom she has a romantic tryst while still pondering the fate of her baby. With no resolution in sight, Sasha rethinks her intentions and starts to consider the vast opportunities available to her in America.

Featuring hand-held camerawork, *The Princess Of Nebraska* is a collage of mobile phone camera images and digital snapshots, reflecting the language of a tech-savvy generation. Supported by strong performances from the young cast, Wang cannily portrays a new breed of fractured Chinese who care more about Paris Hilton than the Cultural Revolution. With its bold style and subject matter, the film affirms Wang's position as a visionary filmmaker.

A key figure in the development of independent filmmaking, Wayne Wang was born in Hong Kong and studied film and television at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. After doing a stint in television, Wang produced, directed, edited, and co-wrote the Chinatown culture-clash drama *Chan Is Missing* (1981) on a shoestring budget. This was quickly followed by films such as *Dim Sum: A Little Bit Of Heart* (1985), *Slam Dance* (1987) and the unconventional *Eat A Bowl Of Tea* (1989). He continues to draw both mainstream and arthouse audiences with films like the crowd pleaser *The Joy Luck Club* (1993), *Smoke* (1995), *Blue In The Face* (1995), *Anywhere But Here* (1999), *The Center Of The World* (2001), *Maid In Manhattan* (2002), *Because Of Winn-Dixie* (2005) and *Last Holiday* (2006). *A Thousand Years Of Good Prayers* (2007), which is also screening at the Festival, and *The Princess Of Nebraska* are his latest works.



Dir: Wayne Wang

Citibank's Choice
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2007, 77 mins



Country: China

Dir: Derek Chiu Sung Kee

April 14

PG



2007, 125 mins

ROAD TO DAWN
(YE MING)

Shot entirely on location in Penang, Road to Dawn is a fictionalized depiction of Dr Sun Yat Sen's time in Penang, where he continued his revolutionary efforts among Malaya's immigrant Chinese while in hiding from the Chinese Imperialists. He and his lover Chen Cui Fen are assisted by the young daughter of a prominent Penang merchant who is unwilling to lend financial support to the revolution. Among other historical events, the film recreates the November 1910 Penang Conference to map out the Second Guangzhou Uprising, which eventually led to the overthrow of the Qing dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China. Road To Dawn won several awards at last year's Shanghai International Film Festival and Hua Biao Jiang Film Festival in Beijing.

"In 1910, when Dr. Sun Yat Sen arrived in Penang, he must have been a troubled soul," said director Derek Chiu. "He had planned nine uprisings in China, each one of them a failure. Not only was he exiled from China, but he was also a persona non grata in Vietnam and Japan, and had even lost most of his support in Singapore. When he came to Penang, he would have been feeling extremely dejected, all alone, without anyone to help him.

"I did a lot of research on Sun, and I realised that there has not been a single movie or book about his second wife Chen Cuifen. I think she is a very important part of Sun's life, since behind every great man is a great woman.

"One of the reasons I chose Winston was because he has done the role so many times before, so audiences would automatically associate him with Sun. It's different from casting someone like, say, Andy Lau, who might need time to convince audiences that he is Sun Yat-sen."

Derek Chiu Sung Kee is best known as the "Scholar Director" in Hong Kong. He has directed TV dramas such as The Mission, which won the New York Television Festival Outstanding Awards. His movies include The Log which won Best Actor Awards for Hong Kong Academy and Golden Bauhinia Awards, and Final Justice which won the Best Supporting Actress Awards in the Penang International Film Festival.

Dir: Derek Chiu
Sung KeeCitibank's Choice
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ALL THE WAY **DHL**
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SILVER SCREEN AWARDS



2007, 87 mins



Dir: **Ashish Avikunthak**

Country: India

Dir: Ashish Avikunthak

April 11

SHADOWS FORMLESS (ASIAN PREMIERE)

Set in a forlorn whistle-stop station in a Kerala village, director Ashish Avikunthak weaves with an expert hand the story of a lonely and abandoned wife's illicit affair which transforms her reality. *Shadows Formless* is an experimental love-story shot on a shoe-string budget which obsesses on memory and reality. Oscillating between doubt and acceptance, denial and counter-denial, the two protagonists move along on their convoluted path where the dividing line between the real and the fantastic blurs. *Shadows Formless* is an interpretation of the Malayalam novel *Pandavapuram* by the distinguished novelist Setumadhavan from Kerala.

Ashish Avikunthak is an experimental filmmaker who has been making films in India since the mid-'90s. His films have been shown in various film festivals around the world. His short film, *Kalighat (Fetish)*, won the Best Documentary award in 2001 at the Tampere Film Festival, Finland. He has had retrospectives at Les Inattendus, Lyon, 2006 and Goethe Institute, Calcutta, 2004. Recently, his films have been exhibited at the Tate Modern, London, Centre George Pompidou, Paris and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley. He has a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Stanford University and currently teaches at Yale University.



2007, 80 mins

Dir: **Abai Kulbai**

Country: Kazakhstan

Dir: Abai Kulbai

April 8

SWIFT

Abai Kulbai's *Swift (Strizh)* is a coming-of-age film that draws an intimate portrait of a young girl, Ainur, who struggles with forces beyond her control – a drunken stepfather, a pregnant mother, drugs and violence at school – to find her place in an ice-cold, impersonal, and uncaring Almaty. She wrestles with a myriad of obstacles – schoolmates who tease her at school, an unaffectionate mother who pays more attention to her alcoholic lover, and her best friend who falsely accuses her of something she did not do. Life has tougher lessons in store for Ainur, and the world seems lonelier than ever before.

Kulbai's debut feature film is shot in the tradition of modern Kazakh cinema, and offers a rare insight into the youngest generation in Almaty: one that is unaware of the Soviet past and in search of its own identity. The film won two awards – the NETPAC Award and the Grand Prize in the Central Asian and Turkic Competition at the Eurasia Int'l Film Festival 2007. Director Abai Kulbai studied at the Academy of Arts in Almaty under Ardak Amirkulov. Kulbai's comic short film, *Apple*, a parable of a man picking berries in a snow-covered landscape, was selected for the IFFR in 2004 and has received international acclaim.



SILVER SCREEN AWARDS

Look out for film choice by citibank



2007, 90 mins



Dir: Djenar Maesa Ayu

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Djenar Maesa Ayu

April 13

M18

THEY SAY, I'M A MONKEY! (MEREKA BILANG, SAYA MONYET!) (INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE)

Adjeng is a young writer haunted by the shadows of her past. She lives two separate lives: an aggressive party-girl to her lovers and friends, and a passive daughter to her mother. She rids herself of her aggression through her writing, yet her mother's objections create a dilemma for Adjeng. Can Adjeng break free from the repression by her mother and make her peace with the past?

Controversial writer Djenar Maesa Ayu is best known for her award-winning short-story collection, *They Say I'm A Monkey* (2002), where she chronicles the seedy underbelly of the world's most populous Muslim country. Her stories are soul-howling allegories that depict the sexual exploitation of women in unflinching prose. In her darkly surreal short story *Suckling Father*, Ayu uses the metaphor of a girl nourished by her father's semen instead of her mother's milk to portray a woman's violent rejection of traditional gender roles. Ayu has an apt reply to those accusing her of wilfully inducing nausea in her readers: "If I've shocked the reader, believe me I'm shocked too!"



1992-2007, 95 mins



Dir: Eros Djarot,
Gotot Prakosa,
Slamet Rahardjo Djarot

Country: Indonesia

Dir: E Djarot, G Prakosa, SR Djarot

April 9

TBA

KANTATA TAKWA

Titled after the orchestra performing at a gala concert in Senayan, the film's main location, *Kantata Takwa* allows music to become the narrator of this film. Using animation and live action, the three directors - Eros Djarot, Gotot Prakosa and Slamet Rahardjo Djarot - turn music, theatre and film into a new unity. Important roles in the film are played by well-known Indonesian figures, such as poet and playwright WS Rendra and pop singer Iwan Fals (Indonesia's answer to Bob Dylan). The film's title, *Kantata Takwa*, after the name of the orchestra, stands for the 'kantata' of love, comprising of patience, dedication and sincerity - a state of mind that strives for dignity and humanism. As co-director Eros Djarot says: 'The central question is: What for? What do we live for in this bloody world? If we can't answer this question, we're finished.' Despite the independent status and the experimental nature of the film, it had a relatively large budget thanks to the support of the oil billionaire Djodi Setiawan, who also has a walk-on role in the film.

Shown together with Gotot Prakosa's *Sitarasmi* (Indonesia, 2007, 12 mins). The *Dance* depicts the emotions of Sita as her husband King Rama rejects her at the last stage of the *Ramayana* epic.

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ALL THE WAY **DHL**



Country: Korea

Dir: Yoon Seong-ho

April 13



2007, 95 mins

MILKY WAY LIBERATION FRONT

Korean Director Yoon Seong-ho represents the new wave of digital filmmakers in Korea, and he impresses with this film, imbuing it with a compelling visual style, mixed in with his trademark humour arising from the most absurd circumstances thinkable. In this film, geeky Young-jae aspires to be a prominent filmmaker. He has a vague idea of making a film about the condition of aphasia, which is a condition of a sudden loss of the ability to speak or understand language. His ever-patient girlfriend decides she has had enough and finally dumps him. To add to his woes, he is unable to secure funding and he is struck with severe writer's block. Enroute to the Pusan film festival with a bid to convince popular Japanese Punk star Ray Kimura to be his lead actor, Young-jae is ironically afflicted by aphasia himself. Even with the help of his loyal pal, a ventriloquist, the situation turns for the worse and gets out of control.



Dir: Yoon Seong-ho

This unconventional film- within-a-film about the art and perils of filmmaking was shot entirely on HD. Director Yoon Seong-ho, a graduate of The Korean National University of Arts, Dept. of Film & Multimedia, was born in 1976, has won numerous awards for his short films and is regarded as one of the most promising young directors in Korea today. This is his first feature-length film.

Country: Kurdistan/France/Germany

Dir: Hiner Saleem

April 8



2006, 90 mins

DOL - THE VALEY OF TAMBOURINES

It is the year of 2005 in the small Turkish-Kurdish village of Balliova at the border of Iran and Iraq. The area, shattered by boundary disputes, is controlled by the Turkish military. After frequent armed hostilities with Kurdish guerrilla fighters, the Turkish military is now repressing the villagers. Despite the difficult circumstances in the village, Azad, and his fiancée Nazenin, want to marry. During the wedding ceremony, a fight with the Turkish military takes place. Azad shoots at the Turkish commandant and escapes from the village Balliova, leaving his fiancée behind.



Dir: Hiner Saleem

Hiner Saleem was born 1964 in Iraqi Kurdistan - in North Iraq. At the age of 17, he escaped via Syria to Italy. In Italy, he continued his education and studied political science in Milan. Today, Hiner Saleem lives as filmmaker, painter and author in Paris. In April 2004, his autobiographical book, My Father's Rifle - a childhood in Kurdistan, was published, and has already been translated to several languages. In 2005, Hiner Saleem was awarded the "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" by France. For his last two films, Kilometre Zero and Dol, Hiner Saleem returned to his Kurdish homeland.

**SILVER SCREEN AWARDS**

Country: Malaysia

Dir: James Lee

April 5



2008, xx mins



Dir: James Lee

**BREATHING IN MUD
(INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE)****PG**

Azman, a photographer, marries the strong and quiet Lina, but their lives change when Lina's first husband, Meor, returns from Thailand, where he has been taking refuge these past years. The three of them find out that their lives overlap with love and past friendships, bonds that they fear to break and ones that cannot break.

James Lee was born 1973 in Ipoh, Malaysia. Trained as a graphic designer, he began acting in and directing theatre plays before venturing into video filmmaking. He directed his first feature film, *Snipers*, in 2001, followed by stylized experimental film *Ah Beng Returns* (2001), and Mandarin drama *Room To Let* (2002). Lee received the SIFF's 1st Unofficial Retrospective in 2002. *The Beautiful Washing Machine* (2004) won the Best Asean Feature Award and FIPRESCI Prize in the 2005 Bangkok International Film Festival. Other feature films include *Before We Fall In Love Again* (2006) and *Things We Do When We Fall In Love* (2007).

Country: Philippines

Dir: Brillante Mendoza

April 13



2007, 86 mins



Dir: Brillante Mendoza

SLINGSHOT**R21**

Opening with a police raid, *Slingshot* explores the intertwined lives of residents of a Manila squatter slum, including a petty thief (Nathan Lopez), an advertising sidecar driver (Coco Martin), not to mention prostitutes, school kids and others. A restless hand-held digital camera, and many non-professional actors among the large cast, give an intimate look at a day in the life of the crammed warren of streets inhabited by the urban poor of this neighbourhood. The film depicts these people in a variety of situations, including fights, religious parades, and election campaigns. Shot in an unvarnished style similar to that of *Dogme 95*, with the social conscience of Lino Brocka, *Slingshot* is an unapologetic look at what people will do in order to survive, be it accepting the bait of local politicians gathering votes for an imminent election, and generally begging, borrowing and stealing whatever they can.

Born in 1960 in San Fernando, the Philippines, Brillante Mendoza studied fine arts at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, with a major in advertising. His first feature film, *The Masseuse* (Masahista, 2005) won many awards, including a Golden Leopard award (co-winner) in the video section at the 2005 Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland. He is probably best known for his 2006 film, *The Teacher* (Manoro). *Slingshot* is his fifth film.

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SILVER SCREEN AWARDS

Country: Singapore

Dir: Kan Lume

April 6 and 12

TB



2008, 86 mins

DREAMS FROM THE THIRD WORLD (WORLD PREMIERE)

Designed as a companion piece to *Solos* (2007), *Dreams From The Third World* centres on the main protagonist Leon, an idealistic filmmaker who tries to convince a prostitute to star in his porn movie. In his pursuit of his passion, Leon neglects his marital relations, and his wife gradually turns cold towards him as their passion fizzles out. Fuelled by his disenchantment, he goes on a downward spiral leading to betrayal and inevitably – adultery. We discover that his idealistic intentions may just be a front for deeper, darker psychological scars.

In the director's statement Kan observes that both *Solos* (2007) and *Dreams From The Third World* (2008) are about "people who make mistakes and hurt the ones they love," with the main difference in each film's ending, with one "representing karma and the other, grace."



Dir: Kan Lume

Kan's debut feature film, *The Art Of Flirting*, was named Best ASEAN Feature at the 2005 Malaysian Video Awards. His second feature *Solos*, was nominated for the Silver Screen Awards at the SIFF 2007 and was the first Singaporean film to be in competition at the prestigious AFI Fest in Los Angeles.

Country: Singapore

Dir: Various

April 5 and 12

R2



2007, 83 mins

LUCKY7 (ASIAN PREMIERE)

In order to break the vicious cycle of harmful competition within Singapore, and the cost and logistical barrier of feature filmmaking, seven filmmakers from Singapore – Sun Koh, K Rajagopal, Boo Junfeng, Brian Gothong Tan, Chew Tze Chuan, Ho Tzu Nyen and Tania Sng – started playing a game of exquisite corpse. The intention was to make a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Each filmmaker attempts a 10-12 minute segment of a feature film continued by the next filmmaker who knows only what took place in the last minute of the previous segment. The only condition is to use the same main actor. Along with other helpers, they assisted each other to realise the film.

Lucky7, the multi-genre rollercoaster ride of a feature, is the result of this experiment.

Dirs: Sun Koh,
K Rajagopal,
Boo Junfeng, Brian
Gothong Tan, Chew Tze
Chuan, Ho Tzu Nyen,
Tania Sng



SILVER SCREEN AWARDS

Look out for film choice by **citibank**



2007, 100 mins



Dir: **Abdellatif Abdelhamid**

Country: Syria

Dir: Abdellatif Abdelhamid

April 9

TBA

OUT OF COVERAGE (KAHREJ ALTAGHTYA)

Out Of Coverage is an audacious situational comedy about a Damascus man, Amer, who straddles between the two women in his life - his nagging wife, Salma, and the beautiful Nada, the wife of an imprisoned friend. Amer's struggle to mediate this situation is constantly interrupted by his handphone - his metaphoric leash to these two women. Daring and frank portrayals of sex punctuate the film as Amer negotiates his intentions, trapped between his desires and his morals. The final straw is when Amer learns of his imprisoned friend's approaching release date, as he faces his ultimate decision - to choose between the two women. Or can he?

A peppering of subplots involving everyday Syrians complete this spicy and fun film depicting everyday Syrian society, garnished with energetic performances from its main players. Abdellatif Abdelhamid is a veteran director who has been making innovative films for the past 30 years. His films include The Night Of The Jackal (1988), Oral Messages (1993), Breeze Of The Soul (1998) and Two Moons And An Olive Tree (2001) which won him a Best Director award at the 2002 Muscat Film Festival. Out Of Coverage is his latest feature film.



2007, 110 mins

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Dao Duy Phuc

April 10

TBA

THE LIFE (SINH MENH)

It is the 1970s in Vietnam. Linh "the Bear" is in the middle of his wedding celebrations when he is conscripted into the army as a military transport soldier. His family is understandably distressed as his three elder brothers have all perished in the war. Together with his comrades from the military transportation unit, Linh's daily responsibility involves driving his truck into the war zone. Linh struggles to balance his patriotism to the nation with his human instincts. On one hand, he understands it is his "sacred" duty to serve his country and the military - even at the expense of his life. On the other hand, he hopes to stay alive and bear a male heir to continue his family lineage.

Born 1970 in Hanoi, Vietnam, Dao Duy Phuc graduated from Hanoi Drama and Cinema College in 2002 as a film director. He has directed four features to date, including The Right Heart Plan (2004), Two In One (2005) and Hoai Vu Trang (2007). He is currently a film director at Feature Film Studio No. 1 and has worked extensively in the broadcast industry, directing television dramas and serials.

Dir: **Dao Duy Phuc**

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SILVER SCREEN AWARDS: SINGAPORE SHORTS



2007, 16 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Boo Junfeng

April 5 and 12

KELUAR BARIS

TBA

"Keluar baris" means "fall out" in Malay, Singapore's national language, the last command in a parade which every boy serving compulsory military in Singapore looks forward to hearing. An 18-year-old boy returns home from his studies in Europe two days before he is enlisted into the army.

Boo Junfeng's past short films have won awards for Best Film, Special Achievement and Special Jury prize at the Singapore International Film Festival. He is also one of the 7 co-directors of the Lucky7 project, an independent feature film.



2007, 6 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Michael Tay

April 5 and 12

WET SEASONS

TBA

A tribute to the filmmaker's father who passed away six years ago, Wet Seasons' emotive story is enhanced by the combination of live-action and stop-motion animation.

Michael Tay was the cinematographer for the award winning student short film, Cell 118, before he pursued his degree in the School of Art, Design and Media at Nanyang Technological University. Wet Seasons marks his first attempt at directing and casting himself in front of the camera.



2007, 7 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Fran Borgia

April 5 and 12

PARA ASIA (FOR ASIA)

TBA

A young man coming to terms with the death of the love of his life, finds a way to keep the memories alive.

Fran Borgia's works as writer/director include A Dream Dreaming (2000), Dream Galleries (2000), A Selective God (2001) and Asia (2004). He is also the Founder of Akanga Film Asia.



2007, 15 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Lincoln Chia Zhicheng

April 5 and 12

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOGS

TBA

Are dogs truly a man's best friend? This documentary explores one woman's extreme love affair with her dogs.

Formally a visual communicator trained at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Lincoln is now pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Filmmaking at Nanyang Technological University's School of Art, Design and Media.



SILVER SCREEN AWARDS: SINGAPORE SHORTS

Look out for film choice by **citiBank**



2006, 14 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Muhammad EySham Ali

April 5 and 12

MY HOME, MY HEAVEN

TBA

Ahmad, a juvenile delinquent, is released from his time in a boy's home. After his return home, Ahmad finds himself at crossroads again despite his efforts to redeem himself from the past. Ahmad is still trying to find his way home.

Muhammad EySham Ali's debut short film, *The Box*, was placed Top 5 at the CanonDV Fest in 2004. He has since made other films, mainly exploring the subject of Malay youths in Singapore.



2007, 18 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Cheng Ding An

April 5 and 12

KALLANG ROAR

TBA

1977 - the last hope for Singapore football is in the hands of the uncontrollable eccentric genius Singapore coach, Uncle Choo. The tumultuous relationship between Football Association Chairman, Mr Ganesan, and Uncle Choo is further tested as they both fight passionately to restore the Kallang Roar.

Cheng Ding An majored in independent film production in Curtin University of Technology. He was the Bronze Award winner in 2003, Merit Award winner in 2004 and 2nd Prize Winner in 2007 for the National Scriptwriting Competition.



2007, 20 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Ric Aw

April 5 and 12

SILENT GIRLS

TBA

Two 16-year-old girls get lost in the strange world of love, sex and the internet. Will their friendship save them?

Ric Aw is part of The Creative Room, a production company that has done several tele-movies and short films. His last short film, *Buy Me Love*, received the 1st Prize at the Digital Film Fiesta.



FESTIVAL JURY



SILVER SCREEN AWARDS

The Silver Screen Awards were introduced in 1991 during the 4th Singapore International Film Festival to encourage excellence among Asian filmmakers.

Best Asian Feature Film Category

Best Film
Special Jury Prize
Best Director
Best Actor
Best Actress

NETPAC AWARD - Critics' Prize

Best Singapore Short Film Category

Best Film
Best Director
Special Jury Prize
Special Achievement
Best Cinematography
Best Performance

MAIN JURY



WU TIANMING

An important figure in China's "Fourth Generation", Wu Tianming also served as mentor to such "Fifth Generation" directors as Zhang Yimou, Chen Kaige and Tian Zhuangzhuang while heading the Xi'an Film Studio. Born in 1939, Wu's own directing debut, *River Without Buoys* (1983), a film that explored the effects of the Cultural Revolution on three men traveling together down the Pushui River, established his stature as a filmmaker. Wu was then offered the position of head of Xi'an. Under his aegis, such acclaimed films as *Huang Jianxin's The Black Cannon Incident* (1985), *Tian Zhuangzhuang's Horse Thief* (1986), *Chen Kaige's King of Children* and *Zhang Yimou's Red Sorghum* (both 1988) were produced. Wu's films from this period, *Life* (1984), which was not released internationally, and *Old Well* (1986) earned praise. His later film, *The King of Masks* (1996), can be read as a metaphor for Wu: an aging artist who fights to preserve his traditions by passing them on to the next generation despite all odds. His current hope is to adapt *The White Deer Garden*, a novel that spans 40 years in the lives of two families.



DUSTIN NGUYEN

After escaping from Vietnam on the day Saigon fell in 1975, Dustin Nguyen went on to establish himself as one of Hollywood's premiere Asian-American actors, having starred on such hit shows as *21 Jump Street* (1987), on which he starred for four seasons. It was here that Nguyen became the first prime-time Asian heartthrob, and got his official introduction to fame. He also starred in features, such as the critically-acclaimed *Little Fish* (shown in SIFF 2006) opposite Academy Award-winner

Cate Blanchett. He also starred in Justin Lin's latest film *Finishing The Game*, and has his first villain role in *Charlie Nguyen's The Rebel* (both showing in SIFF this year). The latter film marks Nguyen's first return to Vietnam in 32 years. It also displayed his expertise in Muay Thai kick-boxing, Tae Kwon Do, the Filipino-based styles of Kali and Escrima, and, most of all, Bruce Lee's Jeet Kune Do.



KHADIJA AL-SALAMI

Khadija Al-Salami gained her independence at an early age when her family forced her into marriage at the age of 11. In order to escape family pressure and tradition, she found a job at the local TV station in the afternoons, while pursuing her studies in the mornings. She earned a scholarship at 16 years of age to the United States, where she studied filmmaking. Her first film, for her thesis, was about women in Yemen. Khadija is an award-winning documentary film maker and Yemen's first female film director, having made some 20 documentaries for various TV stations in France and Yemen. With her husband, she has written a book, *The Tears of Sheba*, about her experiences growing up in Yemen. Currently she occupies the post of Cultural and Press Counselor and Director of the Communication and Cultural Center at the Embassy of Yemen in Paris. Her latest documentary, *Amina*, is showing at this year's SIFF.



NICHOLAS SAPUTRA

At 23, actor, DJ, model and host, Nicholas Saputra, is one of Indonesia's hottest young icons. After his film debut in *Ada Apa Dengan Cinta* (2002), Saputra became an overnight sensation. His next films, *The Stringless Violin* (2003), *Joni's Promise* (2005) continued his success with a slew of Best Actor Awards.



FESTIVAL JURY

Look out for film choice by **citi** 3333

Then he made a brave career switch by taking on the multi-layered biopic, *Gie*, (2005) by Riri Riza. Soe Hok Gie was Indonesia's young and brave oppositional voice during the dark era of President Suharto. His most recent film was Riri Riza's *Three Days to Forever* (2007, shown in SIFF 07), which won a Best Director Award at last year's Jakarta Int'l Film Festival.



LOW HWE LING

A Multimedia Art graduate, Low Hwee Ling's work experiences include being a flair bartender at TGI

Friday's, a photographer's assistant, a runner on Jack Neo's *Liang Po Po-The Movie* and Kelvin Tong and Jasmine Ng's *Eating Air*. In 2002, a chance meeting with an old bartender friend landed her a job with Infinite Frameworks as an Assistant Editor. Since then, she has gone on to edit Royston Tan's *881 and 4:30*, Nh Khee Jin's *Feet Unbound*, Eric Khoo's *Be With Me* and Bertrand Lee's *Birthday*. She still makes a mean Bloody Mary.

NETPAC JURY

(Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema)



ANDERSON LE

Anderson Le is the Program Director for the Hawaii International Film Festival.

For the past eight years, Le has worked diligently in the global promotion of Asian cinema. He has also consulted for the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film & Video Festival, the San Francisco Asian Film Festival and the Cinemasia Film Festival in Amsterdam. He has served on juries for the Rotterdam Film Festival, the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film & Video Festival, among others. In 2008, Le will be serving on a grants panel for the 2008/2009 Los Angeles County Arts Commission. In his spare time,

Le enjoys traveling, hookah, and all-night karaoke.



TIINA LOKK

Born in 1955 in Tallinn, Estonia. After graduating from All-State Institute of

Film-making (VGIK) in

Moscow as a master of film theory and criticism in 1981, she worked for a decade in Estonian film studio "Tallinnfilm" as a scriptwriter and story editor. After a short period of being an editor-in-chief of two local film and photography journals, in 1993 she co-founded a film distribution company, "Filmimax" that brought mainly European and independent films into the Baltic market (until 2001). In 1997 she founded Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and has remained the festival director till today. She was elected a member of European Film Academy in 2000. In 2004, she was appointed a member of the executive board of the European Coordination of Film Festivals.



MELANIE OLIVEIRO

Melanie Oliveiro is a senior producer/presenter and entertainment reporter at 938LIVE, MediaCorp Radio.

She is presently co-anchor of F-CUBE (12 pm - 3 pm) every weekday on 938LIVE. Also a familiar face on TV, Melanie, a film studies graduate, reviews movies for Channel NewsAsia's Zoom In programme.



Country: Cambodia/France

Dir: Rithy Panh

April 5



2007, 90 mins



Dir: Rithy Panh

PAPER CANNOT WRAP UP THE EMBERS

M18

This award-winning documentary trails the lives of young Cambodian women who are forced into prostitution and presents their painful tales against a backdrop of an already-scarred nation. Cambodia has become almost synonymous with genocide but what most people miss out are the intransigent social problems that have arisen in relatively modern times, albeit as a result of the national tragedy. Cambodian director Rithy Panh brings us off the sunny paths of Cambodia and into the darker alleys of the Khmer society, presenting a warm and heartfelt piece on the various women who turn to prostitution to survive. This documentary received the Prix Arte at the European Film Academy Documentary 2007 awards.

Rithy Panh was born in Phnom Penh but escaped to Paris during the genocidal regime. The majority of his work explores Cambodia and the aftermath of the killings there. His film, *Rice People*, was the first Cambodian film to be submitted for an Oscar Award (during the 67th Academy Awards) for Best Foreign Language Film.

Country: China

Dir: Robin Weng Shouming

April 7



2007, 91 mins



Dir: Robin Weng Shouming

FUJIAN BLUE (JIN BI HUI HUANG)

NCI

Fujian Blue weaves together two overlapping stories, performed by an untrained cast, in order to offer an insightful commentary on the social change wrought on the south-eastern Chinese province of Fujian by exposure to the West. In the first story, Fuqing delinquent Amerika and his friends decide to start making a little extra money by blackmailing housewives who engage in extramarital affairs while their husbands are working abroad. When Amerika's own mother becomes a mark for the gang, the whole charade quickly begins to collapse. In the second tale set on nearby Pingtan island, youth Dragon turns to crime to repay the fees for his older brother's recent escape to Ireland. Though all hope seems lost when Dragon loses the money that he was going to use to fund his own escape, his family makes a substantial sacrifice in order to ensure his illegal passage.

Fujian Blue is Weng's debut film. It received the Dragons And Tigers Award For Young Cinema at the 2007 Vancouver International Film Festival and is one of 15 films selected for the Tiger Awards Competition at this year's International Film Festival Rotterdam.



2006, 96 mins



Dir: Wang Quan An

Country: China

Dir: Wang Quan An

April 5

PG

TUYA'S MARRIAGE

Life is harsh for those who live in rural north-western Mongolia. Tuya's Marriage tells the story of a simple Mongolian woman who tries to broker a new marriage in order to survive. As with most people of nomadic ancestry (Manchuria, Mongolia), the beautiful Tuya refuses to leave her pastureland. She is married to a disabled man, has two children and flocks of sheep, and continues to pursue a harsh life of privation in the vast steppe. Nevertheless, the daily grind of an increasingly harsh life takes its toll on her, something that does not escape her loving husband Bater's observations. He tries to convince her to divorce him yet Tuya would hear none of it - until the day she falls ill. Then, she has an epiphany which causes her to realise that their family cannot function without her, and that if she were to marry again her new husband must be willing to take care of Bater and her family. Wang Quan An was a graduate of the Beijing Film Academy and has directed three previous films. His mother was born in Inner Mongolia and this was part of his inspiration for this film. Tuya's Marriage won the Golden Berlin Bear Award 2007.

Citibank's Choice
citibank

2007, 101 mins



Dir: Li Jixian

Country: Japan/China

Dir: Li Jixian

April 6

PG

THE WESTERN TRUNK LINE

It is 1978, and the arrival in a small Northern Chinese town of a pretty young music student, Yu Xueyan, from Beijing rouses a pair of brothers from their aimlessness. Eighteen-year-old Li Siping, prefers listening to music and spying on female factory workers to thinking about his future, while his 11-year-old brother Fangtuo is a cause of anxiety to their parents. When Xueyan moves into the house across the road from their family, Siping's yearning for her is stirred. Prior to this, his only distraction was secretly receiving radio signals from foreign countries in an old warehouse around the Western Trunk Line. The two of them start a romance, which has to be put on hold when Siping is drafted into the army. Wang Yu's gorgeous cinematography lends an ethereal quality to the muted lives of these young people living in a tiny industrial community. Born in 1962, Li Jixian graduated from Beijing Film Academy in 1989. He started in the film industry as an art director on films such as Weekend Sweetheart (1992), directed by Lou Ye, and as a co-screenwriter for Lu Xuechang's A Lingering Face (1999). He went on to direct his first feature, A High Sky Summer, in 2002. The Western Trunk Line is his second feature film.

Citibank's Choice
citibank



Country: India

Dir: Arup Manna

April 12

PG

AIDEU - BEHIND THE SCREEN

The Mumbai-trained director makes a bold attempt to document the pioneering spirit of Aideu Handique, who at 14 acted in the first Assamese movie, *Jyomoti*, in 1935. At that time, acting in front of the camera was considered an evil deed by the conservative people of the village and she became an outcast. On completion of the film, she had to spend the rest of her life in a small hut apart from the rest of her family, barred from getting water from the publicly-used river and remained unmarried. Aideu died in 2002 at the age of 82.

Before her death, she made one last appearance in *Aideu*, as herself. Director Arup Manna wanted to tell her story, "not because it has a lot of drama, but because he wanted to pay obeisance." It took over five years because as a film without any song and dance numbers, no producer wanted to take a risk.

2006, 81 mins



Dir: Arup Manna

Country: India

Dir: Surabhi Sharma

April 9

NCI

JAHAJI MUSIC

When Indian labourers arrived in the Caribbean two centuries ago in boats, they brought along more than just their meagre belongings and possessions - they carried with them their music and culture. Thus began the evolution of Chutney Music, a motley blend of Caribbean flair and Indian beats, a genre indigenous to Trinidad and Jamaica. Surabhi Sharma brings her crew along to discover and document how far this evolution has come.

Jahaji Music brings us on walks with Bob Marley's teacher and rastafari philosopher Mortimo Planno, introduces us to calypso and soca singers Rikki Jai and Skinner Park, speaks to visual artist Chris Cozier and even brings us along as vicarious guests in an East Indian Hindu wedding. It is a journey of discovery, identity and art. Witness how visual art, culture, music, heritage and climate play off one another in this exotic journey.

2007, 90 mins



Dir: Surabhi Sharma

Surabhi Sharma studied Anthropology and Psychology at St Xavier's College in Mumbai. After that she went on to do acting in theatre before finally delving into film.



2007, 118 mins



Dir: **Bappaditya Bandopadhyay**

Country: India

Dir: Bappaditya Bandopadhyay

April 13

OUR TIME (KAAL)

NC16

A fictional drama set primarily in a remote Bengali outpost, *Our Time* explores the plight of four rural women recruited into prostitution as high-class call girls for lonely politicians and businessmen. In search of a better life in the city, they are betrayed in love and let down by family members, and eventually dream of nothing more than money.

Bappaditya Bandopadhyay won the Bengal Film Journalists Association's Most Promising Director Award in 2003. He has won critical acclaim for previous films including *Devaki*, an introspective journey into the lives of two women from strikingly different backgrounds. *Our Time* is his third film.



2006, 60 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Ariani Darmawan

April 7

DRAGONS BEGET DRAGONS (ANAK NAGA BERANAK NAGA)

TBA

"How much does one know about one's culture, and moreover, one's self?" Director Ariani Darmawan poses this question to herself as she goes on a quest to discover the music of her heritage as a "Tionghoa Peranakan" - the Gambang Kromong. Gambang Kromong is an acculturative form of music adapted from various ethnicities in Indonesia. The Gambang Kromong melody, of Chinese musical notations, was introduced by the Chinese Indonesians as the Chinese musical instruments were slowly adapted. Through cross-fertilisation with Javanese, Sundanese, and Deli cultures, a harmonious music form emerged which is now known as a specific art form unique to Jakarta. Together with its engaging narration on the history of cultural and musical assimilation, this film describes today's Chinese-Indonesians as the keepers of the Gambang Kromong musical legacy. Ariani Darmawan's films often reflect on themes of power, identity and incorporates images and texts. *Dragons Beget Dragons* is her fifth film, and is her first long documentary work.

Shown Together with Farshid Azari's **The Sight** (Iran, 2007, 17 mins). A musician goes to visit his lover who is painting in the jungle; he completes a piece of music on his way.

Dir: **Ariani Darmawan**



Country: Indonesia

Dir: Garin Nugroho

April 8

PG

TEAK LEAVES AT THE TEMPLE

After winning "Best Film" at the Silver Screen Awards in the Singapore International Film Festival last year, director Garin Nugroho returns to present his latest film, *Teak Leaves At The Temple*. Nugroho's affinity with music is evident as seen in *Opera Jawa* - which showcased traditional Gamelan-based music. This time, Nugroho chooses to take on an unexpected musical form - Free Jazz, in *Teak Leaves At The Temple*. The documentary presents a free jazz collaboration by Western jazz artists Guerino Mozzola, Heinz Geisser, and Norris Jones, along with the community of Lima Gunung, the Sono Seni Ensemble, and the art community of the Boko, Prambanan and Borobudur temples. The scenes in the film are mostly taken around these three ancient temples. *Teak Leaves At The Temple* is a fascinating piece of tapestry weaving together the diverse cultural influences of Indonesia.

Garin Nugroho has directed nine feature films - *Opera Jawa*, *Of Love And Eggs*, *Bird Man's Tale*, *Poet*, *Leaf On The Pillow*, *Letter To An Angel*, *And The Moon Dances*, *Love In A Slice Of Bread*.

2007, 71 mins



Dir: Garin Nugroho

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Nan Triveni Achnas

April 12

TBA

THE PHOTOGRAPH

This fourth feature by Nan Achnas sees the unlikely pairing between two disparate characters - Sita (Shanty), a 20-something karaoke bar hostess and Johan (veteran Singapore actor, Lim Kay Tong), an ageing Chinese-Indonesian photographer. Johan operates his portrait business in an Indonesian town and lives alone in a small house after the tragic death of his wife and son many years ago. He reluctantly rents out his vacant attic room to Sita when her landlord evicts her from her room. Moonlighting as a prostitute in a karaoke bar, Sita sends the money to support her five-year-old daughter in her hometown. After she is gang raped by a group of drunken customers, she decides to quit her job as a bar hostess and offers to be Johan's servant in exchange for lodging. When Johan discovers that he has a terminal illness, Sita tries to help him fulfill his last three wishes, which includes finding a successor for his job before time runs out. The captivating visuals and strong, authentic performances, transforms this straightforward narrative to another level.

Nan Achnas has directed and written numerous documentaries such as *The Days of Mrs Marni* and *Women And Water*. In 2002 she produced and directed *The Flag (Bendera)*. *The Photograph* is her latest feature film.

2007, 94 mins



Dir: Nan Achnas



2007, 77 mins



Dir: Naghi Nemati

Country: Iran

Dir: Naghi Nemati

April 6

TBA

THOSE THREE

Naghi Nemati's first feature is an austere portrait of three soldiers lost in a snowy wasteland. In the tradition of an Iranian cinematic minimalist parable, *Those Three* nonetheless refrains from the social critique implied by other films in this genre, such as *Taste Of Cherry* by withholding much information about the characters. The reason why nervous Essi (Esmail Movahedian), stern Yousef (Yousef Yazdani) and bespectacled joker Dariush (Dariush Ghazbani) walk into the frozen wilderness is never explicitly explained.

Hooman Behmanesh's stark photography (which won an Asia Pacific Screen Award in Queensland last November) and Ebrahim Irajzad's soundtrack of the driving, bitter wind enhance the isolation of the humans against the snowscapes, as well as the rare moments of calm. This is a remarkable debut which bodes well for the new generation of Iranian cinema.

Naghi Nemati was born in Ardebil, Iran, and studied directing at Soreh University in Isfahan. He has directed several short films, including *Like Umbrella Of The Kids* (1997), *The Lost Homework* (1999), *The Children's Songs* (2000), *Free Line* (2005), *With Him* (2005) and *One Day, One Man* (2006).



2007, 90 mins



Dir: Subadeh Mortezaei

Country: Iran

Dir: Subadeh Mortezaei

April 6

PG

CHILDREN OF THE PROPHET

Children Of The Prophet offers an intimate insight into the everyday life and the expression of religious practice in contemporary Iran, where the archaic and the post-modern co-exist surprisingly. The film follows four groups of people in Tehran during the Shiite mourning rituals of Muharram, commemorating the death of Imam Hossein, the grandson of Prophet Mohammad. It explores the role of religion in different people's lives and how traditions are codified, kept alive and transformed to accommodate the needs of modern times.

We follow the protagonists closely with unbiased curiosity. It is their perspective, motivation, expression of faith or doubt, sense of humour and voices that make an otherwise enigmatic, and dramatic mass event palpable and familiar. This utterly personal approach offers a rare and often surprising insight into what is usually obscured by politicised Islam hyped by Islamists and Western media alike.


Country: Iran/Azerbaijan
Dir: Babak Shirinsefat
April 11
TBA

RAAMI

After 10 years spent in a refugee camp, a middle-aged Azerbaijani folk composer's search for his Armenian wife and their child results in his hitchhiking to Iran to investigate a decade-old clue. This uncertain quest, based on an Azerbaijani tale of two lovers, is paired with a lyrical and detailed depiction of the musician's memories and traditional music. In this debut feature, Shirinsefat explores the relationships between nature, war, music and folklore.

Babak Shirinsefat has been a prolific maker of short films and documentaries since 1987. Born in 1970, he made his first short film, *Image*, 1999 at the age of 17. Ten years later, he went on to direct documentaries such as *What is Short Film* (1997) and *A Poem Like Life* (1998). *Raami* is his debut feature. He is currently working on a documentary series, *Ojagh*, which is made in Iran, Turkey, Georgia and Russia.

2007, 76 mins


Dir: Babak Shirinsefat
Country: Japan
Dir: Ryuichi Hiroki
April 7
TBA

BAKUSHI

Only the Japanese could aestheticise the tying up of women, known as *kinbaku*. Ryuichi Hiroki, whose roots lie in Japan's "pink film" industry (namely erotic films that are released theatrically), explores the world of those who possess this fetish, namely the Japanese bondage masters, known as *bakushi*. Three of them, and three of their favourite models, are interviewed for this documentary. *Bakushi* shows these practitioners in action, binding their whimpering models with elaborate knots before proceeding to the ritual chastisement for S&M specialist stage shows, photo shoots and videos. We also get a look at the history of S&M practices in Japan, and the visibility of rope-play spectacles in various media, including periodicals, films, and erotic manga.

Ryuichi Hiroki began his filmmaking career in the "pink film" industry, making erotic films for theatrical release, and came into his own with *Catch the Woman Out* (*Seigyaku-Onna wo Abaku*) in 1982. He is one of the pioneers in the use of digital video in Japan. His 2003 film, *Vibrator*, swept many prizes in Japan and internationally.

2007, 90 mins


Dir: Ryuichi Hiroki



2006, 143 mins



Dir: Masayuki Suo

Country: Japan

Dir: Masayuki Suo

April 13

I JUST DIDN'T DO IT

TBA

The director of the original version of *Shall We Dance*, Masayuki Suo, continues to explore Japanese society's more overlooked sectors. This time he focuses on Japan's legal system, as viewed through the story of a man falsely accused of molesting a schoolgirl. The film explores what happens in an authoritarian judicial system when an individual struggles with the unchecked weight of state power. Tepppei Kaneko is a very typical young man, working part-time in Tokyo and trying to decide what he wants to do with his life. He is on his way to his first job interview when he is accused of groping a young schoolgirl on the train. Despite his plea of innocence, the police are only interested in coercing a quick confession and closing the books. Before he knows it, he is plunged into an insane world of Japan's legal bureaucracy. In Japan, the promotion of judges depends on the speed with which they deal with their caseloads, resulting in a 99.9 per cent guilty rate. Tepppei is driven by the purity of his belief that innocence will save him and he secures the services of veteran defense counsel, Mr Arakawa (played by Koji Yakusho). Born in 1956, Masayuki Suo returns to making feature films, 11 years after his world-renowned *Shall We Dance?* (1996)

Citibank's Choice
citibank

2007, 73 mins

Dir: Ann Dong-hee,
Gwon Mi-jeong,
Park Jong-jae,
Ryu Jung-oo,
Lee Hong-soo,
Lee Hong-min,
Jung Min-young,
Hong Deok-pyo

Country: Korea

Dir: Various

April 6

IF YOU WERE ME:
ANIMA VISION 2

R21

In 2003, the Human Rights Commission of Korea funded six promising directors to make short films about issues of discrimination. The result was *If You Were Me*, an insightful collection of works which received critical acclaim. Despite a noticeable lack of commercial success, the commission decided to fund two sequels to the project: *If You Were Me 2* and *If You Were Me: Anima Vision 2*.

Comprising six short films, *If You Were Me: Anima Vision 2* is an innovative and heartfelt feature-length animation film. Diverse issues relating to discrimination in all its forms are featured, such as the plight of the disabled wishing to have children (Ann Dong-hee and Ryu Jung-oo's *The Third Wish*); a working mother's difficulties in bringing up her child (Lee Hong-soo and Lee Hong-min's *Baby*), the fate of a homosexual forced to marry a woman by his overbearing parents (Park Jong-jae's *Lies*), the challenges today faced by men with aspirations of greatness (Hong Deok-pyo's *Peeling*), the widespread discrimination prevalent in today's societies (Jung Min-young's *Merry Golasmas*); and the troubles of international marriage faced by migrant women (Gwon Mi-jeong's *Shine Shine Shining*).

Official Logistics Provider

ALL THE WAY **DHL** Express


Country: Malaysia
Dir: James Lee
April 6

2008, 90 mins

Dir: James Lee

HISTERIA (INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE)

Hysteria is a horror film about six female students attending a supposedly haunted school. As part of a prank, they pretend to be hysterical and are so convincing that the school calls in a witch doctor to "cure" them. However, they soon find themselves faced with some truly mysterious occurrences and a series of grisly deaths that could either be caused by supernatural forces or by one of the girls themselves. Hysteria is the first of the new Malaysian independent films to be shot on 35mm.

James Lee was born 1973 in Ipoh, Malaysia. Trained as a graphic designer, he began acting in and directing theatre plays before venturing into video filmmaking. He directed his first feature film, *Snipers*, in 2001, followed by stylized experimental film *Ah Beng Returns* (2001), and Mandarin drama *Room To Let* (2002). Lee received the SIFF's 1st Unofficial Retrospective in 2002. Lee has served as Director of Photography for many Malaysian films including Tan Chui Mui's *Love Conquers All* and producer for others such as Ho Yuhang's *Sanctuary* and Amir Muhammad's *The Big Durian*.


2007, 70 mins

Dir: James Lee

WAITING FOR LOVE

In this final part of his Love Trilogy, prolific Malaysian director James Lee continues to explore the complexities of love as played out in three different stories. Three couples, each at the turning point of their relationship, have to confront their personal fears and ideas on love and try to determine where to go next.

In the first story, Lim and Amelia (Lim Kien Lee and Amelia Chen) have been together for almost five years. While he is ready for marriage, she is not sure about their future together. A mysterious letter that Amelia receives and her reluctance to dispose of it leads to an ugly confrontation. In the second story, Pete and Bernice (Pete Teo and Bernice Chaully) have been a couple for a long time. Tensions arise because Pete does not believe in marriage while Bernice is the one more engaged in the relationship. Finally, Amy and Lai (Amy Len and Loh Bok Lai) are a pair of secret lovers. A young couple at the beginning of a relationship, their love is tender and caring.

Waiting For Love gives us a unique glimpse into the many facets of love, its questions, responsibilities, blame, tenderness and pain.

**ASIAN CINEMA**

Look out for film choice by citibank

Country: Malaysia

Dir: Liew Seng Tat

April 8 and 13



2007, 90 mins



Dir: Liew Seng Tat

FLOWER IN THE POCKET**PG**

Filmmaker James Lee, whose films have been seen in previous editions of SIFF (Before We Fall In Love Again and Things We Do When We Fall In Love), switches roles to act for fellow director Liew Seng Tat's debut feature film. He plays Sui, a workaholic father whose day job involves mending broken mannequins. Listless and detached from his parental responsibilities, he neglects his two sons, Li Ahh and Li Ohm. The two boys struggle to cope with their lack of guidance by inventing their own unique methods of survival amidst their harsh concrete surroundings. The title comes from the tradition of wearing a flower in the pocket in celebration of Mother's Day. The two protagonists agonise over this symbol of their mother due to the absence of a maternal figure in their lives. Funded and executive produced by fellow director Tan Chui Mui, *Flower In The Pocket* is a bittersweet comedy about the state of youth and innocence in today's rapidly changing society. Winner of the New Currents award of the 12th Pusan International Film Festival, *Flower In The Pocket* continues the success of Malaysian independent filmmakers in recent years.

Born in 1979, Jinjiang, Malaysia, Liew Seng Tat burst into the filmmaking scene with his debut short film, *Bread Skin With Strawberry Jam*, in 2003.

Country: Pakistan

Dir: Shoaib Mansoor

April 12



2007, 170 mins



Dir: Shoaib Mansoor

**IN THE NAME OF GOD
(KHUDA KAY LIVE)****NC16**

Winner of the Silver Pyramid Award at the 2007 Cairo International Film Festival, *In the Name of God* has been widely lauded as a revival of the Pakistani film industry. Spanning across three continents, it tells the moving story of one Pakistani family and how the events of 9/11 have changed what it means to be a Pakistani abroad. Mansoor tells the story of two brothers, both accomplished musicians, one turning to extremism and the other, despite his attempts to assimilate in America, accused of it. The film resonates with the dilemma Muslims face today, offering an intimate glimpse into the complexities of adaptation and assimilation in the post-9/11 world.

Shoaib Mansoor is a renowned Pakistani producer, director, writer, lyricist and composer. ShoMan (as he calls himself) is one of the most influential and famous figures in the Pakistan showbiz scene. In recognition of his outstanding services, ShoMan has been decorated with presidential award of Pride of Performance and Sitara-e-Imtiaz by the Pakistan Government. He received the Silver Pyramid Award from the Cairo International Film Festival for *In The Name Of God*.

Official Logistics Provider

DHL



Country: Philippines

Dir: Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr

April 7

PG

EHEM! PLO - CORRUPTION AND INTEGRITY IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY

A piercing video-documentary into the heart of the corruption issue, Ehem! Plo - Corruption And Integrity In Philippine Society is director Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr's latest project. Through the use of entertaining musical interludes, the director manages to spread the serious message of anti-corruption in a light hearted and unimposing way.

Last seen in the 19th SIFF competing in the Silver Screen Awards with the heartwarming Pepot Superstar, del Mundo, Jr once again gives voice to the underprivileged and oppressed. By stringing together a series of interviews with diverse personalities, ranging from a mayor to an auditor to socially concerned artists, the director manages to weave these diverse voices into a coherent and effective tapestry that entertains, educates and informs.

Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr's screenwriting credits include Aliwan Paradise in Southern Winds, Bayaning Third World, Markova and Maid in Singapore.



Dir: **Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr**

2007, 50 mins

Country: Philippines

Dir: Roxlee

March 30 and April 9

TBA

JUAN BAYBAYIN (WORLD PREMIERE)

The filmmaker's personal search for Baybayin or Alibata, the original Filipino language before the Spaniards came and colonised the Philippines in 1521. The search will determine if the ancient alphabet still exists and whether it is still practised in the country. An incredibly funny and moving film.

Rox Lee, known for his quirky animated short films, music and paintings, is a pioneer of supporting independent filmmaking and music. He eventually produced Sinekalye (street cinema), a group of independent filmmakers, visual artists and musicians who share this passion. His works include Bruce (2002), Batumbuhay (2003), as well as a segment he made in Imahe Nasyon (La Pula) - a collaboration of Filipino directors depicting the Edsa Revolution in 20 different points of view.



Dir: **Roxlee**

2007, xx mins





2007, 100 mins



Dir: John Torres

Country: Philippines

Dir: John Torres

April 12

YEARS WHEN I WAS A CHILD OUTSIDE**PG**

An experimental feature, *Years When I Was A Child Outside* begins as an attempt by John Torres to make a documentary on his father. However, this becomes one of his many abandoned projects. In the end he decides to use the various images and sounds he has gathered to create a new film on isolation and self-expression.

John Torres started off as an apprentice under a commercial filmmaker, but left filmmaking for several years before making his first three short films – *The Otros Trilogy* – in 2004. His trademarks include the use of voiceover and on-screen text, as well as found footage. His first feature film, *Todo Todo Teros* (2006), about an artist who wakes up one night to discover that he is a terrorist, won a Cinemanila Young Cinema Award, and the FIPRESCI-NETPAC Award from the 2006 SIFF. *Years When I Was A Child Outside* is his second feature film.



2007, 70 mins



Dirs: Ray Gibraltar

Country: Philippines

Dir: Ray Gibraltar

March 30 and April 8

WHEN TIMAWA MEETS DELGADO**TBA**

Mixing genres and modes with reckless abandon, *When Timawa Meets Delgado* provides a rollicking good time. The two title characters are a gay literature teacher and a Palanca award-winning writer and a videographer who dabbles in theatre respectively, and both men find their way to the final interview as Nursing programme applicants. As the title suggests, Timawa meets Delgado on the way out from the interview, and we are treated to a sequence of flashbacks, or perhaps possibilities about these two characters' pasts. All this with the grit and grime of Iloilo city as the dramatic backdrop, for the central problem the film addresses is poverty; the poverty that drives such men to a career they have neither interest nor inclination in. In a genre-bending move, Gibraltar mixes in documentary-style interviews with actual nursing applicants as well as poetic sequences and story-within-a-story interludes, exploring the provocative topic of male nurses, and the attendant cultural assumptions about gender, sexuality, nationality, activism, and ultimately, reality.

Ray Gibraltar's filmography includes *Syokoy*, a full-length documentary about the dark aftermath of the Guimaras Oil Spill in 2006.


Country: Philippines
Dir: Lav Diaz
April 6 and 11

2007, 540 mins

Dir: Lav Diaz

DEATH IN THE LAND OF ENCANTOS

TBA

"Beauty is the beginning of terror." This epigraph by Rainer Maria Rilke forms the premise for this nine-hour opus by Filipino director Lav Diaz. Shot in response to the devastation of the eastern Bicol region of the Philippines by Super Typhoon Durian, *Death In The Land of Encantos* meditates on the fragility of life and the regenerative power of both nature and art. An acclaimed Filipino poet named Benjamin Agusan (Roeder Camanag) returns from Russia to his hometown of Padang to find it buried under landslides of mud and a nascent river. Shocked, he wanders through the ravaged land, reconnecting with distraught friends, lovers and family members. The stark black and white images of barren trees and rocks paint a bleak and disturbing landscape of loss. Yet Diaz surprises the audience by strategically cutting from these harsh images to quiet scenes of physical and emotional intimacy between characters, expressing a belief in the natural rhythms of life. *Death In The Land of Encantos* was awarded a Special Mention in the Orizzonti (Horizons) Documentary Section of the Venice Film Festival in 2007.

Lav Diaz's *Batang West Side* won Best Picture at the Singapore International Film Festival, the Independent Film Festival of Brussels and Gawad Urian in 2002 as well as the Netpac Jury Prize. His other award-winning films include *Evolution Of A Filipino Family* and *Heremias*.

Country: Philippines
Dir: Auraeus Solito
April 5

2007, 118 mins

PHILIPPINE SCIENCE (PISAY) (ASIAN PREMIERE)

TBA

Amidst the chaos of Philippines' Martial Law in the '80s, eight teenagers from the country's top high school for science groom themselves to be the nation's future leaders. Their adolescence is a voyage from innocence to experience. But after the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino and the onset of the People Power Revolution, they too must choose their own future.

Auraeus Solito's first feature film, *The Blossoming Of Maximo Oliveros*, won 15 international awards including three awards at the Berlinale. It is also the first Philippine film nominated for Best Foreign film at the Independents' Spirit Awards in the United States. He is also the first Filipino to make it to the premiere independent film festival in the world, the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, USA; two years in a row for both *The Blossoming Of Maximo Oliveros* and *Tuli*. *Philippine Science (Pisay)* is his third dramatic feature film.


Dir: Auraeus Solito



2007, 122 mins

Country: Taiwan

Dir: Chang Tso-chi

April 6

SOUL OF A DEMON

M18

In 1895, when China lost the first Sino-Japanese War, Taiwan became a Japanese colony. Some years later, Japan built an important fishing port at Nanfangao. Many Japanese arrived to live and work there. When Japan was defeated in 1945, most of the Japanese returned to Japan, but some decided to settle there. Sixty years later, the issue of a divided Japanese-Chinese identity still cuts to the heart of the family of Che, a young man who returns to his home in Nanfangao, after completing a three-year jail term for his younger brother, Ren's crime. Ren has spent the last three years in Japan with their father Chang, who left the brothers and their mother many years ago, and has come to think of himself as Japanese during his long exile. Now Chang is also coming back to Nanfangao to settle his long-running rivalry with Shun, the father of the boy Ren stabbed.



Dir: Chang Tso-chi

In 1988, Chang Tso-chi worked as Hou Hsiao-Hsien's first assistant director on *A City Of Sadness*. In 1992, he won a government subsidy for production of his screenplay *Midnight Gunshots*, but subsequently turned it down due to disagreements with the intended producer. This unsatisfying experience prompted him to set up his own production company which has produced his own features.



2007, 110 mins

Country: Thailand

Dir: Pimpaka Towira

April 7

THE TRUTH BE TOLD

TBA

In 2003, Shin Corporation, one of the wealthiest corporations in Thailand owned by the family of former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, filed a defamation lawsuit against an individual. They demanded compensation of 400 million baht (US\$11 million) from a media rights activist who draws a salary of 14,000 baht a month. Her name is Supinya Klangnarong, and this documentary chronicles her journey over the subsequent three years.

Made independently through private investments, this timely and amazing film records the shifting political landscape of Thailand in recent times. The *Truth Be Told*; the cases against Supinya Klangnarong questions the price of the freedom of speech, the role of an individual and her power to affect the political climate of a nation.



Dir: Pimpaka Towira

Pimpaka Towira is one of the pioneer female filmmakers on the Thai independent scene since the early '90s. Her debut feature, *One Night Husband* (2003) premiered at the 2003 Berlin International Film Festival. Apart from filmmaking, Towira has worked as a film writer, film curator, film activist and film lecturer.



Country: Singapore

Dir: Kan Lume

April 6 and 12



2008, 86 mins

**DREAMS FROM THE
THIRD WORLD
(WORLD PREMIERE)**

TBA

Dreams From The Third World centres on the main protagonist, Leon, an idealistic filmmaker who tries to convince a prostitute to star in his porn movie. In his pursuit of his passion, Leon neglects his marital relations, and his wife gradually turns cold towards him as their passion fizzles out. Fuelled by his disenchantment, he goes on a downward spiral leading to betrayal and inevitably, adultery. We discover that his idealistic intentions may just be a front for deeper, darker psychological scars.

Citibank's Choice
citibank

Country: Singapore

Dir: Lim Mayling

April 5 and 11



2007, 65 mins

**WOMEN WHO LOVE WOMEN:
CONVERSATIONS IN SINGAPORE**

TBA

One of the few documentaries ever made about lesbians in Singapore, this film, shot in 2006, uses interview footage with three Singaporean lesbians - Amanda Lee, Sabrina Renee Chong and Gea Swee Jean, to get a rare glimpse into lesbian lives in Singapore. Intimate and often candid, these lesbians talk about their lives, loves and their views on topics such as coming out and relationships. Sometimes heartbreaking, and often times, funny, the documentary captures the lives of lesbians who have chosen to live authentically and is a testament to the courage, tenacity and individualism of lesbians living in Singapore.

Country: Singapore

Dir: Eng Yee Peng

April 8 and 12



2007, 60 mins

**DIMINISHING MEMORIES 2
(WORLD PREMIERE)**

TBA

In 2005, Eng Yee Peng made the acclaimed Diminishing Memories, a story of her childhood years in the villages of Lim Chu Kang. Prompted by the Singapore government's recent announcement of a plan to turn Lim Chu Kang into an agriculture-cum-entertainment attraction, Eng felt the need to update her film. In Diminishing Memories II, she learns to accept the much-changed Lim Chu Kang community and how the evolving times have also altered its spirit.

Shown together with Sam Loh's **Vivid** (Singapore, 2007, 30 mins), Takeshi seeks refuge in a hotel room to escape from the past. It has become a ritual since the death of his wife.



2007, 83 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Various

April 5 and 12

**LUCKY7
(ASIAN PREMIERE)****R21**

In order to break the vicious cycle of harmful competition and the logistical barriers of feature filmmaking, in January 2007, seven filmmakers from Singapore - Sun Koh, K Rajagopal, Boo Junfeng, Brian Gothong Tan, Chew Tze Chuan, Ho Tzu Nyen and Tania Sng - started playing a game of exquisite corpse. Each filmmaker attempts a 10-12-minute segment of a feature film continued by the next filmmaker who knows only what took place in the last minute of the previous segment. Lucky7 - a multi-genre rollercoaster ride of a feature - is the result of this experiment.



2007, 74 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Yousry Mansour

April 7 and 11

**DIRT OUT
(WORLD PREMIERE)****TBA**

They are internationally known as The Dirt Bike Riders, but in the Garden City of Singapore, they face difficulties gaining official recognition. They are made up of a wide variety of Singaporeans from different backgrounds, united by the devotion to their passion. Lacking the necessary facilities within their own country to hone their bike riding skills, they travel every weekend to race-tracks in Malaysia, to test the performance of their motorbikes, and to take part in various Motocross championships. Director Yousry Mansour documents these riders in pursuit of their aspirations and dreams.



2007, 88 mins

Country: Singapore

Dir: Joshua Lim

April 5, 6 and 13

THE OLIVE DEPRESSION (ASIAN PREMIERE)

TBA

Based on an experience every male Singaporean citizen or permanent resident can relate to, *The Olive Depression* captures the conflicting emotions faced by its protagonist before conscription into mandatory National Service. A cerebral existentialist debut by Singaporean Joshua Lim, *The Olive Depression* depicts the melancholic coming-of-age of Johnny amidst his circle of friends and relatives; painting a bittersweet piece questioning the sacrificial honor of being a citizen in his country and, ultimately, the price one pays for losing one's innocence.



2008, 113 mins

Country: Singapore/Malaysia/Japan

Dir: Sherman Ong

April 6 and 13

HASHI (INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE)

PG

A film that deals with very relevant issues in our everyday lives, *Chopsticks On The Edge Of A Bridge* (Hashi) centres on three women from three age groups – Shino (50s), Junko (30s) and Momo (20s). Momo who is a bento delivery girl who sends bento lunches to Shino and Junko, who are colleagues in an office. Momo would always tell her dreams to Shino or Junko. As the story weaves around issues of love, relationships, insecurity, death and the blurring between dreams and reality, the men in their lives are always present but hardly seen or heard.



2007, 60 mins

Country: Singapore/China

Dir: Tan Siok Siok

April 9 and 12

BOOMTOWN BEIJING

TBA

A much-anticipated event, the 2008 Olympics Games will be held in China. But what do the Games mean to the ordinary Chinese? An 11-year-old boy desires to be an Olympic Torch Bearer. A road sweeper intends to stage his own mass Olympics countdown performance. An ageing blind athlete takes one last stab at a Paralympics medal before his retirement. Together, their stories give a poignant snapshot of Beijing in the summer before the big games begin.



SINGAPORE PANORAMA

Country: Singapore

Dir: James Leong, Lynn Lee

April 6 and 11



2007, 103 mins

HOMELESS FC

NC16

Twice a week in Hong Kong, an unlikely group of men who call themselves the Dawn Team, gather to play football. Beyond a love for the game, the one thing that unites these people is the fact that they all know what it's like to be homeless. They are training to take part in the Homeless World Cup in Cape Town. From the duo that brought us Aki Ra's Boys (20th SIFF), Homeless FC follows the Dawn Team through one tumultuous year in pursuit of their dreams.

Country: Singapore

Dir: Han Yew Kwang

April 12



2007, 85 mins

18 GRAMS OF LOVE

PG

Zihua and Ah Hui are two long-time friends. They suspect that their wives are cheating on them. In order to allay their suspicions, they decide to "test" their wives by having the other write a love letter to the other's wife, to see if she will respond. But as Zihua and Ah Hui get caught up in their ploy, they start to ignore their own wives. Subsequently, their lonely wives also start to respond to the love letters that they received. One day, Zihua's wife writes back to Ah Hui and proposes a meeting in a love hotel...

Country: Cambodia/Australia/Singapore

Dir: Craig Ower

April 10 and 13



2007, 104 mins

TO SPEAK

PG

Based on a true story, To Speak takes us on a journey into a land haunted by a horrific past, a place where millions struggle daily against desperate poverty. Twelve-year-old Ratana lives in an impoverished rural village but refuses to accept that her fate is pre-determined by her circumstances. She dreams of a better life, and of building a new house for her fractured family. To succeed, Ratana will need to rise above the daily grind of survival and also grapple with the terrible legacy of the Khmer Rouge and the Killing Fields. Shot with a small independent team and budget, the film was initiated by director Craig Ower who conceived the story after repeated visits to the country. Craig Ower To Speak is Craig Ower's first feature film, while working as a volunteer house builder in Cambodia.



Country: Singapore

Dir: Abdul Nizam Hamid

April 10 and 13



2008, 60 mins

KERONCHONG FOR PAK BAKAR (WORLD PREMIERE)

TBA

A documentary about the man and eye behind the camera in P Ramlee's films, during the golden age of early Singapore cinema. It takes the audience down memory lane to revisit scenes of local filmmaking during the '50s and the '60s, offering hitherto unseen footage of films such as *Ibu Mertuaku*, *Sumpah Orang Minyak*, *Bujang Lapok* and *Antara Dua Darjat*. But above all, the documentary offers a site of memory for the great Abu Bakar Ali, that seeks to elicit the history that made him while offering a glimpse of the history that he made and the legacy that he left behind.

Shown together with Royston Tan's **After The Rain** (Singapore, 2007, 12 mins).

Country: Singapore

Dir: Zahirat Banu Codelli

April 7 and 13



2007, 60 mins

VEIL OF DREAMS (WORLD PREMIERE)

TBA

Veil of Dreams documents Iran's women football team as they compete against other international players. Meet the women, who dare to push customary limits in pursuit of a simple ambition to take part in a sport where there are no restrictions, but only freedom to express themselves in a game that used to be for men only. Find out how this journey will affect their lives and provide unforgettable memories for these young women.

Shown together with Anthony Chen's **Haze** (Singapore, 2007, 14 mins). The haze hangs ominously over the island state - two trapped teenagers seek solace in each other's company.

Country: Singapore

Dir: Harman Hussin

April 5 and 9



2008, 50 mins

ROAD TO MECCA (WORLD PREMIERE)

PG

Inspired by the travelogue *The Difficult Journey* by Ahmad Thomson, Harman Hussin embarks on an overland pilgrimage from Singapore to Mecca. This documentary is about this journey, which was made with little support, but with immense conviction. Witness an unforgettable journey into the heart of the human spirit, through the myriad beauty of countries and cultures along the way.

Shown together with Ellery Ngiam's **Dance Of A Modern Marriage** (Singapore, 2007, 30 mins). A married couple attends a swinger's party in the attempt to re-ignite that spark in their marriage.



55 YEARS OF VIETNAM FILM

Look out for film choice by citibank

After President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree for the establishment of the film industry in 1953, and since the first Vietnam fiction feature film was made in 1959, the country's cinema has been having its own quiet revolution. Beginning with the Doi Moi (Renewal) period of 1986, when film artistes were encouraged to be open to creativity and critical in their commentary, the industry also began to be privatised. Today, co-productions with overseas Vietnamese directors are shot within Vietnam and a young independent short filmmaking has also emerged. The programme 55 Years Of Vietnamese Cinema highlights the new and the old. Classic wartime films will be specially subtitled. New films will be premiered while documentaries, and diasporic Vietnam films will be presented. The first Vietnam film book to be published in English, Ngo Phuong Lan's *Modernity And Nationality In Vietnamese Cinema*, will also be launched in Singapore.



2007, 110 mins

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Dao Duy Phuc

April 10

THE LIFE (SINH MENH)

TBA

Linh's three brothers have died in the war against the Americans. His mother is anxious that his new wife will bear him a son to continue his family lineage. But then Linh gets drafted. Together with his pals from the military transportation unit, Linh's daily responsibility involves driving his truck into the war zone. But everyone works hard to get Linh to see his wife. Still, every sensual moment is interrupted by incoming air bombardments.



2007, 103 mins

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Charlie Nguyen

April 9

THE REBEL

NC16

The Rebel is a martial arts film set in Vietnam in 1922, when the country was under French colonial rule. It details the anti-French rebellion by peasants, who must also counter the Vietnamese secret agents sent to destroy them. One agent is Le Van Cuong whose conscience is troubled by the sea of Vietnamese blood he has spilled. Following an assassination of a high ranking French official, Cuong is assigned to kill the leader of the resistance but instead falls in love with the daughter of the rebel leader. Best Audience Choice Award winner at the Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF), 2007.



2000, 20 mins

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Lai Van Sinh

April 12

MRS. NAM (CHI NAM KHUNG)

TBA

Mrs Do Kim Hong, a nurse by profession, survived the war as a wounded veteran. Despite her ailing health, she strains herself to fulfill what she considers her calling - to sort through the remains of soldiers who were slain on the battlefield and return their remains to their families. She insists on carrying out her duties despite chiding from the community; holding on to the belief that one's soul would not rest in peace unless its remains are buried in the person's place of origin.

Official Logistics Provider

ALL THE WAY **DHL**

OPENING FILM

The Princess Of Nebraska
April 4, 9:15 pm, Lido 1

CLOSING FILM

Road To Dawn
April 14, 9:15 pm, Lido 1

April	Venue			04 Fri	05 Sat	06 Sun	07 Mon
11 am	Lido 3						
	Lido Classics						
	National Museum				Lucky7	If You Were Me Anime	
	The Substation				Arabs And Terrorism	Death In The Land Of Encantos	
	Sinema						
2 pm	Lido 3				Global Metal	100 Years Of Good Prayers	
	Lido Classics					Global Metal	
	National Museum				Paper Can't Wrap Ember	My Winnipeg	
	The Substation				Deficit	Death In The Land... (cont'd)	
	Sinema				The Olive Depression	Homeless FC	
4.15 pm	Lido 3				The Art Of Negative Thinking	Soul Of A Demon	
	Lido Classics				Brand Upon The Brain	The Man From London	
	National Museum				Breathing In Mud	Driving To Zigzagland	
	The Substation				Philippine Science	Death In The Land... (cont'd)	
	Sinema				Road To Mecca	Hashi	
7 pm	Lido 1						
	Lido 3				Tuva's Marriage	Irina Palm	Fujian
	Lido Classics				Cargo 200	Santa Mesa	Shanghai
	National Museum				Red Road	Those Three	Am
	The Substation				Waiting For Love	Death In The Land... (cont'd)	Truth Is
	Sinema				Women Who Love Women	The Olive Depression	Veil Of
9.15 pm	Lido 1			The Princess Of Nebraska			
	Lido 3				Lady Chatterley	Western Trunk Line	Bak
	Lido Classics					Histeria	
	National Museum				Running Down A Dream	Obscene	Finish
	The Substation				Singapore Short Films Finalists	Children Of The Prophet	Dragon
	Sinema				Women Who Love Women	Dreams From The Third World	Dirt



HOW TO ORDER

Look out for film choice by **CitiBank**

Please check film ratings before purchase of tickets. For R21 films, patrons must be above 21 years old. For NC16, patrons must be above 16 years old. For M18 films, patrons must be above 18 years old.

For films with no ratings at the date of printing, please check updates before purchase of tickets.

For updates, please check the festival website at www.filmfest.org.sg or at the SISTIC Authorised Agents.

All tickets purchased are non-refundable and non-exchangeable.

All orders will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats will be selected by computer based the best seats available.

The film schedule, ticketing information and ratings are correct at the time of printing. Films may be cancelled or rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Refunds will only be made for cancelled and rescheduled films, and refunds are only available at the Festival Secretariat.

Tickets are available through SISTIC.

DATE OF SALE

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TITLE (\$8.40)	QTY	
Love Comes Lately (Apr 8)	_____	Singapore Short Film Finalists (Apr 12)
Lucky? (Apr 5)	_____	Slingshot (Apr 13)
Lucky? (Apr 12)	_____	Soul Of The Demon (Apr 6)
Man From London, The (Apr 6)	_____	Swift (Apr 8)
Milky Way Liberation Front (Apr 13)	_____	Teak Leaves At The Temple (Apr 8)
Mrs. Nam/Little Girl Of Hanoi (Apr 12)	_____	They Say I'm A Monkey (Apr 13)
Mrs. To Hau (Apr 11)	_____	Those Three (Apr 6)
Must Read After My Death (Apr 10)	_____	To Speak (Apr 10)
My Winnipeg (Apr 6)	_____	To Speak (Apr 13)
Obscene (Apr 6)	_____	Truth Be Told, The (Apr 7)
Olive Depression, The (Apr 5)	_____	Tuya's Marriage (Apr 5)
Olive Depression, The (Apr 6)	_____	Veil Of Dreams/Haze (Apr 7)
Our Time (Apr 13)	_____	Veil Of Dreams/Haze (Apr 13)
Out Of Coverage (Apr 9)	_____	Waiting For Love (Apr 5)
Paper Cannot Wrap Up Embers (Apr 5)	_____	Western Trunk Line, The (Apr 6)
Philippine Science (Apr 5)	_____	Women Who Love Women (Apr 5, 7 pm)
Photograph, The (Apr 12)	_____	Women Who Love Women (Apr 5, 9.15 pm)
Raami (Apr 11)	_____	Women Who Love Women (Apr 11)
Rebel, The (Apr 9)	_____	Words From The City (Apr 13)
Red Road (Apr 5)	_____	Years When I Was A Child Outside (Apr 12)
Road To Mecca/Dance Of A Modern Marriage (Apr 5)	_____	You, The Living (Apr 10)
Road To Mecca/Dance Of A Modern Marriage (Apr 9)	_____	
Romulus My Father (Apr 11)	_____	
Romulus My Father (Apr 14)	_____	
Runnin' Down A Dream: Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers (Apr 5)	_____	<i>Total number of tickets</i>
Santa Mesa (Apr 6)	_____	
Seventh Heaven (Apr 11)	_____	
Shadows (Apr 7)	_____	
Shadows Formless (Apr 11)	_____	
Sharp Gravel (Apr 13)	_____	
Shelter (Apr 13)	_____	
So Mamad (Apr 13)	_____	
Singapore Short Film Finalists (Apr 5)	_____	

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Shaw House
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163 Penang Road
#05-01, Winsland House II
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Gallery Theatre
93 Stamford Road
Nearest MRT Station: Dhoby Ghaut/ City Hall
www.nationalmuseum.sg

THE SUBSTATION

Guinness Theatre
45 Armenian Street
Nearest MRT Station: Dhoby Ghaut/ City Hall
http://www.substation.org/about_us/contact_us.html

SINEMA

Old School
11B Mount Sophia, B1-12
Nearest MRT Station: Dhoby Ghaut
<http://sinema.sg/oldschool/>

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

The Republic Cultural Centre (TRCC)
9 Woodlands Ave 9
Nearest MRT Station: Woodlands
<http://www.rp.edu.sg/location.asp>

RATINGS:

G – General

PG – Parental Guidance

NC16 – No children
under 16 years of age

M18 – Mature (18 years
and above)

R21 – Restricted (21).
Patrons must be 21
years and above

Please check film ratings
before you purchase
tickets.

Ratings for some films
may not be available at
time of printing.

For updates, please visit
www.filmfest.org.sg

	08 Tues	09 Wed	10 Thur	11 Fri	12 Sat	13 Sun	14 Mon
						Donkey In Lahore	
					Dreams From The Third World	They Say I'm A Monkey	
						Flower In The Pocket	
						Keronchong For Pak Bakar	
					In The Name Of God	Words From The City	
					Adieu, Behind The Screen	Sharp Gravel	
					Enemy Within/The Path Of Justice	Slingshot	
					Finishing The Game	Finishing The Game	
					Boomtown Beijing	To Speak	
					The Last Mistress	The Band's Visit	
					Denias, Singing On The Cloud	Gallipoli	
					Mrs Nam/Little Girl Of Hanoi		
					Singapore Short Film Finalists	Si Mamad	
					Diminishing Memories II	Veil Of Dreams	
Blue	Doi - Valley Of Tambourines	Out Of Coverage	You The Living	Seventh Heaven	The Photograph	I Just Didn't Do It	Romulus My Father
ws		Berlin	Life	Shadows Formless	Happy Desert	Our Time	
a	Jihad For Love	Kantata Tatwa	Annie Leibovitz: Life Through A Lens	Romulus My Father	Flicker Fest: The Brave, The Bold		
Told	Flower In The Pocket	Jahaji Music	33 Days	Annie Leibovitz: Life Through A Lens	American Zombie		
rooms	Homeless FC	Road To Mecca	To Speak	Diet Out	Lucky 7	Hashi	
		I'm Not There					Road To Dawn
hi				Roami	Hard-hearted	Milky Way Liberation Front	
	Love Comes Lately				All My Friends Are Leaving Brisbane	Shelter	
g The e	Swift	The Rebel	Bomb It	Mrs To Hau	The Kid And I		
Regist	Teak Leaves At The Temple	In The Shadow Of The Light	Must Read After My Death	Women Who Love Women	Years When I Was A Child Outside	Jihad For Love	
ut	Diminishing Memories II	Boomtown Beijing	Keronchong For Pak Bakar	Homeless FC	18 Grams Of Love	Keronchong For Pak Bakar	



55 YEARS OF VIETNAM FILM



2005, 25 mins

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Lai Vanh Sinh

April 12

THE PATH OF JUSTICE (NHUNG NEO-DUONG CONGLY)

PG

Two Generals, who were once on opposing sides of the War in Vietnam, come together in an attempt to find healing for themselves, as well as for the victims of Agent Orange, the devastating chemical agent used during the war. Its director, Lai Van Sinh, made the film to show how Agent Orange has affected the lives of countless people and the ongoing international campaign that seeks justice for the victims. This anti-war film is a moving appeal for the prohibition of chemical warfare.



1974, 77 mins

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Hai Ninh

April 12

LITTLE GIRL OF HANOI

TBA

Set in Hanoi during and after the 1972 Christmas bombing of the city by American B-52 bombers, this film tells the story of Ngoc Ha, a 12-year-old music student, as she searches for her family through the ruins of the city. As she walks the once familiar streets, flashbacks of her family life are movingly revealed. This is a poignant tale of the devastation of war, seen through the eyes of a little girl in Hanoi. Winner of the Golden Lotus at the 3rd Vietnamese Film Festival 1975.



1963, 90 mins

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Pham Ky Nam

April 11

MRS. TO HAU

TBA

Considered one of the two masterpieces of early Vietnamese cinema, Mrs. To Hau's profound realism relates the tale of the tragic life of a southern woman who experiences non-stop suffering in the anti-French war. Raped by French soldiers who raid her village, Mrs To Hau thinks of killing herself. But her infant child preserves her will to live. The death of her husband in the war again plunges her into despair. Her suffering worsens when she loses her child, her only source of hope left. The first Vietnamese feature to win the Silver Medal at the Moscow International Film Festival in 1963, it was also awarded the Golden Lotus at the 2nd Vietnam Film Festival in 1973.

National Museum Cinémathèque

March to June 2008

The National Museum Cinémathèque platform focuses on the presentation of film in its historical, aesthetic, and cultural contexts, with a strong emphasis on local and regional cinema. Housed in the 247-seat Gallery Theatre, the National Museum Cinémathèque complements its themed screenings with exhibitions and other public education initiatives.

Key programmes include the annual *Singapore Short Cuts*, *Young Cinema*, *Film and Music* series, *Under the Banyan Tree* and *Alternative Visions*.

World Cinema Series

11 March, 13 May, 10 June

Co-presented with the Singapore Film Society

World Cinema Series is a monthly screening that charts both the significant and less discovered territories of cinema.

Discover landmark classics and seldom seen gems of world cinema by some of the greatest mavericks and artists of film on the big screen every second Tuesday of the month at the National Museum of Singapore.

55 Years of Vietnam Film

4 – 14 April

21st Singapore International Film Festival

The programme *55 Years of Vietnam Film* highlights the new and the old. Classic wartime films will be specially subtitled. New films will be premiered while documentaries, shorts and diasporic Vietnam films will be represented. The first Vietnam film book to be published in English, *Ngo Phuong Lan's Modernity and Nationality in Vietnamese Cinema*, will also be launched in Singapore.

Under the Banyan Tree: Open Air Cinema

25 – 26 April, 30 – 31 May, 27 – 28 June

The popular *Under the Banyan Tree* monthly outdoor screenings returns to the National Museum this April! Celebrate the romance and magic of the cinema with your family and friends in a refreshing open-air setting as we screen some of your most beloved and favourite movie classics.

Young Cinema

1 & 24 – 27 May

Discover the hopes and aspirations of young people from all walks of life around the world. Be inspired and entertained by thought-provoking stories as we bring you a selection of some of the best short-films made for children. Suitable for ages 6-12 year old. Admission is free.

Michelangelo Antonioni Retrospective

19 – 22, 26 – 29 June & 3 – 6 July

Co-presented with the Italian Cultural Institute Singapore with the support of Cinecittà Holding

The first ever retrospective in Singapore of Michelangelo Antonioni, one of the world's most celebrated and innovative filmmaker will showcase sixteen feature films by the Italian master including groundbreaking classics like *L'Avventura* (1960), *The Red Desert* (1964) and *Zabriskie Point* (1970). The retrospective will also include programs of Antonioni's early short films and documentaries about his life and work.

Online booking at www.nationalmuseum.sg

Enquiries: 6332 3659 / 6332 5642

National Museum of Singapore

93 Stamford Road, Singapore 178897



THE FADING IMAGE (SOME THOUGHTS ON BUNG SJUMANDJAYA)

When time has slowly chipped away the image of Bung Sjunan since he passed away on 19 July 1985, it is only through watching his films that I've been able to retrieve his fading image. What I've felt always seen present in Bung Sjunan's works was his obsession with social issues. I remembered how he passionately talked about politics and films with his friends in our house in the elite residential area of Central Jakarta, a living condition far different than the one he grew up in the Kebon Kosong, Senen area. He was unique and a true original - his way of sitting with one leg raised so as to prop his hand which often held a pipe, his casual dressing style of a pair of three-quarter flash pants with a singlet, also his repartees with the accent of a Betawi from Kebon Kosong. Were these his responses against the modern culture which he condemned in *Si Doel Anak Modern* or his criticism on the moral and social degradation due to rapid modernization as seen in *Kerikil-Kerikil Tajam* (Sharp Gravel)?



H. Misbach Yusa Biran. His admiration for the works of Chailin Anwar, Chekov, Tagore, Steinbeck, prompted him to start a writing career by writing short stories using the pen name of Sjunan Djaya. One of his short stories called *Keroncong Kemayoran* was later adapted to a screenplay called *Saodah* (1956). Since his debut as a film director through a film called *Lewat Tengah Malam* (1971), he made a film I much admire, *Si Mamad* (1973), which was based on a Chekov short story and won Best Film at the 1974 Indonesian Film Festival. But his films

also had comedic and romantic touches. Even in a 'hard' film such as *Opera Jakarta* which had an anti-establishment character in Yoko, there was always a bit of romance in the mix. He was both anti-establishment yet a diehard romantic, an aspect of him that none of his three wives could forget. Bung Sjunan proposed to a ballerina, Farida Oetoyo, in Moscow, in the glow of a candle on the table and the sound of wine glasses. After fathering two sons (Arya Yudistira Sjunan and Sri Aksana Sjunan) and clinking in the same fashion, he ended his first marriage, but whose sweetness kept both parties on good terms after the divorce.

Born as Sumanjoyo because both his parents were of Javanese origins, his father was from Purworejo and mother from Begelen, the little Sumanjoyo was brought to Jakarta. Situated in the Utan Panjang, Kemayoran residential area where its Betawi culture was strongly felt, then relocated eventually to Kebon Kosong, that was Bung Sjunan (at that time he was already called Manjaj), who had to accept the bitter truth of being severed from his father who passed away when he was 10 years old. He was later brought up by his mother who remained a widow for the rest of her life. One of the things about his mother of which I was often told, was that she never got used to wearing shoes even after living in Jakarta. Like mother like son, also a true original who was always barefoot. His mother was a strong character and Bung Sjunan adored strong women. This was clearly shown in his works - *Kabut Sutra Ungu* (1978), *Kartini* (1982), *Budak Nafsu* (1983), and *Opera Jakarta* (1985).

When Farida Oetoyo was proposed by a Malaysian businessman, Feisol Hasyim, Bung Sjunan, was invited to have dinner with them in a fancy restaurant. A funny episode ensued. Feisol asked what Bung Sjunan would like to order, whether he disliked Feisol, or still fueled by jealousy, his reply to the Malaysian who embraced the Islam faith was: "I want to order Pork Satay!" After that, Bung Sjunan married my mother, Tutie Kirana, an actor. A marriage that lasted for only one year, but nonetheless an unforgettable journey. One of the stories I often heard from Mother was that Bung Sjunan spoiled her like a baby. He prepared her a drink filled in a milk bottle complete with a pacifier to be fed to Mother just as one would a baby. However, irreconcilable differences caused him to take leave but he was unwilling to officially divorce his second wife. He married again in 1984, with actress, Zoraya Perucha who was 23 years younger. Unfortunately, at the height of his happiness, Bung Sjunan left us at the age of 52. As if he had a sense of death, he

Even in his early years at school, he had shown interest in the arts. Bung Sjunan was active in theatre, and once took a role in a school play called *Awal* and *Mira* which was directed by



TRIBUTE TO SJUMANDJAYA



1973, 110 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Sjumandjaya

April 13

SI MAMAD

TBA

Sliding between comedy and tragedy, this was one of Sjumandjaya's commercially and artistically successful films. Mamad (Mang Udel) finds himself violating his principles, engaging in petty crime such as stealing office stationery, in order to pay for the birth of his seventh child. He is disturbed by these events, but never finds the courage to explain his situation to his pragmatic subordinate (Aedy Moward) nor his boss. One of the definitive classics of Indonesian cinema.

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Sjumandjaya

April 13

SHARP GRAVEL (KERIKIL-KERIKIL TAJAM)

TBA

1987, 122 mins

Three teenagers from Cilacap, Central Java are suffering from bad luck. Ganjar (Ray Sahetapy) and Retno (Christine Hakim) have to abandon their plans to get married. When Retno and Inten (Wenty Anggaini) decide to find work, they end up in Jakarta, but get arrested by the police and sent to a youth penitentiary. Sharp Gravel was an incisive critique of the rural-urban divide and is Sjumandjaya's vision of the city and people of Jakarta.

continued shooting Opera Jakarta in bad health for two straight days till the wee hours. Opera Jakarta was later resumed with his editor Norman Benny at the helm. Whereas his script *Terang Bulan di Tengah Hari* was filmed by Perucha in 1988 (shown in 2nd SIFF '89).

Once while reading a book I couldn't understand, Bung Sjukan advised, "Don't try reading literature, but let it read you". I didn't understand it then. But now I understand, and Bung Sjukan's works are the ones that have helped me understand. As a storyteller, his greatest strength was in his script. His use of vernacular relates to each character, culture, and its time, without any tendency to complicate the dialogue, so that it flows naturally. He was also very good at building powerful characters and courageous enough to undermine them as well. This ironic approach kept his works close to his audience.

"It's only him who knows what he wants to say," observed director Arifin C. Noer (1941-1995), "This is interesting, especially as we are in the midst of silence in Indonesian films, not knowing what to say. Sjukan is clearly using film

as a medium of personal expression with a social reality." A Javanese kid turned Betawi kid. A Betawi kid who turned "Modern Kid". Son, husband, father, friend, artist, who spoke whatever that was in his heart. A man who could also be shocked when his repartees were outmatched by a 'crazier' one, as what happened one early morning when he tried to wake me up for school with this Javanese limerick, "Ji, ro, lu, sopo gelem tempek asu! (One, two, three, who wants a dog's pussy?)." I was of course woken up and laughed, and responded, "Ji, ro, lu, sopo gelem tempek aku! (One, two, three, who wants my pussy!)." What was his expression like? It's difficult to describe. For sure, it was the most beautiful moment in my life, always recorded in my mind as time goes and forces it to fade away. - **Djenar Maesa Ayu**

Note: Djenar Maesa Ayu is the director of *They Say I'm A Monkey* (in competition in SIFF), an award-winning author and daughter of Sjumandjaya. Translated by Richard Oh



SJUMANDJAYA, FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE FOR SOCIAL CRITICISM

During his 14 years as a director, since his debut with *Lewat Tengah Malam* (Past Midnight, 1971), Sjumandjaya had made 14 movies. That was quite an amazing figure, one title each year, excluding a number of screenplays and scripts for theatre.

His Roots

First, one must always take note that Sjumandjaya had grown up more as a Betawier (the native of Jakarta) rather than as a Javanese. The egalitarian nature of Betawi culture had made Sjumandjaya easier to disassemble barriers in understanding people. This planted the seeds of Sjumandjaya's themes that he would transform onto celluloid. It was also his egalitarian attitude that made him join a group of Jakarta artists, well-known in the 50s and 60s, called *Senen Artists* (referring to an all-night district in downtown Jakarta).

Sjumandjaya's egalitarian attitude became much stronger when he was sent by the Indonesian government to study cinema in Moscow, Russia, from 1959 to 1964. The Indonesian government at the time had a very close relationship with Russia, since the then President Sukarno was left-inclined. Sjumandjaya graduated with a *Cum Laude* (a top degree), and returned to Indonesian cinema.

I think it is quite appropriate to say that Sjumandjaya was a nationalist who promoted the values of socialism. The seeds of his socialism were already in him long before he went to Russia, mostly because of the egalitarian values of Betawi culture that he acquired since his childhood. These seeds would then flourish while he was in Russia, which were later reflected in most of his works. His favourite themes were the ones that contained the fight of two camps: between the have and the have nots (in *Si Doel Anak Betawi*), between the old and younger generation (in *Yang Muda Yang Bercinta*, banned by the censors for 15 years before it was released), between rural and urban (in *Sharp Gravel*), between believers and non-believer (in *Atheis*), and between good and bad (in *Si Mamad*).

His Influences

There is a Russian influence in his films. Sjumandjaya adapted at least two works of Anton Chekhov, namely *Pinangan*, and *Si Mamad* (the latter was adapted from *The Death of*

Government Clerk). Sjumandjaya also used characters whose parallel can be found in Russian movies, such as the religious ulamas in *Si Doel Anak Modern* who are busy talking about material things, similar to Jewish Rabbis in some Russian movies. Sjumandjaya also used a baby pushchair descending staircase scene, in *Atheis*, that made people recall Sergei Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin*.

Of all Sjumandjaya's works, *Si Mamad* is his most important movie. It tells a story of a poor clerk named Mamad working at an archive. Mamad is actually an honest person, but forced to stealing stationery at his office, to pay his home bills. His act of corruption is noticed by his boss, who is actually doing the same thing on a larger scale. But it's Mamad who is tortured with guilt, not his boss. This theme echoes loudly in Indonesia today, with its many big cases of state corruption.

While more movies are produced today, few filmmakers speak as loudly about social problems as Sjumandjaya did during his time. Sjumandjaya worked in an era where censorship and state control were repressive under President Suharto (who died this year). But Sjumandjaya was brave in running risks with his critical views. Ironically these days, in an era when press freedom finally exists, there are not many critical views in the movies. For that reason, we miss Sjumandjaya. But we know all too well that he cannot be back since the day of his passing on 19 July 1985, while still filming his last movie: *Opera Jakarta*. But his view of "taking side with the mass of the people" should be a moment of reflection and a source of inspiration for young directors who are enjoying the dynamic stage of Indonesian cinema today. *** - **Arya Gunawan**

Note: Arya Gunawan has been commenting on Indonesian cinema for 20 years. He was journalist in Jakarta-based Kompas daily from 1987 to 1995, prior to his joining the BBC World Service as reporter/producer until 2000. Today, he is Head of Media Development Programmes for UNESCO Indonesia, which also covers Malaysia, Philippines, Timor Leste and Brunei Darussalam.



SECRET LIFE OF ARABIA

Look out for film choice by **citibank**



2007, 75 mins

Country: Yemen

Dir: Khadija Al-Solami

April 7

AMINA

PG

Amina is an eye-opening documentary portraying the legal and societal injustices faced by a Yemeni woman. The film tells the story of Yemenite Amina al-Tuhaif, who at 11 years old was married off to a man many years her senior, and at 14, sentenced to death for the murder of her husband after being tried without legal representation.

Sponsored by CAFE LE CAIRE (INT'L) PTE LTD & friends in association with The Arab Association, Singapore.



2007, 99 mins

Country: Egypt

Dir: Saad Hendawy

April 11

SEVENTH HEAVEN

NC16

Set in Cairo, Seventh Heaven is a spiritual and visually-impressive experience about Hanan, a woman with a hidden past who gets into a relationship with Bakr, a Sufi dancer (and a famous Whirling Dervish) with his own history. The intense whirling dervish performances which colour the film becomes a metaphor for their ability to finally forget themselves. There is also Bakr's son, Saad, a troubled boy trying to do what he always wanted in life.



Country: Syria

Dir: Abdelatif Abdelhamid

April 9

OUT OF COVERAGE

TBA



2007, 100 mins

An audacious situational comedy about Amer, who straddles between the two women in his life - his nagging wife, Salma, and the beautiful Nada, the wife of an imprisoned friend. Amer's struggle to mediate this situation is constantly interrupted by his handphone - his metaphoric leash to these two women. Daring and frank portrayals of sex punctuate the film as Amer negotiates his intentions, trapped between his desires and his morals. A peppering of subplots involving everyday Syrians completes this spicy and fun film by Abdelatif Abdelhamid.



Country: Tunisia

Dir: Nejib Belkadi

March 29

VHS KAHLOUCHA

TBA



2006, 80 mins

Nejib Belkadi's fun and energetic VHS Kahloucha is a celebration of the method, madness and magic of amateur Tunisian filmmaker Moncef Kahloucha. Belkadi's endearing portrayal of this impassioned filmmaker captures the light that Kahloucha brings into the mundane lives of his cast and crew, while revealing Kahloucha's secret love for his favourite lead actress, a sultry senior citizen. A fun and inspirational film for anyone interested in filmmaking.

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SECRET LIFE OF ARABIA



2007, 135 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Bassam Haddad

April 5

ARABS AND TERRORISM

Researched in six different languages, over 11 countries, 120 experts and politicians as well as hundreds of street interviews, this fast-paced documentary is determined to unearth what is said about Arabs and Terrorism. Tired of empty rhetoric about the fight against terrorism from Washington, DC neoconservatives (and curious of many assertions made by the Bush administration), Arab-American filmmaker Bassam Haddad decided to seek the truth for himself, camera-in-hand, and thus spark an impassioned dialogue between right-wing American policymakers and Middle Eastern political factions.



2007, 95 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Nina Davenport

April 10

OPERATION FILMMAKER

In this award-winning documentary, Nina Davenport challenges the romanticism of charity, as she follows a young Iraqi filmmaker, after he is fortuitously invited to work with a Hollywood film director. What began with the intention of capturing an inspiring story of the dreams of a disadvantaged youth coming to life, soon turns into a tale of disillusionment and cultural divisiveness, and an engaging parable about the US invasion of Iraq.

Country: Iraq

Dir: Emad Ali

March 31

A CANDLE FOR THE SHABANDAR CAFE

Founded in 1917, the Shabandar Cafe in Al Mutanabbi Street in the heart of the old centre of Baghdad, was a cultural landmark, where generations of Iraqis came to discuss and debate literature and politics - a living repository of Iraqi intellectual history and one of the last places where people could gather to exchange ideas. Emad had shot most of his film by the end of 2006, but in March 2007, a massive car bomb destroyed the Shabandar Cafe, all the bookshops on Al Mutanabbi Street and killed and wounded scores of people.

2007, 25 mins



SECRET LIFE OF ARABIA

Look out for film choice by citibank



2007, 70 mins

Country: Lebanon

Dir: Mai Masri

April 10

33 DAYS

TBA

Filmed during the Israeli war on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, 33 Days features the real-life stories of four people: a theatre director working with refugee children, a frontline journalist for an underground TV station, an aid worker, and a newsdesk director. Through their creativity and courage, the film tells the untold stories of the victims and survivors in Beirut. 33 Days was awarded with the Special Tribute Prize in the Al-Kassaba International film Festival 2007, in Palestine.



2007, 89 mins

Country: Israel

Dir: Eran Kolirin

April 13

THE BAND'S VISIT

NC16

While all the bickering and politicking creates distances between people, artists work quietly to restore human relations to their basic essentials. Israeli director Eran Kolirin presents such an effort in his film The Band's Visit, a warm and simple film about a small, uniformed Egyptian police band's encounter with native Israelis.



2007, 23 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Richard Rowley

March 29

DESERTER

TBA

Deserter is the journey a deserting soldier and his young wife undertake, as they flee across the country to seek refugee status over the Canadian border. As they move from safe house to safe house, we get to know Ryan and Jen - two, shy, small-town kids from the Central Valley who joined the military because there were no jobs, and find they must make a heroic stand in order to escape the illegal and immoral war on Iraq. Deserter is a political road movie with one of the few happy endings that this war has given us.



2006, 12 mins

Country: Palestine

Dir: Cherien Dabis

March 31

MAKE A WISH

TBA

Make A Wish is an intimate personal journey that follows a young Palestinian girl, Mariam, on the day of her late father's birthday. What begins as a simple trip to the bakery depicts not only the subtle tensions of a politically-charged environment, but also illustrates the grief that can result from growing up under occupation.

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ALL THE WAY



SECRET LIFE OF ARABIA

Country: USA/Palestine

Dir: Nicole Ballivan

April 6



2006, 92 mins

DRIVING TO ZIGZIGLAND

A Palestinian cab driver in Los Angeles struggles to become a legitimate actor while trying to make the money to pay the utilities amidst the chaos of post-9/11 and Homeland Security. All the while, memories of his life in the theatre back in Palestine pose big questions for his fate and role in his new country. Shot in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Los Angeles, this black comedy is a rollercoaster ride of cross-culture conflict and incisive political humour.

Citibank's Choice
citibank

Country: USA

Dir: Adrian Belic

March 28 and April 9



2006, 82 mins

BEYOND THE CALL

In this multiple-award winning Indiana-Jones-meets-Mother-Teresa adventure, three middle-aged men, former soldiers and modern-day knights, travel the world delivering life-saving humanitarian aid. Ed Artis, James Laws and Walt Ratterman inspire through their deeds, not words, in some of the most dangerous yet beautiful places on Earth. Whether installing a solar-powered oven at a girls' school in Afghanistan or delivering a million dollars worth of medicine to a refugee camp in Manila, the winsome subjects of this film demonstrate time and again how altruism makes the world go round.

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Noted for Delicious **NASI PADANG**



2008, 82 mins

Country: Philippines/USA

Dir: Ron Morales

April 6

**SANTA MESA
(ASIAN PREMIERE)****NC16**

After the death of his mother, 12-year-old Hector arrives in Manila to take refuge with his grandmother. One day, to his luck, a photographer named Jose takes him under his wing. Haunted by memories of his mother, Hector starts photographing an anonymous woman. Taking you from the poverty stricken railroad tracks to the bustling metropolis of Manila, Santa Mesa is a film about family values, love and friendship.

Citibank's Choice
citibank

2007, 110 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: John De Rantau

April 12

**DENIAS, SINGING ON
THE CLOUD****NC16**

A boy's deep desire to get an education leads him to traverse fields, mountains and rivers for days to reach a school in the nearest city. Based on a true story, this film tells the tale of Denias, who is from a small village in Western Papua Island and his determination fulfill his dream. Shot against the rugged beauty of Papua Island, Denias sings of a vision and resolve that rises above ignorance, fear and adversity.

Citibank's Choice
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AUSTRALIAN FILM FOCUS

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2007, 103 mins

Country: Australia

Dir: Richard Roxburgh

April 11 and 14

ROMULUS, MY FATHER

TBA

Romulus, My Father is the story of Australian immigrants Romulus and his wife Christine, who struggle to bring up their son, Raimond. In the face of adversity, Romulus and Raimond develop an unbreakable father-son bond as Romulus teaches Raimond about the meaning of a compassionate, decent and moral life.



2007, 117 mins

Country: Australia

Dir: Faramarz K-Rahber

April 13

DONKEY IN LAHORE

TBA

This heartwarming documentary follows the extraordinary of an Australian puppeteer who, after travelling to a festival in Lahore, Pakistan, meets and falls in love with the then 17-year-old Amber, a Muslim girl. When he travels back to Brisbane, the young puppeteer started studying Islam and eventually converted to the religion. Aamir, as he was called from then on, wanted to marry the girl he loved at all costs. Two years after their encounter, Aamir finally saved enough money to travel back to Lahore and ask for her hand in marriage.

Citibank's Choice
citibank



2007, 90 mins

Country: Australia

Dir: Natasha Gadd, Rhys Graham

April 13

WORDS FROM THE CITY


TBA

Words From The City is a feature documentary exploring the evolution of Australian hip-hop through intimate observations of some of the nation's most influential MCs. The film focuses on the unique artistry of the hip hop form as well as the underlying drivers of the art; from social and political rage to cultural storytelling, the diverse environments which shape these artists, and their desire to make their stories heard.

Shown together with Bowen Duffy, Kasimir Burgess and Nick Moore's **Remember My Name** (2007, 12 mins). A hit at the Melbourne International Film Festival 2007, this short film looks at a group of ordinary people who are disaffected by the way things are, and who come together to make their own form of social protest, putting themselves in the line of change.

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FORWARD thinking



AUSTRALIAN FILM FOCUS



2007, 76 mins

Country: Australia

Dir: Louise Alston

April 12

ALL MY FRIENDS ARE LEAVING BRISBANE

TBA

Overworked, single, and losing confidence in her life, Anthea is thinking of leaving Brisbane for London, but her platonic friend, Michael, scoffs at the idea. At the same time, both have to sort through their respective relationship issues: Anthea over her ex-boyfriend, and Michael with his new, uncontrollable relationship. Finally, on the day of Anthea's departure, both Anthea and Michael come to terms with their emotions over her departure.



1981, 110 mins

Country: Australia

Dir: Peter Weir

April 13

GALLIPOLI

TBA

Gallipoli is the story of two young Australian sprinters, Frank Dunne (Mel Gibson) and Archy Hamilton (Mark Lee) who enlist during World War I. They set out for the fateful Gallipoli campaign, when Australian and New Zealand troops attempt to capture Istanbul. Not solely a war epic, the film also takes time focusing on larger themes such as the attitudes and impact of World War I, as well as the friendship between Frank and Archy. This is also the film that shot director Peter Weir into the world's attention.



100 mins

Country: Australia

Dir: Anthony Lucas

April 12

FLICKER FEST: THE BOLD, THE BRAVE, THE BEST

TBA

Curated by Academy-Award-nominated animator, Anthony Lucas, from the animations that have inspired his career, The Bold, The Brave, The Best is a collection of homegrown Australian animation that has won awards and acclaim around the world. Highlights of this 20-piece compilation include award-winning iconic television commercials, Louie The Fly, Life Be In It and Aeroplane Jelly alongside award-winning shorts by famous Australian animators including Sarah Watt, Adam Elliot, Wendy Chandler and Bruce Petty (winner of the first Academy award for Australian animation 1970).



WORLD CINEMA



2007, 88 mins

Country: Brazil/Germany

Dir: Paulo Caldas

April 12

HAPPY DESERT

Jéssica is 16 and lives with her mother Maria and her stepfather Biu in a village in eastern Brazil. One day, Jéssica is raped by Biu. All at once, Jéssica's world is in ruins. Like so many girls who suffer a similar fate, Jéssica starts working as a prostitute. At first she works the streetwalking district nearby, but then a lorry diver takes her with him to Recife, where Jéssica starts a new round of nightclubs and paid sex with tourists. Yet Jéssica still has a dream. She begins to fantasise about sharing a life of plenty with a German in a cold, wintry country.



2007, 93 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Jon Reiss

April 10

BOMB IT!

Bomb It! is the explosive new documentary from award-winning director Jon Reiss (of Nine Inch Nails fame) investigating the most controversial art form shaping youth culture: graffiti. Using a myriad of original interviews from around the world as well as guerilla footage of graffiti artists in action, Bomb It! tells the story of contemporary graffiti from its roots in ancient rock paintings through Picasso to its emergence as part of hip hop culture in 1970s New York City. Within it is a battle for identity and the reclaiming of public space for the public.



2007, 80 mins

Country: Canada

Dir: Guy Maddin

April 6

MY WINNIPEG

Guy Maddin was born in the snowy, sleepy town of Winnipeg in Canada. This dreamlike film is his goodbye letter and love poem to his beloved hometown. A "docu-fantasia" underscored with hypnotic narration, Maddin explores the sleepiness of his town - the city with the most sleepwalkers per capita in the world. Attempting to unravel its allure, he takes us into its history and events that shook the town, such as a racetrack tragedy and a pageant scandal. And finally, he offers his very personal view of the town, shaped by key, traumatic events in his childhood. A riveting, funny film from a visionary director.



2006, 95 mins

Country: Canada

Dir: Guy Maddin

April 5

BRAND UPON THE BRAIN

Described by The New York Times as "nuttily wonderful" and "one of the year's 10 best films", Brand Upon The Brain tells the tale of young Guy Maddin and his teenage sister living on a mysterious island which they share with a horde of orphans. The family attracts unwanted attention when the new parents of recently adopted children are found to have mysterious head wounds.



2007, 48 mins

Country: Canada

Dir: Sandra Rodriguez

April 12

THE ENEMY WITHIN

PG

The Enemy Within tells the stories of landmine survivors in Cambodia. Amputated and wounded, the survivors must face enemies buried deep within: the public acceptance of an injured body, a mutilated future, social stigma and isolation. Travelling through the country roads during a slow, rainy season, the film depicts the lives of everyday heroes who survived the landmines, but are still in a battle to lead normal lives. Today, six million landmines are still threatening to injure or kill innocents.



2007, 114 mins

Country: France

Dir: Catherine Breillat

April 12

THE LAST MISTRESS

R21

Stylish Italian actress Asia Argento joins artistic forces with controversial director Catherine Breillat in this immaculate period piece, *The Last Mistress*. Argento plays La Vellini, a scheming Spanish courtesan who attempts to thwart her lover Ryno De Marigny's (Fu'ad Ait Attou) plans to marry the young ingénue Hermangarde (Roxane Mesquida). Raw and raunchy, provocative and bold, Breillat's experienced direction brings Jules Barbey D'Aureville's 18th century novel alive on screen for audiences.



2006, 168 mins

Country: France/Belgium/UK

Dir: Pascale Ferran

April 5

LADY CHATTERLEY

TBA

Through her affair with the gamekeeper on her handicapped husband's estate, Lady Chatterley opens herself up, both physically and emotionally, in ways she never imagined possible. Winner of five Cesar Awards (the French equivalent of the Oscars) including Best Film, French filmmaker Pascale Ferran re-interprets DH Lawrence's classic novel, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and details their unstoppable journey that also breaks through social mores and class structures.



2007, 86 mins

Country: Germany

Dir: Jan Schütte

April 8

LOVE COMES LATELY

TBA

Though approaching his 80s, Max Kohn shows no signs of slowing down. He pursues his love life - both real and imagined - with youthful vigour, thereby risking his relationship with Reisel, the woman he loves but neglects. Based on the short stories *The Briefcase*, *Alone* and *Old Love* by Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Love Comes Lately* is a film about real and imagined longings, the neverending dream of love and the power of fiction.



2007, 103 mins

Country: Germany/Belgium/Luxembourg/UK/France

Dir: Sam Garbarski

April 6

IRINA PALM

TB

Desperate times call for desperate measures. When her beloved grandson Oilly falls gravely ill, 50-year-old widow Maggie (Marianne Faithfull) finds herself ready to take on a job as a hostess (read: sex worker) to raise the necessary funds to send him for medical treatment. Sam Garbarski's film presents a dramatic social commentary with light-hearted moments and much to chew on when the credits roll. This film was nominated for the Golden Bear for Best Film at the 2007 Berlin International Film Festival.

Citibank's Choice
citibank

Country: Netherlands

Dir: Sarah Payton, Chris Teerink

April 9



2007, 93 mins

IN THE SHADOW
OF THE LIGHT
(ASIAN PREMIERE)

TB

The film follows the legendary 85-year-old experimental filmmaker, Jonas Mekas, as he goes about running the Anthology Film Archives in New York City. He is not only the founder of the largest archives of experimental and avant-garde films; he is also considered the inventor of the 'diary film'. In the Shadow of the Light is a film about his love for the moving image, in particular the small, fragile, independent work which Anthology preserves and promotes, and which Mekas himself personifies.

Country: Hungary/Germany/France

Dir: Béla Tarr

April 6



2007, 135 mins

THE MAN FROM LONDON

TB

A switchman at a seaside railway station, Maloin leads a simple life at the intersection between land and sea. Until he is summoned by fate to witness a murder. Based on a crime novel by Belgian writer Georges Simenon, The Man From London is Hungarian film director Béla Tarr's latest film. Featuring an international cast, including award winning actress Tilda Swinton, this aesthetically brilliant noir-thriller promises to leave a hauntingly indelible impression on its viewer.

Country: Italy/France

Dir: Marco Siman Puccioni

April 13



2006, 100 mins

SHELTER

TB

Anna (Maria de Medeiros) and her lover Mara (Antonia Liskova) are boarding a ferry on their way home from North Africa when they discover underage Moroccan Anis (Mounir Ouadi) hiding in their car. Anna brings the young stranger into Italy and, against Mara's wishes, invites him to live in their home. Shelter won the Grand Prix award in 2007 at the Annecy Italian Cinema Festival. Marco Puccioni was born in 1959, Rome, Italy. In addition to directing, Puccioni is also a screenplayer and set designer.



2007, 129 mins

Country: Macedonia/Germany/Italy/Bulgaria/Spain

Dir: Mikhel Manchevski

April 7

SHADOWS

TBA

"Sometimes the dead speak louder than the living". This rings true for young doctor Lazare Perkovic after he survives a near-fatal car accident. Following his escape, he encounters a series of strange people: a man with blood seeping from his shoes, an old crone speaking a forgotten dialect and a beautiful young woman with a sad secret. Aided by the mesmerizing cinematography of Fabio Cianchetti, *Shadows* takes us on a hypnotic journey into the heart of our needs and emotions, with no easy solutions." *Shadows* is Macedonia's entry in the Best Foreign Language Film Category of the 80th Annual Academy Awards (2008).



2007, 79mins

Country: Mexico

Dir: Gael Garcia Bernal

April 5

DEFICIT

TBA

Deficit takes the audience through a day in the life of Cristobal, a 20-something spoilt brat from the upper classes of Mexican society. Cristobal's father is a corrupt high-ranking Mexican politician who spends most of his time away from home negotiating shady deals. Through Cristobal's relationship with his friends and his housekeepers, *Deficit* explores, with devastating insights, the class tension that occurs within this microcosm of Mexican society. *Deficit* is the directorial debut of Mexican superstar, Gael Garcia Bernal.



2006, 79 mins

Country: Norway

Dir: Bård Breien

April 5

THE ART OF
NEGATIVE THINKING

TBA

After Geirr becomes severely handicapped in a traffic accident, he develops a deep bitterness that makes him difficult to live with. His girlfriend Ingvild can't stand him any longer and, in desperation, she invites a municipal positivity group to their home in order to help Geirr. However, Geirr forces everyone in the group through a series of desperate tasks in order to test them as they undergo 24 hours of pure hell in this off-beat black comedy. This film won the Best Director award at the Karlovy Vary Int'l Film Festival 2007.



2007, 90 mins

Country: Russia

Dir: Alexey Balabanov

April 5

CARGO 200

TBA

The year is 1984 - the Soviet Era on the threshold of collapsing. A daughter of the secretary of the regional communist party goes missing. The same night, a brutal murder takes place in a house on the outskirts of the province. Chief militia Captain Zhurov starts his investigations on both crimes. The title comes from a military euphemism for soldier's corpses being shipped back to Russia for burial. *Cargo 200* is a persistently nostalgic criminal drama directed by experimental filmmaker Alexey Balabanov - also known as "Russia's David Lynch."



WORLD CINEMA



2007, 90 mins

Country: Russia

Dir: Alexei Mizgiriyov

April 12

HARD-HEARTED

Winner of the Best Debut Prize at the Sochi Open Russian Film Festival, this feature film by Alexei Mizgiriyov takes you into the hard heart of Moscow. Young and idealistic Anton (Yevgeni Antropov) has rosy fantasies about the Russian capital. When he finally arrives in Moscow, his sunshine of innocence begins to get clouded by complicated relationships. Disillusioned, he decides to join the police force and learns the art of violence. The once innocuous Anton then embarks on a mortifying path towards Moscow's daunting underground world.

Citibank's Choice
citibank



2007, 82 mins

Country: Sweden

Dir: Roy Andersson

April 10

YOU, THE LIVING

From the director of the highly-acclaimed *Songs From The Second Floor*, Roy Andersson's latest film, *You, the Living* is a memorable ode to music which once again showcases the director's fondness to fill the screen with both poignancy and wit. Through fantasy sequences that showcase the dreams of the various characters, Andersson has concocted a visual feast of a film, which he describes as a "tragic-comedy" that examines the vulnerability of human beings. This film was selected as Sweden's entry for the Best Foreign Film category at this year's Oscars.



2006, 113 mins

Country: UK/Denmark

Dir: Andrea Arnold

April 5

RED ROAD

Set in Glasgow, *Red Road* is a startling drama of obsession and revenge. Jackie, an operator of one of the city's intricate web of CCTVs, fills her days by watching the daily lives of people. Emotionally disconnected with her own life, her existence is jolted when a face from her past appears on the screen, a face she is compelled to confront. *Red Road* is the first of three films of *The Advance Party*, a project inspired by Lars Von Trier, who challenged three directors to create films with the same group of characters. A film by one of the most promising UK filmmakers today, *Red Road* won the Prix Du Jury in Cannes in 2006 and is not to be missed.



2007, 81 mins

Country: USA/France/Australia/Germany/UK

Dir: Parvez Sharma

April 8 and 13

A JIHAD FOR LOVE**TBA**

A brave and daring documentary filmed over five-and-a-half years, in 12 countries and in nine languages. A Jihad For Love by gay Muslim filmmaker Parvez Sharma chronicles his journey as he travels the world to various Muslim communities to interview subjects who identify themselves as gay and lesbian. Rather than renouncing their faith or sexuality, the subjects in this film struggle to reconcile the faith in their belief with the reality of their being.



2007, 83 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Wayne Wang

April 6

1000 YEARS OF GOOD PRAYERS**TBA**

Mr Shi travels to the US to help his estranged daughter get over her divorce. Upon his arrival, he finds himself to be unwelcome - with his daughter resenting his presence. In spite of the foreign culture of the US, he makes friends with an Iranian woman he meets at a local park. Eventually, his efforts to communicate with his daughter come to fruition when many long-buried issues are confronted. Wistful and spare, the film's deep vein of emotion won it the Best Film Award at the San Sebastian Int'l Film Festival 2007.



2007, 95 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Grace Lee

April 12

AMERICAN ZOMBIE**TBA**

Documentarian Grace Lee turns her camera on a community in Los Angeles that is getting zombified by a strange virus. In this droll mockumentary, she depicts a twisted slice of the afterlife of this misunderstood subculture. The intrepid documentarian follows four zombies, who look just like anyone else except for their decaying flesh, to reveal that zombies are human too. The burning question of the film is: Are there still flesh-eating zombies, even among the nice civilised ones? Or is that just a culturally insensitive myth? The film, an over-the-top satire of race relations, pursues this question to the bitter end.



2007, 83 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Justin Lin

April 12 and 13

FINISHING THE GAME**TBA**

The scenario: In 1973, the sudden death of iconic martial artist Bruce Lee caused a sudden halt in production of his last film, The Game Of Death. In order to complete this film, the producers embark on a search for the "next Bruce Lee." There's Breeze Loo, an ethnic Asian who hops around in a blue suit, there's a White Anglo-Saxon Sinophile who is an activist for Asian rights in his spare time, and the list goes on.

Citibank's Choice
citibank



venezia 64.

Special Mention

DEATH IN THE LAND OF ENCANTOS

(Kagadanan sa Banwaan ning mga Engkanto)

ROEDER ANGELI BAYANI PERRY DIZON DANTE PEREZ SOLIMAN CRUZ GEMMA CUENCA
SOPHIA AVES JUAN FRANCISCO PENARANDA ASHLEIGH PENARANDA AMALIA VIRTUCIO KATHA AGUILOZ

DIRECTOR / WRITER / EDITOR / CINEMATOGRAPHER LAV DIAZ

PRODUCED BY LAUREL LEE PENARANDA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EARL DALON ARNOLD BARTOLOME YBY RAMIREZ
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CELSO DE GUZMAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DANTE PEREZ
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GEORGE YUAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LAUREL LEE PENARANDA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LAUREL LEE PENARANDA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PAULA MARIA DIAZ

SINE OLIVIA PILIPINAS / HUBERT BALS FUND / FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES (FDCP)

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2007, 73 mins

Country: USA/Spain

Dir: Morgan Dews

April 10

MUST READ AFTER MY DEATH**PG**

Two hundred rolls of 8mm tapes, 50 hours of taped conversations and transcripts of arguments bound in a folder labelled 'Must Read After My Death.' Morgan Dews stumbles upon this package in the midst of unearthing documents about his grandmother, Allis, and proceeds to weave together a film chronicling the disintegration of his grandparents' relationship. In the vein of past festival offerings *Capturing The Friedmans* (17th SIFF) and *Tarnation* (18th SIFF), *Must Read After My Death* is a fiercely personal documentary illuminating the psychological struggles of a woman and her role in society.



2007, 97 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Neil Ortenberg, Daniel O'Connor

April 6

OBSCENE**TBA**

Obscene is an insider's look at the story of Barney Rosset, publisher of Grove Press and *Evergreen Review*. Rosset was the publisher of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Tropic Of Cancer*, *Naked Lunch*, *The Autobiography Of Malcolm X* and, as a result, constantly faced courtrooms and politicians for challenging obscenity laws. Rosset could be regarded as one of the greatest American publishers of the 20th Century, and one of the great unsung heroes for free expression.



Country: USA

Dir: Penelope Spheeris

April 12



2005, 93 mins

THE KID AND I**TBA**

Aaron Roman, the diminutive son of billionaire Davis Roman, suffers from cerebral palsy but his one big dream is to star in an action film. Aaron's father decides to fulfill his wish and hires down-and-out actor, Bill William, itching for a comeback. However, when he learns who his co-star is, what appeared to be a golden opportunity for a major comeback quickly spirals into a series of outrageous misadventures. With cameos by Arnold Schwarzenegger and Henry Winkler.



Official TV for the Singapore International Film Festival

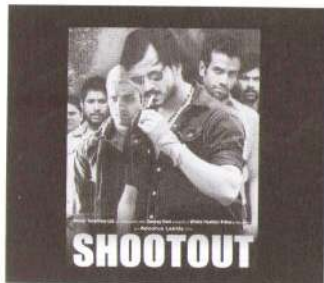
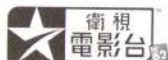
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a STAR channel near you



Sun, Apr 27 at 9pm



Sat, Apr 19 at 9pm



Mon, Apr 28 at 5am



Popparazzi, Fri at 6pm





SEEING MUSIC, HEARING FILM

Look out for film choice by citibank



2007, 135 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Todd Haynes

April 9

I'M NOT THERE

TBA

Poet, prophet, outlaw, fake, electric star, rock and roll martyr, born-again Christian – seven identities braided together that make up the enigmatic Bob Dylan, rock's greatest anti-star. Christian Bale, the late Heath Ledger, Richard Gere, Ben Wishaw, Marcus Carl Franklin and Cate Blanchett flesh him out the rocker in a series of shifting personas – weaving together a rich and colourful tapestry of this American icon in this biopic by Todd Haynes.



2007, 85 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Julian Schnabel

April 9

LOU REED'S BERLIN

TBA

Lou Reed first found fame as guitarist and singer-songwriter of The Velvet Underground, a highly influential avant-garde rock band in the late '60s. As a soloist, his hit song, Walk On The Wild Side, became a popular catch-phrase. But his third release, a concept album, Berlin, was ignored. Now revived as a rock classic, Julian Schnabel (Diving Bell And The Butterfly fame), art and stage director of Lou Reed's Berlin World Tour 2007, documented this historic performance, the first time that the album has been played live.



2007, 90 mins

Country: USA

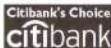
Dir: Barbara Leibovitz

April 10 and 11

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ: LIFE THROUGH A LENS

TBA

This documentary about superstar photographer Annie Leibovitz, directed by her sister Barbara gives the viewer an insight into the woman who has shot some of the most iconic images of the last 30 years with actors (Steve Martin), musicians (Patti Smith) and politicians (Hillary Clinton). Her private life - drug abuse, a relationship with author Susan Sontag - is touched on in Life Through A Lens but the mystery remains.



2007, 253 mins

Country: USA

Dir: Peter Bogdanovich

April 5

RUNNIN' DOWN A DREAM: TOM PETTY & THE HEARBREAKERS

TBA

Runnin' Down A Dream is an epic documentary that celebrates the legendary rock band on their 30th anniversary. Tom Petty, who narrates this film, reveals his wicked wit as he shares countless anecdotes about his career, his inspiration and his musician friends George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Stevie Nicks and Eddie Vedder. Director Peter Bogdanovich (The Last Picture Show and St Jack), makes this four-hour director's cut a rich rock feast.

Official Logistics Provider





SEEING MUSIC, HEARING FILM



2007, 71 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Garin Nugroho

April 8

TEAK LEAVES AT THE TEMPLE

PG

After winning Best Film at the Silver Screen Awards in SIFF last year with *Opera Jawa*, director Garin Nugroho returns to the festival to present his latest film, *Teak Leaves At The Temple*. The documentary presents a free jazz collaboration by Guerino Mozzola, Heinz Geisser, and Norris Jones, along with the community of Lima Gunung, the Sono Seni Ensemble, and the art community of the Boko, Prambanan and Borobudur temples. Drawing reference to the "jazz" of everyday life, Nugroho juxtaposes the domestic life of the village communities with the free form musical structure.



2007, 112 mins

Country: India

Dir: Surabhi Sharma

April 9

JAHAJI MUSIC

NC

When Indian labourers arrived in the Caribbean two centuries ago, they carried with them their music and culture. Thus began the evolution of Chutney Music, a motley blend of Caribbean flair and Indian beats, a genre indigenous to Trinidad and Jamaica. Surabhi Sharma brings her crew along to discover and document how far this evolution has come. *Jahaji Music* brings us on walks with Bob Marley's teacher and rastafari philosopher Mortimo Planno, introduces us to calypso and soca singers Rikki Jai and Skinner Park, speaks to visual artist Chris Cozier and even brings us along as vicarious guests in an East Indian Hindu wedding.



2006, 60 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Ariani Darmawan

April 7

DRAGONS BEGETS DRAGONS

TBA

"How much does one know about one's culture, and moreover, one's self?" Director Ariani Darmawan poses this question to herself as she goes on a quest to discover the music of her heritage as a "Tionghoa Peranakan" - the Gambang Kromong. Together with its engaging narration on the history of cultural and musical assimilation, this film describes today's Chinese-Indonesians as the keepers of the Gambang Kromong musical legacy.

Shown together with **The Sight**.



2007, 93 mins

Country: Canada

Dir: Scot McFadyen, Sam Dunn

April 5 and 6

GLOBAL METAL

TBA

Traipsing across countries as diverse as Iran, Poland, the Americas, Brazil, India, China and Japan, directors Scot McFadyen and Sam Dunn reach into the heart of one of the most misunderstood and stereotyped musical genres of all time - Heavy Metal. What is this common vein that pulses throughout the global world of metal music? What is Metal's broad appeal that reaches all corners of the earth? From Sepultura in Brazil, Tang Dynasty in China to X Japan, fans will be pleased to hear the answers at maximum volume!



IMAGINE [THE PROGRAMME THAT CANNOT BE DEFINED]

Look out for film choice by **citibank**



Country: Australia

Dir: Faramarz K-Rahber

2007, 117 mins

DONKEY IN LAHORE

This heartwarming documentary follows the extraordinary of an Australian puppeteer who, after travelling to a festival in Lahore, Pakistan, meets and falls in love with the then 17 year old Amber, a Muslim girl.

Citibank's Choice
citibank



Country: Canada

Dir: Sandra Rodriguez

2007, 48 mins

THE ENEMY WITHIN

The Enemy Within tells the stories of landmine survivors in Cambodia. Amputated and wounded, the survivors must face enemies buried deep within: the public acceptance of an injured body, a mutilated future, social stigma and isolation.

Country: India

Dir: Ramchandra PN

2007, 30 mins

CHILDREN SELF GOVERNMENT

In Coastal Karnataka in South India, 56 Gram Panchayats (Village Self governing bodies) hold elections to form their individual Makkala Panchayat (Children's Self Governing Bodies).

Country: Kurdistan/Switzerland

Dir: Mano Khalil

2007, 54 mins



DAVID THE TOLHILDAN

Five years ago, David Rouiller ran away from his life in Switzerland: giving up the amenities of his western lifestyle to commit his life to joining the Kurdish freedom movement PKK. If this is not cause for surprise in itself, we learn that this man is the son of a former President of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

Country: Lebanon

Dir: Mai Masri

2007, 70 mins



33 DAYS

Filmed during the Israeli war on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, 33 Days features the real-life stories of four people: a theatre director working with refugee children, a frontline journalist for an underground TV station, an aid worker, and a newsdesk director.

Country: Philippines

Dir: Clodualdo Del Mundo, Jr

2007, 50 mins



EHEM! PLO - CORRUPTION AND INTEGRITY IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY

A video-documentary that pierces into the heart of the corruption by Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr (Pepot Superstar, 19th SIFF).

Official Logistics Provider

ALL THE WAY **DHL**
WORLDWIDE PARTNER



IMAGINE [THE PROGRAMME THAT CANNOT BE DEFINED]

Country: Thailand

Dir: Pimpaka Towira

2007, 110 mins

THE TRUTH BE TOLD

In 2003, Shin Corporation, owned by the family of former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, filed a defamation lawsuit against media rights activist Supinya Klangnarong.

Country: USA/France/Australia/Germany/UK

Dir: Parvez Sharma

2007, 81 mins

A JIHAD FOR LOVE

Gay Muslim filmmaker Parvez Sharma chronicles his journey as he travels the world to various Muslim communities to interview subjects who identify themselves as gay and lesbian. Rather than renouncing their faith or sexuality, the subjects in this film struggle to reconcile the faith in their belief with the reality of their being.

Country: USA

Dir: Grace Lee

2007, 95 mins

AMERICAN ZOMBIE

Documentarian Grace Lee turns her camera on a community in Los Angeles that is getting zombified by a strange virus. This mockumentary follows four zombies, who look just like anyone else except for their decaying flesh, to reveal that zombies are human too.

Country: USA

Dir: Adrian Belic

2006, 82 mins

BEYOND THE CALL

Three middle-aged men - Ed Artis, James Laws and Walt Ratterman - former soldiers and modern-day knights travel the world delivering life-saving humanitarian aid directly into the hands of civilians and doctors.

Country: USA

Dir: Richard Rowley

2007, 23 mins

DESERTER

Deserter is the journey a deserting soldier and his young wife undertake, as they flee across the country to seek refugee status over the Canadian border. As they move from safe house to safe house, we get to know Ryan and Jen, who joined the military because there were no jobs.

Country: Vietnam

Dir: Lai Vanh Sinh

2005, 25 mins

THE PATH OF JUSTICE

Two generals, who were once on opposing sides of the war in Vietnam, come together in an attempt to find healing for themselves, as well as for the victims of Agent Orange, the devastating chemical agent used during the war.



Goethe-Institut

Friday, March 28

7 pm Human Rights

9.15 pm Steal This Film

Saturday, March 29

2 pm VHS Kaloucha

4.15 pm Deserter
David The Tolhilden

7 pm Beyond The Call

9.15 pm Fassbinder: Plague Of The Gods

Sunday, March 30

2 pm Juan Baybayin

4.15 pm Indonesian Shorts:
Half A Teaspoon
Cheng Cheng Po
Misbach

7 pm When Timawa Meets Delgado

9.15 pm Fassbinder: The Third Generation

Monday, March 31

7 pm Asian Shorts 1:
Make A Wish
A Candle For Shanbandar Cafe
Angels Die By The Soil

9.15 pm Asian Shorts 2:
Nobody's Girlfriend
Shaky Souls

The Substation

Tuesday, April 1

7 pm Singapore Short Films: Non-Competition 1

9.15 pm Singapore Short Films: Non-Competition 2

Wednesday, April 2

7 pm Singapore Short Films: Non-Competition 3

9.15 pm Singapore Short Films: Non-Competition 4

Thursday, April 3

7 pm Singapore Short Films: Non-Competition 5

Republic Polytechnic

Monday, April 7

2 pm KAFA Shorts:
13th Round
A Naked Victim
Hey There
Legs
Memories Of Water Bearer
On My Way Home
Show Me Daddy's Ultra Power
The 36th Prisoner
The Day To The Sea

4.15 pm Ehem! Plo
Children Self Government

Tuesday, April 8

2 pm Steal This Film
Along The Way/Water

4.15 pm When Timawa Meets Delgado

Wednesday, April 9

2 pm Beyond The Call

4.15 pm Juan Baybayin

Thursday, April 10

2 pm Indonesian Shorts:
Half A Teaspoon
Cheng Cheng Po
Misbach

4.15 pm Operation Filmmaker

Friday, April 11

10.30 am Death In The Land Of Encantos
(10.30 am - 8.30 pm)



FREE PROGRAMME



2006, 19 mins

Country: India

Dir: Haabam Paban Kumar

April 8

ALONG THE WAY (NGAIHAK LAMBIDA)

TBA

When Manileima's son Bungo is hospitalised, a kind-hearted stranger offers his assistance. While she never meets the stranger during Bungo's hospitalisation, she is attracted and moved by stories of the stranger's care for Bungo. Finally, on the day of Bungo's discharge, she must decide what to do about the stranger.



2007, 30 mins

Country: Kurdistan

Dir: Babak Amini

March 31

ANGELS DIE IN THE SOIL

TBA

A young Iraqi Kurdish girl struggles to survive by pillaging remains from the Iran-Iraq war. She meets an American soldier who is trapped in a terrorist attack and is entrusted with the choice of whether to help him or leave him to die.



2007, 17 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: BW Purbonegara

March 30 and April 10

CHENG CHENG PO

TBA

Markus, Tyara and Tohir are three children from different backgrounds and ethnicity. They each have their object of obsession - Markus with his skin whitening lotion, Tyara and her expensive dolls and Tohir with his crossword puzzles. They attempt to put aside their differences to help Han, the son of a poor hawker to attain his dreams.



Country: Germany

Dir: Rainer Werner Fassbinder

March 30

THE THIRD GENERATION

TBA

A black comedy about a bumbling gang of radicals who kidnap a powerful industrialist. (1979, 105 mins)

Country: Germany

Dir: Rainer Werner Fassbinder

March 29

PLAGUE OF THE GODS

TBA

A man is released from prison and finds the society on the outside less than appealing. (1970, 91 mins)



2007, 18 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Ifa Isfiansyah

March 30 and April 10

**HALF A TEASPOON
(SETENGAH SENDOK TEH)****TBA**

A beautifully shot, contemplative short film, Half A Teaspoon is about a loving wife who prepares a cup of coffee meticulously every morning for her unappreciative husband. She follows the same formula everyday – three teaspoons of coffee powder and half a teaspoon of sugar. Despite being taken for granted, the love for her husband inspires her to repeat this task every morning without fail.



2007, 33 mins

Country: Indonesia

Dir: Edwin

March 30 and April 10

**MISBACH:
BEHIND THE GLITTER****TBA**

Veteran screenwriter Misbach Yusa Biran was also the first Head of the Indonesian Cinematheque. In this documentary, he reveals the struggles he faced in his quest to preserve Indonesian film history despite being underfunded.



2007, 30 mins

Country: Malaysia

Dir: Tan Chui Mui

March 31

NOBODY'S GIRLFRIEND**TBA**

Determined not to leave her Cinefondation Residency in Paris without a film, Tan Chui Mui decided to make Nobody's Girlfriend – casting her co-residents as a couple in the film. Over conversations, coffee and cigarettes, their relationship materialises at various locations in the city of romance.

Country: India

Dir: Ramchandra PN

March 31

**SHAKY SOULS, EMPTY CHAIRS,
TESTING TIMES****TBA**

As the HIV-AIDS epidemic threatens to blow up into epic proportions, India is forced to grapple with issues relating to compulsory and voluntary HIV testing. The stigma involved in HIV testing and the reliability of such tests continue to deter the population at risk from coming forward.

2006, 40 mins



FREE PROGRAMME

Country: Sweden

Dir: Jamie King

March 28 and April 8

TBA

STEAL THIS FILM 1+2



2006/7, 76 mins

Steal This Film 1+2 documents the movement to share culture and the freeing of intellectual property. Part One combines accounts from prominent players in the Swedish internet file-sharing culture, interviews with Hollywood players and anti-piracy agencies. Part Two covers the philosophical end of the copyright wars, arguing that this war will ultimately be against the common internet user. As Mark Getty, son of oil billionaire Paul Getty, once said: "Intellectual property is the oil of the 21st century."

Country: India

Dir: Haobam Paban Kumar

April 8

TBA

WATER (ESHING)



2007, 23 mins

This short film features a protagonist who is looking for a glass of water in a city. Strangely, everyone he asks is ignorant about where he can find water. Finally, he meets an old man who is convinced that water can be found beyond the city. Following the old man's advice, he ventures beyond the city in search of water. Through his encounters and journey, this film tells a story about vanishing human values.

Country: Korea

Dir: Various

April 7

TBA

KAFA SHORT FILMS



2007, 103 mins

Featuring the best of last year's crop of short fiction and animation from the Korean Academy of Film Arts (KAFA), the programme starts with Choi Min Seok's Show Me Daddy's Ultra Power, a man with superhuman power. Seo Min-soo's On My Way Home is a touching story of a boy and his complaining mother. Kim Hyun-sung's A Naked Victim shows a porn actress trying to break out of her stereotyped roles. Among the animation, there is Kim Il-hyun's science fiction 36th Prisoner, Kim Yoon-hee's warm The Day To The Sea and Kang Hyun-young's experimental Memories Of Water Bearer.

Country: Germany/Estonia/Lithuania/Poland

Dir: Various

March 28

TBA

HUMAN RIGHTS SHORTS



2007, 79 mins

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year, the Goethe-Institut and the Foundation for Remembrance, Responsibility and Future organised a shorts competition. Featuring Eugen Schlegel and Christoph Willumeit's A Human Request; Sabine Zimmer's Living On The Landing; Margit Korb's Good Luck... Till Next Time; Jurate Samulionyte's NoRoutine; Andrius Seliuta's Afroband and Monika Dabrowska's Christmas Eve.



FREE PROGRAMME

Look out for film choice by citibank

Country: Philippines	Dir: Roxlee	2007, 60 mins
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JUAN BAYBAYIN

See Page 32

Country: Philippines	Dir: Roy Gibraltor	2007, 80 mins
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WHEN TIMAWA MEETS DELGADO

See Page 33

Country: USA	Dir: Adrian Belic	2006, 82 mins
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BEYOND THE CALL

See Page 74

Country: Tunisia	Dir: Nejib Belkadi	2006, 80 mins
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VHS KALOUCHA

See Page 53

Country: Palestine	Dir: Cherien Dabis	2006, 12 mins
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MAKE A WISH

See Page 55

Country: Iraq	Dir: Emod Ali	xxxx, 23 mins
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A CANDLE FOR SHABANDAR CAFE

See Page 54

Country: Kurdistan/Switzerland	Dir: Mano Khalil	2007, 54 mins
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DAVID THE HOLHILDAN

See Page 73

Country: USA	Dir: Nina Davenport	2007, 95 mins
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OPERATION FILMMAKER

See Page 54

Country: USA	Dir: Richard Rowley	2007, 23 mins
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DESERTER

See Page 74

Country: India	Dir: Ramchandra PN	2007, 30 mins
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CHILDREN SELF GOVERNMENT

See Page 73

Country: Philippines	Dir: Lav Diaz	2007, 540 mins
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DEATH IN THE LAND OF ENCANTOS

See Page 34

Country: Philippines	Dir: Clodualdo Del Mundo, Jr.	2007, 50 mins
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EHEM! PLO

See Page 73

Country: Germany	Dir: Rainer Werner Fassbinder	1970, 91 mins
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PLAGUE OF THE GODS

See Page 76



Section 1 (120 min)

The Broken Bowl (Benita Chiang, 9 min)
Devoid (Mattina Zheng, 8 min)
Ex-Toil (Toh Hun Ping, 30 min)
Empty Heart (Koo Chia Meng, 5 min)
Pain (Nooraini Shah Binte Sikkander, 7 min)
Violin And Tea (Derek Wee, 21 min)
Our Last Day (Kenny Tan, 30 min)
United Nonsense-land (Shaun Koh, 10 min)

Section 2 (141 min)

Stories From The Sea (Kenny Png, 9 min)
Toll (David Liu, 15 min)
Breaking The Silence (Goh Kagan, 26 min)
Where the Train Goes (Daniel Tan, 10 min)
Goodbye (Joey Lam, 18 min)
Sardine Talks To Children (Sara Yang, 19 min)
Shhhh... (Thea Chan, 14 min)
Spring Blossom 2007: Over The Horizon
(Cassandra Chan, 30 min)

Section 4 (135 min)

Her Ballerina Story (Melissa Ho, 7 min)
Singapore Cowboy (Ng Sze Kiat, 13 min)
My Best Beloved (David Lee, 6 min)
Clouds In The Shell (Liao Jiekai, 30 min)
Tango Heels (Denise Chan, 10 min)
Seeing Double (Tengku Kamilah, 11 min)
Fuk Xin Luk (Alan Cai, 19 min)
Jijik (Khairil Abdul Rahim, 16 min)
Reboot! (Boon Chan, 4 min)
Life? (Gavin Liu, 4 min)
Lee Siew Mui (Tan Sze Yen, 13 min)

Section 3 (111 min)

En (Adam Abdullah, 19 min)
Damn Murphy (Ng Jing Jie, 8 min)
Do'A (Muhammad Sulaimi Bin Ismail, 10 min)
Strife (Bay Rui Hong, 7 min)
Yi (Royston Chan, 18 min)
One (Ray Pang, 18 min)
Coffee (Cheung Pui Chung, 13 min)
Don't Stand So Close To Me
(Rajaratnam Tamilmaran, 13 min)
Larut Road, A Peddler's Enduring Legacy (Eoin Ee, 6 min)

Section 5 (119 min)

Wish We Last Forever (Raymond Neo, 19 min)
Richard The Study Of Septic Systems (Charmaine Oon, 3 min)
Secret Of The Red House (Danny Lim, 14 min)
Mr. Tan, (Nurfazilah Binte Ibrahim, 3 min)
(S)439965 (Elgin Ho, 7 min)
Unforgettable (Xiao Weiqiang, 15 min)
Forgotten Memory (Danny Lim, 6 min)
In Our Own Words (Melinda Tan, 16 min)
Evolvasi (Thenathayalan Seethapathy, 11 min)
Windcatcher (Choi Yong Sihn, 14 min)
Two Minutes Away From Launch (Jaryl Lim, 6 min)
Friend (Amalia Yunus, 4 min)



55 YEARS OF VIETNAM FILM AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

What was Vietnamese cinema like during the war years? How did it transform itself in the post-war era? What were the aesthetic changes felt after 1986, the era of Doi Moi (Renewal)? Ngo Phuong Lan, author of *Modernity and Nationality in Vietnamese Cinema*, the first English-language book written by a local critic, will give a talk and launch her book at the screening of *Little Girl of Hanoi*, April 12, Saturday, 4.15pm, National Museum Theatre. See film schedule to book your ticket.

FILM AT YOUR OWN RISK AT REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

How do you shoot in battle zones? With your camera of course! Watch Adrian Belic's compelling documentary, *Beyond the Call*, about three professional aid-givers, who enter battle zones in Afghanistan to Myanmar, to distribute food, clothing and medicine. Belic will discuss his own experiences in being with the team who have made "mission impossible" a way of life. Free of charge, Wednesday, April 9, 2pm, Republic Polytechnic; at The Republic Cultural Centre

TO SPEAK AT THE LIBRARY@ESPLANADE

Hear director Craig Ower and producer Lionel Chok's experiences in making *To Speak*, a film set in Cambodia about people finding the hope again after decades of post-war trauma. Ower and Chok will show footage from his film plus explain the process of shooting overseas. Free of charge. April 12, Saturday, 3.00pm at Library@Esplanade.

FASSBINDER FILM POSTER EXHIBITION

To continue our celebration of the 25th anniversary celebration of Rainer Werner Fassbinder, the Goethe-Institut will exhibit a digitised collection of eight original Fassbinder film posters plus poster statements from 12 contemporary film directors on Fassbinder's work. The exhibition gives an overview on how Fassbinder is seen by the film world today. On at the Goethe Institut from Mar 28-Apr 14. Free of charge and open to viewing at normal office hours. Plus two Fassbinder films will be shown there. See Free Programme at Goethe.



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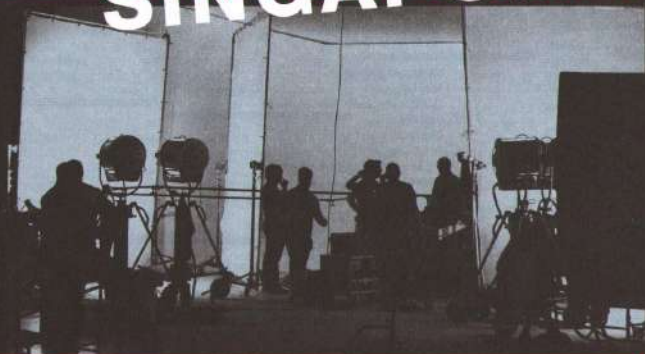
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