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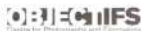
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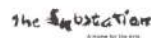
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2nd SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FROM 14 TO 25 APRIL

2009

GREETINGS JONATHAN LARSEN PRESENTING SPONSOR



**Country Head &
Citi Country Officer,
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Congratulations to The Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) on its 22nd year! We applaud the SIFF for its successful efforts to promote film as an artistic medium and its continuous quest to bring film appreciation to new heights. Each year, through the efforts of the SIFF, the local audience is treated to a wide selection of critically acclaimed and award-winning films, and this year promises to be no different as Singaporeans can look forward to film screenings from both local and international filmmakers.

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 once again be the presenting sponsor of the Singapore International Film Festival 2009. We have received positive feedback from our customers regarding our partnership with the SIFF last year, and you will be pleased to know that Citibank customers will once again enjoy priority booking and privileges for this high quality event.

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

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GREETINGS GEOFFREY FESTIVAL MALONE FOUNDER



Film has a wonderful quality of allowing us to escape from reality, albeit temporarily. This is a welcoming quality, considering the difficult economic times that we are experiencing now, and film does indeed provide relief from stress, apart from enjoyment and entertainment in itself.

But escapism does not necessarily mean just looking on the brighter side of life, and ignoring other aspects. Sometimes, it can also mean that we see another side of the human condition which jolts us and enable us to understand and appreciate life in its many facets and complex manifestations. Hollywood and Bollywood can attest to this, as seen in successful Indy movies such as Golden Globe winner *Slumdog Millionaire* which portrays extreme poverty, and also recently *The Wrestler* in which we see brutality demonstrated in intense form.

By transporting us into these other environments, we may take comfort that we are not so badly off after all. With the Film Festival, our past experience has shown that during difficult times, such as during the SARS crisis, our attendance has not diminished. Indeed, we found that we had one of our biggest attendances ever during that period. When our audience is sick of being cooped up at home and worrying about future uncertainties, they would want to go out and be entertained, and be immersed in the existential world of cinema.

So this year, in spite of the financial crisis, we hope to see our audience continuing to support us. We have a wonderful selection of films which we trust and hope will take your minds away from the economic woes. Appropriately, our opening film *Sincerely Yours* which features poverty stricken immigrants in Taiwan and others such as, *Milk*, a Turkish French and German co-production and the Silver Screen Awards competition film *Jalainur* by Chinese filmmaker Zhao Ye are in essence about hope and the celebration of the human spirit.

Our Festival continues with our tradition of supporting local filmmakers, and it is indeed our hope, that the difficult times would spur them to strive to produce even better films. We hope that sponsors, who are able, will come forth to provide them with the financial support they would need.

Please do enjoy our 22nd Singapore International Film Festival.

GREETINGS ELIM PATRON CHEW



**President &
Founder
77th Street (S) Pte Ltd**

The 22nd edition of the Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) welcomes a fresh crop of films that will both excite and stretch our imagination once again.

SIFF has always been ahead of its time in their selection of films. The festival is a playground for bold and fresh works that include documentaries, auteur films and panoramas that reflect the issues of our time. As the Patron the 22nd SIFF, I look forward to the wide selection of films showing at the festival.

Singapore's film industry was very active in the 1950s and 60s with cinemas screening locally produced films regularly with many becoming box office hits. I am very happy to note that the local film industry is becoming more and more vibrant again in recent years and this augurs well for the industry and film lovers! I am very excited about this positive trend in film making.

To celebrate local talent, the festival is also launching the inaugural Singapore Film Awards (SFA) to complement the Singapore Panorama and Singapore Short Film Competition. A new category of the Silver Screen Awards, the SFA reflects the growth of the Singapore film industry and is a PLATFORM to bring the creative community together.

As a PLATFORM, SIFF creates room for more platforms where all talents in this industry in Singapore as well as Asia can see growth, opportunities and recognition -- where creative dreams and artistry become reality. This is catalytic. Propelling more Singaporean made films gaining international prominence or Singaporean actors, actresses, script writers, directors and film crew breaking into the international platform of the film industry. Even attracting big Hollywood names. That day will certainly be what we are all waiting for, isn't it?

Equally important to the SIFF is the festival audience, some of whom have grown up with the SIFF. While we now have access to films through numerous digital and mobile platforms, watching a film in the cinema with an audience remains one of the simplest pleasures in life.

I welcome all of you to enjoy the festival to the fullest because films come alive only with an audience.

GREETINGS WAHYUNI A. HADI & ZHANG WENJIE FESTIVAL DIRECTORS



The passing of the torch from one generation to the next usually signifies a change of times. Stepping into the shoes

of the founding festival team that dedicated two decades to creating the SIFF we have today has been an exciting and challenging adventure. To take the reins of the festival we have grown up with is to be reminded of our predecessors' contribution towards making this event a vital part of the Singapore arts community.

The vision we have for this 22nd edition carries on the spirit upon which the festival was begun. The journey of discovery begins the moment the first page of this book is turned. From the boldly daring to the quietly sensitive, this year's selection of films transport us from one world to another. These are passionate voices, unafraid to question, and we hope that you will join in the exploration with them.

This year that has challenged us has also given us the opportunity to return to the beginning. The passing of the torch in this case is the inheritance of an opportunity that is both meaningful and an honor. We therefore would like to dedicate this edition to Philip Cheah, Lesley Ho and Teo Swee Leng - our past festival directors - who've reminded us that in a world that too often trades in materialism, dreams can still guide us home.

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SINGAPORE
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**OPENING &
CLOSING FILMS**



In this story about the unbreakable human spirit, Setia and Supayong are illegal workers in Taiwan who discover their capacity to survive and to fall in love

Opening film

SINCERELY YOURS / QILU TIAN TANG

Citibank's Choice
citibank

14 April

Country: Taiwan

Year: 2009

Duration: 96 min

Director

Rich Lee

Producer

Rich Lee

Screenplay

Shu-Wen Hu, Rich Lee, Shou-Qian Ho

Cast

Lola Amaria, Banlop Lomnoi, May Kuei-Mei Yang, Li-Qi Wu



Setia, a sweet and shy girl from Java, and Supayong from Thailand are forced by circumstances back home to build new lives for themselves in Taiwan. Conversing awkwardly but poignantly to each other in Mandarin, they build a fragile bond of intimacy and love, even as they must also brave the challenges of poverty and the terrifying possibility of deportation. Setia meets another foreign worker who is a divorcee like herself, with whom she becomes fast friends because of their shared plight of desperation and destitution. She also meets a retired movie star who is forced to confront her own mortality, and who looks kindly on Setia's as a kindred spirit. Supayong, on the other hand, is forced to do things for money that he hopes

Setia will not find out, such as stealing, and even sleeping with another man. In spite of their abjection, these essentially good-hearted workers are determined not to lose their sense of compassion and hope, even as the need to survive undermines their determination and romantic idealism more and more everyday. When one of them is unexpectedly separated



from the other, it must take all of their resilience and inner strength to push on with their lives into the unknowable future, where both can only dream of meeting again one day.

For this honest and uncompromising film, newcomer director, Rich Lee, was inspired by countless encounters with foreign labourers while on train journeys between Taipei, Taoyuan and Hsinchu, and decided to explore the plight of this labour population in Taiwan, as well as highlight the underlying problems with Taiwanese society that lead to the mistreatment of these beleaguered workers.

From 1996 to 1997, **Rich Lee** has studied in the Department of Film and Television Studies for his Masters of Fine Arts degree at the University of Warwick. From 2000 to 2006, Lee taught at the National Taiwan University of Arts, with speciality and interests in National Cinema, Film Style Analysis as well as courses in Film Introduction.



Director

Rich Lee

A quietly stunning and poetic film about a milkman and his mother as they struggle to make ends meet.

Closing film **MILK / SÜT**

25 April

Country: Turkey, France, Germany

Year: 2008

Duration: 102 min

Director

Semih Kaplanoglu

Producer

Semih Kaplanoglu

Screenplay

Semih Kaplanoglu, Orçun Köksal

Cast

Melih Selçuk, Başak Köklükaya, Şerif Erol



Director

Semih Kaplanoglu



Citibank's Choice
citibank

A love poem, a snake in the living room, and the unwavering light from a working man's helmet become symbolic beacons of hope and the durability of the human spirit in this lyrical movie about an introspective young man and his mother. In an agricultural landscape fast being overtaken by industrialisation, Yusuf tries to help his mother, Zehra, sell milk for a living, while struggling inwardly at the same time to be a poet. When his writing gets published in a literary journal, his self-confidence increases, but he soon discovers that neither poetry nor milk is ultimately enough to sustain his mother and himself. He also becomes alarmed when his mother begins to fall for the town's railroad stationmaster. Later he is dismayed when a childhood illness prevents him from being enlisted in the military. Turkey's rural areas have been swept over by widespread economic development over the years and the demands of modernisation have caught up with the people living in these provincial parts of Turkey that relied solely on agricultural pursuits. Yusuf and his mother discover their capacity for optimism and happiness in their love for life and for each other in the midst of these unstoppable social changes.



Semih Kaplanoglu is a Turkish playwright, film director and producer. He started in cinema as an assistant cameraman for two award-winning documentary films. Later, Kaplanoglu wrote the script and directed a television series with 52 episodes, which became successful at the channels Show TV and InterStar. His first film was *Away From Home*, which won many awards

participating at international film festivals, including the Silver Screen Award for Best Director at the 2002 Singapore International Film Festival. Kaplanoglu's second feature film *Fall of Angels* won the FIPRESCI prize at the 2005 Istanbul International Film Festival. In the years from 1996 through 2000, he had a column named "Karşılaşmalar" in the daily newspaper Radikal. He founded his own film production company Kaplan Film. Its first feature film *Egg* was a co-production with Greece. Together with *Milk*, *Egg* and the film *Honey*—to be produced in 2008—will form a trilogy called *Yusuf's Trilogy*, named after the main protagonist in the films.

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SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SILVER SCREEN AWARDS

Introduced in 1991 during the 4th Singapore International Film Festival, the Silver Screen Awards recognizes excellence in Asian cinema. Past award winners have included filmmakers such as Stan Lai (*A Brighter Summer Day*), Tian Zhuangzhuang (*The Blue Kite*), Kelvin Tong (*Love Story*), Mohsen Makhmalbaf (*Gabbeh*), Royston Tan (*15*) and Apichatpong Weerasethakul (*Tropical Malady*).

In addition to the **ASIAN FEATURE FILM COMPETITION** and the **SINGAPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION**, a new section, the **SINGAPORE FILM AWARDS** has been added to the Silver Screen Awards, to spotlight the talents from our growing Singapore film industry. Singapore feature-length films (with a minimum of 60 minutes in duration) completed and screened in the previous calendar year are eligible for nomination in the various awards categories.

The prizewinners will be announced at the Silver Screen Awards presentation on 24 April 2009.

2nd SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL **ASIAN FEATURE FILM COMPETITION**

The Asian Feature Film Competition nominees will compete for the following awards – Best Film, Best Director, Best Performance, Best Cinematography & the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Critics Award.

Three women's lives interweave at the crossroads of life and death in modern Shanghai.

20 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2009

Duration: 88min

Director

Alec Tok

Producer

Yang Chen

Screenplay

Alec Tok

Cast

Fu Yawen, Jenni Lin, Liu Hongli



Director

Alec Tok

A disturbing and darkly funny reflection on the anxieties and grievances of being Chinese in Indonesia.

22 April

Country: Indonesia

Year: 2008

Duration: 77 min

Director

Edwin

Producer

Meiske Taurisia, Sidi Saleh,

Edwin

Screenplay

Edwin

Cast

Ladya Cheryl, Pong Harjatmo, Andhara Early



Director

Edwin

A BIG ROAD

Critbank's Choice
crtbank



The stories of three women in Shanghai are drawn together and framed by births and dying, even as one of them, Minjie, is caught in a strange limbo between life and death. The opening scene, set in Shanghai's crowded and busy central railway station, establishes a theme of transitions and journeying, one that reverberates throughout the film. Visually evocative and quietly

compelling, the viewer is drawn into Minjie's world as she wanders the streets of Shanghai, watching the lives of two women unfold: Xiaofang, a mistress dependent on the affections of a wealthy older man; and Yulian, a neglected daughter who is treated like a servant in her own home.

Intriguing and complex, *A Big Road* challenges the viewer to piece together fragments of love and hope as the characters in the film attempt to do the same. As the women in the film progress through their lives, they pass through life and death, reflecting the cyclical journey of life that the film tries to explore.

Born and bred in Singapore, **Alec Tok** has been a part of Singapore's theatre and film industry for almost two decades as an actor, a director, a filmmaker, and an art director, most notably on Eric Khoo's *Twelve Storeys* (1997). Formerly the drama director for the Singapore Armed Forces' Music and Drama Company, Alec is also the artistic director for oneKindtheatre, a Singapore-based theatre company.

BLIND PIG WHO WANTS TO FLY



Filled with images and silent moments that strike a symbolic chord about the anxieties that come from being Chinese in a Muslim country, Edwin's loosely-structured and allegorical film paints scenes that tickle the funny bone but also disturb the soul. A husband tells his wife that he wants to convert to Islam and marry a Javanese woman eager to take part in Planet Idol. In the competition, she sings a song by Stevie Wonder that is repeated with dramatically different

implications throughout the film. It is even sung over a footage of the May 1998 riots in Indonesia during which many Chinese citizens were killed. An influential gay couple with a fetish for army overalls engage in a bizarre ménage à trois that becomes an analogy for how the Chinese have been sucking up to those in power for political protection. Then amidst this atmosphere of suppressed fear and prejudice, a young girl and boy find comfort in lighting firecrackers to expel all that is wicked from the world.

Edwin studied graphic design in Surabaya and film in Jakarta. Alongside short films, he has made music videos and documentaries. Commissioned by the IFFR, Edwin made the short film *Hula Hoop Soundings*, as part of the IFFR's educational project *Meet the Maestro 2008*. His debut feature film, *Blind Pig Who Wants to Fly* is selected for competition at the 2009 Rotterdam festival. His previous work, the short film *Kara, Child of A Tree*, was the first Indonesian short film to be included in the Directors' Fortnight at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival.

A coming-of-age story about a boy who falls in love with a Macho Dancer

19 & 24 April

Country: Philippines

Year: 2009

Duration: 80 mins

Director

Auraeus Solito

Producer

Auraeus Solito & Endi "Hail" Balbuena

Screenplay

Jimmy Flores, Arturo Calo

Cast

Aeious Asin, Aries Pena



Director

Auraeus Solito

BOY



A young budding poet, who is unnamed, observes lip-synching drag-queens and dancing rent-boys in a gay bar one evening and finds himself attracted to Aries, who comes from a poorer part of town. Selling his action heroes and comic books so as to be able to afford Aries for one night, he buys Aries at the bar and brings him home for the new year. Sparks fly while celebratory

fireworks go off outside the house and the boys forge a fragile connection that neither of them is certain will last. This is an idealistic, coming-of-age tale of a sensitive boy who arrives at his first lesson about love and who learns to grow confidently into his own sexuality.

Auraeus Solito's first feature film *The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros* won 15 international awards. A gay love story set in Manila, Solito's film was a part of the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, the Las Palmas Film Festival, and the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and won three awards at the 2006 Berlin Film Festival. His film also earned a Best Foreign Film nomination at the 2007 Film Independent's Spirit Awards. *Circumcision*, his second feature film, won Best Picture and Best Director at the Digital Competition at the 2005 CineManila Film Festival and the NETPAC Jury Prize at the Berlinale, International Forum for New Cinema; 2nd Prize for Best Feature Film at the Montreal Film Festival. He made *Philippine Science*, his third dramatic feature film, in 2007, which won awards at the 14th Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema in France.

An unflinching tale of physical violence and its emotional fall-out in this powerhouse debut from actor Yang Ik-june

19 April

Country: Korea

Year: 2008

Duration: 130 min

Director

Yang Ik-june

Producer

Yang Ik-june

Screenplay

Yang Ik-june

Cast

Yang Ik-june, Kim Gol-bi, Jeong Man-shik



Director

Yang Ik-june

BREATHLESS / DDONGPARI



The tone is set in the film's opening moments: amidst a flurry of verbal obscenities a man beats a woman, then he is beaten by another man, who then abuses the woman for not defending herself and then... This relentless catalogue of slapping, punching, kicking, spitting and cursing at anyone in sight (this is definitely the film that will teach you to swear in Korean) is lead character, Sang-hoon's primary mode of existence, and he puts this to use as the

chief thug in a private heavy mob, paid to cause violence and mayhem (breaking up protests, closing down businesses), but mostly they aggressively collect debts. Sang-hoon has no interest in money, and often has to be scolded by his boss for hitting his colleagues as much as their targets. Inevitably we discover that he isn't actually a psychopath, but rather a man brutally traumatised by the violence in his past. His grudging attempts at communication with his young nephew and a rebellious schoolgirl (with her own deeply troubled home-life), might offer up some hope of redemption, but these characters' stories are fatally interlocked, and when the schoolgirl's brother tries to follow in the footsteps of Sang-hoon, the cycle of violence proves hard to break.

As Sang-hoon, **Yang Ik-june** gives a compelling central performance in his own remarkably confident first film as director (and writer and producer), revealing flashes of humour and insight from a character who is extremely difficult to like. Shot digitally, much of it hand-held, with a furious intensity that matches the agony of the characters. Some much-needed audio relief is provided by a sparingly used, but soothing soundtrack from Korean post-rock folk musician The Invisible Fish.

Atieh, a radio program host, thinks she is pregnant, only to find out that she has a serious illness.

19 April

Country: Iran

Year: 2008

Duration: 90 min

Director

Rasoul Sadrameli

Producer

Seyed Kamal Tabatabaei

Screenplay

Kambozia Partovi, Rasoul

Sadrameli

Cast

Leyla Hatami, Hamed

Behdad, Marian Gharajeh



Director

Rasoul Sadrameli

Deshui and his father encounter a girl who escaped from a mental institution, and take her in as one of their own

22 April

Country: China

Year: 2009

Duration: 75 min

Director

Zheng Wei

Producer

Fu Chang Yang

Screenplay

Zheng Wei

Cast

Gu Xing Hong, Shi Pei Liang,

Shen Meng Yao



Director

Zheng Wei

EVERY NIGHT, LONELINESS



Atieh, a young woman with a grave illness, travels with her patient husband to a grand mosque, where he hopes to improve her spirits—and their relationship, which has deteriorated into name-calling and silences filled with tension. Without telling her husband, the melancholy Atieh leaves the hotel room to wander a park alone in the evening, causing him to worry as she would have to take her medication soon.

When she later accuses him of crying before her as a way of making her feel guilty, he shoots her down with the charge that she is the one who is being selfish. Will their marriage survive their few days in Mashad, Iran? And will she finally agree to undergo the potentially life-saving operation that her husband wants her to take? Or will prayer eventually save her from an early grave? These questions continue to loom as the couple navigates Iran's holiest city, during which the protagonist questions her marriage, her illness and her own stubborn ways of thinking. Later in a crowded mosque, Atieh encounters a little girl separated from her mother and tossed into a sea of dark, flowing chadors and hostile votives, a lost and vulnerable soul who soon manages to turn Atieh's troubled perspective on life around.

Rasul Sadr Ameli is an Iranian film director, screenwriter, and film producer. He made his directorial debut, *The Liberation* in 1982 after a decade of working in journalism. In nearly all his films, he is fascinated by family melodrama. His *The Chrysanthemums* (1985) was one of the top grossing films of the year. Sadrameli won an award for the Best Director as well as the Best Script award (as the co-writer) at the 20th Fajr International Film Festival for *I Am Taraneh, Fifteen Years Old*.

FISH EYES / YU YAN



Set in the midst of the Beijing Olympics and after the Sichuan earthquake, viewers are introduced, with minimal dialogue, to Deshui and his father. They live near the desert. When Deshui's father is fishing, he encounters a girl who escaped from an asylum, and takes her in as if she were family. A large mirror that Deshui brings home is smashed by hooligans and he uses the gullible girl to pay off his personal debt. Peeling away China's cloying façade of international achievement and desperate self-congratulation, particularly during the Olympic games, *Fish Eyes* shows us the emptiness behind one country's appearance of political triumph, subtly expressed through Deshui's disregard for the law, the shattering of a mirror, and also the film's isolating images of the desert, its neighbouring townscape, and the annihilating sky.

Zheng Wei was born in the Zhe Jiang Province of China and he is currently studying in the Graduate school of Advanced Imaging Science, Multimedia and Film, at Chung-Ang University in Seoul. He is pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts in filmmaking.

Old Zhu is a train driver who is about to retire, but his friend Zhizhong is unwilling to let him go.

20 April

Country: China

Year: 2008

Duration: 92 min

Director

Zhao Ye

Producer

Helen Cui

Screenplay

Zhao Ye

Cast

Liu Yunsong, Li Zhizhong



Director

Zhao Ye

JALAINUR / ZHA LAI NUO ER



Jalainur (a Mongolian word meaning "ocean-like lake") is a coal mine in the Manzhouli City of Inner Mongolia. Old Zhu, a steam-train driver, and his apprentice Li Zhizhong, a train signalman, are inseparable. Old Zhu, who has worked at the colliery for thirty years, will soon retire, leaving Zhizhong lost and confused. The latter decides to follow Master Zhu after work one day, much to Zhu's quiet dismay. Impending

obsolescence shadows the future of these men, although Zhizhong, riding the trains like a romantic horseman and waving his signal flag, remains dedicated to both his job and Zhu. Director Zhao Ye's cinematic vision monumentalises the smoke, steam and grit that form the existential texture of lives in the colliery, celebrating as well as mourning the passing of time and the fragility of friendship. A plate of steamed buns glows like a celebration of resilience in the middle of a barren landscape interrupted by the figures of tired men and gasps of smoke from the long throats of locomotives; in another scene, Old Zhu and Zhizhong awkwardly sing a duet in the street that captures exactly the sense of loss that both of them must eventually learn to live with.

Jalainur is **Zhao Ye's** second feature film, and it received the FIPRESCI prize in Pusan in 2008. Barely thirty years of age, he has already directed *Ma Wu Jia* in 2007, which won the Best Picture Award at the China Independent Film Festival, and a short animation film, *Cai Wei*, in 2004.

Abu Laila is a cabdriver whose day turns in all the wrong directions, but is determined to get home for his daughter's birthday.

19 April

Country: Palestine, Tunisia, The Netherlands

Year: 2008

Duration: 72 min

Director

Rashid Masharawi

Producer

Mohamed Habib Attia, Peter van Vogelpoel, Rashid Masharawi

Screenplay

Rashid Masharawi

Cast

Mohamed Bakri, Areen Omari, Nour Zoubi



Living in an occupied territory is not easy, yet who knew that it could not only be chaotic, but beautifully meaningful? Drawing from the everyday life of contemporary Palestine, Rashid Masharawi's main character, Abu Laila (played by the legendary Palestinian actor Mohammad Bakri), struggles to make ends meet as a taxi driver while attempting to get a license to work as a judge from the bureaucratic Palestinian Authority. Laila's Birthday follows a day of his life, taking the audience on a journey of absurdity in a place

where Israeli soldiers may not be present (not a single Israeli soldier is seen) but where the occupation leaves chaos in its wake, and where arrogant lords enjoy sumptuously decorated ministry offices. Abu Laila's day starts off when he is awoken by the loud crash of breaking glass. He inspects his house where everything appears normal, but the dissonant soundtrack reminds us that appearances are deceiving. Indeed, when Abu Laila pulls out of his driveway in his yellow taxi, Ramallah is tranquil, even beautiful. However, as Abu Laila's day grows more and more complex (though his purpose of buying his daughter a birthday cake and gift is anything but complicated), we see how illusory peace in Ramallah really is. Abu Laila's frustrating detours eventually coalesce, however, into an important lesson about the limits of one man's idealism about his own society.

Rashid Masharawi was born and raised in the Shati refugee camp, Gaza Strip, and is a self-taught filmmaker. In 1996 he founded the Cinema Production and Distribution Center (CPC), which offers workshops to young Palestinian filmmakers. The CPC also initiated the Mobile Cinema Project, which brings screenings to refugee camps. His credits as director include *Curfew* (1993), *Haifa* (1996), *Ticket to Jerusalem* (2002), *En direct de Palestine* (2002), *Arafat, mon frère* (2005), and *Attentie* (2005).



Director

Rashid Masharawi

An omnibus of eight short stories dealing with love and devotion in contemporary Indonesia.

23 April

Country: Indonesia

Year: 2008

Duration: 89 min

Director

Harry Suharyadi

Producer

Harry Dagoe Suharyadi

Screenplay

Harry Dagoe Suharyadi

Cast

Alex Abbad, Jajang C Noer, Nicholas Saputra, Surya Saputra

LOVE POTPOURRI



A boy takes on a number of odd jobs, hoping to save money to buy his object of affection. What happens when this object becomes a person? At a pirated video shop where European auteurs sit alongside Hollywood filmmakers, the video guy has to choose. Will it be instant or gourmet coffee? A young girl is supposed to love her mother and

learn from her teacher. What happens when their roles are reversed? A Japanese man rescues a damsel in distress. But when will she pick up the phone? A director has to please his nagging wife and demanding employers. Can he pull off the great escape? A property owner just had a terrible day. Can she take one more piece of bad news? A grateful driver has taken over his departing employer's expensive pet fish. Will he sell it to sponsor his wife's education? A mother wants to go to the Haj but is it right for her to take her son's money?

With the help of the biggest 27 names in Indonesia's entertainment and media industry, writer-producer-director **Harry Dagoe Suharyadi** has made a film that is rich in ambition and broad in scope. He confronts issues of religion, polygamy and homosexuality and asks: what is the right thing to do? It's an open-ended film and there are no easy answers. Perhaps the point is when it comes to love and devotion, there is no right or wrong. Harry Suharyadi graduated from the Jakarta Institute of the Arts with a major in film directing. *Love Potpourri* is his third feature film after *Pachinko* and *Everybody's Happy* (2000).



Director

Harry Suharyadi

Is Malaysia losing its heart and soul to corporate capitalism? This hilarious musical has all the answers.

21 April

Country: Malaysia

Year: 2008

Duration: 110 min

Director

Yeo Joon Han

Producer

Yeo Joon Han

Screenplay

Yeo Joon Han

Cast

Jerrica Lai, Peter Davis, Kee Thuan-Chye

SELL OUT!



This is Yeo Joon Han's first feature film and it is part musical (you are even expected to sing along to its karaoke-style subtitles at one point), part art-film, and part parody of the evils of capitalism and the pretensions of art. A self-absorbed Malaysian TV host, Rafflesia Pong, whose art-discussion programme is dying from lousy ratings, stumbles upon a golden opportunity when her latest interviewee, an

ex-boyfriend, dies in front of the camera. It is perfect timing as she has to find a way to come up with the ultimate reality show, so as to outdo her American-accented, pan-Asian rival. Eric Tan is a mild-mannered, half-English corporate slave who labours to create the perfect Soyamaker Machine. But he is constantly assailed by unreasonable insults from his megalomaniacal CEO bosses (played with comic gusto by the hilariously poker-faced Kee Thuan Chye and Lim Teik Leong) because of his creativity and originality. One day, the dreamer in Eric steps out of the latter's physical body and the original Eric has to make a decision whether to assassinate this dreamer-part of himself or not. All of these unforgettably quirky characters operate in a place that is unmistakably Malaysia (or, shall we say, 'Truly Asia'), its capitalistic aspects exaggerated to ridiculous proportions. Bangkok Post has described the irreverent, subversive, surrealist and sharply satirical movie, which also features three main local languages—English, Malay and Cantonese—as "a spiky satire of the new Malaysia".

Yeo Joon Han was a lawyer-turned-copywriter who gave up his well-paying job in 1999 to become a fulltime filmmaker. The 37-year-old Yeo who hails from Seremban made his first ever short film in 2001 on 35mm format, the project was eventually completed to become *Adults Only*, a film that was shortlisted for the 63rd Venice Film Festival, making him the first ever first-time Malaysian director to compete in the festival, even receiving a Special Mention. *Sell Out!* won the Young Cinema Award for Alternative Vision at the same prestigious festival in 2008.



Director

Yeo Joon Han

In this story about the unbreakable human spirit, Setia and Supayong are illegal workers in Taiwan who discover their capacity to survive and to fall in love

14 April

Country: Taiwan

Year: 2009

Duration: 96 min

Director

Rich Lee

Producer

Rich Lee

Screenplay

Shu-Wen Hu, Rich Lee,

Shou-Qian Ho

Cost

Lola Amaria, Banlop Lomnoi,

May Kwei-Mei Yang, Li-Qi Wu



Director

Rich Lee

Opening film

SINCERELY YOURS / QILU TIANTANG



Setia, a sweet and shy girl from Java, and Supayong from Thailand are forced by circumstances back home to build new lives for themselves in Taiwan. Conversing awkwardly but poignantly to each other in Mandarin, they build a fragile bond of intimacy and love, even as they must also brave the challenges of poverty and the terrifying possibility of deportation. Setia meets another foreign worker who is a divorcee like herself, with whom she becomes fast friends because of their shared plight of desperation and

destitution. She also meets a retired movie star who is forced to confront her own mortality, and who looks kindly on Setia's as a kindred spirit. Supayong, on the other hand, is forced to do things for money that he hopes Setia will not find out, such as stealing, and even sleeping with another man. In spite of their abjection, these essentially good-hearted workers are determined not to lose their sense of compassion and hope, even as the need to survive undermines their determination and romantic idealism more and more everyday. When one of them is unexpectedly separated from the other, it must take all of their resilience and inner strength to push on with their lives into the unknowable future, where both can only dream of meeting again one day.

For this honest and uncompromising film, newcomer director, Rich Lee, was inspired by countless encounters with foreign labourers while on train journeys between Taipei, Taoyuan and Hsinchu, and decided to explore the plight of this labour population in Taiwan, as well as highlight the underlying problems with Taiwanese society that lead to the mistreatment of these beleaguered workers.

From 1996 to 1997, Rich Lee has studied in the Department of Film and Television Studies for his Masters of Fine Arts degree at the University of Warwick. From 2000 to 2006, Lee taught at the National Taiwan University of Arts, with specialty and interests in National Cinema, Film Style Analysis as well as courses in Film Introduction.

A simple tale about going home becomes a reflective look at the trials and tribulations of restless adolescents in modern China.

21 April

Country: China

Year: 2008

Duration: 102 min

Director

Hao Yifeng

Producer

Hao Yifeng

Screenplay

Hao Yifeng

Cost

Bai Tiao, Yang Sen, Xiao Shu, Li Lubing



Director

Hao Yifeng

XIAO SHU'S GOING HOME



Returning to one's home village in modern China no longer retains the romanticised meanings that it used to have; at least not for middle school student, Xiao Shu. Escaping from the stifles of school life in Beijing, Xiao Shu returns home to a life of committing petty crime with his two friends Ma Hou and Bai Tiao, who each have their fair share of problems. While Ma Hou is a

combative rebel in school, Bai Tiao yearns after a mobile phone salesgirl, Xiao Jing, only to engage in an illicit affair with a married woman, Yun Yun, when his love is unrequited. When a string of troubling episodes occur – Ma Hou suddenly disappears, Bai Tiao's relationships end unfavourably and he gets arrested – Xiao Shu turns to Bai Tiao's close cousin, the academically gifted but physically sick, Mei Hong, for companionship. They both embark on the road to moral salvation, but it is one that comes with a costly price, teaching Xiao Shu a lesson in mortality that can never be learnt at school. Less a coming-of-age story than a coming-round-to-senses tale, director Hao Yifeng lets the narrative unfold naturally and unhurriedly, concisely capturing, in this slice-of-life indie film, the common agitations of China's unsupervised youth.

NOMINEES FOR
BEST FILM

12 LOTUS
18 GRAMS OF LOVE
KALLANG ROAR THE MOVIE
LUCKY7
A MONTH OF HUNGRY GHOSTS
RULE #1

NOMINEES FOR
BEST DIRECTOR

12 LOTUS
Royston Tan
18 GRAMS OF LOVE
Han Yew Kwang
MONEY NO ENOUGH 2
Jack Neo
RULE #1
Kelvin Tong

NOMINEES FOR
BEST SCREENPLAY

18 GRAMS OF LOVE
Han Yew Kwang
HASHI
Sherman Ong
RULE #1
Kelvin Tong

2nd

SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
**SINGAPORE
FILM AWARDS**

NOMINEES FOR
BEST PERFORMANCE

12 LOTUS
Liu Ling Ling
12 LOTUS
Qi Yu Wu
KALLANG ROAR THE MOVIE
Lim Kay Siu
THE LEAP YEARS
Wong Li Lin
LUCKY7
Sunny Pang
MONEY NO ENOUGH 2
Mark Lee

NOMINEES FOR
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

12 LOTUS
Alan Yap
THE DAYS
John Lim Beng Huat
LUCKY7
Roszali Samad, Brian Gothong Tan,
Sharon Loh, Jaye Neo, Cain Chui,
Andrew Mark Sobrielo,
Chris Yeo Siew Hua, Adrian Lo

Sometimes in life, dreams can both make us and break us

18 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 121 min



Director
Royston Tan

12 LOTUS

Director: Royston Tan Producer: Mabelyn Ow

Screenplay: Royston Tan, Liam Yeo Cast: Mindee Ong, Qi YuWu, Liu Ling Ling



Filial piety, friendship and faith are themes explored in **Royston Tan's** follow-up movie to his box-office success *881*. The story centers around a young Lian Hua who dreams of being a famous getai singer. Weighed down by a drunk and manipulative father, the naïve Lian Hua leads a life of despair and abuse. She later falls easily for the charming Ah Long, only to find herself being duped once more, which causes her more pain in life. It is only her friendship with child getai sensation, Astroboy that allows her to survive. The dramatic storyline is heightened further with memorable getai music that creates the world of Lian Hua. *12 Lotus* is about Lian Hua's strength and self-sacrifice in her hope to find love, even if it means living in a world that is dreamt up.

18 Grams of Love asks the lifelong question - how do we measure the weight of love?

18 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 85 min



Director
Han Yew Kwang

18 GRAMS OF LOVE

Director: Han Yew Kwang Producer: Lau Chee Nien

Screenplay: Han Yew Kwang Cast: Alaric Tay, Adam Chen, Yeo Yann Yann



Long-time friends Zihua (Alaric Tay) and Ah Hui (Adam Chen) suspect their wives are cheating on them. In order to allay their suspicions, they decide to test their wives by writing anonymous love letters to see if she will respond. When the wives start to respond, the men find themselves in a fix. Winner of the Bronze Award in the Audience Choice category at the 13th Lyon Asian Film Festival, *18 Grams of Love* offers an ironic and bittersweet take on modern relationships in a postmodern world.

A throw-back into the time of afternoon tea-dances, gangs and brotherhood.

19 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 100 mins



Director
Boi Kwong

THE DAYS

Director: Boi Kwong Producer: Anton J. Poh, Boi Kwong, April Tong, Randy Ang

Screenplay: Boi Kwong, April Tong Cast: Justin Chan, Ivan Lim, Avery Ang, Kevin Tan, Derrick R., Jason Ho, Anthony Levi Kho, Adele Wong, Adora Wong



Based on a true story *The Days* tells a cautionary tale between two brothers, set between 1989 and 1990. In a misguided effort to teach Baby Independence, and to make him feel protected, Zi Long brings him into his own gang of delinquents, introducing him to his group nicknamed "The 4 Heavenly Kings" - Dog, the silent fighter; Cockroach, the loudmouth and Tauper, the motorbike riding free soul together with their surrogate leader Jeremy Tan. Unknowingly, his

decision has thrown them both into a tumultuous and violent world that will, in different ways, imprison them both. Boi Kwong, the director and creator of the project - whose story is inspired by his own personal experience - has over 10 years of experience in film production.

Boi Kwong graduated from Temasek Polytechnic as the top student and recipient of an AVID scholarship. He also won the Special Jury Prize award at the SIFF Silver Screen Awards in 2000

3 women share their lives through intimate conversations in this experimental film.

19 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 113 min



Director
Sherman Ong

HASHI

Director: Sherman Ong **Producer:** Kamachi Masae

Screenplay: Sherman Ong **Cast:** Shinohara Keiko, Kato Naoko, Nakao Yoko, Nagatome Kanako, Uemura Naoko, Mogata Miku, Hirano Seiko, Nakamura Etsuko.



Hashi centers on three women from three age groups – Shino (50s), Junko (30s) and Momo (20s). Momo 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. Their three lives cross and diverge in oblique and tangential ways. The story weaves around issues

of love, relationships, insecurity, death and the blurring between dreams and reality. Hashi screened at the 21st SIFF and International Film Festival Rotterdam in February this year.

A story of how football shaped a national identity.

17 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 88 min

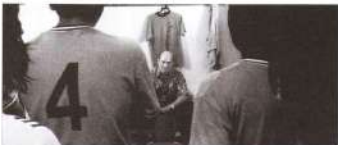


Director
Cheng Ding An

KALLANG ROAR THE MOVIE

Director: Cheng Ding An **Producer:** Tay Hoo Wee **Screenplay:** Cheng Ding An

Cast: Lim Kay Siu, Santhanaram Jayaram, Leon Quah, Randall Tan



Battling the onslaught of a life threatening stage of diabetes, an entire board of unsupportive officials ready to oust him, a record of 12 years of Malaysian football supremacy, Uncle Choo defiantly returns to Singapore football scene in 1977 for one last shot at restoring

Nationalistic pride. His undying

love for the game and his role as a coach whom, few will would ever understand. Armed with legendary players like Quah Kim Song, Rajagopal, Samad, Mat Noh, Dollah Kassim, uncle sets out an impossible journey to remind his fellow countrymen of what it meant to be Singaporean.

Cheng Ding An has won 3 National Scriptwriting Awards and several short film awards. This is his first feature film.

Can lovers escape the fate of their romance?

18 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 90 min



Director
Jean Yeo

THE LEAP YEARS

Director: Jean Yeo **Producer:** Pedro Tan

Screenplay: Fina Torres, George Walker, Alain Layrac, Jean Yeo

Cast: Wong Li Lin, Ananda Everingham, Joan Chen



On her Leap Day birthday, fate brings young Chang Li-Ann and Jeremy together. Since their first meeting, they promise to meet the next leap year. Now on her 48th Leap Day birthday, Li-Ann finds herself praying for a miracle recovery for Jeremy who has been in a coma for the last 6 months. Through twists and turns of life, we follow the lovers in their breathtaking romance spanning 24 years.

The Leap Years is based upon the novella by local author Catherine Lim. Director Jean Yeo, with her wealth of television experience, manages to create a heartwarming love story that makes us want to believe in love.

A surrealistic cinema experiment exploring all genres proves to be an inventive story-telling platform

LUCKY7



18 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 83 min

Directors

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

Cast

Sunny Pang

Seven filmmakers come together to direct a chain of segments in a game of "exquisite-corpse". Actor Sunny Pang stretches his acting skills as he plays different characters in each story. The segments are linked loosely and the filmmakers are further challenged by the filming structure with the next filmmaker knowing only what took place in the last minute of the previous segment. Bold and lively, *Lucky7* is for the adventurous viewer and fans of short films. It screened at the 21st SIFF and the Vancouver International Film Festival in 2008 where it was nominated for the Dragons & Tigers Award.

Directors

(from left)

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



The strength of family ties is tested when money problems arises.

MONEY NO ENOUGH 2

Director: Jack Neo Producer: Tiong Seng Wei Screenplay: Jack Neo, Ho Hee Ann

Cast: Jack Neo, Mark Lee, Henry Thia

18 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 126 min



Director

Jack Neo



Ten-years since the first *Money No Enough*, Jack Neo's sequel returns to bring attention to the common man's life in Singapore where the pursuit of money is a never ending passion. The story revolves around three brothers from a middle-income background in contemporary Singapore. As the winds of fortune changes, the brothers begin to neglect their elderly mother. It was easy to be generous and filial during the good times but when household budgets tighten, what is the cost of true filial piety?

Jack Neo is founder of Neo Studios and J Team Productions. He also received the Public Service Medal Award in August 2004 and the Arts Cultural Medallion Award in October 2005.

Why is a whole nation,
world-class and
cosmopolitan utterly
enthralled by a month of
Hungry Ghosts?

18 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 95 min



Director
Tony Kern

A MONTH OF HUNGRY GHOSTS

Director: Tony Kern **Producer:** Genevieve Woo

Screenplay: N.A **Cast:** N.A



Every year, during the 7th lunar month, it is believed that the "gates of hell" are opened and all the souls are set free to wander the earth. Many spirits – the "hungry ghosts" – roam around trying to fulfill their past needs, wants and desires. This phenomenon effects personal loves, the society and the entire economy. The people respond as if the dead truly walk amongst them.

Tony Kern owns a stock footage company TK Time-Lapse and won a Silver Award at the 2004 International Promax and BDA Awards and an Audience Choice Award for *The Spooky Incident* at the 2002 World Horror Film Festival. **Genevieve Woo** is a TV news producer-anchor with Channel NewsAsia.

Rule #1 : there are no
ghosts.

19 April

Country: Singapore, Hong
Kong

Year: 2008

Duration: 93 min



Director
Kelvin Tong

RULE#1

Director: Kelvin Tong **Producer:** Leon Tong, Lim Teck

Screenplay: Kelvin Tong **Cast:** Ekin Cheng, Shawn Yue, Fiona Xie



After surviving a near-fatal shoot out with a killer, Lee, a rookie cop, is assigned to the shady *Miscellaneous Affairs* Department where his duties include answering complaints from of the public - of the supernatural sort. This sets the ambitious young cop on a collision course with Wong, the grizzled jaded boss of *Miscellaneous Affairs* until both men find themselves investing a string of bizarre suicides that look increasingly like an authentic case of demonic possession. *Rule#1* manages to create suspense through gripping drama and smart dialogue. Ekin Cheng shines playing the cynical Wong under Kelvin Tong's direction which won him the Best Actor Award at the Pucheon International Fantastic Film Festival. Tong's other suspense and horror film, *The Maid* was also a box-office success.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL **SINGAPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION**

SIFF received over ninety
submissions this year.
Nine finalists were selected.

The nine finalists will compete
in the awards categories of

**Best Film,
Best Director,
Best Performance,
Best Cinematography &
Special Mention.**

SHORTLIST PANEL

Royston Tan

Filmmaker/ Director, 1028

Juan Foo

Executive Producer for Content Development,
The Shooting Gallery Asia

Kristin Saw

Management Executive,
Singapore Film Commission

A series of five vignettes centered on each of the five human senses.

15 & 25 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2009

Duration: 22 min



Director
David Shiyang Liu

5 FILMS IN AN ANTHOLOGY OF A FILM A MONTH

Director: David Shiyang Liu **Producer:** Jack Haycox **Screenplay:** David Shiyang Liu
Cast: Maya Aleksandra, Matt Cohen, Louise Howlett, Kiloran Hiscock



Little sparks of intrigue and wit draw the viewer deep into beguiling stories of loss and love in this anthology, set in Australia and Singapore. Inspired by the music of the Nine Inch Nails, and with quiet affection, the vignettes present small quirks of human nature, centered upon each of the five senses.

David Shiyang Liu has a background in photography and design. His recent commercial works include a Behind the Scenes featurette for Australia's Channel 9 drama *Underbelly*. His other film *4444* was lauded at the Canon DV Festival and the Substation's Singapore Shorts Film Festival.

A family mishap leads a young man to reconsider his plans to leave home.

15 & 25 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2009

Duration: 10 min



Director
Ong Zheng Kai

DISTANCE

Director: Ong Zheng Kai **Producer:** Jonah Sng Jianzhong
Screenplay: Ong Zheng Kai **Cast:** Ong Zheng Kai, Poh Ah Cheow



A tender but tenuous relationship between a grandson and his grandmother is at the heart of this short film. Zheng Kai is preparing to leave home to go abroad when his grandmother has a fall, forcing him to re-evaluate his responsibilities and ambitions. Quietly poignant, the past and the future echo throughout the film, revealing the distance between the generations in contemporary society.

Ong Zheng Kai produced a 16mm short film as part of a workshop conducted in 2006. He went on to freelance in film and photography productions before working as a development executive in a production company. He is currently pursuing a film education with LASALLE.

As a boy struggles with growing up, his head fills with nostalgic dreams of childhood.

15 & 25 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2009

Duration: 14 min



Director
Martin Hong Cho Ann

DREAMING KESTER

Director: Martin Hong Cho Ann **Producer:** Martin Hong Cho Ann
Screenplay: Martin Hong Cho Ann **Cast:** Kester, Cheryl Hoe



Kester wakes up one morning to find an adult narration stuck in his head, foretelling the confining structures of adulthood to come. He embarks on a mission of struggle against the 'adultists' while simultaneously rediscovering his childhood dreams. Charming shot, this is an artful elegy to childhood memories.

Martin Hong was born in Singapore in 1990 and worked closely with family, teachers, and friends to make his short film.

A sheet of paper, a pair of scissors, and a fussy baby meet in a battle of wits.

15 & 25 April
Country: Singapore
Year: 2009
Duration: 3 min



Director
 Tan Wei Keong

HUSH BABY

Director: Tan Wei Keong **Producer:** Tan Wei Keong **Screenplay:** Tan Wei Keong **Cast:** N.A.



Overturning the popular association of animation with children's entertainment, *Hush Baby* depicts a baby's struggle against confinement and restriction. The many expressive faces of a baby are brought to life with dark humour and wit as the film imaginatively explores a different facet of animation.

Tan Wei Keong's animated short film *White* was awarded the Special Achievement Award at the 20th Singapore International Film Festival. He is currently pursuing a BFA in Animation at the School of Art, Design and Media.

The slow decay of a relationship, reflected through a television screen.

15 & 25 April
Country: Singapore
Year: 2009
Duration: 9 min



Director
 Tee Pao Chew

LEAVING ME

Director: Tee Pao Chew **Producer:** Antonius Hananto **Screenplay:** Loretta Burgess, Tee Pao Chew
Cast: Emily O'Brien Brown, Nick Colla



The melodrama of a soap opera is set up in high contrast to the silent tension between the couple watching it. Shot in hues of green and yellow, the narrative subjectivities of the four characters parallel each other, yet are in a constant state of manipulation and distortion.

Tee Pao Chew recently graduated from RMIT University with a degree in Communications. *Leaving Me* is the third short film he has directed and written for his final-year project.

An elderly woman spends her entire holiday complaining about her family and irritating the friends travelling with her.

15 & 25 April
Country: Singapore
Year: 2009
Duration: 20 min



Director
 Wilson Yip

MADAM CHAN

Director: Wilson Yip **Producer:** Lai Wei Yu **Screenplay:** Wilson Yip
Cast: Cheong Soon Foon, Ong Xiu Ping, Chiu Wai Yin



Filled with endless gripes about her familial troubles, Madam Chan joins her friends the Wongs on a local tour of Singapore, much to the annoyance of Mr Wong. As the group travels from one tourist spot to another, the truth behind Madam Chan's complaints emerges, unveiling the vulnerability beneath her crotchety exterior. Currently an active freelance director in the local industry,

Wilson Yip actually started off with crewing and camerawork. His directorial works include TV shows, commercials, and corporate and short films. His still serves as a cinematographer occasionally, most recently on the feature *Heng or Huat*.

An old man's recollections about the Japanese Occupation of Singapore.

15 & 25 April
Country: Singapore
Year: 2009
Duration: 12 min



Director
 Hafidz Senor

A boy, a mysterious sink, and a meditation on life.

15 & 25 April
Country: Singapore
Year: 2009
Duration: 11 min



Director
 Kirsten Tan

An over-protective mother gains new understanding from an old memory.

15 & 25 April
Country: Singapore
Year: 2009
Duration: 13 min



Director
 Kat Goh Phek Siang

SHINGAPORU MONOGATARI

Director: Hafidz Senor **Producer:** Hafidz Senor **Screenplay:** Hafidz Senor **Cast:** N.A.



Stark, black-and-white shots of modern day Singapore are juxtaposed against grainy still photographs of wartime Singapore as the narrator, an eighty-year-old Malay man, recounts his memories about the Japanese Occupation. Based on conversations the director had with his grandfather, Shingaporu Monogatari is a compelling and sombre reminder of the war and

the consequences it had on the people who lived through it.

Hafidz Senor studied film at Temasek Polytechnic's Moving Images Programme. His interests include architecture, the visual arts, history and sociology and the whale hunters of Lamalera. Currently studying at Nanyang Technological University's School of Art, Design and Media, Hafidz enjoys volunteer work and hopes to surf someday.

SINK

Director: Kirsten Tan **Producer:** Kirsten Tan **Screenplay:** Kirsten Tan
Cost: Chingdun Sayimpori, Pramett Chankrasee, Watchara Plaichan



A chance encounter between a young boy and the sink he finds standing in the low-tides of a beach results in a spiritual connection between the two. Beautifully shot in 16mm black-and-white and richly textured with symbolism, Sink is a meditative exploration of childhood innocence and adult experience, of love and loss.

The greatest feeling **Kirsten Tan** ever had was walking out of a cinema feeling inspired by a film. Thus began her desire to make them. Since then, her films have been screened in more than twenty film festivals, garnering over ten international awards. She is currently based in New York City.

SWIMMING LESSON

Director: Kat Goh Phek Siang **Producer:** Kelvin Tong Weng Kian **Screenplay:** Kelvin Tong Weng Kian
Cast: Kee Chiew Hang, Cheong Ah Fong, Yeo Wah Lai, Wong Shu Lin



On the way to the airport, a mother frets over her daughter, who is leaving home for the first time. Suddenly, she finds herself on a curious detour that plumbs muddy memories, only to surface with a dazzling lesson in both life and swimming.

A veteran of television production, **Kat Goh** is one of the few female filmmakers to emerge from Singapore. Cutting her teeth on epic TV productions during an eight-year stint at both MCS and Channel U, Kat's work on the small screen includes the highly-rated comedy series Durian King (2004), which won three PROMAX awards including Best Actress.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SINGAPORE SHORT FILM NON-FINALISTS

Singapore Shorts Non-Finalists 1 18 april / 97 min

SABO

by S. Viknesh

Duration: 11 min

Desmond, after having nightmares, sees a Bomoh who conducts a ritual on him. Desmond later finds himself in a police station, accused of a crime he has no memory of committing.

MEAT AT BLOCK 320

by Kenny Gee

Duration: 3 min

A young girl assists a group of soldiers in hunting down two of the 'infected' flesh-eating monsters that have ravaged the world, and recognizes one of the infected as someone from her past.

IN A RUSH, THE PUSHER TRIPS

by Faizal Mazlan

Duration: 16 min

A dealer for an underground drug syndicate, James' life takes a turn for the worse when his wife suffers a miscarriage and he loses his suitcase full of drugs during a routine sale.

SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS

by Benjamin Sharmi Santhana Mary

Duration: 6 min

The sun wakes the day with soft golden rays, with children welcoming it in fragrant oil bath. Streets hustle and bustle underneath dancing lights, as devotees celebrate this day in the mysterious night.

SING-A-PORE

by Vincent Poh

Duration: 16 min

Sing-A-Pore highlights the lives of our lowly-skilled elderly people living in Singapore. At a void deck, three retirees and a coffeeshop beer auntie discuss the elderly who continue to work, their conversations in the form of a musical.

CHILDHOOD GAMES

by Joanne Lee

Duration: 12 min

During a reunion dinner that brings a separated family together, an eighteen year old revisits a memory from years ago, when he had molested his younger sister.

THE ROAD THAT FOLLOWS

by Benjamin Tanaka

Duration: 19 min

A contemporary tale about the irony of how small the world really is, but how complex life can be. Three interrelated characters cause chain reactions to each other's feelings and change the course of each other's lives.

A BUNDLE OF JOI

by Ho Xueling Melissa

Duration: 13 min

A little girl's memory of her lost relation with an old lady is eulogized -- a place where one would reminisce on the past but would not seek comfort from one's minute existence.

Singapore Shorts Non-Finalists 2

18 april / 108 min

GINSENG BOY

by Nelson Yeo Kok Rei

Duration: 8 min

One day, while farming, an old couple finds a magical ginseng that morphs into a boy by night.

INNER ECHO

by Chan Tuck Lueng

Duration: 5 min

Social constraint shrouds us like fabric and robs us of our identity. Unable to voice out our inner self, we develop inner struggle -- lost identity, restricted mind, and false freedom.

THE 'D'ECISION

by David Lee Ling Wei, Li Minghui

Duration: 13 min

A documentary film that explores the decisions on controversial issues that people have to make at a critical point in their lives, as well as the reasons for the decisions made.

MY FATHER SAZALI

by Sazali Bin Masraji

Duration: 17 min

A barber's unfulfilled aspirations and his quest to prevent his son from following in his footsteps, his failed ambitions ironically serving as motivation for his son to achieve his own ambitions.

RHYTHM OF THE WIND

by Poh Kong Ling

Duration: 3 min

The wind that makes the bell sound. A brand new life.

30TH STOREY

by Sharizan N8

Duration: 8 min

A simple depiction of loneliness and teenage life.

PANG SAI PALACE

by Pat Pat

Duration: 8 min

Channel P's intimate memorial special on the late visionary Sam Lamb reveals a personal portrait of an artist much discussed but not particularly understood, featuring interviews with his widow and unreleased home footage.

SHE SHAPES A NATION

by Dona Lam

Duration: 21 min

A spectrum of women's voices provides glimpses of the nation's psyche.

HAPPY PLACE

by Jeevan Nathan S

Duration: 10 min

A dark whimsical story of a brother trying to save his dying sister from the "evil". Using drawings and imagination, he takes her away from the "bad house" and into...the happy place.

UNCLE DOWNSTAIRS

by Justin Fernando

Duration: 15 min

Under every block of flats lingers an Uncle Downstairs, that one unique character who has a story to tell, at the void deck where everything happens.

Singapore Shorts Non-Finalists 3

18 april / 106 min

A LION'S PRIDE

by Wesley Leon Aroozoo

Duration: 8 min

During Chinese New Year, the Lion Dance Lion dances a celebratory dance to usher in prosperity and fortune. For the rest of the year, it is left abandoned, jobless and struggling in the wilderness.

'H'

by Olivia Lee

Duration: 12 min

Hayden is a teenager who struggles with being a hermaphrodite. She tries to find herself after her boyfriend breaks up with her after finding out about her condition.

GOODBYE

by Soon Zhan Hui

Duration: 9 min

A teenager attempts suicide after her father leaves the family due to an affair. When she jumps off the building, she sees a group of people in a situation worse than her own.

DREAM / MENG XIANG

by Josiah Ng

Duration: 20 min

Meng Xiang is a heart-warming account about how Ang Tzer Huei broke the world record in swimming, despite the many struggles and challenges that were against him.

CHILD OF THE WORLD

by Ho Rui An

Duration: 14 min

Devastated by the loss of his mother, Kevin conceives an imaginary guardian, vested with the ability to materialize a utopian world he envisions. In his state of obsessive delusion to construct his imagined utopia, he neglects his true caregiver, his sister.

THE INVESTIGATORS

by Lim Lung Chieh

Duration: 17 min

Two police investigators experience a lack of progression in their daily lives. They begin to realize that for things to change, they had better start looking at what is right in front of them.

UNTITLED HORROR PROJECT

by Ali Akbar Asyari

Duration: 26 min

A group of cast and crew shoot a short film late at night in school, unaware that they have disturbed a vengeful spirit who will stop at nothing to make them go away.

Singapore Shorts Non-Finalists 4 18 april / 107 min

MRS POSTMAN

by Augustine Low

Duration: 14 min

The quirky and heartwarming story of a post-woman who embarks on an adventure to preserve the room she holds dear, threatened by the news of her estate going en-bloc.

HUGMEKISSMEF**KME

by Karen Ng

Duration: 2 min

A sexy comedy about a boy, a girl, three presents and the Joys of Giving.

BRAZEN

by Linus Chen

Duration: 20 min

Two former agents of the government must go against the will of their own unit in order to uproot a corrupting organization that threatens the freedom of their country.

THE TIBETAN MASTIFFS

by Lim Liang Danny

Duration: 10 min

A filmmaking expedition across national boundaries, providing a glimpse of life in the Tibetan plateau and bringing us closer to understanding the bond between the mysterious guardians of the East and the people of Tibet.

THE CROSS BEFORE ME

by Denise Wai Keng Chan

Duration: 18 min

A father caught between two worlds threatening to destroy everything he loves.

THE LAST DAY

by Pua En

Duration: 6 min

Puffing Dude tries to come to terms with his habit on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, as feelings, people and events strike him in ways he has never experienced before.

MOON

by Sudeep Bhupal Singh

Duration: 12 min

Lily works at night to pay off her mother's medical bills and household expenses. Her father is a cab driver who does not earn enough to feed the family. On her father's birthday, she and her father learn the truth of each other's secret life.

NUDE BEACH

by Ong Wan Shu

Duration: 25 min

Charley's biggest dream is to visit a nude beach to experience naturism. Retrenched, and disappointed with society's explanation of her state, she slowly reveals her true self.

Singapore Shorts Non-Finalists 5 19 april / 101 min

CHOICES

by Hendrick Cheong

Duration: 9 min

The saying goes, "Suicide hurts the ones you love the most." A girl keeps threatening her boyfriend to commit suicide in order to salvage their rocky relationship. Someone does commit suicide, but it's not her.

TOO SMALL TOWN

by Grace Teng

Duration: 4 min

A young art school graduate wants to get out of his provincial hometown to restart his uninspired painting career, until a discovery leads him to a new understanding of art and beauty.

SHADOW HUNTER

by Jordon David Nalpon

Duration: 10 min

Shadow Hunter, a masked vigilante with a painful past leads a life of rage and anger. He tracks down a group of thugs with a helpless hostage in a warehouse.

QWERTY

by Welven Tan

Duration: 10 min

A man, Josh Qwerty, wakes up from a surreal nightmare and finds himself having amnesia. He reclaims his identity, but meets an obnoxious usher who leads Josh into devastation.

PAPER STARS

by Terrence Tay

Duration: 19 min

A story of two teenage girls from different backgrounds coming together and realizing they are both grappling with the same predicament.

GOOFBALLS

by Kirsten Han

Duration: 11 min

A wacky comedy about two unlikely characters – a guy with Tourette's. Disorder and a girl with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

FACILITATOR

by Lim Liang Danny

Duration: 12 min

Do funeral specialists truly serve the dead, or are they businessmen trying to make a fortune from death? Facilitator is a journey uncovering the integrity of the funeral business and funeral rituals.

THE RUNNER

by William Lee Wee Loong

Duration: 2 min

A boy who dreams of attaining a glorious physique puts himself under a torturous physical training session conducted by an unsympathetic personal trainer.

THERE FOR YOU

by Isaac Netto

Duration: 10 min

The relationship between best friends Cassie and Nadia is tested when Nadia gets pregnant. Cassie promises to be there for Nadia, but she has a secret of her own to hide as well...

FORGET TO REMEMBER

by Nicole Aezabelle Lee

Duration: 14 min

Wei Yang is a 9 year old boy who does not seem to relate to the world around him. He often makes pranks calls to people he knows but has never spoken to, among them, the bus uncle Mr Ng.

Singapore Shorts Non-Finalists 6

19 april / 107 min

NOT HERE

by Carol Ho, Teo Mei Ann

Duration: 14 min

A man and woman escape from their mundane workplace in Singapore for a day in search of physical intimacy with each other. They visit various public places where they try to have sex, trying to make sense of their situation.

WHERE IS MY CHINESE?

by Fu Shiqi

Duration: 8 min

Yixian is what Madam Khoo calls a "banana", yellow-skinned but white inside. Have the young Chinese lost the Chinese language living in this global society?

DREAMBOX

by Jacintha Charles

Duration: 7 min

A complacent and unconfident woman, Amanda realizes that she has to take a leap of faith when her two co-workers move on with their lives.

HELLO, GOODBYE

by Benjamin Kenzi Tanaka

Duration: 12 min

A poignant story about a man who, in his mid-life crisis, finds consolation from a presence from his past.

FROM THE BELLY OF KERALA

by Sabrina Nazimudeen

Duration: 5 min

The comedic struggles of a Keralite girl becoming a bellydancer.

ONE ROOM FLAT

by Zhang Jia Hao

Duration: 14 min

This film shows how a minority group survives in a small enclosed area they call home. They battle loneliness as they watch the world around them change.

A BRIGHT, BRIGHT AFTERNOON

by Tan Shijie

Duration: 5 min

Brought to a picnic by his grown son and young family, an elderly man takes to the woods. The walk takes longer than expected, and his son has to journey into the woods after him.

LAPSE

by Ho Chang Yong Edwin

Duration: 9 min

The film captures the internal turmoil of a young man as he struggles with conflicting feelings of longing for his late father and guilt for causing his death.

TABULA RASA: THE BLANK SLATE

by Welven Tan

Duration: 20 min

When teenager Jake Tan returns home after a camp, he is threatened by an anonymous person to accomplish a series of risky tasks. Will he complete the tasks in time?

LOVE, YOUR SON

by Soh Zhi Yun Natalie

Duration: 13 min

A young Thai goes to Singapore to find work to provide for his sick mother back home. In a hopeless bid for a job, he takes a wrong turn.

Singapore Shorts Non-Finalists 7

19 april / 104 min

PROSPEROVILLE: THE BEGINNINGS

by Rick Chan

Duration: 12 min

Explaining how miracles could happen even during the lowest point in a person's life, the film explores the importance of soul searching. Many of us have dreams but do we get out of our comfort zone?

INTO THE PLAIN ROBES

by Chua Tian Ann

Duration: 10 min

This documentary follows a novice monk who has recently dedicated himself to the teachings of Theravada Buddhism in Singapore. Through his eyes, we see the complex difficulties he faces before donning the robes.

FORGET ME NOT

by Ajay Zadhwa

Duration: 11 min

Have you ever wondered how far can a friend travel to meet his best friend? What were the boundaries? What about sacrifice?

SAKKARANGAL / WHEELS

by Don Aravind Rajah

Duration: 15 min

"Sakkarangal" highlights the friendship between an Indian boy and an elderly Chinese female. An old bicycle acts as the medium to their unique bond which blossoms beyond race and age.

NO JOKE BURMA

by Li-Anne Huang

Duration: 12 min

The Moustache Brothers, Burmese comedians, were imprisoned for telling jokes and live under house arrest today. They continue to defy the government by performing their shows. Will they finally be free or will their jokes lead to their demise?

UNCONCEALMENT OF THE AFTERMATHS

by Toh Hun Ping

Duration: 11 min

An expressionistic attempt to come to terms with self-doubt, confusion and uncertainty. Laden with pointless wanderings and hopeless purging of the middens of the normalizing society. Will it ever overturn?

VIDEOTAPE

by Indriana Zainal Abidin

Duration: 15 min

Bryan suffers from a chronic psychotic disorder. While undergoing treatment, he comes across Michael, his lethal alter ego, who takes him on a supposed joyride in the "amusement park of hell".

LOVE.HOPE / AI XI WANG

by Yeo Sze Liang Jimmy

Duration: 18 min

Impervious to violence, gossip from neighbours, repeated expulsion from school, an ordinary mother has an extraordinary life, because she has an extraordinary child.

2nd SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL JURIES

JURY SINGAPORE FILM AWARDS

Ong Keng Sen

Artistic Director, Theatreworks



Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen is an active contributor to the evolution of an Asian identity and aesthetic for contemporary performance in the 21st century. He studied intercultural performance with the Performance Studies Department at Tisch Schools of the Arts, NYU, and holds a law degree. In 1994, Keng Sen conceptualised The Flying Circus Project, a laboratory project that brings together traditional and

contemporary Asian artists from all disciplines. He also initiated a new network for Asian artists to encourage inter-Asian engagement, known as the Arts Network Asia (ANA). A Fulbright Scholar, Keng Sen is also the first Singapore artist to have received both the Young Artist Award (1992) and the Cultural Medallion Award (2003) for Singapore

Russel Wong

Actor



A charismatic and talented performer, Russell Wong is one of Hollywood's leading Asian American actors. Wong made his theatrical debut in the United States in the feature film adaptation of James Clavell's *Tai-pan*. He went on to star in Wayne Wang's *Eat a Bowl of Tea* and the critically acclaimed film *The Joy Luck Club*. In 1994 Wong was honored

with two awards, The Image Award by the Organization of Chinese Americans and the Media Action Network for Asian Americans Media Achievement award both for his outstanding work in the entertainment industry as well as being an exceptional role model for Asian Americans. In 1997 the Asian American Arts Foundation along with John Woo, Terrance Chang and Tia Carrere honored him in San Francisco. Recently he is costarring in the latest installment of the hit franchise *Mummy 3: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. In 2008, he starred in the independent film *Dim Sum Funeral* with Kelly Hu.

Kong Ritthdee

Film Critic/ Correspondent, The Bangkok Post



Kong Ritthdee, film festival explorer and English-language film critic, is a vital character in the Thai film scene and well-respected in the Southeast Asian region for his views in cinema. Kong writes about movies and popular culture in the Bangkok Post real time section, believing that "movies that go un-reviewed are like a life that goes

unexamined". In 2008, he co-directed the documentary, *The Convert* which has screened at the Vancouver and Pusan International Film Festival.

MAIN JURY ASIAN FILM & SINGAPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Ananda Everingham

Actor



One of the fastest rising actors in Thailand, Everingham acted in his first film at the age of 14 and has since appeared in a steady stream of Thai movies and television including the Asian box-office hit, *Shutter*, Pen-ek Ratanarung's *Ploy*, *The Leap Years*, *Pleasure Factory* and most recently, *Queen of Lankasuka* directed by Nonzee Numbutr.

Cheek Cheah

Filmmaker/ Executive Vice President, Chinese Language Programming, STAR Chinese Channels



No stranger to the Singapore filmmaking industry, Cheek wrote and directed the romantic comedy *Chicken Rice War*, winner of the Volkswagen Discovery Award at the 2001 Toronto International Film Festival. He went on to develop and direct several film and TV projects including *Stories about Love*. Two of his earlier short films, *Married and Beansprouts* and *Salted Fish*, took the

Best Short Film Awards and Special Achievement Award (*Beansprouts*) at the Singapore International Film Festival. He was also awarded the National Arts Council Young Artist Award for Film.

Besides filmmaking, Cheek is also a television executive and was the Senior Vice President of Creative + Content and Creative Director at MTV Japan. He is currently Executive VP at STAR TV, overseeing all the Chinese Language channels including Star Chinese Movies and Channel [V] et al.

Zhang Yuan

Filmmaker



A pioneer of China's Sixth Generation of filmmakers, Zhang Yuan is one of today's foremost contemporary filmmakers with a critically acclaimed body of work that includes *Beijing Bastards* (Winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 1994 SIFF Silver Screen Awards), *East Palace, West Palace* (1996), *Seventeen Years* (Winner of Best Director at the 2000 SIFF Silver Screen Awards), and *Little Red Flowers* (2005).

NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) JURY.

Gulnara Abikeyeva

Artistic Director,
Eurasia International Film Festival



Kazakhstani cinema expert and cinema critic, Abikeyeva is also author of five books about cinematography of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Her book *Cinematography of Central Asia* received the Belyi Slon prize issued by the Guild of Cinema Experts and Cinema Critics of Russia in 2001. A Fulbright Scholar at Bowdoin College (USA) Gulnara has

taught courses in Kazakh and held lectures in Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Tufts University. Being a member of the FIPRESCI (International Federation of the Cinema Critics) and NETPAC, she has been on the jury of international film festivals such as Berlin, Jeonju and Oberhausen.

John Lui

Film critic



John Lui is film correspondent with The Straits Times. In his job, he reviews and writes articles about movies. In The Straits Times, he covers lifestyle and entertainment issues. He has been a journalist for over 15 years, in both newspapers, magazines and online.

Sun Shaoyi

Film scholar



Professor of Film and Media Studies at Shanghai University's School of Film & TV Art and Technology, Sun Shaoyi received his Ph.D. in Asian literature and film from the University of Southern California. He is the author of *Lights! Camera! Kai Shi!*

In-Depth Interviews with China's New Generation of Movie Directors (EastBridge, 2008), *The Imagined City: Literary, Filmic, and Visual Shanghai, 1927-1937* (Fudan University Press, 2009), and *Global Media Policies: New Perspectives* (co-editor, Shanghai Joint Press, 2005). Sun was the NETPAC juror of several festivals including the 2007 Brisbane International Film Festival and the 2008 Shanghai International Film Festival's International Student Shorts Award.

2nd

SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
SECTIONS

The Singapore Panorama section was first introduced in 2008 as a platform for new Singapore films. It is one of the most anticipated sections of the festival allowing new discoveries to be made while putting into context the developments of Singapore cinema.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SINGAPORE PANORAMA



In the wake of the Khmer Rouge's genocide, a nation and her people still struggle for closure and inner peace.

BROTHER NO. 2

Citibank's Choice
citibank

22 April

Country: Singapore, China

Year: 2009

Duration: 75 min

Director

Jason Lai

Producer

Eunice Lau

Screenplay

N.A

Cast

N.A



Director

Jason Lai

Almost two million Cambodians died between 1975 and 1979 under the cruel and bloody regime of the Khmer Rouge, leaving the country scarred and devastated. This documentary gives voice to some of the survivors from that period, such as Soy Sen, a man who returns to his prison camp almost thirty years later to confront one of the prison chiefs who he believes was responsible for the murder of his father. Soy Sen's encounter with the prison chief turns out to be both compelling and heartbreaking, a stark reminder that the process of reconciliation is a long and difficult one.

Two Singaporean models cross the causeway for a casting job and become closer than they could ever imagine.

20 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2009

Duration: 90 min

Director

Kan Lume

Producer

Kan Lume

Screenplay

Kan Lume

Cast

Evelyn Maria Ng,
Shen Qiaoyun, Dean Kuan

FEMALE GAMES



A pair of young and naive Singaporean models travel to Kuala Lumpur to meet a dubious casting agent, leaving behind a suspicious boyfriend and a lesbian lover respectively. Both girls begin as strangers, grow into allies, and launch into a fight after one of them decides to seduce the agent. Things veer horrifically out of hand when the agent attempts to rid himself of the models, forcing them to confront him with drastic consequences. Not unlike Thelma and Louise, the ladies run from the law and flee to Penang to save themselves. Soon they begin to fall for each other. The first

contemporary Singaporean film to boldly portray female homosexuality, *Female Games* is shot in a style that frames the experiences of the protagonists within the much larger world, emphasising how the lives of its characters are dwarfed and shaped by their societal environment, even as the girls eventually find the will to take control of their lives again. Severe naturalistic lighting, as well as the camera's coolly detached perspective, heighten the pair's increasing sense of helplessness and vulnerability, as they discover how an excursion over the causeway can turn out to be more than either of them had bargained for.

One of the most prolific of Singapore's new generation filmmakers, **Kan Lume's** debut feature *The Art of Flirting* was made for US\$150, used two non-actors, shot in two days and won Best ASEAN Feature at the Malaysian Video Awards 2005. Second feature *Solos* was the first Singaporean film to compete in AFI Los Angeles and picked up the Premio Nuovi Sguardi Award at Torino GLBT Film Festival. His third feature *Dreams from the Third World* won the MovieMax Award at Cinema Digital Seoul 2008.



Director

Kan Lume

A dreamlike film about ordinary Singaporeans struggling to find their joy.

19 & 20 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2008

Duration: 85 min

Director

Brian Gothong Tan

Producer

Gary Goh, Tan Fong Cheng,

James Toh

Screenplay

Brian Gothong Tan, Liam Yeo

Cast

Kimberly Chia, Kyle Chan,
Lim Poh Huat, Chee Chuan
Yang

INVISIBLE CHILDREN



Citibank's Choice
citibank

Two children go on the run after a traumatic accident at home and find themselves lost in a monsoon drain under the roads of Singapore. A shy, obsessive-compulsive neighbour reluctantly helps his neighbour, only to let his heart get in the way. An air stewardess on Merlion Air returns home to a life without love and hope. An uptight army officer finds himself sliding steadily into the crack between his private and his military life, while his estranged girlfriend laments her life

before a photocopying machine. Brian Gothong Tan's debut feature film is a polyphonic fusion of quiet realism and flights of fantasy that bring into focus the regrets and disappointments that Singaporeans swallow everyday. Featuring local theatre veterans Yeo Yann Yann and Karen Tan, as well as califare-legend, Lim Poh Huat, *Invisible Children* grapples with the familiar themes of urban loneliness and alienation popularly explored in such Singaporean films as Eric Khoo's *12 Storeys* and Royston Tan's *4:30*, and with a similar sense of grit and dreamlike reflection. But the movie also takes us occasionally into a realm between fantasy and fact, such that the characters might briefly extract themselves from the harsh reality of their predicament, with a hope of finding themselves and their potential for happiness.

Trained in Fine Arts, Multimedia and Animation at the California Institute of Arts under the NAC-Shell Arts scholarship, **Brian Gothong Tan** is a multimedia artist whose work has been showcased at the Singapore Biennale. He has worked with various theatre companies in Singapore, including The Necessary Stage and Theatreworks. His previous film project, *Pleasure Factory*, in which he was the Director of Photography and Chief Editor, was screened in the 2007 Cannes Film Festival under the Un Certain Regard section.



Director

Brian Gothong Tan

Final wishes and last regrets in the last three months before death.

23 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2009

Duration: 61 min

Director

Ang Aik Heng

Producer

Ang Aik Heng

Screenplay

Ang Aik Heng

Cast

N.A.



Director

Ang Aik Heng

THIS TOO SHALL PASS



Terminally ill with nose cancer, an elderly man prepares for his own passing, trying to settle his final affairs as best he can. In the meantime, his wife and children are also dealing with his imminent death in their own ways. Adopting a stoic and matter-of-fact approach, Mr Lee describes his body as a battleground and candidly speaks about his disease, his pain, and his hopes and fears. As his primary caregiver, his eldest daughter, Ellen Lee, helps to describe and place her family's problems and her father's condition in context, and the relationship between father and daughter is both heartwarming and poignant.

What do cockroaches have to do with the afterlife? Watch and listen as three Singaporeans discuss the meaningfulness of their lives.

20 April

Country: Singapore

Year: 2009

Duration: 95 min

Director

Lai Yuan Bin

Producer

Vel Ng

Screenplay

Lai Yuan Bin

Cast

Daniel Hui, Chris Yeo, Vel Ng,
Yeo Kwan Hua



Director

Looi Wan Ping

WHITE DAYS



Three young friends are possessed by a sense of restlessness that sounds uniquely Singaporean the more they reveal their hopes and dreams to one another. One of them suffers from depression and finds it hard to leave his flat, other than to leave flowers at a road or to perch on his window ledge. Another wants to move to Taiwan in order see a part of the world evoked by such

filmmakers as Tsai Ming Liang, whose movies about loneliness and urban isolation are a self-conscious influence on this black-and-white feature debut. In between cigarettes, the third friend keeps talking about God, Jerusalem and Judgment Day in a desperate attempt to discover a purpose, or at the least a hint of life's grand design. But all around them, the island state chugs on with indifference as they lapse inevitably into bemused silences at the end of every conversation. True happiness is elusive and nobody knows where to find it. This is a film about a hole in the heart that is sometimes filled by friendship, or the hope of a more meaningful future.

Looi Wan Ping has worked as a cinematographer and production designer for the short film, *Haze* (directed by Anthony Chen), as well as an art director for *Folks Jump Over The Wall*, a television series that premiered in Singapore in 2008.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SINGAPORE PANORAMA SHORTS

Singapore Panorama Shorts

1

74 min / 18 april



TANJONG RHU

Country: Singapore Year: 2008 Duration: 19 min
Director: Boo Junfeng Producer: Boo Junfeng Screenplay: Boo Junfeng

Tanjong Rhu is based on the notorious arrests of 12 gay men in a police entrapment exercise back in 1993. Recently selected for the 59th Berlin Film Festival.

MOSQUITOES- XIAO FU

Country: Singapore Year: 2009 Duration: 10 min
Director: Ang Soo Koon Producer: Ang Soo Koon Screenplay: Ang Soo Koon

Ang Soo Koon's signature artistry shines in this 10-minute gem.

LOVE LOST

Country: Singapore Year: 2009 Duration: 45 min
Director: Leonard Lai Producer: Leonard Lai Screenplay: Leonard Lai

Love Lost is the 1st of a planned trilogy of short films exploring 3 different stages of love – losing love, finding love and maintaining love.

Singapore Panorama Shorts

2

60 min / 18 april



DIRTY BITCH

Country: Singapore Year: 2009 Duration: 13 min
Director: Sun Koh Producer: Fran Borgia Screenplay: Sun Koh

Jen is going to college, but she has a major secret to hide. Inspired by a badly censored VHS of Claire Denis' *Nenette et Boni* found in a Singapore library. The short comes to SIFF fresh from the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

INFINITY

Country: Singapore Year: 2009 Duration: 15 min
Directors & Screenplay: Victric Thng, Green Zeng, June Chua, Yao Lee Nah, Gozde & Russel Zehnder, Lillian Wang, Meng Producer: Victric Thng

An ensemble of local directors explore the theme "infinity" in this experimental project that brings together some of Singapore's emerging filmmakers.

GARDEN GIRLS

Country: Singapore Year: 2009 Duration: 20 min
Director: Ric Aw Producer: Charmaine Seah Screenplay: Ric Aw

One day, a recently divorced photographer captures snapshots of 2 girls behaving intimately in a garden. He is caught the next day by one of them.



BLANK ROUNDS

Country: Singapore Year: 2009 Duration: 12 min
Director: Green Zeng Producer: June Chua Screenplay: Green Zeng

Blank Rounds explores the Singaporean ritual of National Service. Zeng's trademark direction lets the story seep through.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CINEMA TODAY

Films of today become tomorrow's classics. From drama to comedy to documentaries—presenting the realities of today in this scope of films by some of the most watched filmmakers.

A documentary-narrative about one man's obsession with his Volkswagen Beetle.

18 April

Country: Israel

Year: 2008

Duration: 70 min



Director
Yishai Orian

A devastating tale about an Inuit woman and her grandson as they survive the arctic cold after their community is consumed by disease.

18 April

Country: Canada

Year: 2008

Duration: 93 min



Director
Marie-Hélène Cousineau,
Madeline Ivalu

THE BEETLE / HACHIPUSHEET

Director: Yishai Orian **Producer:** Yishai Orian
Screenplay: Yishai Orian **Cast:** N.A.



The adoring Israeli owner of an old Volkswagen Beetle, **Yishai Orian**, is going to become a father. His mechanic says that the car will not last long, while his very pregnant wife complains that the small vehicle is unsuitable for a baby. Torn between the responsibility of fatherhood and an irrational passion for his sputtering car, Yishai embarks on a mission to track down the past owners of his VW Bug in order to understand the car's complex history. In doing so, viewers discover the car's origins in Nazi Germany, as well as

the lives of those who were touched and shaped by the dowdy vehicle. Orian crosses the Jordanian desert in a desperate attempt to salvage the car with the help of Arab hands, and to regain his wife's trust. This heartwarming documentary hints at the possibilities for a cross-border, Middle East reconciliation, and pays tribute to the romanticism of car enthusiasts.

BEFORE TOMORROW



Director: Marie-Hélène Cousineau, Madeline Ivalu **Producer:** Stéphane Rittuit
Screenplay: Marie-Hélène Cousineau, Madeline Ivalu, Susan Avingaq
Cast: Madeline Ivalu, Paul-Dylan Ivalu, Peter-Henry Arnassiq



Directed by **Marie-Hélène Cousineau** and **Madeline Ivalu** and adapted from a novel by acclaimed Danish writer Jørn Riel, *Before Tomorrow* is the heartbreaking drama of a brave but aging Inuit grandmother who demonstrates that human dignity is at the core of our very existence. Set in the 1840s in Canada's far north, the action unfolds at a time when few Inuit tribes had yet to encounter white people. Ninioq and

her grandson, Maniq, played by co-director Ivalu and her real-life grandson Paul-Dylan Ivalu respectively, leave camp with Ninioq's best friend, Kuutujuuk, to dry fish on a remote island. When a strange illness attacks the camp, a consequence of some of the tribesmen coming in contact with the whites, everyone dies. Kuutujuuk passes away too, leaving Ninioq and her grandson alone to face the ultimate challenge of survival on an isolated Arctic tundra, with only their love for each other to keep them alive.

An intimate portrayal of a young boy's tragic struggle with bipolar disorder.

19 & 25 April

Country: USA

Year: 2008

Duration: 92min



Director

Dana Perry

Malaysian auteur James Lee's latest is a gangster flick low in crime, heavy in mystery.

17 & 25 April

Country: Malaysia

Year: 2009

Duration: 120 min



Director

James Lee

Cesar and dim-witted George are best friends who manage to survive in the throes of poverty in this offbeat comedy

15 April

Country: Philippines

Year: 2008

Duration: 60 min



Director

Roxlee

BOY INTERRUPTED

Director: Dana Perry Producer: Dana Perry Screenplay: N.A

Cast: N.A



From age five, Evan Perry was already obsessed with death and constantly talked about suicide. His concerned parents immediately referred him to a psychiatrist, who diagnosed Evan with bipolar disorder. Despite medical and psychiatric intervention, Evan's young life eventually ended tragically. Using interviews with friends and family members, home videos, and Evan's own writings, this documentary pieces together a portrait and a memorial of a precocious and intensely sensitive young boy.

Dana Perry has been making films and documentaries for more than fifteen years. She produced and directed the documentary series *And You Don't Stop: 30 Years of Hip-Hop* (2004) and the documentary film *Making a Noise: A Native American Musical Journey* with Robbie Robertson (1998). She most recently produced the television series *Sex: The Revolution* (2008). Perry lives with her family in New York City.

CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME

Director: James Lee Producer: Da Huang Pictures Screenplay: James Lee Cast: Sunny Pang



Or Kia, played by Singaporean indie actor Sunny Pang, (Perth, Lucky7) arrives in the city to join his cousin, Ah Soon and his bunch of multilingual roughnecks in the debt-collecting business. He's polite enough to bring gifts from home for his benefactor. With his easy-going nature, sense of humour and silky dancing, he fits in immediately. But like Ah Ping, Ah Soon's muse, he too can be gloomy and uncommunicative. And when he rises up the ranks, he is forced to make some very difficult

decisions. The film is *Taxi Driver* in its mood, *The Godfather* in its approach to relationships and *Reservoir Dogs* in its style of dialogue but altogether, it's uniquely **James Lee**. A pioneer of the Malaysian Independent Film movement, Lee is no stranger to the festival. Here, he retains his fondness for moody characters with secrets, his devotion to authentic Malaysian dialogue and his insistence that the audience be more than passive.

CESAR ASAR

Director: Roxlee Producer: Roxlee, Mon Lee Screenplay: Mon Lee Cast: Caudilla, Fourth Lee, Mon Lee



George Boy was born late, hence he is slow in the head. Because he is the only student left in his class after no one can afford to go to school, he is named valedictorian. His uncle, who bullies him into singing a song about Kangkong in an "International Language" (ie. English), is striving to be an attorney. Cesar Asar is George's best friend whose parents are

working as illegal immigrants in the States. Cesar cracks jokes about how supermarkets vendors' hands get swollen from changing the price tags on food products due to continual inflation, while George Boy soon disappears illegally to Saudi to find work and help his uncle. This surreal and self-mocking film pokes cruel fun at an aspect of the Philippines that has failed to rise above its poverty.

14 April

— SINCERELY YOURS (Opening Film)

15 April

— WORLDS APART
— CESAR ASAR
— LET'S FALL IN LOVE
— MY ONLY SUNSHINE
— SINGAPORE SHORT FILM
— COMPETITION - FINALISTS

16 April

— DISH, THE
— CONVERT, THE / NISAA
— EXTRAORDINARY STUDY OF
— HUMAN DEGRADATION, AN
— JAY
— RAIN OF THE CHILDREN

17 April

— BERLIN SONG
— CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME
— MOMENT IN JUNE, A
— WELTSTADT
— BIRDSONG
— STORY OF MR SORRY

18 April

— DAYTIME DRINKING
— GIRL INSIDE
— SINGAPORE SHORT FILM
— COMPETITION - FINALISTS
— 18 GRAMS OF LOVE
— DEAN SPANLEY
— YURI'S DAY
— SINGAPORE PANORAMA SHORTS 1
— LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT
— 12 LOTUS
— CLASS, THE
— ONE DAY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND
— SHAHIDA
— BEFORE TOMORROW
— LEAP YEARS, THE
— BEETLE, THE
— ANVIL
— CONVERT, THE / NISAA
— INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 1
— LUCKY 7
— PROMISED LAND
— BLACK BALLOON, THE
— GULABI TALKIES
— MONTH OF HUNGRY GHOSTS, A
— THOR AT THE BUS STOP

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL BOOKING FORM

Film Festival tickets are available through SISTIC
www.sistic.com.sg or via links at www.filmfest.org.sg

19 April

— DISENGAGEMENT
— FLAME & CITRON
— BOY
— LET'S FALL IN LOVE
— INVISIBLE CHILDREN
— LAILA'S BIRTHDAY
— BOAT HOUSE, THE
— MID-AUGUST LUNCH
— DAYS, THE
— DADA'S DANCE
— KING OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT, THE
— SINGAPORE PANORAMA SHORTS 2
— BOY INTERRUPTED
— RULE #1
— EVERY NIGHT LONELINESS
— WENDY & LUCY
— BASTARDY
— INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 2
— HASHI
— BREATHLESS
— FREE ZONE
— ROUTINE HOLIDAY

20 April

— BIG ROAD, A
— FEMALE GAMES
— DIAMOND FINGER/
— THE SIGNATURE:
— LIFE AND WORK OF R.D. PESTONJI
— INVISIBLE CHILDREN
— JALAINUR
— RAINBOW TROOPS
— WHITE DAYS

21 April

— XIAO SHU'S GOING HOME
— BILL'S MOUNTAIN
— MEN'S GROUP
— SELL OUT!
— SUGAR IS NOT SWEET

22 April

— FISH EYES
— BROTHER NO. 2
— PUNKSTERS & YOUNGSTERS
— BLIND PIG WHO WANTS TO FLY
— SON OF THE NORTH-EAST

23 April

— DIM SUM FUNERAL
— THIS TOO SHALL PASS
— LOVE POTPOURRI
— DISGRACE
— LONELY TUNES OF TEHRAN

24 April

— WENDY & LUCY
— BOY
— GEMS FROM THE THAI FILM ARCHIVE
— KIPPUR
— MOMENT IN JUNE, A

25 April

— HOW TO BE
— US\$9.99
— BOY INTERRUPTED
— STILL WALKING
— HELEN
— CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME
— ONE MAN IN THE BAND
— FIREFLIES IN THE GARDEN
— SEX IS NO LAUGHING MATTER
— SINGAPORE SHORT FILM
— COMPETITION - FINALISTS
— WACKNESS, THE
— MILK (Closing Film)

Total
number
of tickets

2nd SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FILM SCHEDULE

	Shaw Cinemas, Lido 1	Shaw Cinemas, Lido 3	National Museum of Singapore, Cinematheque	The Substation, Guinness Theatre
14 April, Tues	9.15pm SINCERELY YOURS (96 min)			
15 April, Wed	7.15pm		WORLDS APART (108 min)	CESAR ASAR (60 min)
	9.15pm		MY ONLY SUNSHINE (121 min)	
16 April, Thur	7.15pm		DISH, THE (101min)	CONVERT, THE (83 min)/ NISAA (10 min)
	9.15pm		JAY (96 min)	
17 April, Fri	7.15pm		BERLIN SONG (83 min)	CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME (120 min)
	8.00pm		KALLANG ROAR (68 min) Free Outdoor Screening under the Banyan Tree	
	9.15pm		WELTSTADT (104 min)	
	11.30pm		STORY OF MR SORRY (84 min)	
18 April, Sat	11.30am	DAYTIME DRINKING (116 min)	GIRL INSIDE (107 min)	IN CONVERSATION WITH AMIR MUHAMMAD (115 min)
	2.00pm	DEAN SPANLEY (100 min)	YURI'S DAY (137 min)	SPORE PANORAMA SHORTS 1 (74 min)
	4.30pm	KLASS (97 min)	ONE DAY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND (88 min)	SHAHIDA (75 min)
	7.15pm	BEE-TLE, THE (70 min)	ANVIL (80 min)	CONVERT, THE (83 min)/ NISAA (10 min)
	8.00pm		MONEY NO ENOUGH 2 (125 min) Free Outdoor Screening under the Banyan Tree	
	9.15pm	PROMISED LAND (90 min)	BLACK BALLOON, THE (97 min)	
	11.30pm		THOR AT THE BUS STOP (100 min)	
19 April, Sun	11.30pm	DISENGAGEMENT (115 min)	FLAME & CITRON (135 min)	BOY (80 min)
	2.00pm	LAILA'S BIRTHDAY (71 min)	BOAT HOUSE, THE (125 min)	IN CONVERSATION WITH AMOS GITAI (Free Admission)
	4.30pm	DADA'S DANCE (92 min)	KING OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT, THE (100 min)	SPORE PANORAMA SHORTS 2 (60 min)
	7.15pm	EVERY NIGHT LONELINESS (90 min)	WENDY & LUCY (80 min)	BASTARDY (83 min)
	9.15pm	BREATHLESS (130 min)	FREE ZONE (90 min)	
20 April, Mon	7.15pm		BIG ROAD, A (88 min)	FEMALE GAMES (90 min)
	9.15pm		JALANUR (92 min)	
21 April, Tues	7.15pm		XIAO SHU'S GOING HOME (102 min)	BILL'S MOUNTAIN (72 min)
	9.15pm		SELL OUT! (110 min)	
22 April, Wed	7.15pm		FISH EYES (75 min)	BROTHER NO. 2 (75 min)
	9.15pm		BLIND PIG WHO WANTS TO FLY (77 min)	
23 April, Thur	7.15pm		CHIM SUM FUNERAL (94 min)	THIS TOO SHALL PASS (60 min)
	9.15pm		DISGRACE (114 min)	
24 April, Fri	7.15pm		WENDY & LUCY (80 min)	BOY (80 min)
	9.15pm		KIPPUR (120 min)	
25 April, Sat	11.30am	HOW TO BE (84 min)	\$3.99 (78 min)	IN CONVERSATION WITH SILVER SCREEN JURY (Free Admission)
	2.00pm	STILL WALKING (114 min)	HELEN (79 min)	CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME (120 min)
	4.30pm	FIREFLIES IN THE GARDEN (120 min)	SEX IS NO LAUGHING MATTER (137 min)	
	7.15pm	WACKNESS, THE (98 min)		
	9.15pm	MILK (102 min)		

The Arts House,
Screening Room

Goethe-
Institut

Singapore
Art Museum,
Audi Cathedral

Sinema
Old
School

LET'S FALL IN LOVE (90 min)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION -FINALISTS (114 min)

EXTRAORDINARY STUDY OF
HUMAN DEGRADATION , AN (83 min)

RAIN OF THE CHILDREN (101 min)

MOMENT IN JUNE, A (106 MIN)

BIRDSONG (98 min)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
-FINALISTS (114 min)

LETTERS TO THE
PRESIDENT (74 min)

MELANCHOLIA (450
min) (Free Admission)

BEFORE TOMORROW
(93 min)

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 1 (84 min)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
- NON-FINALISTS 1 (96 min) (Free Admission)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
- NON-FINALISTS 2 (124 min) (Free Admission)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
- NON-FINALISTS 3 (117 min) (Free Admission)

18 GRAMS OF LOVE (85 min)
(Free Admission)

12 LOTUS (121 min)

LEAP YEARS, THE (103 min)

LUCKY7 (82 min)

GULABI TALKIES (122 min)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
- NON-FINALISTS 4 (111 min) (Free Admission)

MONTH OF HUNGRY GHOSTS, A
(99 min)

LET'S FALL IN LOVE (90 min)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
- NON-FINALISTS 5 (111 min) (Free Admission)

INVISIBLE CHILDREN (85 min)

MID-AUGUST LUNCH
(75 min)

AGRARIAN UTOPIA (120
min) (Free Admission)

BOY INTERRUPTED (92 min)

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 2
(81 min)

ROUTINE HOLIDAY (81 min)

DIAMOND FINGER / THE SIGNATURE: LIFE AND WORK OF
R.D PESTONJI (76 min)

RAINBOW TROOPS (125 min)

MEN'S GROUP (104 min)

SUGAR IS NOT SWEET (135 min)

PUNKSTERS & YOUNGSTERS (90 min)

SON OF THE NORTH-EAST (119 min)

LOVE POTPOURRI (97 min)

LONELY TUNES OF TEHRAN (75 min)

GEMS FROM THE THAI FILM ARCHIVE (65 min)

MOMENT IN JUNE, A (106 min)

BOY INTERRUPTED (92 min)

ONE MAN IN THE BAND (83 min)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION -FINALISTS (114 min)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
- NON-FINALISTS 6 (110 min) (Free Admission)

SPORE SHORT FILM COMPETITION
- NON-FINALISTS 7 (123 min) (Free Admission)

DAYS, THE (95 min)

RULE #1 (93 min)

HASHI (113 min)

INVISIBLE CHILDREN (85 min)

WHITE DAYS (102 min)

TICKETING

Opening Film	\$30.00 *
Closing Film	\$20.00
All other films	\$9.50

All the prices are inclusive of GST but exclusive of SISTIC fee

* Patrons with purchased tickets only are able to present the Opening Film ticket at the door for a complimentary copy of the limited edition collectable book, My Creative Room. 1 book per ticket holder, on a first-come-first-served basis.

HANDLING FEE

For purchases made via Internet or Hotline, and pickup from :

SISTIC Authorised Agents :
+ \$0.20 per transaction

Pickup from Show Venue :
+ \$1.00 per transaction

By courier : + \$15.00

By registered mail : + \$3.00

SISTIC fee

+ \$1 for ticket prices \$20 and below

+ \$3 for ticket prices above \$20

DATE OF SALE

From March 14 onwards

Special early bird sale from March 1 onwards exclusively to Citigold clients and Citibank Credit Cardmembers only and from March 7 for NTUC members.

RATING ADVISORY

Please check film ratings before purchase of tickets. For films with no ratings at the date of print, please check updates online before purchasing tickets.

Ratings:

G General

PG Parental Guidance

NC16 No Children

M18 Mature (18 years and above)

R21 Restricted 21 (21 years and above)

EXCHANGE POLICY

All tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Refunds will only be made for cancelled and rescheduled films, and only through the Festival Secretariat.

The film schedule is correct at time of print. Films may be cancelled or replaced due to unforeseen circumstances.

HOW TO BOOK

SISTIC hotline: 6348 5555
(for Singapore only)

www.filmfest.org.sg or
www.sistic.com.sg

SISTIC Authorised Agents:

Alliance Francaise de Singapour, Bishan Junction 8, DBS Arts Centre, Home of Singapore Repertory Theatre, Lot 1 Shoppers' Mall, Millenia Walk, Bugis Junction, Parkway Parade, POP @ Central (Popular Bookstore), Raffles City Shopping Centre, Singapore Conference Hall, Tampines Mall, Victoria Concert Hall, Wisma Atria, Singapore Indoor Stadium, Esplanade Box Office, Tiong Bahru Plaza, Novena Square Shopping Mall, Plaza Singapura, Jurong Point Shopping Centre, IMM Building, Hougang Mall, Vivocity, Anchorpoint, The Centrepoint

DISCOUNTS

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

Available exclusively to Citigold clients and Citibank Cardmembers only:



- \$2 off each festival ticket* for Citigold clients and Citibank Ultima credit cardmembers



- \$1.20 off each festival ticket* for Citibank credit and debit cardmembers. (SISTIC internet transactions apply for credit card only)

*Promotion is valid for all festival films. All payments must be made with Citibank cards. Online payments to be made with Citibank credit cards only.

\$1 discount per ticket purchase:

- NTUC members
- Friends of The Substation
- Singapore Film Society member
- Objectifs Centre for Photography & Filmmaking student card

The above cannot be used with any other discounts.

GROUP TICKET DISCOUNT

* Purchase 20 tickets and above for any film in a single receipt to enjoy 15% discount

The above cannot be used with any other discounts.

FESTIVAL TIE-UPS

Café Momentum

(Located next to The Substation)
51 Armenian Street. Tel: 6388 1518

10% off total bill in a single receipt when you show your ticket stub during the festival period.

Food #03

109, Rowell Road. Tel: 6396 7980

10% off total bill in a single receipt when you show your ticket stub during the festival period.

Overeasy

1 Fullerton Road. #01-06, One Fullerton.
Tel: 6423 0701

10% off total bill in a single receipt when you show your ticket stub during the festival period.

Shaw Cinemas

Present your SIFF ticket and \$1 off any Combo Set Purchase at SHAW MOVIEBITES!

Present ticket stub for any 22nd SIFF film at Shaw MovieBites outlets at Lido, Bugis, Balestier and CCK Lot One to enjoy \$1 off any Combo Set Purchase.

- Promotion valid from 14th April 2009 to 25th April 2009
- Promotion not valid with other privilege cards, promotions or vouchers.
- Valid for purchase of 1 discounted Combo Set only with each ticket stub presented.

*A portion of the presented ticket stub will be retained by Shaw MovieBites after transaction.

VENUES

LIDO 1 & 3

350 Orchard Road
Level 5, Shaw House
Nearest MRT Station: Orchard

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

Gallery Theatre
93 Stamford Road
Nearest MRT Station: Dhoby Ghaut / City Hall
www.nationalmuseum.sg

THE ARTS HOUSE

The Screening Room
1 Old Parliament Lane
Nearest MRT Station: Raffles Place / City Hall
www.thearts-house.com.sg

THE SUBSTATION

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

SINEMA

Old School
118 Mount Sophia, B1-12
Nearest MRT Station: Dhoby Ghaut
www.sinema.sg/oldschool/

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT

163 Penang Road
#05-01, Winsland House II
Nearest MRT Station: Somerset

SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM

Audi Cathedral
71 Bras Basah Road
Nearest MRT Station: Dhoby Ghaut / City Hall
www.singart.com/

One woman decides to convert when she falls in love with a Muslim man from South Thailand.

16 & 18 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 2008

Duration: 83 mins



Director

Panu Aree, Kaweenipon Ketprasit and Kong Rithdee

THE CONVERT

Director: Panu Aree, Kaweenipon Ketprasit and Kong Rithdee Producer: Chalida Uabumrungjit, Panu Aree

Screenplay: Panu Aree, Kaweenipon Ketprasit and Kong Rithdee

Cast: Thanwadee "June" Hemera, Akasit "Ake" Hemera



Like most Thais, June is Buddhist. She runs a small second-hand clothes shop and works for a magazine in Bangkok. Everything changes when she decides to marry Ake, a devout Muslim man from the southern province of Satul after visiting his hometown for a few days. June turns Muslim, quits her job, leaves her family, and the couple moves to south Thailand to embark on a new life where she diligently learns to pray, fast, follow the Prophet's teachings, and above all, believe in a singular God. This is an intimate

feature documentary about a young woman's courageous transition from one faith to another, from the metropolis of Bangkok to the Islamic South, from the old life of certainty to a new one that is not entirely without disappointment.

Pioneering Sixth Generation director Zhang creates a low-key love story about the difficult search for identity and belonging

19 April

Country: China

Year: 2008

Duration: 92 mins



Director

Zhang Yuan

DADA'S DANCE

Director: Zhang Yuan Producer: Zhang Yuan, Dong Ping, Chen Wen

Screenplay: Jia Lisha, Li Xiaofeng, Li Xinyun Cast: Li Xinyun, Li Xiaofeng, Gai Ge



A beautiful young woman, Dada (Li Xinyun), lives a desultory life in an old neighbourhood in a nameless Chinese city. Two men can't stop gazing at her, Zhao Ye (Li Xiaofeng) a young guy from the neighbourhood whom she is attracted to, and her mother's new boyfriend. A combination of boredom, frustration and anger

lead her to hit the road (by train) with Zhao Ye on a quest to find her biological mother, but what exactly is Dada searching for? Beautifully shot and with an eclectic score by Italian composer Andrea Guerra, the film continues Zhang Yuan's recent series of emotionally intimate dramas, and although both leads (who also contributed to the script) are excellent, Li Xinyun is clearly a star in the making

A funny road trip movie of remote places, peculiar people and massive amounts of alcohol

18 April

Country: Korea

Year: 2008

Duration: 116 min



Director

Noh Young-seok

DAYTIME DRINKING / NATSUL

Director: Noh Young-seok Producer: Noh Young-seok Screenplay: Noh Young-seok

Cast: Song Sam-dong, Yuk Sang-yeop, Kim Kang-hee



Pressured by his all mouth and no trousers college friends, Hyeok-jin ends up alone on a road trip when the rest are too drunk to turn up. Nursing a broken heart from an earlier break-up, he is desperate to go home but a weird chain of events conspire to keep him on a downward spiral in misadventure. His inability to say no to a drink exposes him to further ruin. Touching

on themes such as the helter-skelter nature of traveling, the codes and rituals of Korean binge-drinking and the triumph of unyielding country-folks over cultured urbanites, Noh's debut work is flushed with inventiveness and plenty of heart. Shot on a minuscule \$10,000 budget, Noh produced, wrote, directed, edited, scored the music and designed the sets. Won the JJ-Star Award and the Audience Critics' Award at the Jeonju International Film Festival.

A surreal period comedic tale of canine reincarnation exploring the relationships between father and son and master and dog.

18 April

Country: New Zealand & UK

Year: 2008

Duration: 100 min



Director

Toa Fraser

A warm, humane comedy-drama that brings together second-generation Chinese-Americans at their mother's funeral.

23 April

Country: Canada

Year: 2008

Duration: 95 mins



Director

Anna Chi

A family tragedy forces a father and his son to re-evaluate the meaning of parenthood.

25 April

Country: United States

Year: 2008

Duration: 98 min



Director

Dennis Lee

DEAN SPANLEY

Citibank's Choice
citibank

Director: Toa Fraser Producer: Alan Harris, Mathew Metcalfe

Screenplay: Alan Sharp Cast: Jeremy Northam, Sam Neill, Peter O'Toole

Featuring a career-capping performance by Peter O'Toole and a magical mélange of fine wine, canines and eccentric behaviour, *Dean Spanley* is a rare pleasure. In the very early 1900's, Fisk Junior lives beholden to a difficult Fisk Senior. One day, trying to entertain his father, Fisk Junior brings him to a lecture by a visiting swami, about the transmigration of souls, and then, and later the same day, the son sees the new local clergyman, Dean Spanley. He arranges for an introduction, and is intrigued by the Dean's oddly open-minded views on reincarnation, and, getting beyond the appearance of an affable, rather bland clergyman, by his weakness for certain peculiar sensations, produced by Hungarian Imperial Tokay wine, which leads him into a dreamlike state. Working with his clever friend Wrath, the young Fisk secures a large batch of fine Tokay, and the two entertain the Dean, who acts ever more strangely, starting to reveal memories of his previous life – as a dog. These memories are acute and convincing, including the rich feelings around food and communication with other canines, a deep distaste for cats and pigs, and the joy of serving his master. As the story unfolds, Fisk Junior comes to understand his father's background better, and the two draw closer. Based on the book by Lord Dunsany and adapted for the screen by Alan Sharp, the film transports us to Edwardian England, with its elegant rooms, lavish costumes and surprising tolerance for the outlandish.

DIM SUM FUNERAL

Citibank's Choice
citibank

Director: Anna Chi Producer: Jeffery Lando Screenplay: Donald Martin

Cast: Russel Wong, Bai Ling, Steph Song, Lisa Lu



When the matriarch of a Chinese-American family, known to her grown-up children as 'The Dragon Lady' is pronounced dead, the estranged siblings gather at her Seattle home to be told that they have to go proceed with traditional funeral rites. This highly Americanised clan reluctantly accept the task, and over the following week, we come to know them and their problems, as they in turn begin to communicate with each other. Bai Ling plays the lesbian lover of actress Steph Song, a couple who want to have a child together; while her older sister (Julia Nickson) harbours a tragic sadness, and their brother (Russell Wong) is a successful surgeon with a collapsing marriage. The family who bicker and bond at a parent's funeral is a familiar scenario, but this film gives it a distinctly fresh, ABC take.

FIREFLIES IN THE GARDEN

Citibank's Choice
citibank

Director: Dennis Lee Producer: Sukee Chew, Vanessa Coifman, Marco Weber

Screenplay: Dennis Lee Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Willem Dafoe, Julia Roberts, Emily Watson



Growing up, Michael Taylor could never connect with his domineering father, who criticised him constantly and punished him severely for every misdeed. A family tragedy, however, compels the adult Michael back into his father's presence, an experience that forces him to confront old memories and family secrets. Torn between anger and hope, Michael struggles to understand his relationship with his father, and how things may have changed.

Two Danes will do whatever it takes to protect their motherland against the Nazis.

19 April

Country: Denmark, Germany

Year: 2008

Duration: 130 min



Director

Ole Christian Madsen

FLAME & CITRON/FLAMMEN & CITRONEN

Director: Ole Christian Madsen Producer: Lars Brabø Rahbek Screenplay:

Cast: Thure Lindhardt, Mads Mikkelsen, Stine Stengade



Shot in Germany, Copenhagen and Prague, the film is based on actual events and eye-witness accounts of two resistance fighters in the Holger Danske resistance group during World War II, Bent Faurschou-Hviid and Jørgen Haagen-Schmidt, who fought against impossible odds to hunt down Nazis and the people who had betrayed their motherland. Filled with larger-than-life villains, Ole

Christian Madsen's film strides the line between assassin movie and WWII period drama, as it celebrates the explosive lives of Bent and Jørgen, code names Flame and Citron. Influenced also by noir, the film features a femme fatale and double-agent whom Bent is not sure he can trust. The director is a follower of Dogme 95, the famous minimalist filmmaking movement began by fellow Danes Thomas Vinterberg and Lars von Trier, and this movie shot to the top of the Danish box office in 2008.

A triumphant lead performance anchors this richly ambitious and entertaining masterpiece.

18 April

Country: India

Year: 2008

Duration: 124 min



Director

Girish Kasaravalli

GULABI TALKIES

Director: Girish Kasaravalli Producer: Anrita Patil, Basant Kumar Patil Screenplay: Girish Kasaravalli

Cast: Umashree, K.G. Krishna Murthy, M.D. Palavai, Ashok Sandeep, Master Praveera



Gulabi is too busy watching movies and delivering babies to be miserable over the husband who abandoned her and the village folks who mistrust her. When she is gifted the village's only satellite television, she is suddenly popular. But television brings along news of war which stokes communal tension in a village where Gulabi is an outsider. When you take the daring, defiant women of the post-modernist writer Vaidehi and blend it with the soulful,

sensitive film-making of Girish Kasaravalli, you know you are in for a treat. *Gulabi Talkies* is a thought provoking, masterfully executed and socially responsible film on the effects of mass media on a rural community. Widely acclaimed director Girish Kasaravalli has been making films for 30 years. His first film at age 27 astonished Satyajit Ray for its profound maturity.

British comedy about a frustrated musician who turns to a self-help coach to thaw the frozen grief of his dysfunctional past.

25 April

Country: UK

Year: 2008

Duration: 84 min



Director

Oliver Irving

HOW TO BE

Director: Oliver Irving Producer: Justin Kelly Screenplay: Oliver Irving

Cast: Robert Pattinson, Rebecca Pidgeon, Jeremy Hardy, Powell Jones



Art is young, middle class and quite depressed. He is going through a quarter life crisis just when his girlfriend dumps him and he has to move back to live with his uncommunicative parents - who are far from thrilled with the idea. His equally damaged friends, volunteer work and music are no help to his growing anxiety so he turns to psychology guru Dr. Levi Ellington whose mode of treatment is to move in with the patient and shadow his every move. Poignant

and occasionally dark, the film explores the increasingly common phenomena of grown-up children living at home, middle class depression and self-help. Robert Pattinson, who plays Art, is perhaps best known for his role as the benevolent and hunky vampire in *Twilight*. Won a Special Jury Honorable Mention at Slamdance.

Television reality and real-life blur in the making of a sensationalist documentary about an anti-gay sex-crime.

16 April

Country: Philippines

Year: 2008

Duration: 94 min



Director

Francis Xavier Pasion

A tautly driven and brutal account of teenage bullying and violence.

16 April

Country: Estonia

Year: 2007

Duration: 97 min



Director

Ilmar Raag

A fantastic documentary on love and marriage that startles with truth and sparkles with tenderness.

15 & 19 April

Country: Taiwan

Year: 2008

Duration: 90 min



Director

Wuna Wu

JAY

Director: Francis Xavier Pasion Producer: Francis Xavier Pasion, Ronald Mangubat

Screenplay: Francis Xavier Pasion Cast: Baron Geisler, Coco Martin, Flor Salanga



Jay, a gay schoolteacher, is stabbed in an apparent sex-crime. But this is not what this film is about. Even before his family hears about the death, another Jay, a conniving TV producer, moves inside the family house with his crew to document their reactions. This new Jay convinces the family to let them shoot the dead man's wake and funeral for a "reality show", even up till the moment when the murderer is found. The plan goes so well that even the grieving mother is willing to redo the scene when she first confronts her son's corpse.

Director **Francis Xavier Pasion** explodes the gap between onscreen reality and real-life in this debut feature, which critiques sensationalist journalism by revealing what is entailed in the making of a documentary. The truth is never quite what it seems. *Jay* took the Best Film and Best Actor prizes at the Cinemalaya Film Festival.

KLASS

Director: Ilmar Raag Producer: Ilmar Raag, Riina Sildos Screenplay: Ilmar Raag

Cast: Vallo Kirs, Pärt Uusberg, Lauri Pedaja, Paula Solvak



Introverted Joosep has been made an outcast in his high school class. He suffers abusive taunts and cruel pranks at the hands of the school bullies, led by a gang leader called Anders. The only person willing to help Joosep is Kaspar, who then becomes embroiled in Anders's increasingly violent torments. Driven by desperation after a particularly repulsive act, the pair come up with a frightening plan to exact revenge on their classmates.

Ilmar Raag was born in Kuressaare, Estonia in 1968 and has worked extensively as a journalist, a media executive, a screenwriter, and a director. He served as the CEO of Estonian National Television from 2002 to 2005 and wrote TV feature scripts, one of which (August 1991, 2005) was made for television. *Klass* is his first feature film.

LET'S FALL IN LOVE



Director: Wuna Wu Producer: Ging Lee Screenplay: N.A. Cast: N.A.



The subject is love, not the heartwarming, quixotic, groovy kind of love but one that is draggy, agonizing and messy. Indeed the unflattering, painful and downright awkward do not faze the brave married men and women interviewed in the film. They talk to one another and to the camera about their struggles and disappointments in the relationship, with great openness and vulnerability. Helping these couples build a life together is Consultant Chen, matchmaker extraordinaire and exceptional crusader of the human heart. She works her brand of magic with tireless passion, old-school wisdom and solid straight talk. Some documentary filmmakers keep their distance but director **Wuna Wu** shares her own painful past as transparently as she tells the stories of others. It must have been quite a wet editing room. Real, moving and timeless, this is recommended for everyone with a heart.

Bittersweet Iranian comedy about two lonely souls seeking love and normalcy in a vast and modern city.

23 April

Country: Iran, France

Year: 2008

Duration: 75 min



Director
Saman Salour

LONELY TUNES OF TEHRAN/ TARANEH TANHAÏYE TEHRAN

Director: Saman Salour **Producer:** Saman Salour **Screenplay:** Saman Salour

Cast: Behrouz Jalili, Hamid Habibifar, Mojtaba Bitarafan



Tehran with its looming towers, gigantic clocks and saccharine street names, seems all wrong for the oddball duo of Hamid and Behouz. The former lacks looks, the latter smarts; both crave respectability. They live a barely-there existence, grinding out a living installing illegal satellite dishes for the rich and the chic, while seeking solace from the harshness of fate in impolite conversation, underground music and secret mementos of love. Wonderfully

performed and nicely paced, there is a lot of room here for humour in hardships. Case in point: Hamid likens his difficult life to a football team playing with two men sent off and conceding a penalty at the end of extra time. Banned in Iran, the film was in competition at Cannes' Directors' Fortnight section after a long absence of Iranian films from the Festival.

The emotional lives of men, laid bare in a compelling drama.

21 April

Country: Australia

Year: 2008

Duration: 104 min



Director
Michael Joy

MEN'S GROUP



Director: Michael Joy **Producer:** John L. Simpson **Screenplay:** Michael Joy, John L. Simpson

Cast: Grant Dodwell, Don Reid, Paul Tassone, Steve Rodgers, Steve Le Marquand, Paul Gleeson



A motley group of men gather for a weekly support group where they discuss their problems and feelings. Initially defensive and guarded, the men slowly begin to dissect their stories and reach into their hidden fears and emotions. Powerful and compelling, the character portrayals in this film reveal the vulnerable and often underportrayed emotional life of men. Originally from Perth, **Michael Joy** has worked extensively in Australia, Asia, Europe and North America, receiving numerous awards for direction and cinematography. Known for his diverse and evocative work, Michael draws from his cast risky and honest performances that connect powerfully with audiences. *Men's Group* is his first feature film.

Gianni is a nice old man whose patience wears thin when he is asked to look after three aged women.

19 April

Country: Italy

Year: 2008

Duration: 75 min



Director
Gianni Di Gregorio

MID-AUGUST LUNCH / PRANZO DI FERRAGOSTO



Director: Gianni Di Gregorio **Producer:** Matteo Garrone **Screenplay:** Gianni Di Gregorio

Cast: Valeria De Francisca, Marina Cacciotti, Maria Cali



Gianni, a good-natured, sixtysomething guy, lives with his old mother. On the eve of the midsummer Italian holiday of Ferragosto, the building manager, Luigi, blackmails him into looking after Luigi's mother for two nights in exchange for dismissing certain tenant debts. But when Luigi comes to the apartment, he brings his aunt as well as his mother. Later Gianni's good doctor also foists his own lactose-intolerant mother on him for a day. Taking

care of three old ladies in his tiny apartment proves to be a challenge that Gianni soon rises up to. In this funny and tender film, these feisty geriatrics find a harmony between them that none of them expects. *Mid-August Lunch* was named Best Film in competition at the Bratislava International Film Festival in 2008.

Set against a lush theatrical backdrop is a story of 2 sets of lovers, whose lives are intertwined through forsaken love and regret in more ways than they suspect.

17 & 24 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 2008

Duration: 106 min



Director
O. Nathapon

A young girl is forced to grow up all on her own beside the waters of the Istanbul Strait.

15 April

Country: Turkey

Year: 2008

Duration: 121 min



Director
Reha Erdem

An emotional narrative and historical documentary are fused together in this feature film about an old Maori woman from the Urewera Ranges.

16 April

Country: New Zealand

Year: 2008

Duration: 102 min



Director
Vincent Ward

A MOMENT IN JUNE / NA KANA RAK

Director: O. Nathapon **Producer:** O. Nathapon **Screenplay:** O. Nathapon

Cast: Shahkrit Yamnarm, Sukosol Clapp



An affair between young Arunya and Krung that began 30 years ago comes alive again when their love story is taken to stage by a young theatre director. "Things will be different for me tomorrow when the sun comes up", the now older Arunya tells a young man on the train. The young man on the train is contemplating his own love life with his former lover, a man whom he longs to be with.

MY ONLY SUNSHINE / HAYAT VAR

Citibank's Choice
Citibank

Director: Reha Erdem **Producer:** Ömer Atay **Screenplay:** Reha Erdem **Cast:** Elit Işcan, Erdal Beşikçioğlu, Levend Yilmaz



Hayat's poor father and bedridden grandfather reside in a riverside shack. Hayat's father owns a small boat that ensures the family's survival through a series of illegal transactions. As Hayat passes adolescence, she finds herself braving a hostile world in which lonely adults are drawn to her innocence and beauty, while her mother's new family has little sympathy for her awkward transition into adulthood. The

dark water of Istanbul's Bosphorus takes on a symbolic character of its own, as many of the scenes are shot on the boat that transports Hayat and her father from one place to another. **Reha Erdem's** film received the SIYAD award at the 45th Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival.

RAIN OF THE CHILDREN

Director: Vincent Ward **Producer:** Vincent Ward, Marg Slater, Tainui Stephens **Screenplay:** Vincent Ward

Cast: Miriama Rangi, Rena Owen, Temuera Morrison



Vincent Ward tells us the story of 80-year-old Puhi, a Tuhoe woman, who lived on the Urewera Ranges looking after her schizophrenic son and who believed that she was living under a curse. Ward lived with Puhi for 18 months and during this time became her "mokopuna ma", her white grandson. Through Ward's eyes we learn how Puhi was the daughter-in-law of the great Tuhoe prophet Rua Kenana, how

she escaped from a 1916 police raid and gave birth in the bush to fourteen children. Interviews with Tuhoe elders and Puhi's descendants are interspersed with striking archival photos and dramatised sequences filmed in Tuhoe locations with a largely Tuhoe cast—virtually all of them related to Puhi. Ward narrates and features in the film which gives us insight into his unique relationship with the enigmatic character of Puhi. This feature won the Grand Prix at Era New Horizons Film Festival in Poland.

A heartwarming and hopeful story about a teacher and her students who fight against all odds to keep their school standing.

20 April

Country: Indonesia

Year: 2008

Duration: 125 min



Director
Riri Riza

A few lonely men discover each other's company across a gulf of boredom.

19 April

Country: China

Year: 2008

Duration: 81 min



Director
Li Hongqi

A naturalistic dramedy about what happens when a student falls in love with a teacher.

25 April

Country: Japan

Year: 2007

Duration: 102 min



Director
Iguchi Nami

RAINBOW TROOPS / LASKAR PELANGI

Director: Riri Riza Producer: Mira Lesmana Screenplay: Salman Aristo, Mira Lesmana, & Riri Riza

Cast: Cut Mini, Zulfani, Ferdian, Veris Yamarina, Ikranagara



Based on a best seller novel that sold more than 500,000 copies in Indonesia, *Laskar Pelangi*, written by Andrea Hirata, tells of a warm and committed teacher and 10 unforgettable students, the children of coolies, on a remote but beautiful island called Belitung. Muhammadiyah elementary school is their educational playground in which the committed Mus and Mr Harfan teach their kids values not taught in the richer schools. The school threatens to close down, but the teachers and their students struggle to gain the respect of the other schools and the village they all come from. Perhaps the most memorable life-lesson articulated by Mr Harfan is when he tells the children, "Live, so you can give as much as you can, not to get as much as you can."

ROUTINE HOLIDAY / HUANGJIN ZHOU

Director: Li Hongqi Producer: Ning Cai Screenplay: Li Hongqi Cast: Yang Bo, Duo Yu, Xiao He



A father takes his son to observe an empty field, and then to visit a neighbour, who is soon visited by other reticent characters, including a man who is a little violent, and another next-door neighbour who has fallen ill. Between haunting periods of silence reminiscent of Beckett's existential plays, the characters discuss why they are alive. Then one of them decides to slap the other in the face. The little boy, however, is less interested in the forlorn adults around him than in the strange contents of his bucket. Poet and novelist **Li Hongqi's** new movie takes a voyeuristic and melancholy glimpse into the suburban lives of his characters to cast light on a quiet thread of restlessness that connects us all. His last film, *So Much Rice*, won the NETPAC award at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2005.

SEX IS NO LAUGHING MATTER / HITO NO SEKUSU NI WARAU NA

Director: Iguchi Nami Producer: Nagata Yoshihiro, Nishigaya Toshikazu

Screenplay: Honcho Yuka, Iguchi Nami Cast: Nagasaku Hiroshi, Matsuyama Kenichi, Aoi Yu



Mirume is an art student in a small town. He falls for Yuri, twenty years his senior, who teaches lithography. But as her feelings dissipate, Mirume finds comfort in En, his classmate who abets his love affair while developing a crush on him—even as she herself is the secret obsession of Domoto, Mirume's introverted best friend. When Yuri suddenly stops coming to school, Mirume is forced to seek her out at home, where he is startled to discover the banal realities of her life. In adapting Naocola Yamazaki's eponymous novel, director **Nami Iguchi** put glamorous young Japanese stars in the roles of awkward and insecure students whose gestures reveal more than they say, in a film that eschews the sentimentality and melodrama of commercial Japanese romance films.

A hushed but poignant family drama about the passing of time and how the Yokoyama household survives the death of one of their own.

25 April

Country: Japan

Year: 2008

Duration: 114 min



Director

Kore-eda Hirokazu

Ben Kingsley and Famke Janssen star in this coming-of-age film about a lonely pot-dealer transitioning into adulthood.

25 April

Country: USA

Year: 2008

Duration: 95 min



Director

Jonathan Levine

Wendy and her dog, Lucy, are planning to move to Alaska, but find trouble along the way.

19 & 24 April

Country: USA

Year: 2008

Duration: 80 min



Director

Kelly Reichardt

STILL WALKING / ARUITEMO ARUITEMO

Director: Kore-eda Hirokazu **Producer:** Yoshihiro Kato, Hijiri Taguchi **Screenplay:** Kore-eda Hirokazu

Cast: Yoshio Harada, Kirin Kiki, Hiroshi Abe



From the renowned Japanese director of *Nobody Knows* comes a film in which everything happens in the Yokoyama family house where grandfather Kyohei worked as a doctor. Years after their eldest son has died, Kyohei and his wife are unable to move on from their loss. When their second son, Ryota, and his new wife and son return home for a reunion, old wounds between the family members get reopened.

Reminiscent of Yasujiro Ozu's painterly filming style but without the moralistic sensibility, **Kore-eda Hirokazu's** latest film delves quietly but incisively into the undercurrents of betrayal and hurt that run under the surface of an ordinary day in the Yokoyama home. The film also features Japanese singer and model, You, as Ryota's sensible and placating sister. *Still Walking* won best film at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival.

THE WACKNESS



Director: Jonathan Levine **Producer:** Joe Neutrauter, Keith Calder, Felipe Marino

Screenplay: Jonathan Levine **Cast:** Ben Kingsley, Josh Peck, Famke Janssen



Set against the streets of New York, when mayor Giuliani's first term was in full swing, this film features a lonely teenager named Luke Shapiro who finishes his last days before university peddling marijuana, trading it with his kindly but unorthodox psychotherapist for treatment, while harbouring a crush on his stepdaughter. Played by Ben Kingsley, the therapist struggles to fix his own failing marriage, as Luke wonders if his parents will stop acting like children, or if he may ever beat his own depression and get laid. This

sweet and hopeful film, pulsing to the soundtrack of classic hip hop standards, is directed by **Jonathan Levine** and won the Audience Award at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. It is the portrait of a young man who sees only the "wack," or dismal, side of life, and never the "dope," or optimistic parts.

WENDY AND LUCY

Director: Kelly Reichardt **Producer:** Neil Kopp, Anish Savjani, Larry Fessenden

Screenplay: Kelly Reichardt, Jon Raymond

Cast: Michelle Williams, Will Patton, John Robinson, Will Oldham, Walter Dalton



Wendy Carroll is driving to Ketchikan, Alaska, in hopes of a summer of lucrative work at a Fish Cannery, and the start of a new life with her dog, Lucy. When her car breaks down in Oregon, however, the thin fabric of her financial situation comes apart, and she has to make a string of difficult economic decisions that will affect both herself and her dog. Her car has broken down and she is later arrested for shoplifting. Then her dog goes missing. In the midst of all this, Wendy crosses paths with various people—some helpful, while others are pitiless and cruel. But her troubles soon

begin to inform the direction not just of her expedition, but ultimately of her life. The New York Times has praised this second feature film by **Kelly Reichardt** as "a lucid and melancholy inquiry into the current state of American society."

A young girl is torn apart between faith and freedom, family and love in this film with no easy answers.

15 April

Country: Denmark

Year: 2008

Duration: 108 min



Director

Niels Arden Oplev

A dark and surreal mystery-drama about a mother's search for her son in a distant Russian town.

18 April

Country: Russia

Year: 2008

Duration: 137 min



Director

Kirill Serebrennikov

Two German delinquents attack a homeless man in a picturesque East German town.

17 April

Country: Germany

Year: 2008

Duration: 104 min



Director

Christain Klandt

WORLDS APART / TO VERDENER

Director: Niels Arden Oplev Producer: Thomas Heinesen Screenplay: Niels Arden Oplev, Søren Bille
Cast: Rosalinde Mynster, Pilou Asbæk, Jens Jørn Spottag



Sara's whole world is Jehovah's Witnesses. Born and bred in the faith, she and her close-knit family live an unwavering life of church meetings, proselytizing and Scripture reading. They live in a community where everyone knows each other their entire lives, where outsiders seldom intrude and expulsion awaits anyone who is unrepentant in sin and questions authority. But when young Sara falls in love with a non-believer, her world is shattered

and the path she must take is lonesome and heartbreaking. A big hit in Denmark, the film raises an interesting question: how far can parents go when it comes to indoctrinating their children with insular religious beliefs? Director **Niels Arden Oplev's** last feature film, *We Shall Overcome*, won 27 international awards. Selected as Denmark's official entry for the Best Foreign Film Category in this year's Oscars.

YURI'S DAY / YURIEV DEN

Director: Kirill Serebrennikov Producer: Natalya Mokritskaya Screenplay: Yuri Arabov
Cast: Ksenia Rappoport, Roman Shmakov, Evgenia Kuznetsova



A renowned opera diva leaves Moscow and arrives in her native town of Yurjev-Polsky to show her teenage son where she grew up, before they both depart Russia to stay permanently in Germany. In the cold and hostile town, the boy unexpectedly disappears while exploring a bell-tower. This becomes just the first in an uncanny series of events that plunges the singer deeper into her troubled past. Filled with Christian imagery, erudite references to Russian literature and its film history, *Yuri's Day* is an atmospheric and artistic mystery-drama that guides us into the dark pit at the heart of an isolated Russian town, and the symbolic journey that one woman embarks upon through the alleyways of her own soul. Directed by Moscow-based director **Kirill Serebrennikov**, *Yuri's Day* has been awarded the Grand Prix award at the 24th Warsaw International Film Festival.

WELTSTADT

Director: Christain Klandt Producer: Martin Lischke Screenplay: Christain Klandt
Cast: Gerdy Zint, Florian Bartholomaj, Justus Carriere



An idyllic German town is not what it appears to be. **Christain Klandt's** first feature film presents the twenty-four hours leading up to the moment when two drunk teenage boys, Till and Karsten, murder a homeless man. Failures at their jobs and in their personal relationships, the lives of these boys fill with a deadly boredom that threatens to carry them over the edge. Set in a

time after the fall of the Berlin Wall, when societal changes and a growing sense of restlessness and apathy resulted in an escalating sense of violence amongst German youths, *Weltstadt* is based on a true story about suburban brutality. The film has won the Silver Zenith award at the Montreal World Film Festival in 2008.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 1 18 APRIL

AHMAD'S GARDEN

Country: Australia **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 15 min

Director: Aaron Wilson **Producer:** Kim Fairbrother **Screenplay:** Aaron Wilson

In the middle of a dry and dusty detention center, Ahmad the refugee lives day by day, sustained by plants and poetry. Featuring the poetry of the Persian mystic, Hafiz of Shiraz.



DENNIS

Country: Denmark **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 18 min

Director: Mads Matthiesen **Producer:** K/ Jonas Bagger **Screenplay:** Mads Matthiesen, Martin Zandvliet

When Dennis, an introvert bodybuilder, invites a local girl out on a date his mother is hurt and disappointed. Grand Prix winner at the Melbourne Film Festival.

THE ENCOUNTER

Country: Germany **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 7 min

Director: Susann Schmik **Producer:** Jorg Trentmann **Screenplay:** Isabelle Wolff

Two people discover and lose themselves in the November light in the big city.



THE TOES

Country: Belgium **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 11 min

Director: Laurent Denis **Producer:** Laurent Delferriere **Screenplay:** Laurent Delferriere

Arthur lives alone in a little room of an old people's home. When Julie, the nurse tells him about the visit of Bernard, Arthur get dressed as for a wedding. But who is this visitor?

WELL-FOUNDED CONCERNS

Country: USA **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 15 min

Director: Tim Cawley **Producer:** Mark Hankey **Screenplay:** Tim Cawley

Nathan weller is an unapologetic germaphobe, spending his days in isolation and in a sealed-off bubble of an apartment. That is, until a plague hits.

FLIGHT LESSONS

Country: USA **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 1:20min

Director: Neil Helm **Producer:** Neil Helm **Screenplay:** Neil Helm

An enthusiastic airline captain describes the marvel and intricacy of modern jet aviation to an unexpected listener.

FOREVER I LOVE YOU

Country: USA **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 4:35 min

Director: Selene Mendez Hunnicutt **Producer:** Selene Mendez Hunnicutt

Screenplay: Selene Mendez Hunnicutt

One the Day of the Dead, a melancholic tormented old man tries to make sense out of his own death while the love for his wife lives on.

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 2 19 APRIL

FRANKIE

Country: Ireland **Year:** 2007 **Duration:** 17 min

Director: Darren Thornton **Producer:** Collette Farrell **Screenplay:** Darren Thornton

Frankie is 15 and preparing for fatherhood. He is determined to be the best dad ever, but as his day goes on, he starts to realise how impossible this will be for him. Recipient of the European Academy Award for Best Short, Priz UIP at Berlin.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Country: Finland **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 15 min

Director: Marika Vaisanen **Producer:** Liisa Juntunen **Screenplay:** Marika Vaisanen

When Oona's parents get divorced and her father moves to a different town, she is forced to commute to maintain a good relationship with both of them. During the train ride Oona ponders what it is like to be raised in two homes and why grownups don't want to be together.

ILLUSION

Country: Germany **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 8 min

Director: Burhan Qubani **Producer:** Femis Paris, Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg

Screenplay: Burhan Qubani

When Lena loses her job - the most important thing in her life it pulls the rug out from under her. What can she do now? Best Film recipient of the German National Film Critics Award.

CHASING CATS AND CARS

Country: Malaysia **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 12 min

Director: Liew Seng Tat **Producer:** Tan Chui Mui **Screenplay:** Liew Seng Tat

A man takes his friend to the hospital and realizes that his friend's leg is missing, and has gone on its own way in life.

COMMON PLACES

Country: Mexico **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 5 min

Director: Roberto Sánchez Santos **Producer:** Roberto Sánchez Santos

Screenplay: Roberto Sánchez Santos

A commentary of the director's country through abstract images of the common places around him.

GAZE

Country: Korea **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 17 min

Director: Kim Yu li **Producer:** Lee Kwang Woo **Screenplay:** Kim Yu li

A mother struggles with her two young daughters, their grandmother and her absent husband.

TEA AND BISCUITS

Country: UK **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 13 min

Director: Chris Klockner **Producer:** Chris Klockner, Alexandra Barker **Screenplay:** Alexandra Barker

Billy and Eva discuss their childhood over tea and biscuits in a café.

THE NEW LAND

Country: USA **Year:** 2008 **Duration:** 3 min

Director: Jason Kreiger **Producer:** Jason Kreiger **Screenplay:** Jason Kreiger, Chelsea Noggle

An animation about the consequences of colonialism through the eyes of a native.



2nd

A new section of the festival, In Focus looks at films that reflect and examine the state of the world today, going behind the headlines to reveal the stories that need to be heard.

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN FOCUS

A heart-warming and funny film portrait of one Madison B, as she undergoes a 3 year transformative journey – spiritually, emotionally, physically and sexually.

18 April

Country: Canada

Year: 2007

Duration: 70 min



Director
Maya Gallus

GIRL INSIDE

Citibank's Choice
citibank

Director: Maya Gallus **Producer:** Justine Pimlott, Maya Gallus

Screenplay: Maya Gallus

Cast: N.A



Madison B is a typical down-to-earth, twenty six year-old Canadian woman with everyday interests: she likes to swim in her grandma's pool and rollerblades. Except that "she" is a "he": Madison is actually Matthew, a transgender. *Girl Inside* is a feature documentary which follows Madison in her three year transition from a man to a woman. Rather than sensationalising Madison and the subject of gender identity disorder, director Maya Gallus humanises Madison by focussing on her relationships with her parents, her siblings, her male best friend, and her grandma, Vivien Parkhill, a glamorous, Martini drinking octogenarian. Short and sweet, the docu-feature is a must-see for anyone who is or knows, a girl inside. Gallus won the Gemini Award for Best Direction for a Documentary Program in 2008.

Officially sanctioned, surprisingly balanced portrait of the controversial Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

18 April

Country: Canada, Iran

Year: 2009

Duration: 52 min



Director
Petr Lom

LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT

Director: Petr Lom Producer: N.A. Screenplay: N.A. Cast: N.A.



President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is feared in the West, but loved by millions in Iran. The documentary features his frequent visits to the countryside where he is greeted like a rock star and the millions of people who write letters to him. In 2 years in office, he has received 9 million letters. They are typically requests for loans, jobs and money and they are often desperate. The diversity of opinions in the interviews reveal a clear rural-urban divide, not just of differing views of the president but also the issues that matter most to these two groups of people. Czech filmmaker **Petr Lom** followed the president on three of his provincial trips and was granted permission to film on the condition that the final work was approved by the government of Iran before it was allowed to screen internationally. The president has indeed approved.

SHAHIDA

Director: Natalie Assouline Producer: N.A. Screenplay: N.A. Cast: N.A.



Over a period of two years, Israeli director **Natalie Assouline** goes behind prison doors to find out why young women, many with loving families, would be willing to blow themselves up and take the lives of innocent civilians. While the film does not directly answer this question, it offers a fascinating glimpse at the psychology of these perpetrators of mass destruction and highlights the personal problems they face as some of the reasons behind their actions. Balancing blood-curdling interviews with intimate scenes of family and friendship, this is not an easy film to watch. Nevertheless, it is a worthwhile contribution to the Middle East debate, with its focus not on the political or ideological but on the personal. Winner of 3 international awards including the FIPRESCI Award at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Palestinian women imprisoned for suicide bombing-related activities are the subject of this thought-provoking documentary.

18 April

Country: Israel

Year: 2008

Duration: 76 min



Director
Natalie Assouline

How can we dream of utopia while our stomach is still grumbling?

19 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 2009

Duration: 120 min



Director
Uruphong Raksasad

AGRARIAN UTOPIA

Director: Uruphong Raksasad Producer: Pimpaka Towira Screenplay: N.A. Cast: N.A.



Facing seizure of their own lands, two families found themselves farming together on the same field, hoping to get through just another rice-farming season like every year. But no matter how much the world is evolving, how much the country is going through economic, political and social changes, they still cannot grasp that ideology of happiness. "My parents didn't expect me to farm for a living as they see it as hard work that earns little money. We can no longer farm in any case for two reasons: one being that the bank has already taken almost all our lands. And second, farming won't help us paying off all our debts in this lifetime," Raksasad says. This film had its world premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2009.

2ndSINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
IMAGINE

Step into this section if you want to experience the possibilities of cinema. Thought provoking, surrealistic and genre-defying, the seven films presented is an invitation to adventurous cineasts to discover the new frontiers of cinema.

A cinema verite documentary about Laurel Canyon's friendly local personality, Bill Jackson, featuring a cast of his neighbours, his father... and cats and spiders.

21 April

Country: USA

Year: 2009

Duration: 72 min



Director

Dyanne Asimow

Three men cross the desert in search of a newborn Messiah:

17 April

Country: Spain

Year: 2008

Duration: 98 min



Director

Albert Serra

BILL'S MOUNTAIN

Director: Dyanne Asimow Producer: Dyanne Asimow Screenplay: Dyanne Asimow Cast: N.A



Meet Bill – gardener, handyman, saint and menace. Every neighbourhood has that one personality who stand outs for just being who he is; in Laurel Canyon, Hollywood, California, HollywoodHit is Bill Jackson aka Bill Jaxon. The home-styled documentary follows the scruffy Bill as he shuffles about moving furniture, messing with poisonous spiders, collecting unwanted items, and getting into accidents.

Through interviews with equally appreciative and frustrated neighbours, his lovingly craggy father, and Bill himself, a deeper and more complex personal history is revealed, including Bill's adoption by a pedophile and his past as a hustler.

Director **Dyanne Asimow** undertook this twelve-year documentary project about a man whom she previously avoided except when exchanging salutations, uncovering a personable individual behind this eccentric character called Bill.

BIRDSONG

Citibank's Choice
citibankDirector: Albert Serra Producer: Montse Triola, Lluís Minarro Screenplay: Albert Serra
Cast: Lluís Carbo, Lluís Serrat Batlle, Lluís Serrat Masanellas

Some stories are repeated so many times that there is no longer the need for words. Stunningly illuminated by only natural light, this second feature by Albert Serra is a contemplative and near-silent reinterpretation of the Biblical expedition of the Three Wise Men in search of the newborn Messiah. With a cast of non-professionals performing an improvised script, **Albert Serra's** black-and-white

meditation expresses in real time the epic, spellbinding journey of three bumbling old men as they are watched over by angels, a distant star, and the hushed beauty of the natural world.

After breaking up with his girlfriend, a lonely Patrik decides to document what happens after on his mobile phone.

16 April

Country: Sweden

Year: 2008

Duration: 83 min



Director
Patrik Eriksson

In this meditative mystery, a girl goes missing and Helen is asked to play her in a police-reconstruction of her disappearance.

25 April

Country: UK

Year: 2008

Duration: 79 min



Director
Christine Molloy, Joe Lawlor

The great independent auteur Lav Diaz's latest epic explores the devastating emotional consequences of political oppression in the Philippines

18 April

Country: Philippines

Year: 2008

Duration: 450 min



Director
Lav Diaz

AN EXTRAORDINARY STUDY OF HUMAN DEGRADATION / EN ENASTÅENDE STUDIE I MÄNSKLIG FÖRNEDELING

Director: Patrik Eriksson **Producer:** Erik Hemmendorf, Ruben Ostlund **Screenplay:** N.A
Cast: Patrik Eriksson, Ruben Ostlund, Erik Hemmendorf



Depressed after being dumped by his girlfriend, 36-year-old Swede **Patrik Eriksson** is unwilling to go to bed alone. He decides to chronicle his existential crisis, with the aid of co-workers, via cell-phone video camera, so as to record his own mental breakdown at close range. His chaotic world of netdating, excessive parties, masturbation, and

problems with women are all caught intimately as raw footage on his phone and put together to create this startlingly original and intimate Swedish film. In a world inundated with internet and YouTube images, Eriksson takes the video image to a whole new level of honesty never quite seen before.

HELEN

Director: Christine Molloy, Joe Lawlor **Producer:** Joe Lawlor **Screenplay:** Christine Molloy, Joe Lawlor
Cast: Annie Townsend, Sandie Malia, Dennis Jobling



Through breathtaking long-takes and extended silences, this debut feature by Brit co-helpers **Christine Molloy** and **Joe Lawlor** pierces intelligently into the heart of one girl's existential confusion over her life and self-identity. When a schoolgirl Joy Thompson disappears, the police set about filming a reconstruction

of her last known movements. During a visit to Joy's school they choose 17-year-old Helen for the role of Joy. The shy Helen lives in a care home and does not know who her parents are. Startled by Helen's resemblance to their daughter, Joy's grieving parents offer to help Helen with her academic studies. Helen also meets Joy's ex-boyfriend and she gradually begins to envision the world through Joy's eyes. She is ultimately forced to reconsider who she is and what she hopes to become as she transitions into womanhood, and when she learns the truth about her real parents.

MELANCHOLIA

Director: Lav Diaz **Producer:** Kristine Kintana **Screenplay:** Lav Diaz
Cast: Angeli Bayani, Perry Dizon, Roeder Camanag, Raul Arellano



A film made up of three distinct movements. In the first part, three alienated characters – a prostitute, a pimp and a nun, reveal that they aren't who they appear to be in the provincial town of Sagada. The burden of their 'role-playing' can only lead to madness. The second chapter takes place in Manila, where two 'survivors' from Sagada try to pick up the pieces of their lives with mixed results. In the final section, we are plunged back in time to the jungle, with three leftist guerrillas scrambling to escape government troops. Like all of Diaz's films, life unfolds in real-time, but the details are rarely banal – every moment counts, the atmosphere is hypnotic and the images often breathtaking. The space he gives his characters (and performers) gradually accumulates into powerful sense of a national tragedy. Winner of the Grand Prize-Orizzonti in the Venice Film Festival 2008

A timid ear-cleaner discovers that there is dirt not just in the ears, but also in the souls of his colourful customers.

17 April

Country: Korea

Year: 2008

Duration: 64 min

THE STORY OF MR SORRY / JE BUL CHAL SSI YI YA KI

Director: Lee Sung Kang, Kwak In Keun, Ryu Ji Na, Kim Il Hyun, Lee Eun Mi, Hye Young

Producer: Kyung-hee Sun **Screenplay:** Ryu Ji Na, Kwak In Keun, Kim Il Hyun

Cast: Jo Hyun-jung, Jung Jae-jin, Lee Jang-won, Um Sang-hyun



A Korean animation film like no other, this is the surreal and twisted tale of an ear-cleaner who rises from obscurity to becoming an Ear Waxerator, a tour de force in the business of cochlear excavation, as a result of a bizarre scientific experiment. But he is also a brother looking for his older sister who left him as a child. The deeper Mr Sorry digs into the heads of his clients, the more he unwittingly learns about their hidden desires, and in the end, he discovers something shocking about his own self

that changes him forever. Based on a short novel by singer Lee Jeok, *The Story of Mr. Sorry* is produced by the Korean Academy of Film Arts and is co-directed by Lee Sung Kang, who also directed the fantasy-animation, *Yobi, the Five-Tailed Fox*.

Directors

(from left)

Kwak In Keun, Ryu Ji Na, Kim Il Hyun, Lee Eun Mi, Hye Young



Thor arrives at a suburban neighbourhood and tells a little girl that he has to kill a snake in order to save the world.

18 April

Country: USA

Year: 2009

Duration: 101 min



THOR AT THE BUS STOP

Director: Mike and Jerry Thompson **Producer:** David Schmoeller, May May Luong

Screenplay: Mike and Jerry Thompson **Cast:** Paul Besterman, Lauryn Shelley, Joel Schoenbach



A comedy that begins with Thor, the Norse God of Lightning, as he makes his final journey through a sleepy, suburban neighbourhood on the day he is going to die fighting to save the world—and nobody cares. Thor starts a crazy chain reaction of events involving a cast of deadbeat, white-trash and misunderstood characters who discover their inner goodness, but not without a few mishaps and near-deaths along the way

Directors

Mike and Jerry Thompson

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL HEARING MUSIC, SEEING FILM

A long-running tradition of the festival, Seeing Music, Hearing Film explores the vital connection between music and film. This year's selection features exceptional music documentaries that examine the obsession and loneliness at the heart of music making, and the perennial spell of punk and rock 'n' roll.

Six musicians from different parts of the world are asked to write a song about Berlin.

17 April

Country: Germany

Year: 2007

Duration: 82 min



Director
Uli M Schueppel

BERLIN SONG

Director: Uli M Schueppel **Producer:** Uli M Schueppel **Screenplay:** Uli M Schueppel

Cast: Elisabeth Wood, Einar Stenseng, Kat Frankie



Berlin Song is a story about six musicians from Berlin's vibrant new folk underground music scene. They came to Berlin from the US, Norway, the Netherlands and Australia and somehow made the city their home. Filmmaker **Uli M Schueppel** made the artists show him what their very own place in Berlin is and asked each of them to write a song about the city. These reflections and projections on Berlin (or specifically Kreuzberg) merge with the writing process of the songs, recording in the studio and the preparation for a concert with all artists in the club "West Germany". This is a poetic portrait of these musicians and at the same time, an atmospheric journey into the myth that is Berlin.

Heavy metal fans, take note! Watch as one of the world's greatest heavy metal bands struggle to make their musical dream come true again.

18 April

Country: USA

Year: 2008

Duration: 80 min



Director

Sacha Gervasi

Call them conceptual, eccentric, or freak shows even, but one-man bands are today's truest talents and passionate musicians, as this fascinating documentary reveals.

25 April

Country: UK

Year: 2008

Duration: 83 min



Director

Adam Clitheroe

Punk is alive and well in Poland, as this documentary passionately tells us.

22 April

Country: Finland

Year: 2008

Duration: 85 min



Director

Jouko Aaltonen

ANVIL: THE STORY OF ANVIL

Director: Sacha Gervasi **Producer:** Rebecca Yeldham **Screenplay:** N.A **Cast:** N.A



True heavy metals fans must watch this documentary by Sacha Gervasi about legendary metal band, Anvil, a thirty-year-old Canadian metal band led by two lifelong friends who are now in their fifties—Robb Reiner and Steve "Lips" Kudlow.

Although the band was as influential as the likes of Metallica and Anthrax, Anvil's initial success and fame petered out too soon. This stirring documentary shows how the members struggle everyday to return to their dream of artistic and international success. The camera follows the group on a European tour that turns out to be the occasional nightmare, to the moment after they have made their thirteenth album as they perform gratefully to a packed stadium in Tokyo. *Anvil: The Story of Anvil* has won Audience Awards at the Los Angeles Film Festival and the Sydney Film Festival in 2008.

ONE MAN IN THE BAND

Director: Adam Clitheroe **Producer:** Adam Clitheroe **Screenplay:** Adam Clitheroe **Cast:** N.A



Meet Thomas Truax, who builds his own mechanised instruments and grants them personalities and names such as Sister Spinster, Stringaling and Hornicator, Ninki V, who moved from playing medieval music on a harp and flute to playing with a skeleton puppet on a theremin, and Man From Uranus, who mixes cheesy 50's, 60's and 70's sci-fi music with motorik rhythms while wearing wellington boots on his hands during a children's party. These three, alongside a motley crew of other European and American multi-instrumentalists, are featured in a humanistic portrait of one-man and

one-woman bands, uncovering their creative inspirations and rationales, and feelings of passion and loneliness, as they go about on tours and gigs, playing to small but appreciative audiences. Directed, filmed and edited by one-man film crew, *Adam Clitheroe, One Man In The Band* is Clitheroe's debut feature film.

PUNKSTERS AND YOUNGSTERS / PUNK-TAUTI JOKA EI TAPA

Director: Jouko Aaltonen **Producer:** Pertti Veijalainen **Screenplay:** Jouko Aaltonen

Cast: Pelle Miljoona, Andy McCoy, Akupunktio



Finnish director Jouko Aaltonen has made a documentary that examines punk both as a musical and as a social movement in Poland. It features how modern-day punk clashes with its predecessor in the past, with often painful and humorous results. The DIY attitude of punk connects the generations both in music and as a way of life. Punk is also a force of rebellion and anarchy against social oppression and conservative small-mindedness. Featuring such

legendary musicians as Andy McCoy, as well as energetic girl band Creepy Crawlie, and filled with music both old and new, this documentary won the MusiXine Main Award given by Oulu Music Video Festival.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

This year the Singapore International Film Festival pays tribute to one of the foremost Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai in a five-film retrospective that includes *Kippur* (2000), the *Border Trilogy* - *Promised Land* (2004), *Free Zone* (2005), *Disengagement* (2007), and his latest masterpiece *One Day You'll Understand* (2008).

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

AMOS GITAI RETROSPECTIVE

About Amos Gitai



Based in Israel, the United States and France, Gitai has produced an extraordinary, wide-ranging, and deeply personal body of work. In around 40 films - documentary and fiction, Gitai has explored the layers of history in the Middle East and beyond, including his own personal history, through such themes as homeland and exile, religion, social control and utopia. His trademark style includes long takes with scarce but significant camera movements and a devilishly clever sense of humour.

In the late 70s and early 80s, Gitai directed numerous documentaries, including *House* and *Field Diary*. Following the controversial reception to *Field Diary*, Gitai moved to Paris in 1983, where he was based for the next ten years and during this period continued to travel widely directing such documentaries as *Pineapple* - a humorous odyssey about the growth and marketing of pineapples. During this period he began directing fiction and historical films about the experience of exile. These films include the Venice critic's prize-winning *Berlin Jerusalem* and the extraordinary trilogy on the Jewish legend of Golem.

In the mid-90s Gitai moved to Haifa and began the most fertile, productive period of his career to date. Over 10 years, Gitai made some 15 films, both documentary and fiction. The 1995 feature *Devarim* marked the return to his country and his reunion with the light and landscape of Tel Aviv. The first film in Gitai's trilogy of Israeli cities, *Devarim* was followed by *Yom Yom* (shot in Haifa) and *Kadosh* (shot in Mea Shearim, the Jerusalem district of Orthodox Jews). This return to his country is also a travel back in his own history: Gitai directs *Kippur* (2000), a feature film based on his war memories. His most recent film *One Day You Will Understand* was presented at the Berlinale special section in 2008.

Gitai's work has been the subject of major retrospectives, notably at the Centre Pompidou (Paris), NFT and ICA (London), Lincoln Center (New York), Berlin's Kunstwerk, and cinemathèques in Madrid, Jerusalem, Paris, Tokyo, Toronto, to name a few.

One Day We Hope We'll Understand -A Tribute to Amos Gitai



There's no better time to revisit the works of pre-eminent Israeli filmmaker, Amos Gitai, than now, since the Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip (which began in Dec 2008 and stopped with an uneasy ceasefire by Jan 2009 with over 1,300 deaths). Gitai's long career in films (he was born on Oct 11, 1950), of 42 features in over 25 years, has always been predicated on capturing or recording for posterity the trauma of his region. It's only symbolic that this tribute to a persistent gaze at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict occurs when the warring tension has reached another high.

As Gitai once said: "Israel is an odd country: every time you are in a position to put that symbolic relationship in order, it slips away, as if reality was mobile, in permanent transformation. With recent events, we have seen that after 50 years of suffering it was time to find peace, that in fact a new cycle was beginning. The dominant feeling in Israel is frustration, like that of a missed encounter. I am conscious of being only one individual inside that great mechanism, maybe a witness, almost in the Hitchcockian sense of the term, like the witness of a crime... At the same time, Israel is a touching country – there is something about it that is very real and direct, things are tough and

uncamouflaged, rather exposed. All of that calls for a powerful vision."

When we asked Gitai what he would like to represent his oeuvre, he selected *Kippur* (2000), the *Border Trilogy – Promised Land* (2004), *Free Zone* (2005), *Disengagement* (2007). To that we added the latest *One Day You'll Understand* (2008).

Kippur is a touchstone for Gitai. The Yom Kippur War in 1973 interrupted his architectural studies. He was then in his early 20s and had a scholarship grant to make a film about architecture. Gitai's memory of shooting Super-8 footage in helicopters while in a medical unit inspired his future career. After that he told the scholarship committee that he no longer wanted to make a film about architecture. He wanted to make a film about the war.

Beginning with shorts in the early 70s, Gitai moved to documentaries in the late 70s and finally his debut fiction feature in the mid-80s. These films persistently dwelled on themes such as homeland and exile, religion, social control and the notion of paradise. His work was characterised by long takes with few but significant camera movements.

Kippur, a biographical film about Gitai's own

experience in that war, marked a departure in two ways. To get the sense of danger on the battlefield, the image was instead constantly moving and chaotic. It also became his most expensive film up till that point, breaking his own formula of low budgets and quick shoots in four weeks.

Gitai said: "Kippur in Hebrew means reconciliation. But etymologically, it also means: for the game. If you want, it is: one is dead or alive. There is also the religious meaning, the day of reconciliation, of forgiveness. On Yom Kippur, a cock is killed – the kappara – so as to erase our sins."

With *Promised Land*, Gitai begins his Border Trilogy with another departure. For some time, Gitai had been considering the new digital technology and he finally took that step with the aid of cinematographer, Caroline Champetier. In a way, reflecting the frenetic chaos of Kippur, the two-handheld-camera set-up, is jarring and disorientating, bringing us to experience the fear of women sold into prostitution.

The title, *Promised Land*, is simply ironic, as the Russian and Estonian girls are first smuggled into Israel, then auctioned like cattle, before being deployed for sex work. There is a scene of the women being washed and hosed down, an eerie visual echo from the survivor tales of the Holocaust camps.

The next film, *Free Zone*, reinforces the subject of borders that Gitai is dwelling on. As he said: "In the Middle East, borders are a real issue. It's always physical borders, political borders, which lead to mental borders. I've become interested very interested in borders – how they are crossed, who and what crosses them...In *Free Zone*, it's about the voluntary transfer of a car across the Israeli-Jordanian border."

Gitai also observed: "I'm interested in these pockets of freedom in the Middle East where people of different origins can mingle and find things they can do in common. I'm interested in observing how people of the region are connecting to other people through everyday activities, and not only through political gestures. At this point, we have been deceived continuously by the big politicians. It's necessary to start with the little details and maybe through these details we can transform our situation. Buying a car, fixing it, crossing the borders, sharing a story, a meal together...I'm interested in free zones where things like this can

happen."

With *Disengagement*, Gitai brings us to a few years before the present, specifically, the 2005 military-enforced disengagement of Israeli settlers from Gaza. A tale of a reuniting pair of siblings who return to Israel to find the sister's daughter who was abandoned at birth 20 years ago, the film reflects the trauma of a people who have to abandon the land, again another mirror reflection of an earlier people who were forced off their land.

In the latest film, *One Day You'll Understand*, we see a French Jewish family's suffering, their struggle with secrets and denials regarding Nazi persecution. The son's struggle is in understanding his Jewish past that his mother is adamant about leaving alone. For Gitai's cinema, his cycle of memories seems to spin continuously, that the more you remember seems to bring out the more that needs to be remembered.

As he stated: "On October 11, 1973, I almost died in a helicopter that was hit by a missile. And I can say that I was in that moment, in an almost Hitchcockian sense, the witness of a sort of crime or of a sort of war. The fact that I came out alive put me in a unique situation – that of having a kind of debt regarding that accident that left me alive when, statistically, it qualifies as a miracle. I understood that I had to take on that role of witness, and that I had to make my annual report on the things that I see, on the transformations of my country."

Philip Cheah

(written January 14, 2009. War is over if u want it.)

Amos Gitai's memories of the Yom Kippur War in 1973 become a stark but moving account of the damage done by war.

24 April

Country: Israel, France

Year: 2000

Duration: 120 mins

KIPPUR

Director: Amos Gitai **Producer:** Amos Gitai, Michel Propper, Laurent Truchot

Screenplay: Dan Franck, Amos Gitai, Marie-José Sanselmé

Cast: Jeanne Moreau, Hippolyte Girardot, Emmanuelle Devos



Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, it was also the day in 1973 that Syrian and Egyptian forces attacked Israel after months of tension. In this deeply autobiographical work, Weinraub (a character based on Gitai himself) and Russo, friends and fellow officers, attach themselves to a helicopter unit dropping into the battlefield to rescue the wounded. Their task becomes increasingly difficult and dangerous, culminating in unforgettably intense assault on their helicopter. The film eschews war movie heroics and conventional identification, instead there's minimal dialogue and an abundance of long, unflinching takes. Gitai had become friends with the great American director Sam Fuller (who shot *The Big Red One* in Israel), another war veteran who documented his experiences in cinema. Like Fuller, he refuses to 'make sense' of the chaos. *Kippur* won the Prix François Chalais at Cannes Film festival in 2000.

Capturing the harsh reality of contemporary sex slavery, where female bodies become a commodity to be transported, bought, sold and abused.

18 April

Country: Israel, France

Year: 2004

Duration: 88 mins

PROMISED LAND

Critikbank's Choice
critibank

Director: Amos Gitai, Michel Propper, Laurent Truchot **Producer:** Amos Gitai, Marie-José Sanselmé

Screenplay: Amos Gitai, Marie-José Sanselmé **Cast:** Rosamund Pike, Diana Bespechni, Hannah Schygulla, Anne Parillaud



In a desert in the middle of night, a train of camels led by Bedouin tribesmen bring their precious cargo to the border – young women from Eastern Europe, destined to be sold into prostitution in Israel, and their nightmare is just beginning. Shot 'guerilla' style on a handheld, DV camera, with many non-professional actors, and refusing to give the viewer much narrative information, Gitai's film is a hard examination of the business of buying and selling women's bodies – capturing the absolute fear of what's it like to be a slave. Fleeting relief is provided by the casting of international actors, Anne Parillaud (best known as Luc Besson's *Nikita*) as one of the gang-leaders, the great German actress Hannah Schygulla as the brothel madam, and (one-time Bond girl) Rosamund Pike plays an English woman who mysteriously enters this isolated, brutal world. *Promised Land* won the Cinema For Peace Award at the Venice Film Festival in 2004.

In the centre-piece of the Border Trilogy, three women on the road try to negotiate the vast boundaries that separate them.

19 April

Country:

Israel/Belgium/France/Spain

Year: 2005

Duration: 90 mins

FREEZONE

Director: Amos Gital Producer: Michael Tapuah, Laurent Truchot

Screenplay: Amos Gital, Marie-José Sanselme Cast: Natalie Portman, Hanna Laszlo, Hiam Abass



Rebecca (Natalie Portman), a broken-hearted American-Israeli who just wants to be on the move. At the Zone, they meet another woman, Leila (Hiam Abass), a Palestinian, thus completing this triangle of powerful, funny, intelligent and emotionally preoccupied women, who now have to continue the trip together. But it's a journey that can't ever reach its destination.

In the third part of the Border Trilogy emotional and physical boundaries are traversed in the build-up to the 2005 disengagement of the settlers in Gaza.

19 April

Country:

Germany-Italy-Israel-France

Year: 2007

Duration: 120 mins

DISENGAGEMENT

Director: Amos Gital Producer: Dan Franck, Amos Gital, Marie-José Sanselme

Screenplay: Amos Gital, Marie-José Sanselme Cast: Juliette Binoche, Liron Levo, Jeanne Moreau



go their separate ways – both will be caught up in the traumatic process of 'disengagement'. Building gradually around the theme of emotional engagement and connection, the film steadily works its way towards a devastating finale in Gaza. The director himself appears in a rare acting role, delivering one of the film's most important lines.

The burden of remembering a terrible history weighs down on a French family.

18 April

Country:

France-Germany-Israel

Year: 2008

Duration: 90 mins

ONE DAY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND

Director: Amos Gital Producer: Nicole Collet, Amos Gital, Serge Mosti

Screenplay: Dan Franck, Amos Gital, Marie-José Sanselme

Cast: Jeanne Moreau, Hippolyte Girardot, Emmanuelle Devos



Unusually for Gital, this film is adapted from an autobiographical book by Jérôme Clément, and takes place almost entirely in France. Initially set in the 1980s, when Nazi war criminals such as Klaus Barbie were still being prosecuted, the protagonist is a man obsessed with the fate of his parents and grandparents during the war. As he delves further into the documents, photographs and locations where history is still tangible, he finds himself alienated from his mother who has lived as a Catholic since the war and seems to be in denial of her past. The deeper he goes in his journey to remember, the more difficult it becomes. French screen icon Jeanne Moreau, as the (grand)mother who has her own strategies of remembrance, is an extraordinary presence.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Presented by the National Museum of Singapore and the Singapore International Film Festival, with support from the National Film Archive of Thailand, 25 Years of the National Film Archive of Thailand is a rarely seen collection of Thai film treasures documenting the history of Thai cinema.

This is our tribute to the Thai National Film Archive, our salute to a group of people who believe in the past, present and future value of their film culture, and who understand the intrinsic demand of culture to be free.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TRIBUTE: 25 YEARS OF NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE OF THAILAND

21 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 1965

Duration: 134 min

SUGAR IS NOT SWEET / NAM TAN MAI WAN

Director: R.D. Pestonji **Producer:** R.D. Pestonji **Screenplay:** R.D. Pestonji, Roy Rithiron

Cast: Sombat Methani, Metta Runggrattana, Saneh Komarachun, Preeya Rungreuang, Ruj Ronaphop, Somphong Phongmitr, Sarinthip Siriwan



Chaokun Jaroenkesa, the owner of 'Kesajeroen', a shop that sells hair loss treatment, wants to pay back his debt of kindness to his dear Indian friend, whose formula is responsible for the company's prosperity, by hiring Manas, his good-for-nothing son, to marry Sugar, the daughter of his dear friend, for 2 million baht.

Sugar Is Not Sweet, R.D. Pestonji's last film, brings different aspects of mainstream films together, such as romance, humour, sex and songs, but at the same time, the film acutely ridicules what it is to be a mainstream film.

22 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 1982

Duration: 119 min

SON OF THE NORTH-EAST

Director: Vichit Kounavudhi **Producer:** Tongpond Kounavudhi **Screenplay:** Vichit Kounavudhi

Cast: Tongpan Phontong, Chanpen Siritep, Krailad Kriang-krai, Pailin Somnapa, Sarintip Siriwan, Sulaleewan Suwannatad, Thongchai Prasongsanti, Sathien Soontornsai, Tabag Jeeradit Ruj Ronaphop, Somphong Phongmitr, Sarinthip Siriwan



Son of the North-East is a semi-documentary film, derived from the work of art of the 1979 SEA Write awards winning author, Kampon Boontawee who wrote from his first hand experience. In 1976 *Son of the North-East* won the Best Novel Award and in 1979 SEA Write Award respectively. This film received the Golden Supannahong Award for Best Directing, Best Screenplay and Best Editing.

19 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 1961

Duration: 100 min



THE KING OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT

Director: His Royal Highness Prince Panupanyugala, and Nera

Producer: His Royal Highness Prince Panupanyugala, and Jaree Amatayagula

Screenplay: Wetahn

Cast: Chiya Suriyan, Maria Chang, Soh Asanajinda, Jinfong, Abdul Dulayerat, Somjit Sapsamroay

Pridi Bhanomyong's novel, *The King of the White Elephant*, was based on two major historical events from Ayutthaya 400 years ago. The first was the white elephant war, when King Mahajakapat reputation as the owner of many white elephants, provoked the Burmese King Hongsawadee to invade Ayutthaya. This led Ayutthaya to be colonized by Burma. The second was the royal elephant battle between King Naresuan and Burma's King Maha Upraja. King Naresuan finally won the battle and declared Ayutthaya's independence. The author dramatized these two events to show a King who fought for his people's freedom without the need for bloodshed.

During the Thai and French Indochina wars of the 40s, many films were produced as propaganda. *The King of the White Elephant* was specifically produced and funded by the Minister of Finance of that era, who later became a leader of the Free Thai Movement.

24 April

Country: Thailand

Year: N.A

Duration: 63 min



GEMS FROM THE THAI FILM ARCHIVE

Citibank's Choice
citibank



Berne : Arrivée du Roi de Siam, 1897 / 1 min

On Thursday around noon on May 25, 1897, the King of Siam Chulalongkorn (King Rama V) arrived in Switzerland for his official visit. The first film reel about the Siamese Kingdom and her people.

The Arrival of the King of Siam in Stockholm, 1897 / 1 min

On July 13, 1897, King of Siam visited Stockholm, Sweden on the cruise ship sent by the order of Tsar Nicholas of Russia from St. Petersburg to accommodate the royal visit. Shot by the first Swedish cinematographer, Ernest Florman.

The Coronation Ceremony of King Rama VII, 1926 / 10 min

The significant moment of this coronation ceremony was when the King's head was crowned with the 'mongkut' (royal heading) with his own hands. King Rama VII was the first Siamese king who registered his royal marriage to confirm that his queen will be his only wife.

This film was screened nation-wide in theatres and received immense public interest.

Double Luck, 1927 / 1 min (fragment)

The first feature film of Thailand is *Double Luck*, a silent film made and screened in 1927 by the Bangkok Film Company, comprising of 6 reels. It was formerly believed that this historical film was lost. Fortunately, in 1995, the National Film Archive accidentally discovered a fragment of its negative copy in a pile of film fragments donated the Tropical Film Service of the Royal State Railways ten years before. The surviving footage is only 140-feet long, of which some parts are extremely decayed.

The Magic Ring, 1929 / 30 min

King Prajadhipok was the king who was considerably interested in films. He was one of the most significant amateur filmmakers in his period. Over 500 reels of 400-feet film were found. The most complete surviving title is *The Magic Ring*, of which its restoration in 1984 was partly assisted by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia. The king shot this movie during his sea excursion on his royal "Chakri" yacht.

AUSTRALASIAN TOUR, 1927 / 20 mins

Home movie of Prince Purachatra of Kambangpetch on the tour to Singapore, Malaya, Australia and New Zealand. There will be 3 minutes scenery of Old Singapore.

20 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 1958/2008

Duration: 26 & 50 min

DIAMOND FINGER / NIEW PHETR & THE SIGNATURE: LIFE AND WORK OF R. D PESTONJI

เพชรนิลจินดา



Diamond Finger (26 min) directed by R.D. Pestonji in 1958 bring a complete theatre stage to life on the screen. It is the story of the ogre Nontuk, whose duty it is to bathe the feet of the angels who dwell on Krailart Mountain. Because the angels constantly tease him, Nontuk wishes to get his revenge on them, and so decides to ask for help from Shiva, who grants Nontuk a diamond finger that has the power to kill when pointed at someone.

Some people might have heard the name of R.D. Pestonji but never know his contribution to Thai film history. In this 50-minute documentary, *The Signature*, made in 2008, explores his life and works through the point of view of his family, his co-workers and his admirers.

19 April

Country: Thailand

Year: 1961

Duration: 125 min

THE BOAT HOUSE / RUEN-PAE

Director: His Royal Highness Prince Panupanyugala, and Nera

Producer: His Royal Highness Prince Panupanyugala, and Jaree Amatayagula **Screenplay:** Wetahn

Cast: Chiya Suriyan, Maria Chang, Soh Asanajinda, Jinfong, Adul Dulayarat, Somjit Sapsamroay



Three best friends, Jen, Kaew, and Rin fall in love with the same girl, Pehn. The four live together at a boat house which is rented from Pehn's father. Her father plans to have Pehn marry Jen. The three go their own way. Soon Jen graduates with honor and becomes a police officer while Rin becomes a singer, and Kaew, a boxer. On a night on pouring rain, Pehn agrees to be Kaew's wife. Unfortunately life's twists and turns finds Pehn forced to marry another wealthy man. The best friends find themselves together again when Jen a new police officer is ordered to arrest Kaew much to Pehn's despair. Will Jen follow the order of his authority or the order of his heart for the woman he loves? Screened on a restored film print.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

A staple of the festival, each year the Australian Film Focus uncovers the best in cinema down under, and this year's showcase offers a diverse lineup of both exciting new voices and heavy-weight co-productions that promises to intrigue, challenge, and delight.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIAN FILM FOCUS

A stop-motion animation film which tackles the meaning of life in an intriguingly surreal manner.

25 April

Country: Australia, Israel

Year: 2008

Duration: 78 min



Director

Tatia Rosenthal

The first step on the moon nearly stumbled on Earth.

16 April

Country: Australia

Year: 2000

Duration: 101 min



Director

Rob Sitch

\$9.99

Director: Tatia Rosenthal Producer: Emile Sherman, Amir Harel

Screenplay: Tatia Rosenthal, Etgar Keret Cast: Geoffrey Rush, Samuel Jackson



For \$9.99, un-employed 28 year-old Dave Peck is offered the answer to the meaning of life, in an easy-to-read booklet. Except that the meaning of life differs for several coupled relationships living in the same apartment block. Peck's the idealist foil to his father's hardened cynic, while his masculine brother suffers physical emasculation in his sexual ardour for a supermodel. Whilst in their midst, an old man yearning for his deceased wife wastes his time with an angel who was - and still is - a bum, a man in arrested development stonies out with two-inch loser friends, and a boy develops feelings for his piggy bank. Featuring the voice talents of Geoffrey Rush and Anthony LaPaglia, director **Tatia Rosenthal** weaves the surreal stories of these disparate characters together so fluidly, their stop-motion lives become engagingly believable.

Based on the short stories of Israeli author-filmmaker, Etgar Keret, whom Rosenthal has previously worked with her short films, \$9.99 is her feature debut.

THE DISH

Director: Rob Sitch Producer: Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner, Jane Kennedy, Rob Sitch, Michael Hirst

Screenplay: Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner, Jane Kennedy, Rob Sitch

Cast: Sam Neill, Kevin Harrington, Tom Long



Conceived, developed, written and produced by Working Dog's creative team of Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner, Jane Kennedy and Rob Sitch, *The Dish* tells the story of one of the greatest feats in scientific history as seen from the point of view of Australian scientists who made a crucial contribution to the groundbreaking NASA mission. Based on a true story, *The Dish* recounts the emotions, drama and humor behind the four-day Apollo XI mission in July 1969 and the extraordinary role that Australia played in televising the historical lunar landing to the world. *The Dish* is the

second feature film from Working Dog, the acclaimed collective of unique and passionate filmmakers who crafted *The Castle*, one of the most successful films in Australian history. *The Dish* won the Film Critics Circle of Australia Award for Best Screenplay.

The wonders and woes of the enigmatic Australian actor Jack Charles are intimately laid bare in this fascinating documentary.

19 April

Country: Australia

Year: 2008

Duration: 83 min



Director

Amiel Courtin-Wilson

In his struggle to accept his autistic brother for who he is, a teenage boy learns about love, family, and growing up.

18 April

Country: Australia

Year: 2008

Duration: 97 min



Director

Elissa Down

John Malkovich stars in this filmic adaptation of J.M. Coetzee's novel.

23 April

Country: Australia, South Africa

Year: 2008

Duration: 118 min



Director

Steve Jacobs

BASTARDY

Director: Amiel Courtin-Wilson Producer: Philippa Campey Screenplay: Amiel Courtin-Wilson Cast: N.A.



"It's double jeopardy when you're black and you're homosexual mate - and you're a bloody thief and a thespian too." Jack Charles is hooked, homeless and a housebreaking homosexual. When he's not in jail, he is a well-regarded professional actor with 48 years of experience, working with some of Australia's best talents in theatre, television and feature films. On camera, Jack is poetic, easy on the eyes and transparent. He tells the story of his amazing life, teetering between hurt and humour, heartbreak and hope. At one point when he is confronted about being incarcerated again, you simply want to hug him. Director Amiel Courtin-Wilson spent a quarter of his life making

this deeply-felt documentary. As a witness to some of Jack's criminal activities, Amiel wondered at one point whether he was a film-maker or an accomplice.

THE BLACK BALLOON

Director: Elissa Down Producer: Tristram Miall Screenplay: Elissa Down, Jimmy the Explorer Cast: Rhys Wakefield, Luke Ford, Gemma Ward, Erik Thomson, Toni Collette



When his family moves to a new neighbourhood, fifteen-year-old Thomas feels awkward and out of place, a feeling exacerbated by the conflicting emotions he has towards his autistic older brother, Charlie. Torn between protecting his brother and hating him for who he is, Thomas struggles to affirm the brotherly bond between them, unleashing explosive frustrations and fierce affection in the process. Born and raised in

Australia, Elissa Down's interest in storytelling and filmmaking began from childhood. In 1999 and 2000 she was nominated for Young Film-maker of the Year at the Western Australian Screen Awards. Her major short works comprise of a number of acclaimed films, including Summer Angst and Pink Pyjamas. Elissa's films have screened at numerous festivals around the world.

DISGRACE



Director: Steve Jacobs Producer: Anna-Maria Monticelli, Emile Sherman, Steve Jacobs Screenplay: Anna Maria Monticelli Cast: John Malkovich, Scott Cooper, Jessica Haines



Professor David Lurie's life falls apart after he has an impulsive affair with one of his students. But he refuses to admit that he has been in the wrong. Forced to resign from Cape Town University in a state of public disgrace, he escapes to his daughter's farm in the Eastern Cape. Their relationship is put to the test when both of them become victims of a vicious attack. In order to protect his daughter, David stands by

her as she accepts her tragic circumstances like a martyr, even though he disagrees with everything that she does in order to survive. This film, which poses difficult questions about race-relations and ethical positions within the historically troubled realm of post-apartheid South Africa, won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Toronto Film Festival in 2008.

2nd

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TALKS

Tradigital Mythmaking- Singaporean Animation for the 21st Century

Venue: Art Gallery, Goethe Institute Singapore

Exhibition dates: 16 - 25 April, Mon - Sat,

Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

Time: 9am to 6pm.

Tradigital Mythmaking explores Asian myths, folklore and fairy-tales with the intention to create local stories with global appeal. The exhibition - a selection of the best artworks from over 1000 paintings and drawings by students from NTU's School of Art, Design and Media, led by Prof. Hannes Rall - provides a fascinating insight into the development process of animated films.

Free admission.

In Conversation with Amos Gitai

Venue: Guinness Theatre, The Substation

Date: 19 April, Sun

Time: 1.30pm

Award-winning Israeli filmmaker shares his experiences and talks about his craft in this intimate and rare session. This talk accompanies the festival's Amos Gitai Retrospective.

Free by registration.

Please email ticketing@filmfest.org.sg with your name and contact information.

In Conversation with Silver Screen Jury and Filmmakers

Venue: Guinness Theatre, The Substation

Date: 25 April, Sat

Time: 11.30am

Get close and personal with our film experts who will give an overview of the Silver Screen Awards and share their thoughts on their respective film industry today.

Free by registration.

Please email ticketing@filmfest.org.sg with your name and contact information.

In Conversation with Amir Muhammad

World Premiere of Malaysian Gods and Seminar "Post-Reformasi Malaysian Society and Cinema"

Venue: Guinness Theatre, The Substation

Date: 18 April, Sat

Time: 11.30am

In September 1998, Anwar Ibrahim was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. His expulsion and subsequent trial for corruption and sodomy triggered a wave of street protests that gave birth to the 'reformasi' (reformation) movement. **Amir Muhammad's** latest film *Malaysian Gods* revisits the actual locations of the demonstrations, about a decade later, and talks to the people who are living and working there to find out what has changed since then.

An informal seminar will be held before its world premiere to discuss the forces which helped to bring about that unprecedented movement in Malaysian society, its impact on artists and the young as well as changes that have taken place in national cinema since then. The panelists are author/academic Dr. Ooi Kee Beng of the Institute of South-East Asian Studies (ISEAS), teacher/writer Charlene Rajendran, and *Malaysian Gods* director Amir Muhammad.

Tickets at \$9.50 available from SISTIC.

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