

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2014 WASHINGTON, D.C.

DCCFF.ORG | CONNECTING CULTURES THROUGH CINEMA

A special thanks to all the family and friends who supported DCCFF unconditionally.

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# FESTIVAL PARTHERS AND SPONSORS

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# Festival Introductions



We stop to gaze here, we stop to meet here.

After one and a half years of preparation, the 2nd Biennial DC Chinese Film Festival is awaiting its official opening. This year's festival will be a feast of light and shadows, a gathering of filmmakers across the world.

"To discover new talents in Chinese film and provide for them a stage to perform; to facilitate

the communication between Chinese and international filmmakers; to show the DC communities a different and unique side of China..." These are the dreams shared by a group of young professionals in DC who are passionate about the art of film and made this festival possible. I sincerely thank all of them for their passion, devotion, and endless hours given to perfecting this event.

I also thank all the participating filmmakers this year; because of your talents and trust, we are able to program a festival full of power and diversity.

I want to extend my gratitude to our festival jury and panel guests; your arrival motivates us to be better and to appreciate film from a professional and artistic angle.

But without our strategic advisors, media partners, sponsors, community partners, and community supporters, none of the above could have happened, and I thank you all.

Lastly, I want to thank all of our audience who believe in and support the DC Chinese Film Festival.

Geoffrey CAI
Festival Director



Decades ago, Chinese immigrants settled down in America's capital, Washington, DC. In this year of 2014, the DC Chinese Film Festival (DCCFF) is dedicating 4 days and 4 nights to connect cultures through cinema. The festival will showcase a total of 69 films by independent filmmakers and tell stories that are touching yet personal, nostalgic yet quirky, humorous yet thought-provoking.



Carefully selected out of 329 entries that were submitted from 29 countries and regions, the films programmed at this year's DCCFF feature a very broad range of genres, topics, languages and regional dialects. A film may take you to a small rural town in mainland China, a busy traffic intersection in Taiwan, or even the Tibetan Plateau. It may travel back in time to Mao's China, the Golden Age of Hollywood, or the early Chinese Rock & Roll period.

This is your chance to learn about cultures and traditions that you have never heard of or seen, and what is more wonderful than to share this experience with your loved ones?

In collaboration with the Smithsonian Freer Gallery, the Kissinger Institute and the Center for Media and Social Impact, DCCFF is excited to present six award-winning films for our Spotlight Screenings along with four panel discussions, with focus on the LGBT communities, women in film and media, environmental issues in filmmaking, and the state of independent film production in today's China. Many of these special events are free and open to the public.

Finally, we want to say congratulations to all of the filmmakers on their hard work. Thank you for your submissions and many of you for traveling across the ocean to attend our festival. We look forward to celebrating your talents and sharing your stories with a diverse crowd of cinema enthusiasts in Washington, DC.

Now, sit back and enjoy the show!

Lewis LIU

Director of Programming

Echo XIE

**Festival Deputy Director** 

# FESTIVAL INTRODUCTIONS

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LAI Zhibo

## FESTIVAL INTRODUCTIONS

#### MAIN COMPETITION JURY



#### Angelica DAS

As associate director at the Center for Media & Social Impact and program officer with the National Geographic Society, Das regularly serves as a juror for local festivals including the Justice Matters award at Filmfest DC.



#### Augusta PALMER

A filmmaker and media scholar who earned her Ph. D. in Cinema Studies from N.Y.U.'s Tisch School of the Arts, Dr. Palmer' scholarly interests include Chinese-language cinemas, as well as documentary history and theory. Palmer is currently an Assistant Professor of Communication Arts at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY.



#### Carma HINTON

A documentary filmmaker and Professor of Visual Culture and Chinese Studies at George Mason University, Hinton worked with Richard Gordon in directing thirteen documentary films about China. Hinton has received several awards including the George Foster Peabody Award (twice), the Best Social and Political Documentary and the International Critics Prize (Banff Television Festival).



#### LI Yizhona

A doctoral adviser at School of Media and Film Design of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Li also acts as director at the Center for the Technical Production, and deputy director at the Center for American Film Studies at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He is also the vice president of the Chinese Higher Education Film and Television Society.



#### Martha M. FOSTER

Foster is an anthropologist and film curator who has worked in all aspects of documentary film production and distribution. She is the founder and President/CEO of Living Earth Television (LETV), a nonprofit organization based in the USA dedicated to intercultural education through documentary film and television.



#### Peggy CHIAO

A film producer, writer and professor, Chao is considered one of the most important figures in shaping New Taiwan Cinema in the '80s and '90s. Her filmography includes two Silver Bear Award winners, *Beijing Bicycle* and *Betelnut Beauty*, and many renowned international film festival invitees such as *The Hole, Blue Gate Crossing*, and *Drifters*. She produced over 20 features, 5 documentaries and 3 television series



#### Richard WIEBE

A filmmaker and Ph.D. in Film Studies at the University of Iowa where he teaches nonfiction filmmaking, screenwriting, film theory, and film sound, Wiebe's work has screened at several international venues such as IFF Rotterdam, LA Alternativa, and 25 FPS. He is the co-founder and co-director of Works-in-Progress Festival (WiP), and director of the 10th Iowa City Documentary Film Festival (ICDocs).



#### Roy WOL

A New York based Argentine-Israeli-Turkish producer, Wol recently produced Flavio Alves' Tom in America, starring Academy Award nominees Burt Young and Sally Kirkland. Mr. Wol was an advisor to the production Arkadya, which was featured on Ted Hope's prestigious Hammer-to-Nail film list. He has also guest lectured on world cinema and film production at various institutions and universities.

## FESTIVAL INTRODUCTIONS



#### Sasha Waters FREYER

A moving image artist trained in photography and film, Freyer's works represent the perfect integration of intimate experiences and public discourse. Her films have screened on the Sundance Channel, Telluride and other venues. She is also the Chair of the Department of Photography & Film at Virginia Commonwealth University.



#### WU Tiange

Son of cinematic artist Wu Yigong and a 1990 graduate of the Shanghai School of Drama Department of Directing, Wu has followed his father's footsteps. After he completed the filming of The 30th Name, he gradually gained a foothold in Chinese cinema. In 1999, he was awarded Best Director at the 6th Shanghai Film Festival. He is now a director at the Shanghai Film Studio.



#### ZHANG Ling

A Chinese film scholar, critic, and columnist with a MA in Film Aesthetics from Beijing Film Academy and a PHD candidate in Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago, Ling's work has been published on major film journals in China and the US.

"There are no rules in filmmaking. Only sins. And the cardinal sin is dullness." - Frank Capra

#### ONLINE COMPETITION JURY



#### LI Jinhui

A lecturer at the Beijing School of Film specialized in art and technical design and special effects. Li's credits include: *Together* (dir. RAN Yan), *Peacock* (dir. GU Changwei) and *A World Without Thieves* (dir. FENG Xiaogang). Early in his career he contributed to the visual effects for major films such as *Purple Sunset*, *Big Shot's Funeral*, *The Missing Gun*, *Saving Love*, and *Chinese Civilization*.



#### WANG Yuan

A young Chinese filmmaker, producer and screenwriter, Wang is a Shanghai native. He graduated from Shanghai Jiao Tong University in July of 2005. He is the principal writer and producer of *Love Apartment*. To date *Love Apartment* has four seasons and has a total of eighty million views on the Internet.



#### WEI Zheng

Wei is a writer, director, and producer. His work includes Love Apartment, My Sun, and various others. In 2007, Zheng directed To Reverse a Meteor, which received the Beijing University Film Festival's Best Comedy Award.



#### Xiao YONGLIANG

Yongliang is a U.S. based animator and PhD with an interest in digital media, and cultural arts education research and practice. He has worked at NYU and the FOX Corporation, where he played a leadership role in the creation of many films and designed animated special effects for films including *Bonnie*, winner of the 71st Academy Award for Best Animated Short.

# FESTIVAL INTRODUCTIONS

#### **PROGRAMMERS**

Echo XIE has served on the committee of Filmfest DC, DC APA Film Festival, and AFI Silver Docs. She last worked for A24, a NYC-based film distribution company.

Lewis LIU is an independent filmmaker and avid fan of avant-garde and popular cinema. He recently wrote, produced and starred in an independent sci-fi feature Caihong City.

Wayne HUANG is a film buff and enjoys an eclectic array of Oscar-nominated, foreign, and independent films and documentaries.

ZHANG Chenxing loves listening to all types of stories and enjoys people-watching. She is a free-spirited and adventurous video journalist.

Stephanie BROWN is a passionate storyteller. She currently works at the Center for Media & Social Impact while completing her MA in International Media at American University.

Erica SANCHEZ currently works as a communications assistant at an international school and spends her free time indulging in film and television.

HUA Qin is a teacher at Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School. She previously interned at the Shanghai International Film Festival.

Gabby LAVERGHETTA is a communications director at a non-profit organization and enjoys watching foreign films in her spare time.

Ted HOGEMAN is a fan of all genres of film, so much so that he's begun making his own.

SU Beibei is a video journalist who is passionate about storytelling and filmmaking. She works for an international broadcasting agency and produces a profile-show iAmerican.

Devin DRAUDT is a motion-graphic designer, artist, and cat lover with a background in Chinese and Art

Gavin ZHU is an alumnus of Tsinghua and Georgetown University. He is an anime lover and expert on Japanese pop culture.

XU Yin is an IT professional who enjoys simple life and having the time and opportunities to do the things she likes such as watching movies and taking a part in DCCFF.

ZHANG Huiyu is a professional event planner. She enjoys culture exchange and believes everyone's story can be made into a fascinating film.

Grace WANG is an event photographer, graphic designer, and a storytelling enthusiast. She is incubating her own photography studio.

LIU Yue studied Communications at Georgetown University. She is interested in understanding different film genres, especially magic realism and black comedy.

Leo LIAO has served in print media for nearly a decade. He loves art and popular cinema and once led the organizing committee of a studen film festival in Tsinghua Univ.

# DOCFF SPOTLIGHT

The 2014 DCCFF SPOTLIGHT features screenings of six critically acclaimed films from recent years and four panel discussions, one of which is the much anticipated LGBT Night. Please join us as we explore the connections between Chinese film and gender, the environmental, independent production, and the LGBT community, respectively at each panel.

The six Spotlight Screenings give us an opportunity to appreciate independent cinema that stands out in today's Chinese film industry, learn about the pains and gains of this growing nation, and begin a dialogue that goes beyond film appreciation and becomes a cultural exchange.

# DCCFF SPOTLIGHT

#### STRAY DOGS

Friday, September 5th, 7:00 p.m., Freer & Slacker Gallery



TSAI Ming-liang TAIWAN & FRANCE, 2013, 138 MI

This latest feature from filmmaker Tsai Ming-liang is a poetic portrait of a father and his two children surviving in modern day Taipei. The father, an alcoholic, strives to feed his family by standing at busy crossroads as a human signboard while also struggling with his own emotions from the past.

#### **OLD DOG**

Thursday, September 4th, 7:00 p.m., Freer & Slacker Gallery



Pema TSEDEN, WANMA Caidan CHINA, 2011, 88 MINS

Old Dog centers on an aged shepherd on the Himalayan plains struggling to keep his Tibetan mastiff - an ancient breed that has become a target for pet dealers and dog thieves. This film beautifully depicts today's Tibet, where rural society meets the contemporary world and traditional value clashes with modernity.

#### **COP SHOP II**

Friday, September 5th, 12:00 p.m., Wilson Center



ZHOU Hao CHINA, 2011, 76 MINS

This observational documentary captures daily police operations at Guangzhou Railway Station, one of the busiest transportation hubs, during the most chaotic time of the year - the days before the Chinese New Year. It offers an incredibly real and nonjudgmental view of modern-day China and the interactions, struggles, successes, and disappointments that come with rapid economic growth.

#### **ROCK ME TO THE MOON**

Friday, September 5th, 2:00 p.m., Freer & Slacker Gallery



HUANG Chia-Chun TAIWAN, 2013, 115 MINS

This heartwarming documentary takes us on a journey with Taiwan's most unusual rock band. Six middle-aged fathers, all with children with incurable rare diseases, find their comfort in music. They form a band called "Sleepy Dads" and challenge themselves on an impossible mission - to perform at the highly competitive Hohaiyan Rock Festival.

# LGBT SPOTLIGHT

#### Exploring Gay China On-and-Off Screen

Saturday, September 6th, 9:30 p.m., Silo

China's unprecedented economic growth is changing its society in many ways, including the way people look at lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. What does this mean for LGBT communities in China? What is it like to be gay there? What does cinema have to do with it?

Join filmmakers and activists from the United States and China for an evening of documentaries and conversations on the triumphs and challenges of the gay rights movement in modern-day China.

The evening will feature two short films: Fan Popo's New Beijing, New Marriage (2009), which documents the unconventional weddings photo shoots of two same-sex couples on one of Beijing's oldest and most crowded streets, and Tracy Choi's I'm Here (2012), a documentary about the challenge of coming out in small-town China.

The screenings will be followed by a panel discussion with Q&A.

#### MODERATOR:

Andy Shuai, Digital Producer, Blogger and Former CCTV Reporter

#### PANELISTS:

Stephen LEONELLI, Former Director of Beijing LGBT Center Sam ZHAO, LGBT Activist, Filmmaker & Co-Founder of Les + Eryan, Former General Coordinator for Chinese Society for the Study of Sexual Minorities

#### **NEW BEIJING, NEW MARRIAGE**



FAN Popo David CHENG CHINA, 2009, 18 MINS

On February 14, 2009, Valentine's Day, the Qianmen Street in Beijing, a busy, renovated shopping and tourist spot, with its century-old old architecture, witnessed a gay couple and a lesbian couple who chose to have their wedding photos taken on this Street. It was a beautiful Spring Day in Beijing; local residents and tourists from all over the country, strolling on the street, ran into this lovely, yet unconventional wedding scene. Would they understand what was going on? Did the branded 'New Beijing' also bring about 'new concepts' about love and marriages?

#### I'M HERE



Tracy CHOI MACAU, 2012, 43 MINS

When Tracy is cast as a shy, closeted lesbian in her friend's film, she sets out to research the role. Through starting open conversations with friends and family members, she begins to see her own story in a new light.

Ask a question and follow the conversation:

Twitter: #DCCFFpride

Weibo: #华盛顿华语同志电影#

# DOOFF TALKS

#### PANEL: WOMEN FILMMAKER

Saturday, September 6th, 5:30 p.m., American University

In today's digital world, culture and ideas are increasingly shaped by stories told with moving images. This grants film artists immense power in influencing how we perceive ourselves, others and the society around US.

How does gender disparity behind the camera affect gender diversity on the screen? How does this shape our understanding of gender roles in society? Why is it important to create opportunity for women's voices through filmmaking? What challenges do women filmmakers face in achieving equality with their male counterparts?

In recognition of women filmmakers' contribution to cinema and society, the DC Chinese Film Festival invites you to join a panel discussion featuring Chinese women filmmakers and their works, along with leaders of organizations in D.C. dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for women in the film industry. The program will include an open dialogue regarding the achievements and challenges of women filmmakers and will encourage positive action to improve the recognition and status of women in film.

#### MODERATOR:

GUO Jing, Media Researcher at the World Bank

#### **PANELISTS:**

S. Louisa WEI, Documentary Filmmaker (Golden Gate Girls) Sasha Waters FREYER, Moving Image Artist, Dept Chair at VCU Melissa HOUGHTON. Executive Director of Women in Film & Video

#### PANEL: ENVIORNMENTAL FILMMAKING IN CHINA

Friday, September 5th, 2:00 p.m., Wilson Center

During the past three decades, China's rapid economic growth has established the country as a world power, as well as improved the lives of many Chinese citizens. But economic growth has brought with it environmental problems, including air and water pollution, natural resource depletion, degradation of ecosystems, and loss of biodiversity.

How are filmmakers responding to these issues? What role can they have in influencing a different course of action? Join Chinese filmmakers and field experts as they discuss their own experiences in environmental filmmaking and share their views on this genre's potential for change.

#### **MODERATOR:**

**Jennifer L. TURNER**, Director, China Environment Forum, Wilson Center

#### PANELISTS:

**HE Fan**, Filmmaker/Producer, Red Fog **Judith SHAPIRO**, A Scholar Focusing on China **Marta M. FOSTER**, Founder and President/CEO of Living Earty Television

# DOOFF TALKS

#### PANEL: INDEPENDENT FILM PRODUCTION

Sunday, September 7th, 1:10 p.m., Naval Heritage Center

Along with the technology booming, making a movie is no longer an unachievable dream to many people. Each year, more and more "dreamers" taking their DSLR and film editing laptops, start their journey of making their own films. Which genre will attract more investments? How to use a crowd-fund website to promote your movie? What happened after the final production? How to make it to the big screen?

DC Chinese Film Festival invites you to join a panel discussion on the life cycle of indie filmmaking. The program will include an open dialogue regarding the fundraising, promotions and distributions of an independent film. Join a panel of filmmakers and field experts as they discuss their own experiences in producing movies and share their views on future of indie filmmaking.

#### **MODERATOR:**

Roy WOL, Film Producer, Autonomous Pictures

#### PANELISTS:

Peggy CHIAO, Film Producer, Writer and Professor Florina TITZ, Film Producer, Caihong City MA Xiang, Filmmaker, Asian New Force, Holigan

# NARRATIVE FEATURE

Regardless of heritage, hometown, or background, there are some things we all have in common. We all face struggles with growing up, growing wise, growing old. We clash with our friends and family members, even as we go to great lengths to ensure their wellbeing and happiness. These are just a few of the themes explored by DCCFF's 2014 narrative feature screenings. Come along for the journey as a young man returns to his hometown for work, an old man reflects on his youth, a young girl searches for her fractured family, and a group of friends wage petty wars against a backdrop of national emergency.

# NARRATIVE FEATURES

#### **HOOLIGAN**

Friday, September 5th, 9:40 p.m., Naval Heritage Center



MA Xiang CHINA, 2013, 82 MINS

Two stories come together in this film about the inevitability of change. A ten-year-old boy longing to grow up falls in love with his teacher. A fifty-year-old man just released from prison attempts to adapt to a changed world, where the offense that put him in jail is now seen as unremarkable. One longs for the future, the other longs for the past. What can they do?

#### THE SUSPENDED STEP

Friday, September 5th, 5:00 p.m., Naval Heritage Center



YANG Xiao CHINA, 2013, 75 MINS

Zhang Xin, a young reporter who works for a newspaper Nanjing, wants to quit his job to pursuit his dream as a novelist. But the chief editor refuses his resignation and assigns him to cover a film premier in his hometown Guilin. It has been a long time since Zhang left his hometown. On this trip, he encounters his old friend Neng Neng. Neng Neng also wants to guit her job for her dream, which is to open a rice noodle restaurant.

#### **DEFORMITY SCI-FI**

Saturday, September 6th, 4:00 p.m., Naval Heritage Center



KOKOKA CHINA, 2013, 97 MINS

All across China, the media is buzzing with news of China's recent trip to Mars and the possibility of an alien invasion. Yet for a gang of thugs in a small town, life seems to go on unaffected, their days full of drinking, fighting, and crime. Bleak yet somehow beautiful, Deformity Sci-Fi explores the randomness of violence.

#### HILL OF ILHA VERDE

Sunday, September 7th, 11:00 a.m., Naval Heritage Center



King Wai CHEUNG MACAU & HONG KONG, 2014, 73 MINS

Despite what she tells people, young Hio comes from a broken home. Her family members are scattered across the city, each dealing with their own problems. When her mother disappears, Hio sets out on a journey to find her. As Hio wanders between dream and reality, the circumstances that divided her family slowly come to light. Is reunion possible, or is it just a childish fantasy?

#### **DCCFF 2014 SPONSOR**

# 本類 (\*1 豆) 北美最大华人婚恋网



我要嫁人! Jessica, 24岁



两颗红豆 北美最大华人婚恋网 "非诚勿扰""百里挑一" 北美地区唯一指定婚恋网站

# DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

This year's Documentary Feature category brings us many memorable stories and will surely be a treat for documentary enthusiasts. For those who are new to this genre of cinema, you are in for an eye-opening experience. Some of these documentaries tell real-life stories of extraordinary people, such as the first female Chinese-American director in Hollywood, and the parkour boys chasing their dreams to compete in a national tournament. Then, there are the documentaries that take a candid look at unavoidable issues, such as the continued political tension between Mainland China and Taiwan, and the pros and cons of the modern educational system.

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

#### **GOLDEN GATE GIRLS**

Thursday, September 4th, 8:00 p.m., E St Cimena



S. LOUISA WEI HONG KONG & USA, 2013, 90 MINS

Between 1943 and 1949, Hong Kong's first "directress" Esther Eng. a San Francisco native and open lesbian, was the only woman directing feature-length films in America. Drawing on the marks she left in both Chinese and English press, Golden Gate Girl presents her life and the tumultuous time in which she lived in a tribute to pioneer women filmmakers working on both sides of the Pacific, and the courage with which they crossed boundaries of language, culture, race and gender.

#### **BAZAAR JUMPER**

Saturday, September 6th, 7:00 p.m., American University



HAO Zhiqiang CHINA, 2013, 62 MINS

Brothers Aydar and Xirali share a passion for the sport of parkour. Younger brother Xirali is determined to participate in the National Parkour Competition in Beijing, despite his mother's fear for his safety. While his team seeks the perfect practicing grounds, Xirali puts on street performances and Aydar secretly helps him raise travel funds. As competition day grows closer, the brothers and the team discover what it really means to win or lose.

#### **HUSBAND, WIFE & THE OTHER MAN**

Saturday, September 6th, 1:00 p.m., American University



WANG Shengchen CHINA, 2014, 59 MINS

Wang Laicheng was abandoned by his wife twenty years ago, but his new marriage brings him great joy. His bride Li Yuelan welcomes him into her life. But there's a catch: Li Yuelan is already married to Yuan Shangju, whose persistent illness makes him unable to work. Facing disapproval from their neighbors and tension over the roles of the two husbands, this nontraditional family struggles not only to make ends meet but also to find happiness.

#### **FISH STORY**

Saturday, September 6th, 3:20 p.m., American University



WONG Siu-Pong HONG KONG, 2013, 73 MINS

Echoing an ancient Chinese saying, "You are not a fish; how do you understand what constitutes the enjoyment of fishes?" this documentary explores what it is like growing up in an adult world through children's eyes. J Shen and Jacky Wong are good friends in school. Coming from a poor family, they carry the hopes and dreams of their parents. But how do children perceive those expectations? And how do they interpret "success"?

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

#### THE OTHER SIDE

Friday, September 5th, 5:00 p.m., Goethe-Institut



TSAI Tsung-lung TAIWAN, 2012, 68 MINS

After a lifetime of failed business ventures, Taiwanese KE leaves for China to try and start over. Meanwhile, Chinese Lili moves to Taiwan with her new husband, hoping for a better life. But KE's bad luck seems to have followed him from Taiwan, and Lili finds that her new responsibilities are more than she bargained for. How can dreams and reality, like China and Taiwan, seem so near yet so far?

"The irony is that the way to find your own culture is to leave it...As the world shrinks, we begin to interact on increasinly personal levels, the differences are not going to become less important. They're going to become more important. "

- Gary R. Weaver

# NARRATIVE SHORT

The Narrative Short category features 18 selections and showcases a great diversity of characters, subject matters, and techniques. The filmmakers share with us joy and sadness in 30 minutes or less of screen time; many also shed light upon different aspects of the Chinese immigration experience. There are three separate Narrative Short screenings, each comprised of four or five films. Additionally, each Narrative Feature screening is preceded by a Narrative Short.

## NARRATIVE SHORTS



MY SUPER VALENTINE

Friday, September 5th, 5:00 p.m., Naval Heritage Center YANG Jing USA, 2013, 8 MINS

Imaginative 7-year-old Ashley has to stand up against the class bully in order to save her disinterested crush on Valentine's Day.



OLD MAN Friday, September 5th, 9:40 p.m., Naval Heritage Center YI Zhenxing CHINA, 2013, 13 MINS

A young nurse recieves an unfriendly welcome when she starts working at a home for the elderly. After the old men get into trouble she finds out the truth behind the unfriendly façade.



RED FOG Saturday, September 6th, 4:00 p.m., Naval Heritage Center HE Fan USA, 2013, 4 MINS

It's the year 2032; the deadly Great Red Fog has faded away. A father drives his daughter to meet her mom.



TOGETHER

Sunday, September 7th, 11:00 a.m., Naval Heritage Center **ZHU Siyi** USA, 2013, 33 MINS

Yue, a retired policeman, sees his simple life disrupted when he catches a thief in the street. After an encounter with the thief's son, Yue decides to help the little boy who is in great trouble with his father gone. Together they face the boys' problems and form a deep friendship.



**WOMAN IN FRAGMENTS** 

Friday, September 5th, 7:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center **ZHOU Quan** USA, 2013, 22 MINS

Anne Wong is a promising dancer. But when her mother falls ill and she takes over the family business, it becomes clear to her that she cannot watch over her mother and continue to pursue her dream.



A TIBETAN MARRIAGE
Friday, September 5th, 7:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center
LIU Lu USA, 2013, 18 MINS

Gongbu is part of a Tibetan polyandrous marriage where he shares his wife with his brother. He spends a couple of years in the city and starts feeling differently about his marriage when he comes back to his family.



THE HORNS Friday, September 5th, 7:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center Holy SONG CHINA, 2013, 30 MINS

Xiao Li wakes up one morning with a pair of horns on his head. He tries strange ways to get rid of them but doesn't follow a wise man's advice.



GRAND CANAL Friday, September 5th, 7:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center Johnny MA CHINA, 2013, 20 MINS

Greek Tragedy told with a Chinese love song.

# NARRATIVE SHORTS



A BIG DEAL Saturday, September 6th, 6:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center YAO Tingting CHINA, 2013, 22 MINS

A little boy hires a prostitute to pretend to be his mother but things go wrong when he brings her to a parent-teacher meeting at his school.



#### A CELEBRATION IS A CELEBRATION IS A CELEBRATION IS A CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 6th, 6:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center ZHOU Tong CHINA & USA, 2013, 31 MINS

Daniel's family issues come to the surface as he celebrates his 18th birthday with his mom and dad, and his girlfriend and her father.



A-WAY Saturday, September 6th, 6:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center LIEN Chien-hung TAIWAN, 2013, 30 MINS

A-Way is a social worker at an agency that works with people who have physical and mental disabilities. One case leads him to visit a family that will give him unforgettable memories.



BACK TO THE PRAIRIE

Saturday, September 6th, 6:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center YI Liqi CHINA, 2014, 22 MINS

A single father journeys back to his hometown along with his young son. When they arrive, his son wants nothing to do with rural life, and the father's attempts to make the best of the situation only seem to widen the gulf between them. Soon the father will leave to return to the city, but what about the son?



THE POOL MAN

Saturday, September 6th, 8:40 p.m., Naval Heritage Center **ZHAN Kaidi** TAIWAN, 2013, 32 MINS

An overweight boy desperate for love meets a washed-up national swimmer struggling to regain his past glory. How will they inspire each other and head for a better life?



#### **ENTERING ADULTHOOD**

Saturday, September 6th, 8:40 p.m., Naval Heritage Center XIONG Wei CHINA, 2014, 29 MINS

A young man starts working at a factory and finds that life as an adult is full of challenges and hardships



#### **GRANDFATHER'S WISHES**

Saturday, September 6th, 8:40 p.m., Naval Heritage Center WEN Yu TAIWAN, 2014, 20 MINS

An old man asks his grandson to put on a puppet show and relives memories from the past.



#### DOOR GOD

Saturday, September 6th, 8:40 p.m., Naval Heritage Center LIU Yulin CHINA, 2013, 23 MINS

Seven-year-old Lingli has been waiting two years for her mother to come home. When someone shows up, she brings irreversible change to Lingli and her family.



THE OLD RAZOR

Sunday, September 7th, 11:00 a.m., Naval Heritage Center JIANG Qilong CHINA, 2013, 24 MINS

Old barber Zhu Decheng is having a hard time finding an apprentice to inherit his craft. His son volunteers his daughter to learn over the summer, but born and brought up in the big city, Zhu Ling can hardly understand her grandfather's dedication to this traditional profession.



LOOKING FOR CHAIRMAN MAO Friday, September 5th, 7:20 p.m., Naval Heritage Center ZENG Yizhou, QIAO Jianxun, ZHONG Xia CHINA, 2013, 15 MINS

A young man goes looking for Chairman Mao in order to save his wife. When he gets to the city he finds that something is off.

"A style is not a matter of camera angles or fancy footwork, it's an expression, an accurate expression of your particular opinion."

- Karel Reisz

# DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

The Documentary Short category, similar to our other Short selections, brings a vast array of non-fictional stories. Some of the films take us back in time, to look at the first generation of Chinese Americans in America's Chinatown, or the first generation of Chinese rockstars. Other films take us on an international journey, from the playground of a kindergarten in rural China to the home of a Hungarian family. Join us to watch amazing life stories against breathtaking backdrops.

## DOCUMENTARY SHORTS



**FLOATING** Saturday, September 6th, 7:00 p.m., American University QIU Annan USA, 2013, 36 MINS

Wei Yuchong arrivies in New York City in 2011 from Fuzhou, China with high hopes. But with limited knowledge of English and no friends or family in the U.S., he begins to reconsider his decision to come to America.



RUNCATION Friday, September 5th, 5:00 p.m., Goethe-Institut LUO Zhi, Stephanie YANG USA, 2014, 30 MINS

"Runcation" combines running with vacationing. Animator Zhi Luo used to spend all her time in front of a computer, until she became friends with a group of fun-loving runners. This documentary follows her runcation in the Florida Keys for the Ragnar Relay Race.



**BLOSSOM WITH TEARS** Saturday, September 6th, 1:00 p.m., American University JIN Huaging CHINA, 2012, 39 MINS

This is a story of competition and survival. Two young acrobatics students and their families attempt to make the most of what life has offered them



LOST Friday, September 5th, 7:00 p.m., Goethe-Institut **JOJO** CHINA, 2012, 12 MINS

Without any dialogue, narration, or subtitles, *Lost* tells a story through the eyes of wild animals. Filmed over five years, Lost uses creative realism to portray the pain that humans have inflicted upon nature.



WHERE Friday, September 5th, 7:00 p.m., Goethe-Institut ZHANG Zimu HUNGARY, 2013, 17 MINS

A filmmaker stays with a Hungarian family to document their minimal modern intervention lifestyle. The filmmaker also goes through an inner searching journey. It's a reflection on filmmaking encounters, immersion, and living and learning from the characters.



THE FIRST SONG Friday, September 5th, 7:00 p.m., Goethe-Institut SHI Yubin CHINA, 2013, 24 MINS

Children in Shandong Peninsula are idealistic and romantic by nature, a criteria through which they view the world. Unable to understand the complexities of life, or the rights and wrongs in the adult world, they express their own needs and desires.



LAMENT OF YUMEN Friday, September 5th, 7:00 p.m., Goethe-Institut JIN Huaqing CHINA, 2012, 27 MINS

Yumen used to be a boomtown. Half a century later, its resources have been exhausted and the town is nearly deserted. Only the old, the poor, and the handicapped remain. In this era of continuous resource depletion, this film looks at the social problems that arise in the cities left behind



REFLECTION
Friday, September 5th, 7:00 p.m., Goethe-Institut
ZHANG Zequan & JIN Chunsi CHINA, 2013, 23 MINS
Reflection, a short film from a talented first-time filmmaker,
highlights the work of "Liuli" (Chinese traditional art glass)
craftsmen. These ordinary craftsmen are rarely acknowledged
as artists but, through their amazing creations and incredible
perseverance, prove that they are worthy of respect.



As we are a community-organized festival, your generous contribution and support is crucial to us. We hope to provide a rich and diverse program, bring together filmmakers from around the world, and most importantly, create a fun festival experience for all of you. We sincerely invite you to help us make DCCFF better.

To donate to DCCFF visit DCCFF.ORG/DONATE



# EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

It can sometimes be uncomfortable to experience the unfamiliar, but it can also be quite fun. Different from, and sometimes opposed to, the practices of mainstream narrative and documentary filmmaking, the Experimental Short collection consists of alternative, avant-garde and underground films that are bold, visually stunning, sometimes unexpected, and even nerve-racking. Prepare yourself for a roller coaster ride. You won't be disappointed.

# EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS



DOUBLE ACT

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut DING Shiwei CHINA, 2013, 5 MINS

In this ideological world, glamorous and utopian ideals hypnotize society. History is full of seemingly positive changes that come in negative forms. We think we're being reborn, but can we ever really free ourselves from this cycle of violence?



#### CARNIVAL

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut ZHANG Runhen CHINA, 2013, 3 MINS

School before exams is a depressing place to be. The students don't have time to take breaks - so their desks and chairs take a break for them.



## **EMPTY FORT STRATEGY**

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut ZHONG Su CHINA, 2013, 4 MINS

The best way to predict the future is to examine our past and present wherever they make take us.



## PERFECT CONJUGAL BLISS

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut ZHONG Su CHINA, 2014, 5 MINS

An exploration of reality and memory in one long shot.



**KURUPURU** 

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut Florina Titz USA, 2012, 6 MINS

A programmer is working on a map of the city when he discovers a glitch inside the system. Set on fixing this computer error, he travels inside the city itself only to make a radical discovery.



### KILLING A PIG WITHOUT MAO

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut **HUANG Zhengian** FRANCE, 2013, 14 MINS

Inspired by George Orwell's dystopian novel *Animal Farm*, this experimental piece centers on a young woman working in a slaughterhouse in Mao's China.



**CYCLES** 

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut LAI Zhibo USA, 2013, 2 MINS

Light, energy, and life - the endless revolving connection. A cycle.



**GEORGE & VILLAGER** 

Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut **MA Shuhao** CHINA, 2013, 7 MINS

A poetic portrait of a young professional's struggle with city life.

# EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS



THE GAZE
Friday, September 5th, 9:20 p.m., Goethe-Institut
WU Even & LIU Yiyang CANADA, 2013, 5 MINS

We're used to seeing things one way, but insects and machines most likely see things differently. What is revealed by overlapping these perceptions?

"I think audiences get too comfortable and familiar in today's movies. They believe everything they're hearing and seeing. I like to shake that up."

- Christopher Nolan

# ANIMATION SHORTS

There are many ways for artists and filmmakers to tell their stories. The nine animation shorts presented in this collection adopt techniques such as clay, water ink, stop motion, and CGI. Join us as we enter their animated world.

# ANIMATION SHORTS



LIKE A DREAM Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut WU Zhijing CHINA, 2013, 6 MINS

A woman reflects on a past that now seems like a fading dream.



## ANIMATION ZOO

Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut WANG Linhui USA, 2014, 2 MINS

Organizing an office dinner becomes more complicated than expected.



### THE UNTOLD & UNSEEN Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut

HO Tak Lam HONG KONG, 2013, 10 MINS

We work only to eat, we eat only to work - like soulless machines. Are we actually fighting for a better life, or are we ultimately fighting iust to survive in this world?



## HANDI & V

Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut Fenway FAN USA, 2013, 5 MINS

After Grandma Handi passes away, Grandpa V lives in sadness. One day, a picture missing from their photo album sends him on a wandering journey through time, whether in the real world or in his memory.



THE SILENT MELODY
Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut
LI Jinfeng USA, 2014, 6 MINS

A poor boy who dreams of becoming a violinist comes across a magical violin that lets him play wonderful music. But something strange happens whenever he plays it.



RAIN LOTUS
Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut
Joe CHNAG CANADA, 2014, 7 MINS

This seven-minute animated film uses water and ink to create a visual experience on screen, creating a mood from a poem which tells a love story of human joys and sorrows.



HALF Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut LIN Hongrui & HE Ting CHINA, 2012, 6 MINS

Have you ever felt alone in the crowd? It was in the crowd that he saw her, followed her, and lost her. Is he doomed to be alone forever?



BIRDS DREAM Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut CHAI Mi CHINA, 2014, 10 MINS

A baby bird about to hatch has a nightmarish dream of what the world might be.



## **HUMANEXUS**

Friday, September 5th, 10:40 p.m., Goethe-Institut SHEN Yingfang USA, 2014, 10 MINS

The human race has long searched for meaningful interpersonal connection. Technology makes it easier to reach out to others, but has also had unforseen consequences. Now we must ask ourselves, "Is this what we really want?"

"A film is a petrified fountain of thought." - Jean Cocteau

# SPECIAL SCREENING

The Programming Committee Special Screening, also known as the Breakfast Screening, is a collection of excellent narrative, animated, and experimental shorts submitted to the 2014 DC Chinese Film Festival. Enjoy your breakfast while watching creative works that are poetic, humorous, touching, nostalgic, and self-reflective. The Screening will be held at Busboys and Poets in Downtown DC at 9am.

### BREAKFAST SCREENING

Sunday, September 7th, 9:00 a.m., Busboys and Poets



THE CARMEL CORN RIOT SHIE Guang-cheng TAIWAN, 2014, 19 MINS

In a city getting worse and worse, a junior assistant is bossed around by a senior cameraman; a real estate agent struggles to sell; and abandoned workers start a physical protest.



**FAMERS** 

#### Joy-show CHINA, 2012, 12 MINS

Adapted from a real story, six village girls fall in love with volleyball in the 1980s. Despite deticated training, they fail to make it to the county's team. Many years later, their trainer gets a serious illness and they decide to use their talents to pay for his medical care. Will they be able to compete against their city counterparts?



SOUTH OF MAIN STREET

LIU Yihua CHINA & US. 2013. 4 MINS

An exploration of life in a busy metropolis from the perspective of a young Chinese woman: the lack of trust and sense of loneliness. the longing and resistance for love, and the helplessness and expectations of life. Mostly shot on Main Street in Flushing, New York and in the SoHo area in Manhattan.



CITY OF BLACK AND WHITE

Leon CHENG TAIWAN, 2014, 32 MINS

In this modern silent movie, a woman finds a way to get the perfect boyfriend after many failed attempts. Mr. Bean is one story of a three-part movie portraying life in Shanghai.



# LAST DAY OF THE YEAR

TSENG Ying-ting TAIWAN, 2012, 30 MINS

On a cold December morning, Xiu-huang finishes her night shift. Without stopping to rest, she rushes back home and gets prepared to meet her son. However, her expectation of going home together fails; her son is meeting his girlfriend in Taipei to see the fireworks on New Year's Eve.



## **OUTSIDE THE ELEVATOR**

WANG Ruoshan CHINA, 2013, 6 MINS

As a young girl waits for the elevator, she encounters a parade of different personalities.



### **ALWAYS IN MIND**

LIN Xujian CHINA, 2013, 15 MINS

This minimal-dialogue film focuses on two people in a small room. The only thing they can rely on is each other as the cramped space intensifies their interactions.

# Student & Amatuer Shorts (Online Competition)

IF MAN COULD MENSTRUATE

I WANNA SHOOT A MOVIE

12 mins

22 mins

TIN TOY CARS

SUDDEN FEELING

1 min

8 mins

## THE SILK ROAD OF POP

Sunday, September 7th, 3:45 p.m., Naval Heritage Center



Sameer FAROOQ CHINA, CANADA, HOLAND & BELGUIM, 2013, 53 MINS

'The Silk Road of Pop' sketches a unique portrait of the explosive pop music scene among the Uyghur Muslim minority in north-west China. Featuring traditional musicians, hip-hop crews, rock stars and dynamic music fans, this documentary taps into the rhythmical zeitgeist of what it means to be young and Uyghur in China, showing how music becomes a liberating element for a minority trying to assert its identity within a repressive environment.

"I recognize that my position as a postcolonial filmmaker has prompted me to develop new ways of dealing with material which speaks from a position of placelessness, critiquing established norms and creating a space within documentary making which is relevant to my experience."

—Sameer Farooq

# Special Events

Other than the aforementioned screenings and discussion panels, In addition to screenings, DCCFF hosts a series of networking events for festival attendees. Festival Express Pass holders are are invited to the exclusive Opening Reception. The Award Ceremony is free and open to the general public.

#### OPEING RECEPTION

Thursday, September 4th, 9:30 p.m., Penn Social Seasonal Bar

Join filmmakers, jury members, critics, and film lovers at Penn Social DC for a drink and an all-about-film night out. The event is open to festival pass holders only. Government issued photo ID is required at the door.

#### FILMMAKER BRUNCH

Saturday, September 6th, 9:00 a.m., Silo

This is an exclusive social event for filmmakers and jury members only.

#### **CLOSING RECEPTION**

Sunday, September 7th, 5:00 p.m., Naval Heritage Center

The closing reception, following the closing film, is your last chance to socialize with your favorite filmmakers. The event is open to festival pass holders, daily pass holders and single ticket holders. Government issued photo ID is required at the door.

#### AWARD CEREMONY

Sunday, September 7th, 6:00 p.m., Naval Heritage Center

The final event of the 2014 DC Chinese Film Festival will announce the award winners of all main competition categories, as well as special programming and audience awards. Walk the red carpet with our filmmakers and distinguished guests. This event is free and open to the public.

## TICKET INFORMATION

#### **TICKET OPTIONS**

#### FESTIVAL EXPRESS PASS: \$66

Access to everything we have to offer - including all the screenings, panels, parties and even exclusive events. Limited number available.

#### OPENING FILM: \$15

DCCFF Kickoff Screening 09/04

#### INDIVIDUAL SCRENNING: \$10

All screening tickets are \$10 with the exceptions of the opening, closing, and breakfast screenings.

#### ONE-DAY PASS: \$20

Friday (09/05)

#### ONE-DAY PASS: \$25

Saturday (09/06)

#### CLOSING-DAY PASS: \$25

Sunday (09/07)

#### BREAKFAST SCREENING: \$5

Entry Only

#### CLOSING FILM: \$20

Includes closing film and reception

#### **HOW TO BUY TICKETS**

ONLINE

#### dccff2014.eventbrite.com

BY PHONE

415-766-7126

#### IN PERSON

During the Festival, tickets will be on sale at all Festival Venue box offices the day of the event, based on screening or event availability. Box Offices open approximately 30 minutes prior to the venue's first DCCFF event of the day.

#### **TICKET POLICY**

#### SERVICE CHARGES

Handling fee for tickets purchased ONLINE: \$1.24 per ticket for a \$10 ticket. To guarantee admission, all Ticket and Pass Holders MUST present their ticket(s) in line at the venue 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time. No refunds. No exchanges.

# FESTIVAL VENUES & MAPS

## VENUES

#### **Downtown**

#### Freer & Sackler

1050 Independence Ave SW Washington, DC 20560

#### Wilson Center

1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20004

#### Naval Heritage Center

701 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20004

#### Silo

919 5th St NW Washington, DC 20001

#### E St Cinema

555 11th St NW #2 Washington, DC 20004

#### Goethe-Institut

812 7th St NW Washington, DC 20001

#### **Busboys and Poets**

1025 5th St NW Washington, DC 20001

#### Penn Social

801E St NW

Washington, DC 20004

#### Metro:

Gallery-Place Chinatown: Red, Yellow & Green Line

Mt Vernon Sq Metro: Yellow & Green Line Metro Center: Red, Blue, Orange & Gray Line

#### Parking:

Street and Garage Parking

### **American University**

Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman Theater 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20016

#### Metro:

Tenelytown - AU: Red Line. Shuttle bus avaliable from metro to AU's Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman Theater. (15 minute walk from metro station to campus)

## Parking:

Available on campus.

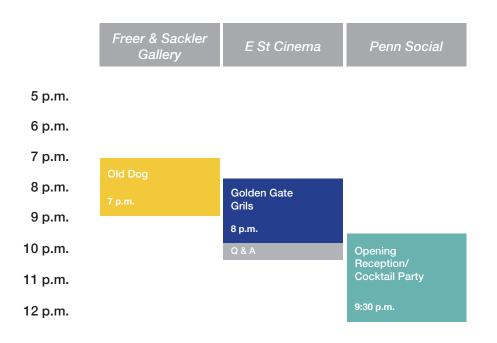
## MAP



# SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD



# Thursday, September 4th



# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

Freer & Sackler Wilson Center Geothe-Institut 9 a.m. 10 a.m. 11 a.m. 12 p.m. 1 p.m. 2 p.m. Environmental Panel 3 p.m. 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m. The Other Side Suspended Step 6 p.m. 5 p.m. 5 p.m. 7 p.m. **Documentary Shorts** Narrative 8 p.m. Shorts 7 p.m. 9 p.m. 7:20 p.m. Experimental Shorts 10 p.m. 9:20 p.m. Hooligan 11 p.m. Animation 9:20 p.m. Shorts 12 p.m. 10:45 p.m.

# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

	Naval Heritage Center	American University	SILO
9 a.m.			
10 a.m.			Filmmaker Brunch
11 a.m.			10:00 a.m.
12 p.m.			
1 p.m.		Husband, Wife &	
2 p.m.		The Other Man 1 p.m.	
3 p.m.		Q & A	
4 p.m.	Deformity Sci-fi	Fish Story 3:20 p.m.	
5 p.m.	4 p.m.	Q & A Women & Film	
6 p.m.	Q & A	Panel 5:30 p.m.	
7 p.m.	Narrative Shorts	Bazaar Jumper	
8 p.m.	6:20 p.m. Q & A	7 p.m.	
9 p.m.	Narrative Shorts	Q & A	LGBT Spotlight
10 p.m.	8:40 p.m.		
11 p.m.	Q & A		
12 p.m.			9 p.m.

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

Naval Heritage Center Busboys & Poets 9 a.m. Breakfast Screening 10 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m. Hill of Ilha Verde 12 p.m. 11 a.m. 1 p.m. Independent Film Producing Panel 2 p.m. 1:10 p.m. Student & Amateur 3 p.m. 2:20 p.m. The Silk Road of Pop 4 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 5 p.m. Closing Reception 5:00 p.m. 6 p.m. **Award Ceremony** 7 p.m. 8 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 9 p.m. 10 p.m. 11 p.m.

12 p.m.

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