

OCTOBER 16-19, 2025



2025 光羽電影節

ALULA FILM FESTIVAL

PROGRAM

THE CULVER THEATER, LOS ANGELES

SPECIAL THANKS
TO ALL THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
FOR SUPPORTING ALULA UNCONDITIONALLY

WELCOME TO THE 2025 ALULA FILM FESTIVAL!

From the very beginning—almost 15 years ago—ALULA has been carried by the same team: friends bound not only by a love for cinema, but by a simple belief that independent filmmakers deserve a worthy stage to be seen and heard. That commitment remains our compass.

This year, our theme—In the Making—speaks to the courage of becoming in uncertain times. We gather amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and a world increasingly divided by socioeconomic volatility. Disinformation travels, and cultural shorthand often replaces true understanding. Now more than ever, our mission is clear: to foster cultural understanding through cinema—patiently and personally. We believe stories can build connections stronger than any headline.

In this spirit, we're proud to present a lineup that honors both legacy and risk. A total of 18 feature and short films have been selected for the Official Competition; six feature-length films are directorial debuts, and 40% of the directors are women filmmakers. Our Spotlight Screenings include the North American Premiere of Hou Hsiao-Hsien's *A City of Sadness* (4K restored), a 9-hour screening of Wang Bing's *Tie Xi Qu: West of the Tracks*, the U.S. Premiere of Tsui Hark's *Green Snake* (4K restored), and the Los Angeles Premiere of Jia Zhangke's *Xiao Wu* (4K restored). Together, these works trace where we've come from and where we're going—celebrating achievements while opening space for new possibilities.

As a festival run entirely by volunteers working across four time zones, we owe an immeasurable debt to our team for their devotion and imagination. Our heartfelt thanks to our jury, advisors, partners, families, and friends who sustain us; and to the filmmakers who entrust us with their work. Your courage makes this festival possible.

For four days at The Culver City Theater, we invite you to set aside preconceptions and follow your curiosity. Enjoy the films!

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TICKET INFORMATION 票務信息

WHERE TO BUY



TICKET 購票

ONLINE Visit the official ALULA Website to purchase
Single Screening Tickets:
<https://www.alulafilm.org/schedule-tickets>
Festival Competition Pass:
<https://www.alulafilm.org/festival-pass>

ONSITE **Purchase at The Culver Theater**

Address:

9500 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

** Please note that there is no reserved seating.
Come early to secure a good seat.*

TICKET POLICY

1. All the screening tickets are sold exclusively via Culver Theater, either online or at the theater. All tickets are valid for the 2025 Alula Film Festival at Culver Theater, Culver City, CA. There is no reserved seating. Please come early to secure a good seat.
2. For PASS HOLDERS, please note that details are varied based on the different types of passes, please check with ALULA for more information. ALL pass holders (jury, filmmaker, volunteer and guest) must check in at the ALULA Box Office in the Theatre Lobby at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled screening time to guarantee access. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Festival passes are non-transferable and not for sale.
3. RETURN POLICY: Tickets are ONLY eligible for a refund up to 60 minutes prior to the showtime. Request a refund in-person at the theater or by emailing customerservice@theculvertheater.com or calling (424) 434-1770.

JURY MEMBERS 電影節評委



Wang Bing

Wang Bing is one of China's most acclaimed documentary filmmakers, renowned for his portraits of marginalized lives and the transformations of modern China; his work has earned major festival awards and international acclaim. Trained in photography at the Lu Xun Academy of Fine Art and cinematography at the Beijing Film Academy, he began working independently in 1999. His nine-hour *West of Tracks* (2003) brought international recognition, followed by *Fengming, A Chinese Memoir*; *Three Sisters*; *'Til Madness Do Us Part*; *Mrs. Fang*; and *Dead Souls*—films that probe memory, poverty, and survival with intimate, durational observation. In 2023 he released *Youth (Spring)*, a documentary on young people in a town in Yunnan Province, praised for its authentic, poignant direction.

Huang Lu

Huang Lu, known as the 'Queen of Chinese Art-house Film,' has starred in acclaimed works such as *Blind Mountain*, *Blind Massage*, and *Dog Days*. The only post-80s Chinese actress with films selected at Cannes, Berlin, and Venice, she is celebrated internationally for her daring, nuanced performances.



Cheng-Sim Lim

Cheng-Sim Lim is a Los Angeles-based curator and Asia Delegate for the San Sebastián International Film Festival. Formerly Co-Head of Programming at UCLA Film & Television Archive and Artistic Director of the China Onscreen Biennial, she has championed non-Western cinema in the U.S. and curated globally acclaimed retrospectives such as *Heroic Grace: The Chinese Martial Arts Film*.



Inge de Leeuw

Inge de Leeuw is an award-winning programmer and curator with over 15 years of experience, currently Director of Programming at Metrograph in New York and formerly senior programmer at IFFR. She has curated internationally across film, art, and digital culture, and was named Best Emerging Programmer at Cannes (2019) and one of Screen International's Future Leaders (2017)

Jordan Cronk

Jordan Cronk is a Los Angeles-based critic, programmer, and founder of Acropolis Cinema. He contributes to Artforum, Film Comment, and MUBI Notebook, and serves as a program advisor for Quinzaine des Cinéastes.



Radium Cheung

Radium Cheung, HKSC was named one of Variety's '10 Cinematographers to Watch' and Independent Magazine's '10 Filmmakers to Watch.' He shot and co-produced Sean Baker's *Starlet* and *Tangerine*, and more recently has directed series including *The Sinner* (Netflix), *Hightown* (STARZ), and *American Rust: Broken Justice* (Amazon).



光羽對談

ALULA CONVERSATION

LOST IN TRANSLATION: THE STORIES THAT REMAIN UNSEEN

A conversation on how Asian cinema navigates the U.S. market

Saturday, Oct. 18 | 3 - 4pm PDT

Doors at 2:30pm

MODERATOR

Shiyu Wang

Director of Programming at Alula Film Festival

SPEAKERS

Inge de Leeuw

Programmer, curator

Huang Lu

Actress, Producer

Wang Bing

Documentary filmmaker

Cheng-Sim Lim

Programmer, curator

Jordan Cronk

Film Critic, Programmer

Radium Cheung

Cinematographer



主競賽單元 **MAIN COMPETITION**

Four narrative features, four documentary features, and ten shorts have been selected as finalists for the Competition at the 2025 ALULA Film Festival. Each film bears its own cinematic language, whether dreamlike, observational, or boldly experimental, making the program as diverse in form as it is in story.

The four feature narrative films selected unveil an extraordinarily rich and diverse cinematic landscape—from the countryside of China to the beaches of Brazil—as we gradually uncover the wonders and cruelties of life through intricate human relationships. SEE PAGE 08-11 for DETAILS!

The four feature documentaries focus more closely on individual experiences and family interiors, aligning with the broader social phenomenon of introversion in the post-pandemic era. SEE PAGE 12-15 for DETAILS!

The ten short films encompass narrative, documentary, animation, and experimental genres. Their vastly different stories and forms of expression will allow audiences to experience the myriad possibilities of cinematic storytelling. SEE PAGE 16-21 for DETAILS!

Festival Schedule is listed in Pacific Standard Time (PST)

影展活動均以美國太平洋標準時間為準

Films are listed in no particular order

電影排名不分先後

劇情長片

NARRATIVE FEATURE

After his wife's sudden death, Shu Wen struggled to recover. A year later, he considered a new romance, but his daughters disagreed. This led to a communication opportunity, making Shu Wen aware of his past "absence" in the family. He shifted his focus to those around him and realized that he was not as useless as he had thought. As he reintegrated into the family, differences and conflicts arising from varying social statuses within the family became apparent. While the middle generation appeared harmonious, their regrets and struggles were reflected in the younger generation. As a "bystander" in the family, Shu Wen keenly observed this and took it upon himself to heal his loved ones in his own unique way. In doing so, he not only reestablished the family bond but also found solace for himself.

As The Water Flows 翠湖

Director: **BIAN Zhuo** 卞灼

China | 2025 | 119min | Family Drama |

Mandarin Chinese / Yunnan Dialect

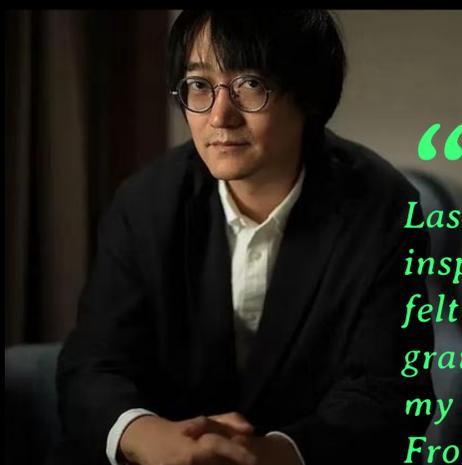
Screening Time: 10/18/2025

7pm – 8:59pm

& 30 min online Q&A

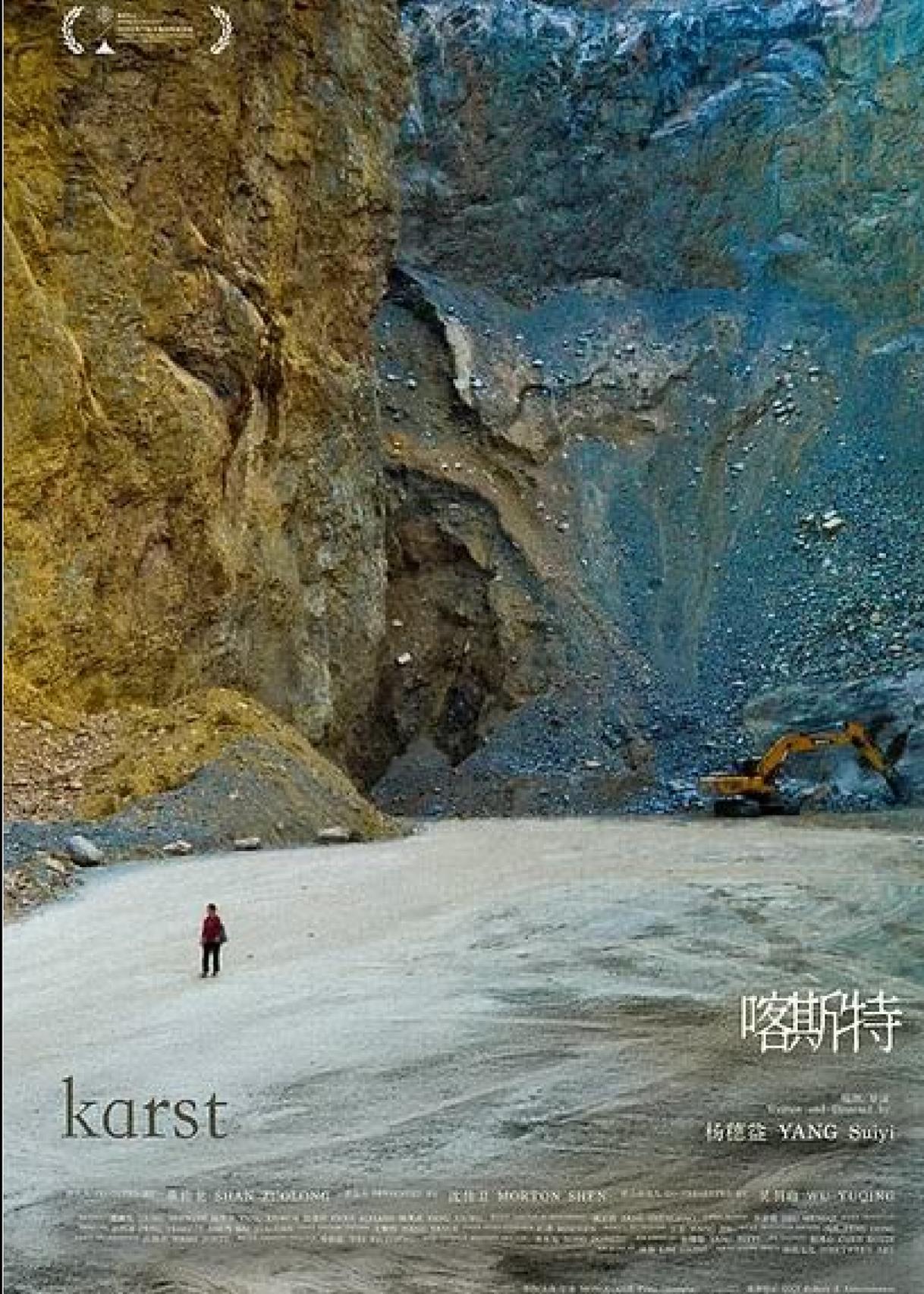
1st Feature

U.S. Premiere



BIAN Zhuo

“Last year, I sorted through my grandfather’s diary and used it as inspiration to create the “Green Lake”. While writing, I repeatedly felt a deep connection with the deceased. I imagined myself as my grandmother, who had passed away even earlier, watching me and my family members relive our lives in some parallel universe. From then on, I realized that “Green Lake” was a film that I would go to any lengths to make.



Karst 喀斯特

Director: **YANG Suiyi** 楊穗益

China | 2024 | 108min | Drama |
Chinese Guizhou Dialect
Screen Time: 10/18/2025
12:30pm-2:18pm
& 30min online Q&A

1st Feature

North American Premiere



YANG Suiyi

“

KARST is my debut film project. The story takes place in my hometown, Qiandongnan, Guizhou Province, China, which is where I grew up. This region boasts a unique karst landscape. When I decided to film here, it made me reflect on the people living in this area.

In a rural village, far from the city, located in the karst region of the plateau in southwestern China, Ziyong is a woman who earns her livelihood by raising cattle. When Ziyong's cattle falls ill and the village clinic is unable to provide treatment, she seeks medical advice at the town's agricultural pharmacy. She then accompanies the veterinarian back to the village. During her visits to the clinic, Ziyong also reconnects with her childhood friend Shufen and her lover Yinde, the experience of these few days has reminded her of her past stories...



JING Yi

“ *The story takes place in a forgotten valley village on the northern border of Xinjiang, China. The entire film features non-actors, a first person perspective, and a visual presentation that blends documentary with fiction, all attempting to evoke an alternative reality.* ”

The Kazakh-ethnicity people, as a nomadic group, believe that the souls of the deceased dwell in the grass. If the ultimate belonging of those living on the border is to peacefully reside in the world of plants, then my original intention of making this film is to give my simple blessing to the forgotten people and land, the departed people and events.

The Botanist 植物學家

Director: JING Yi 景一

China | 2025 | 96 min | Drama |
Kazakh / Mandarin Chinese
Screening Time: 10/17/2025
7:30pm - 9:06pm

1st Feature

LA Premiere

Set in a remote village in Xinjiang, China, THE BOTANIST follows a young Kazakh boy named Arsin, who finds solace in the company of plants. He soon meets Meiyu, a spirited Han girl whose unpredictable nature reminds him of a rare, otherworldly plant. As their friendship blossoms, it deepens into a delicate, dreamlike allegory that blurs the lines between reality and the enchanting world of botany.



Sleep With Your Eyes Open

睡覺時眼睛睜開

Director: Nele WOHLATZ

Brazil / Argentina / Taiwan / Germany
| 2024 | 97min | Drama |
Mandarin Chinese / Portuguese /
Spanish / English
Screening Time: 10/19/2025
2:30pm-4:07pm

A coastal city in Brazil, Kai arrives from Taiwan for holidays with a broken heart. A broken air conditioner sends her into Fu Ang's umbrella store. He could become a friend, but the rainy season doesn't arrive and his shop disappears. While looking for Fu Ang, Kai discovers the story of Xiaoxin and a group of Chinese workers in a posh skyscraper. Kai finds herself strangely mirrored in Xiaoxin's tale.

Performed by first time actors and professional ones, the protagonists of this quiet comedy of misunderstandings come and go unexpectedly. From one unknown city to the next, they follow the needs of their work more than a traditional dramaturgy. But over the course of a hot, slow summer, delicate bonds grow between them like islands in a sea full of sharks.



Nele WOHLATZ

“

I made my last film with Chinese non-professional actors in Buenos Aires. We shot it entirely on the weekends, because during the week they all worked in Chinese supermarkets and import stores. The following weekend, there was always someone missing: they had either moved to another city, a new country, or back to China. One actress told me: “Now I am here, and I am doing well. I think I could go anywhere and adapt if the work demanded it. But there’s no place I feel like I belong to anymore.”

紀錄長片

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

“

Through a chance encounter, I met a social worker who introduced me to a group of homeless people living around Huangxing Square in Changsha. This community sparked my curiosity: why do they become homeless? How do they survive? What loss drives someone to choose this life? And if they want to return to normal society, can they break free from this quagmire? These questions troubled me and inspired me to use documentary film to enter their world through the lens of a camera.



Ji Qiuyu

The Homeless 地衣

Director: Ji Qiuyu 冀秋羽

China | 2025 | 84 min | Documentary |
Mandarin Chinese
Screening Time: 10/18/2025
4:30 pm-5:54 pm
& 30 min online Q&A

1st Feature

World Premiere

This is a story of the homeless looking for belonging in modern society. In China's urban fissures, social worker Zhu Cong's crumbling "Lichen Shelter" harbors a group of outcasts: Xiaolong, abuse survivor adrift without legal identity; Waiwai, scavenger lured by streetlife... Their quests for belonging interrogate fractured notions of kinship and hearth in China's marginalized underbelly.



The Watchman 守望者

Guangdong and his wife Baoyan have organized their entire lives with the sole aim of supporting the education of their only son, a student at the prestigious Beijing Academy of Music. But now that Zhaohang is finally fulfilling his parents' dream and moving abroad to pursue his career, they must face up to and make sense of this absence.

Director:

Lou DU PONTAVICE & Victoire BONIN GRAIS

France / Belgium | 2024 | 77min | Documentary |

Mandarin Chinese / Shandong Dialect

Screening Time: 10/19/2025

12:40pm-1:51pm & 30min online Q&A

1st Feature

North American Premiere



“

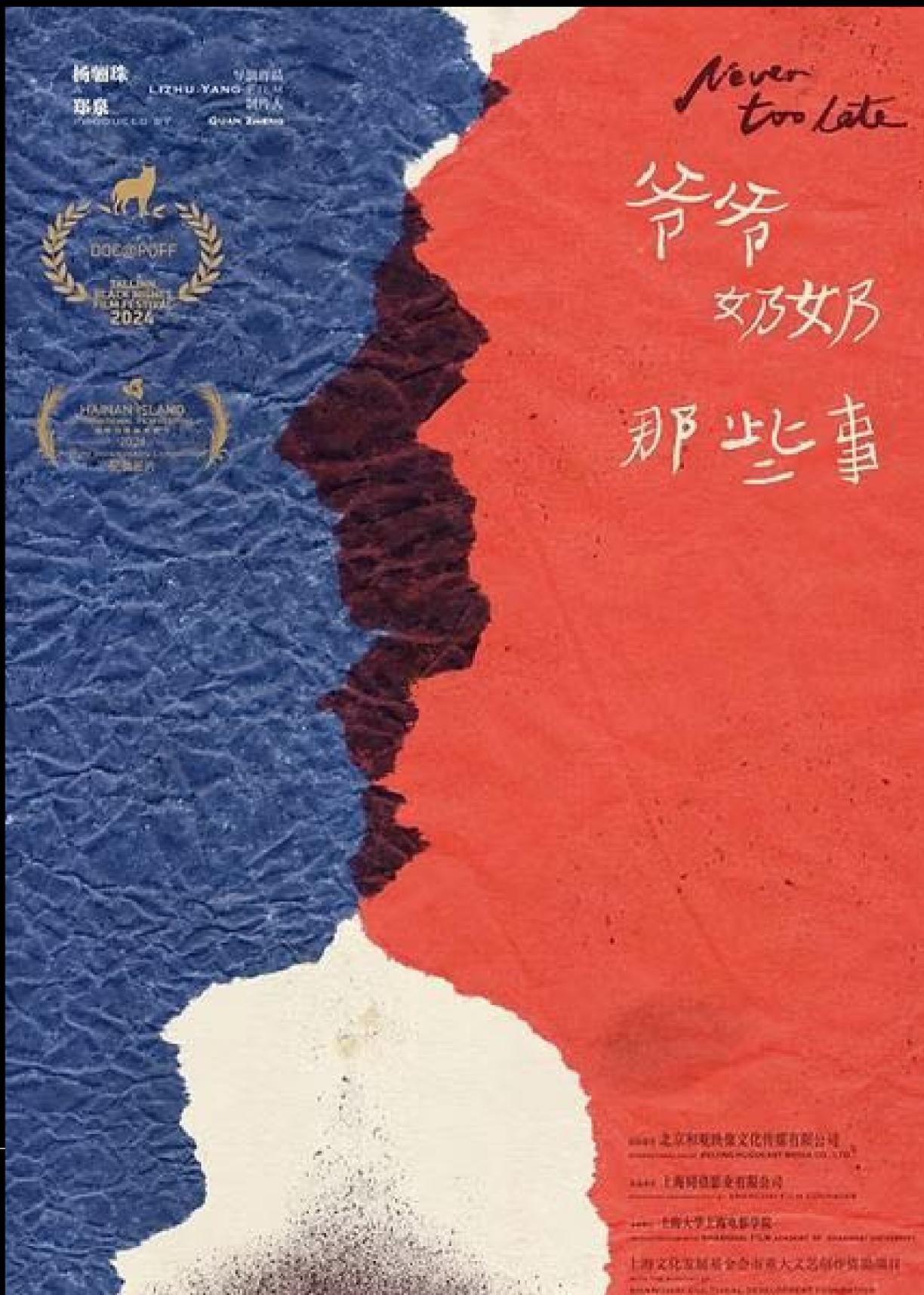
We have spent the past five years observing Guangdong's life journey and his intimate relationship with his son, Zhaohang. From his fourteen to his eighteen years old. Guangdong devoted himself body and soul to the musical education of Zhaohang. But behind his role as a strict educator, Guangdong has another ambition: to take his son out of China and to allow him to be free.



Lou DU PONTAVICE



Victoire BONIN GRAIS



YANG Lizhu

“

In my opinion, my grandmother's divorce is a reflection of her frustration with life and the release of her inner emotions in her later years, which is also reflected in my grandfather. The film seems to depict the trivial daily life of the family, but these daily lives always revolve around the regrets and pursuits of life for my grandparents.

Never Too Late 爺爺奶奶那些事

Director: YANG Lizhu 楊驪珠

China | 2024 | 81 min | Documentary / Drama
/ Family / Romance |

Mandarin Chinese / Hunan Dialect

Screening Time : 10/19/2025

4:40 pm-6:01 pm & 30min online Q&A

1st Feature

North American Premiere

Deng Guiying and Yang Qiaoyuan have been separated for more than thirty years, and they have settled down in one south and one north of their respective units. The two people with vastly different personalities argued as soon as they met, and they finally divorced at the age of eighty. Nevertheless, Deng Guiying occasionally visits Yang Qiaoyuan. Under the curiosity and step-by-step exploration of their granddaughter, the dusty past and the overlooked inner side of each of them were gradually uncovered. As time passed, Deng Guiying developed Alzheimer's disease and her memory deteriorated. Yang Qiaoyuan also passed away in 2017. At the end of her life and memories, Deng Guiying forgot many things, including the conflicts she had with her husband.

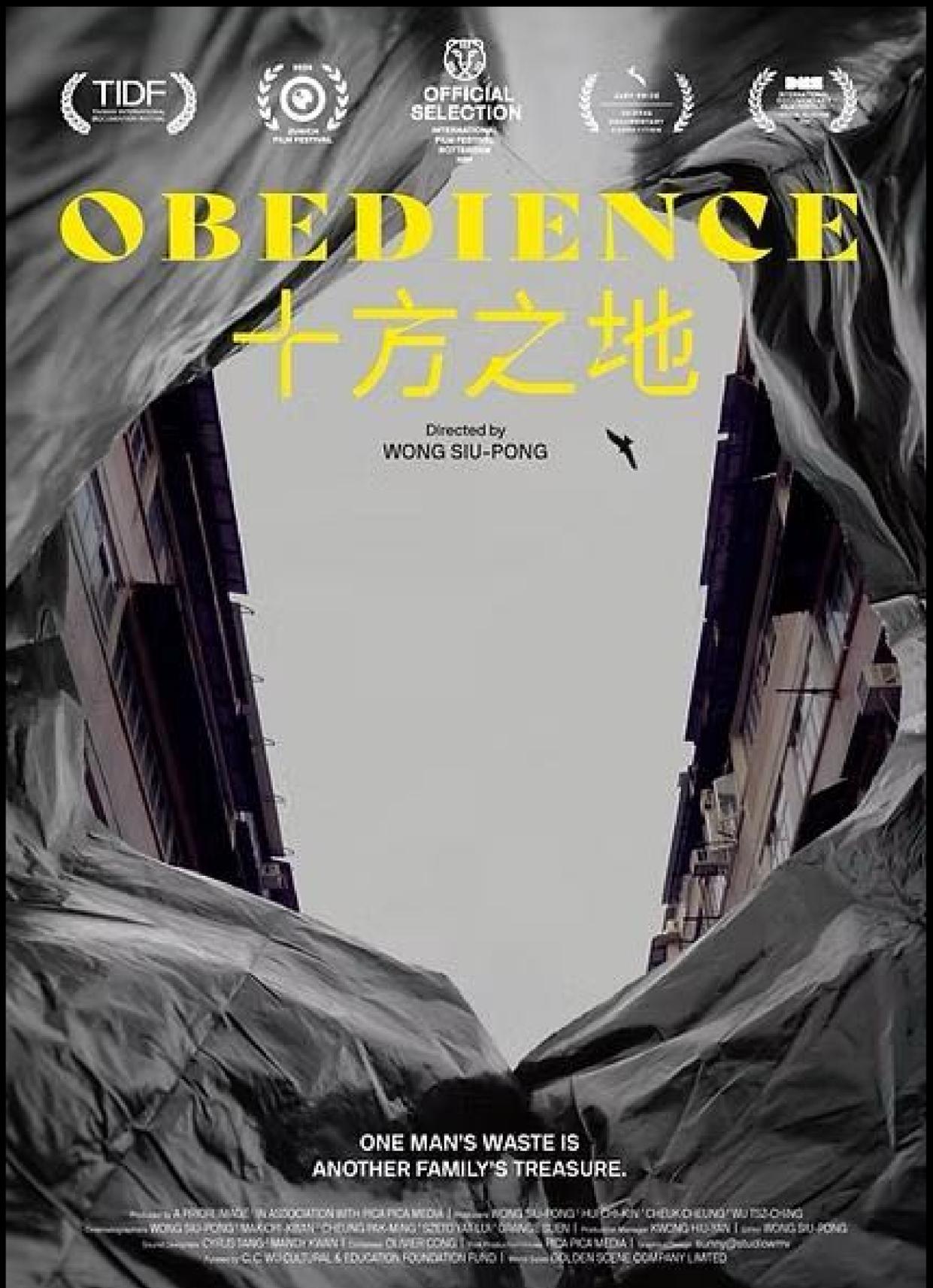
Obedience 十方之地

Director: **WONG Siu-pong**
黃肇邦

Hong Kong | 2024 | 71 min |
Documentary | Cantonese
Screening Time: 10/18/2025
10 pm-11:11 pm

US Premiere

Nestled in the centre of Hong Kong, the neighbourhood of Hung Hom is a study in contradictions. While the dead are transported to the nearby funeral homes, the living crowd its bustling streets. The affluent live in luxury residences towering over dilapidated buildings marked for demolition, while the poor sift through construction waste and trash for a meagre living wage. Capturing the ebb and flow of this urban district over a five-year period, Wong Siu-pong's latest observational documentary provokes thoughtful discussion at a time when waste disposal has become a hot-button issue. 'Obedience' questions what is truly considered waste in this city.



“

My journey began in 2017, nine years after the announcement of the new railway project, which later soared from HK\$30B to 100B, leaving old buildings and many homes neglected. Amidst the backdrop of skyscrapers and the stream of visitors to the Kwun Yum Temple, I witnessed the harsh realities of the neighborhood. I became deeply intrigued by the intricate relationship between the residents and the process of discarding, offering a unique lens into the socio-economic and cultural dynamics of Hong Kong.

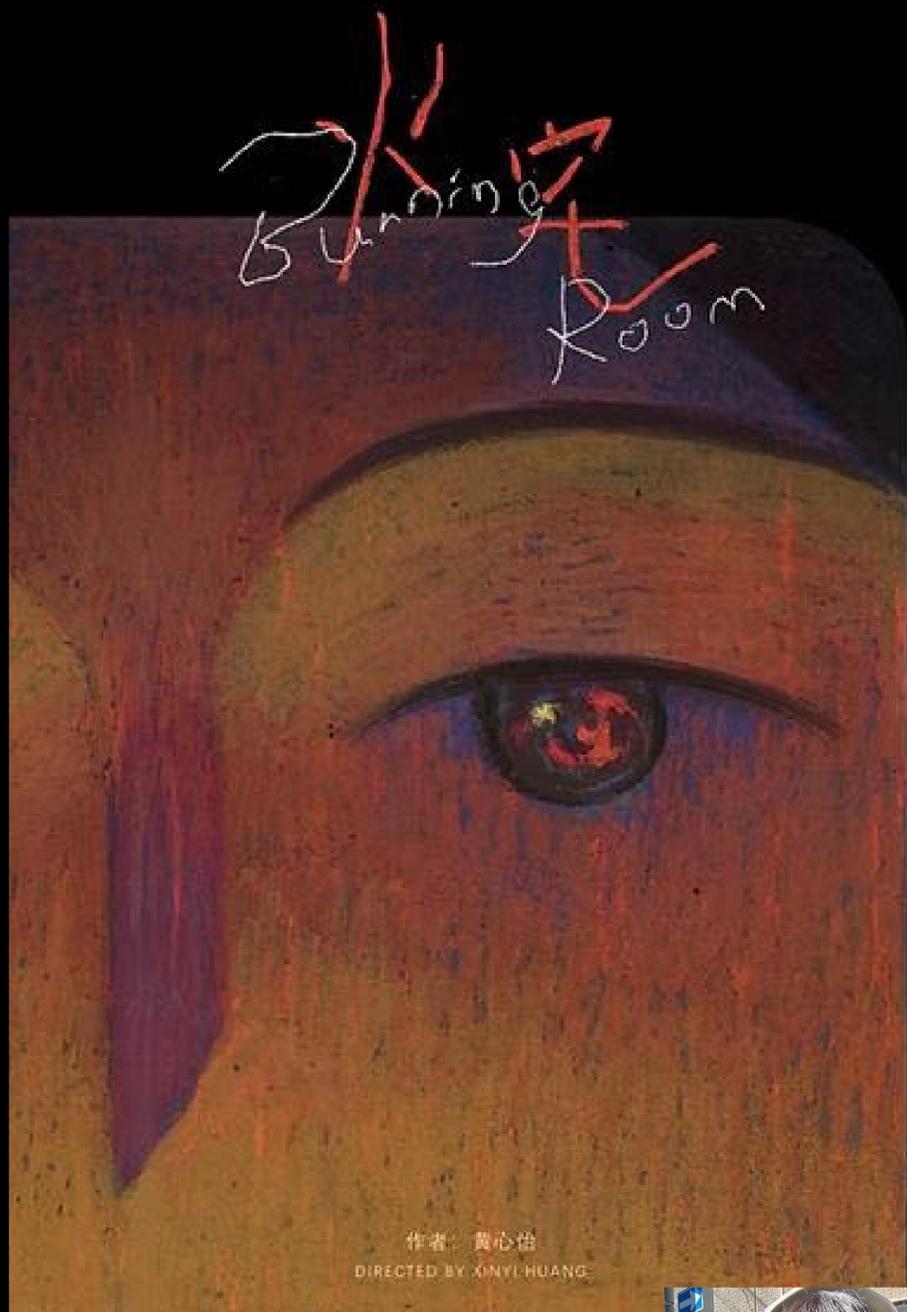


WONG Siu-pong



短片

SHORT FILM



Burning Room

火宅

Director:

HUANG Xinyi 黃心怡

China | 2025 | 5 min | Animation |

No Dialogue

Screening Time: 10/19/2025

11 am-12:22 pm

The mother and daughter, who lived in the same room, sparked a fire during their argument.



Damp

春夢

Director:

Etsen CHEN 陳彥廷

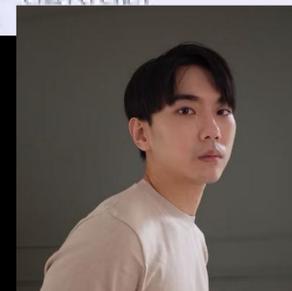
Taiwan / South Korea | 2024 | 12 min | Drama / LGBTQ |

Mandarin Chinese / Thai

Screening Time: 10/19/2025

11 am-12:22 pm

Yen, a young man with cerebral palsy, longs for both romance and a body like his caregiver Suriya's, while his overprotective mother harbors complex feelings for Suriya. As tensions rise, Yen starts to believe his body is no longer the same.



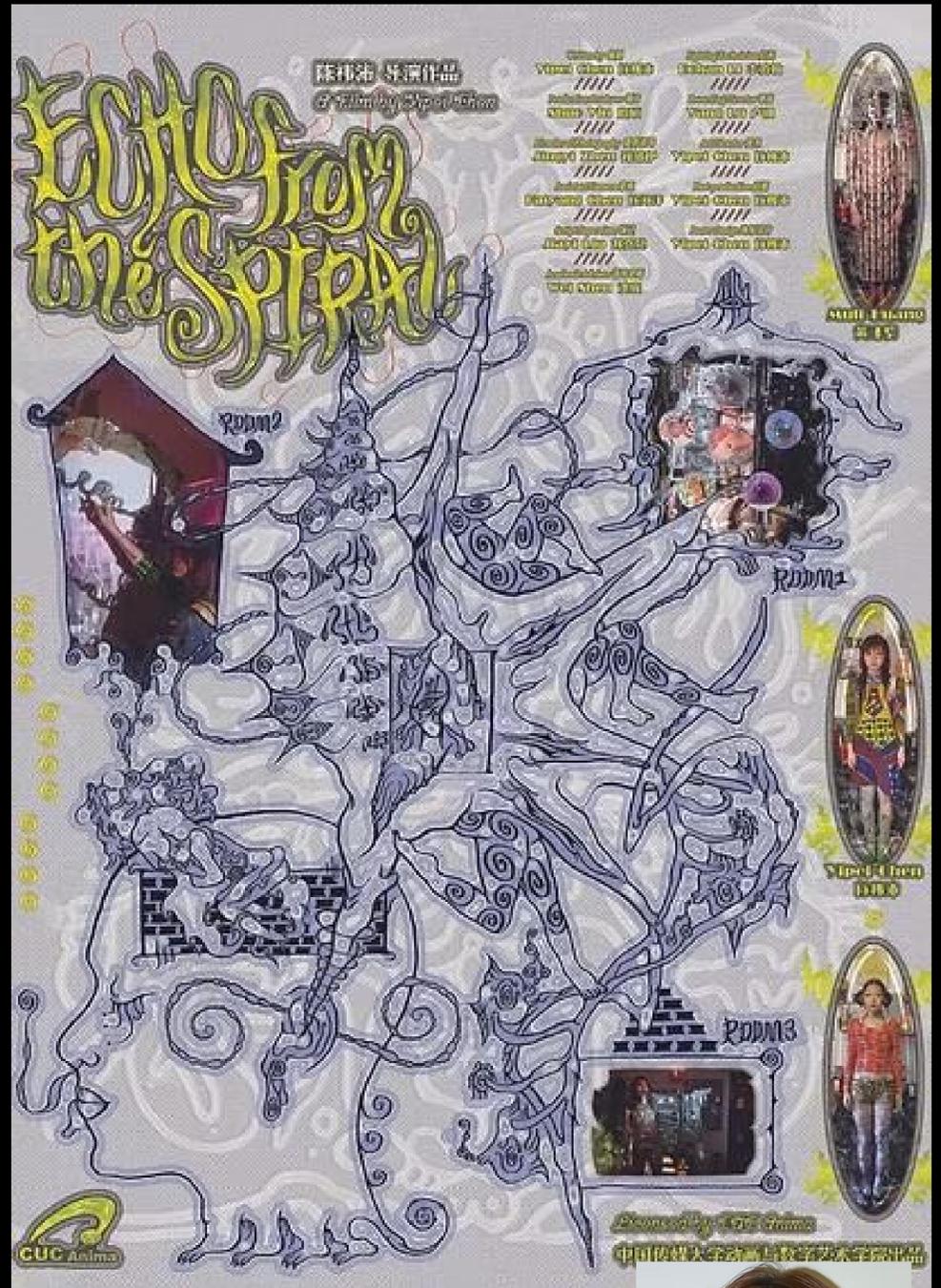


**Distant Water Won't
Quench Immediate Thirst**
遠水解不了近渴

Director:
ZHOU Zijie 周子杰

China | 2024 | 23 min | Documentary |
Chinese Chongqing Dialect
Screening Time: 10/19/2025
11 am-12:22 pm

Upon graduating from my studies abroad, I returned home only to face a barrage of questions from my parents about my career plans and pressure to settle down. I honestly revealed my intention to pursue a career in documentary filmmaking, sparking the most intense family argument in history...



Echo from the Spiral

Director:
CHEN Yipei 陳禕沛

China | 2024 | 13 min |
Fantasy / Experimental Art |
Chinese Wuhan Dialect
Screening Time: 10/19/2025
11 am-12:22 pm

After the epidemic control has been fully released, people seemed to be celebrating a "grand joy". The girl still chose to isolate herself from the outside world and was trapped in her room - building a story that was different from the grand narrative within her own smallest unit. This seclusion led her into a fantasy of solitude, and her faith began to shake violently in this night.





In a Village
在郊外

Director:
KISTAWBAY Ulan 吾蘭·哈斯陶拜

China | 2025 | 26 min | Romance / Drama |
Mandarin Chinese / Kazakh
Screening Time: 10/18/2025
10:30 am – 12:12 pm

Aysha, who is about to graduate, stays at her cousin Molder's house for a few days, hoping to use this time to distance herself from her boyfriend Ernar.



It's over, but don't forget.
南方褶皱

Director:
ZHENG Miaoxin 鄭淼鑫
GAO Tianyi 高天禕

China | 2025 | 23 min | Drama |
Mandarin Chinese
Screening Time: 10/18/2025
10:30 am – 12:12 pm

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the couple's child died accidentally; a year later, they decided to get divorced and move out of the leaky house. This is the last day they would ever spend together.





Kill the Horse
殺了這匹馬

Director:
GUO Xiaoruo 郭小若

China | 2024 | 10 min | Animation |
No Dialogue
Screening Time: 10/19/2025
11 am-12:22 pm

He heard a group of people whispering in the grass, plotting to kill the horse, and began frantically searching for the horse they were talking about. He entered the wilderness and saw the mysterious tribal beliefs and the radiance in the raging floods. With the dance of fire, everything burned to ashes. In the ashes, the neighing of the horse could be heard.



The Park is Public
是公園

Director:
LI Yan 李岩

China | 2024 | 20 min | Drama |
Mandarin Chinese / Henan Dialect
Screening Time: 10/18/2025
10:30 am – 12:12 pm

After the death of his wife, Lao Li's son moves him from their small Shandong town to a bustling city for better care. Isolated from his familiar community, Lao Li feels lonely and struggles to fit in due to cultural, regional, and dialect barriers. In a local park, he meets two elderly men. One shares common interests, while the other is unwelcoming. As a veteran, Lao Li's task of filming a video for his old unit brings him back to the park. He tries to integrate and is eventually accepted, but then discovers they are gay and suspects his son might be too. Angered, he leaves. However, past encounters and memories lead him to a change of heart, and he chooses to return to the park once more.





The Burning Night
燃夜

Director:
Demon WONG 王煜

Hong Kong | 2024 | 20 min | Drama |
Mandarin Chinese / Cantonese
Screening Time : 10/19/2025
11 am-12:22 pm

This is a story set among marginalized youths who vent their dissatisfaction with life through extreme behavior. On that "Burning Night," they recklessly caused trouble, but their actions were overshadowed by even greater anger, eventually dissipating in the dazzling fireworks of the city's revelry. For these confused youths, growing up is like a fleeting firework, leaving no trace behind.



Sweetie Ping
甜娃子

Director:
WEN Dechuan 温德川

China | 2025 | 33 min | Documentary |
Mandarin Chinese / Sichuan Dialect
Screening Time : 10/18/2025
10:30 am – 12:12 pm

Feng Yiping, chairperson of the Chengdu Visually Impaired Mutual Aid Association, has been dedicated to serve the visually impaired. Through her efforts, the association has gradually become well-established, yet dark clouds began gathering over her family. First, her daughter developed liver fibrosis; then her father's Alzheimer's disease progressed to its advanced stages; and finally, her husband was diagnosed with cancer. Yet Feng remained optimistic. At an anniversary event, an unexpected reunion with her ex-husband stirred memories that reveal her past—and the roots of her resilience.



光羽特別展映 **ALULA SPOTLIGHT**

This year's Spotlight Screenings section will feature several highly anticipated titles from acclaimed filmmakers, including the North American Premiere of Hou Hsiao-Hsien's *A City of Sadness* (4K restored version), a 9-hour marathon screening of Wang Bing's *Tie Xi Qu: West of the Tracks* with the director in attendance, the U.S. Premiere of Tsui Hark's *Green Snake* (4K restored version), the Los Angeles Premiere of Jia Zhangke's *Xiao Wu* (4K restored version). **SEE PAGE 23-26 for DETAILS!**

Alula Film Festival's Queer Community Screening event will showcase Hong Kong film *Queer Panorama* by director Jun Li. The film was selected for 75th Berlinale International Film Festival Panorama section and is a provocative exploration of identity and intimacy that captures the fragmented realities of contemporary LGBTQ+ life in Hong Kong. A Charity Screening in collaboration with Jugbow Care Initiative, dedicated to animal lovers, will feature Guan Hu's Cannes award-winning film *Black Dog*. **SEE PAGE 27-28 for DETAILS!**

Festival Schedule is listed in Pacific Standard Time (PST)

影展活動均以美國太平洋標準時間為準

A City of Sadness 悲情城市

Director: HOU Hsiao-Hsien 侯孝賢

Taiwan | 1989 | 157min | Drama History |
Mandarin Chinese / Japanese / Cantonese /
Shanghai Dialect / Minnan Dialect
Screening Time: 10/16/2025
7:30pm – 10:07pm

North American Premiere of 4K Restoration

開幕影片

OPENING FILM



In 1945, the Second World War has ended but the tranquil is short-lived. The four sons of the Lin family have become unwitting witnesses to history through their own life stories.

Wen-hsiung, the eldest son, supports his young family with a fledgling business. Wen-lung, the second brother, has not returned from the frontlines while the third brother Wen-liang survived the war, only to be severely traumatised. The youngest son, Wen-ching, is a deaf photographer. Although the latter could have lived a quaint life with his best friend's sister, Hiromi, he is compelled to join the resistance against political tyranny. A City of Sadness is the first Taiwanese film to touch upon the February 28 Incident.

Xiao Wu (aka Pickpocket)

小武

Director: JIA Zhangke 賈樟柯

China / Hong Kong | 1998 | 113 min |

Drama | Mandarin Chinese

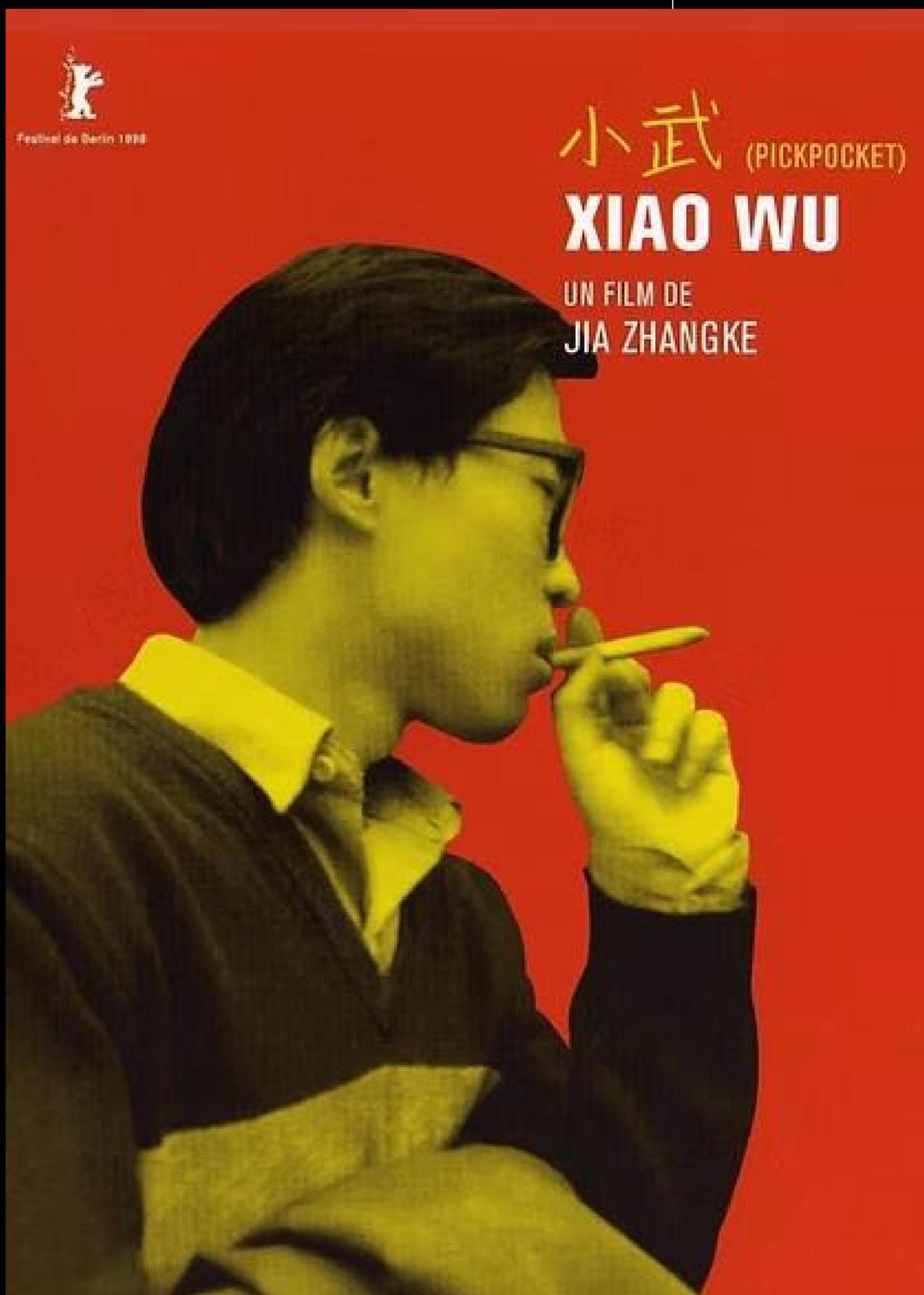
Screening Time: 10/19/2025

7:30 pm-9:18 pm

LA Premiere

4K Restoration

Jia Zhangke's debut is ground zero for his modern-China project: non-actors, 16mm grain, long takes, and a quietly shattering final image. The World Cinema Project's new 4K restoration, which is from the original camera and sound negatives, supervised by Jia, returns the film's tactile immediacy. Critics have long praised its humane, observational power; Peter Bradshaw called it "engrossing" with a "compassionate walking pace." Essential context for Jia's entire body of work.



閉幕影片

CLOSING FILM

“你老说人间有情，难道妖就无情吗？”

“You keep saying the human world knows love. Are we demons without love?”

“你们说人间有情，但是情为何物？”

“You say there is love in the human world, but what is love?”

—— 青蛇 Green Snake

Green Snake

青蛇

Director: TSUI Hark 徐克

Hong Kong | 1993 | 99min |

Drama / Romance Fantasy |

Cantonese

Screening Time : 10/17/2025

10:00 pm – 11:39 pm

US Premiere

4K Restoration



Tsui Hark's ravishing 1993 classic *Green Snake* returns in a stunning 4K restoration. Reimagining the White Snake legend through the eyes of the mischievous younger sister (Maggie Cheung), Tsui transforms myth into a sensual parable of desire, dogma, and belonging. A rare chance to see this color-saturated landmark of Hong Kong cinema on the big screen, the way it was meant to be experienced. Two snake spirits become human and learn about love and suffering. A monk discovers his own weaknesses and finds that morality is not as simple as he had thought.

铁西区



TIE XI QU: WEST OF THE TRACKS

9H 11M Marathon Screening

We begin the marathon screening at 10:00 am with *Part I: Rust*, divided into two sessions. The first runs about two hours, followed by a short 15-minute break. The second half of *Rust* plays from 12:15 pm to 2:15 pm, leading directly into a 45-minute lunch break.

At 3:00 pm, we continue with *Part II: Remnants* (176 minutes). A 20-minute pause at 5:56 pm allows for a quick rest before the final stretch.

The program concludes with *Part III: Rails* (135 minutes), screening from 6:16 pm to 8:31 pm. Followed by an *IN PERSON* Q&A with Wang Bing.

Wang Bing's nine-hour epic of Shenyang's rust-belt factories is one of contemporary cinema's foundational documentaries. Sight & Sound describes it as a "monumental threnody to twentieth-century industry," and in the BFI poll of the 50 Greatest Documentaries, it ranks among the top entries. To see it with the director on stage is a rare chance to encounter a film that literally rewrote the scale and ethics of documentary practice.

Tie Xi Qu: West of the Tracks 鐵西區

Director: WANG Bing 王兵

China | 2002 | 9h 11min (551min) | Documentary |
Northeastern Mandarin

Screening Time : 10/18/2025 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

LA Premiere

9H 11M Marathon Screening

This screening is in collaboration with the Jugbow Care Initiative.

Black Dog
狗陣

Director: GUAN Hu 管虎

China | 2024 | 116min | Drama |
Mandarin / Southwestern Dialects
Screening Time : 10/19/2025
2 pm-3:56 pm

Awarded Best Film in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes, Black Dog is the story of two outsiders. After a long prison sentence, Lang returns to his hometown on the edge of the Gobi Desert in north-western China. In the lead-up to the 2008 Olympic Games, everything is in a state of upheaval — buildings are slated for demolition, and efforts are underway to eliminate the town’s stray dogs which traipse along sidewalks, skulk inside condemned buildings, and snarl at residents. Haunted by the victims of his past crimes, Lang finds work as a dog catcher. Oscillating between melancholy and humor, Black Dog is a bold combination of whimsy and social realism.

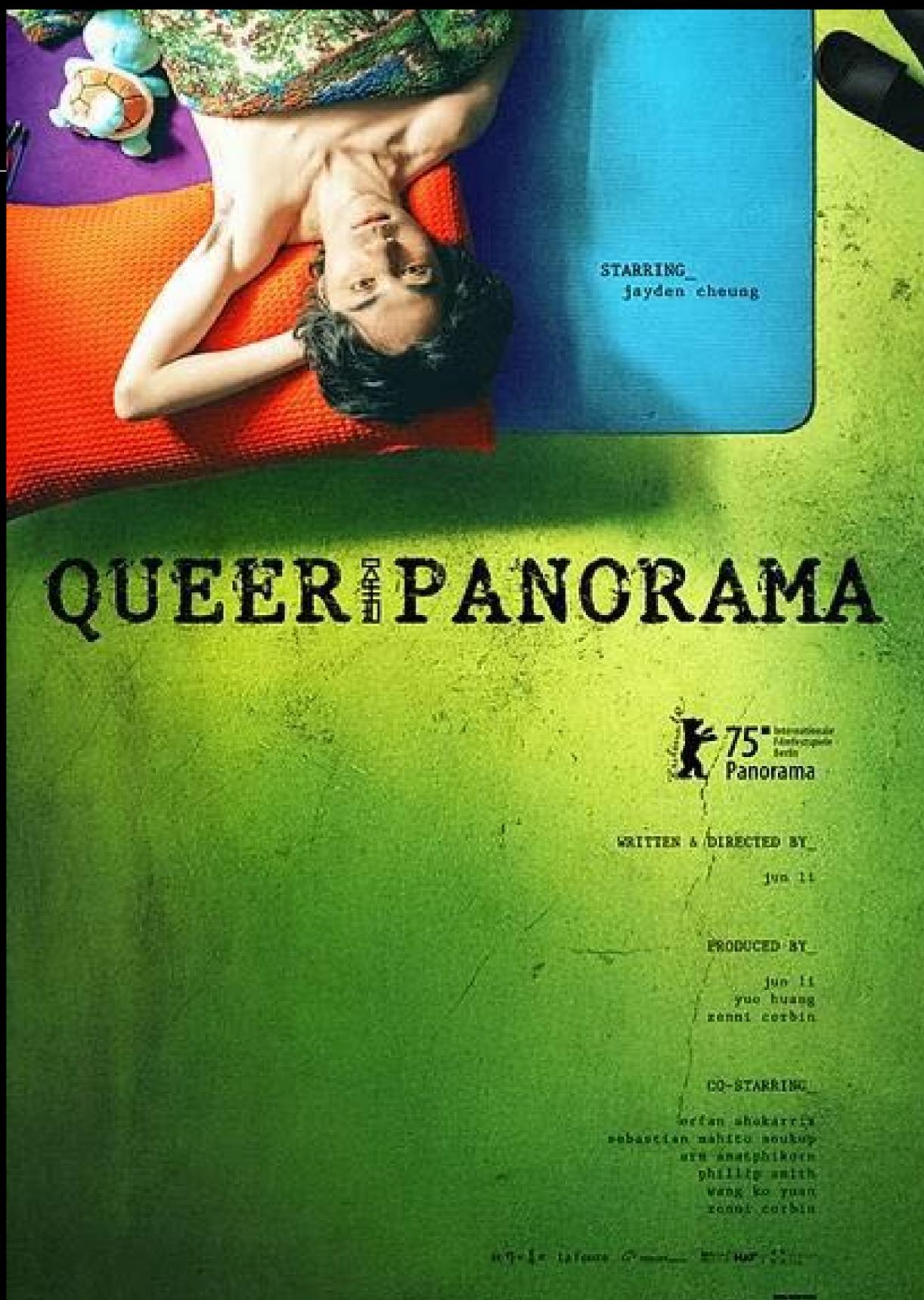


About The Director

Born in 1991, he studied journalism at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and then took a master's degree in gender studies at the University of Cambridge. His first directorial feature Tracey (2018) premiered at the Tokyo International Film Festival and second feature Drifting (2021) premiered at the International Film Festival of Rotterdam. As a producer, his feature Fly Me to the Moon (2023) was also selected for the Tokyo IFF. His films focus on the reality of sexual minorities and people suffering from substance abuse. Queerpanorama is his third feature film.



LI Jun



QUEERPANORAMA 眾生相

Director: LI Jun 李駿碩

USA / Hong Kong | 2025 | 87 min |

Drama / LGBTQ |

Cantonese / English

Screening Time : 10/17/2025

8:00 pm – 9:27 pm

LGBTQ LA Premiere

A gay man impersonates men he has had sex with and brings this new persona with him to his next hook up. Only by pretending to be someone else can he be truly himself.

WEEKDAYS

THURDAY OCT. 16

7:30 PM - 10:07 PM

ALULA Spotlight: Opening Film

A CITY OF SADNESS | 悲情城市

157min 4K Restoration

📍 The Culver Theater, Auditorium 2

FRIDAY OCT. 17

7:30 PM - 9:06 PM

[Competition] Narrative Feature

THE BOTANIST | 植物學家

96min

📍 The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

8:00 PM - 9:27 PM

ALULA Spotlight

QUEERPANORAMA | 眾生相

87min LGBTQ

📍 The Culver Theater, Event Space

10:00 PM - 11:39 PM

ALULA Spotlight

GREEN SNAKE | 青蛇

99min 4K Restoration

📍 The Culver Theater, Auditorium 1

電影節日程 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Festival Schedule is listed in Pacific Standard Time (PST)

影展活動均以美國太平洋標準時間為準

SATURDAY OCT. 18

10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

ALULA Spotlight: Marathon Screening

TIE XI QU: WEST OF THE TRACKS | 鐵西區

9h11min Q&A: 30min

The Culver Theater, Event Space

10:30 AM - 12:12 PM

[Competition] Shorts Collection I

IT'S OVER, BUT DON'T FORGET. | 南方褶皺 23min

SWEETIE PING | 蘋娃子 33min

THE PARK IS PUBLIC | 是公園 20min

IN A VILLAGE | 在郊外 26min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

12:30 PM - 2:18 PM

[Competition] Narrative Feature

KARST | 喀斯特

108min Q&A: 30min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Panel Discussion

LOST IN TRANSLATION:
THE STORIES THAT REMAIN UNSEEN

60min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

4:30 PM - 5:54 PM

[Competition] Documentary Feature

THE HOMELESS | 地衣

84min Q&A: 30min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

7:00 PM - 8:59 PM

[Competition] Narrative Feature

AS THE WATER FLOWS | 翠湖

119min Q&A: 30min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

10:00 PM - 11:11 PM

[Competition] Documentary Feature

OBEDIENCE | 十方之地

71min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

SUNDAY OCT. 19

11:00 AM - 12:22 PM

[Competition] Shorts Collection II

BURNING ROOM | 火宅 5min

DAMP | 春夢 12min

DISTANT WATER WON'T QUENCH IMMEDIATE THIRST |
遠水解不了近渴 23min

ECHO FROM THE SPIRAL 13min

THE BURNING NIGHT | 燃夜 20min

KILL THE HORSE | 殺了這匹馬 10min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

12:40 PM - 1:57 PM

[Competition] Documentary Feature

THE WATCHMAN | 守望者

77min Q&A: 30min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

2:00 PM - 3:56 PM

ALULA Spotlight: In Collaboration with JUGBOW

BLACK DOG | 狗陣

116min

The Culver Theater, Event Space

2:30 PM - 4:07 PM

[Competition] Narrative Feature

SLEEP WITH YOUR EYES OPEN | 睡覺時眼睛睜開

97min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

4:40 PM - 6:01 PM

[Competition] Documentary Feature

NEVER TOO LATE | 爺爺奶奶那些事

81min Q&A: 30min

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 6

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Culver Theater, Event Space

7:30 PM - 9:18 PM

ALULA Spotlight: Closing Film

XIAO WU (A.K.A. PICKPOCKET) | 小武

108min 4K Restoration

The Culver Theater, Auditorium 1

工作人員 STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

THE 2025 ALULA FILM FESTIVAL IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

影展主席

CAI Yibin 蔡以濱

PROGRAMMING & OPERATION

策展及影展運營

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視覺設計組

LU Na 魯娜

Director of Visual Design

視覺總監

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YANG Xi 楊熙

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網站及技術支持

FESTIVAL ADVISORS

影展顧問

HE Qiu 賀秋

Finance Advisor

財務顧問

Rita XIA 夏怡然

Legal Advisor

法律顧問

ZHANG Fan 張凡

Festival Advisor

影展顧問

LI Meng 李萌

Festival Advisor

影展顧問

Echo XIE 謝小舟

Festival Advisor

影展顧問

THANK YOU!

MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR DEAREST FRIENDS AND FAMILIES...

Thomas BEDDOW

Michael BERRY 白睿文

Iris SANG 桑霓

Laura KIM

LIAO Ching-song 廖慶松

LIU Ying 柳鶯

LUO Keju 罗可居

Lzpresso 栗子

Sean Baker

Chris Shields

Ryan Swen

Beatrice WAN 万纤月

Big White 大白

XU Xiao 徐筱

SPECIAL THANKS TO

LIU zhiheng 刘志恒

SENDING BIG HUGS TO ALULA BABIES FOR THEIR PATIENCE AND TOLERANCE

Clara

Nora

Tommy

Wilson

Keewee

Lele

A BIG SHOUT OUT TO OUR WONDERFUL

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

影展誌願者

Lenti LIANG 梁雯婷

LIN Ruohan 林若涵

Sasha LI 李筱妍

LUO Yuqian 羅宇茜

Quentin TAN

WANG Qi 王淇

YANG Ruoqi 楊若琦

合作夥伴 ALULA PARTNERS

PRESENTING PARTNER

戰略夥伴

THE CULVER THEATER

PET WELLNESS PARTNER

寵物支持夥伴



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

影展夥伴



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