



For Immediate Release

## **Indie Salon@The GRAND New Viewing Approach for Independent Features Fixed-time Screenings for Quality Films from 24 June**

(Hong Kong, 21 May 2009) Trying to get tickets for independent features at film festivals is often a hit-or-miss affair. Once you missed a screening, you may not get to watch it again. From this June, film buffs are in a treat as they can now catch up with the best independent features at **Ying E Chi's Indie Salon@The GRAND**. This brand new approach in independent film distribution offers fixed screening days and times at The GRAND (Elements, MTR Kowloon Station) as well as giving audiences and filmmakers opportunities to exchange views and ideas in special post-screening forums.

With support from The GRAND, **Indie Salon** will take place every Wednesday and Saturday from 24 June, regularly offering the best independent features produced in Hong Kong and around the region. "The GRAND is pleased to lend a hand to Hong Kong independent films," said Helena Young, the cinema's General Manager. "We collaborated with Ying E Chi on the last Hong Kong Asian Independent Film Festival, and we are very happy to work with them again on the Indie Salon project, giving more film choices for audiences."

"In a fiercely commercial cinema market, to have The GRAND offering a fixed screening schedule for independent features is greatly encouraging," said Ms. Venus Wong, Ying E Chi's General Manager. "This unprecedented arrangement is visionary in the Hong Kong cinema industry. This is an important endorsement on the quality of independent features produced today, marking a new era for filmmakers and screenings of their work."



At Indie Salon, a wealth of Hong Kong and overseas award-winning independent features are brought back for audiences, so there are absolutely no reasons to miss out on them this time around, or to make a re-visit. The first two productions scheduled to open on 24 June will be *Indie Spirit Shorts* 《獨立精神短片》, a production put together by 10 directors exploring independent filmmaking, and *Three Narrow Gates* 《三條窄路》 by experienced filmmaker Vincent Chui.

Directed by a group of 10 independent cinema professionals including Simon Chung, Jessey Tsang, Lawrence Wong, Vincent Chui, Chu Ka Yat, gurt@dyyd, Kwok Leung, Vai Yik Pun, Heiward Mak and Shum Ka Ki, *Indie Spirit Shorts* brings together a collection of 5 to 10 minute shorts which elaborate the notion of independent spirit. If you want to find out how these directors view the idea of independent film-making, you should not miss this!

*Three Narrow Gates* was the closing film of the 2008 Hong Kong Asian Independent Film Festival and Vincent Chui's follow-up from *Leaving In Sorrow*. In *Three Narrow Gates*, a trio of characters is brought together through a murder on board a yacht. Constable 6277 is a 'good-for-nothing' who was kicked out from the police force because of his gambling addiction and debts; Eva is a fresh and eager reporter who has her eyes set on scaling the career ladder, and a priest who brought condemnation onto himself through questionable remarks on his own radio show. The story takes viewers on a journey where political scandals and business deals between tycoons and governments are exposed. The film stars veteran actor and recent Hong Kong Film Awards winner Liu Kai-Chi (廖啓智), young actor Wong Yik Nam(王亦藍) with the 'Queen of Indies' Joman Chang (蔣祖曼). Making a cameo appearance is political and media commentator Raymond Wong (黃毓民).

*The Director uses a multitude of characters in the story development, bringing to mind Steven Soderbergh's Traffic or Babel or Alejandro González Iñárritu's Babel. But rather than adopting on-screen fear tactics favoured by Hollywood, audiences are led through a humane tale describing the plights of a sex worker, a gung-ho priest, a dishonoured policeman and an ambitious reporter. Audiences are required to string the characters together with a bit of imagination, while in the process sketching out the delicate relationship between China and Hong Kong.*

Chan Kar-Ming 陳嘉銘, Sing Tao Daily



**Films lined up for Indie Salon@The GRAND includes:**

*End of Love* 《愛到盡》: Official selection: Berlin Film Festival; Hong Kong International Film Festival.

*Citizen King* 《金國民》 Written and directed by Johnson Lee (李思捷)

*King of Spy* 《特務之王》 (2008 version): Filmed with a production budget of HK\$5000

*Lovers on the Road* 《戀人路上》: Winner of 8th South Taiwan Film Festival's Best Feature

*The Autumnal Equinox* 《未央歌》: Starring TV & radio personality Ong Yi Hing in his first Indie feature

*Magazine Gap Road* 《馬己仙峽道》: Starring well-known Hong Kong actor Richard Ng and his actor/model son Carl Ng.

**Indie Salon @The GRAND Screening Schedule**

Screenings every Wednesday and Saturday

Saturday screenings are followed by Indie Salon forums

From 24 June Vincent Chui *Three Narrow Gates* 《三條窄路》;

*Indie Spirit Shorts* 《獨立精神短片》

From 8 July Ching Long, Johnson Lee *Citizen King* 《金國民》;

Simon Chung *End of Love* 《愛到盡》

From 22 July Tsang Tsui-shan *Lovers on the Road* 《戀人路上》;

Kwong Po Wai, Thomas Lam *The Autumnal Equinox* 《未央歌》

From 5 August Nicholas Chin *Magazine Gap Road* 《馬己仙峽道》;

Chu Ka Yat *King of Spy* 《特務之王》

**Booking Information**

Online Booking: [www.thegrandcinema.com.hk](http://www.thegrandcinema.com.hk)

Telephone Booking: 3413 6688

\$6 handling fee per ticket is applicable to all online and telephone booking.

To download further information on screening films and photographs, please visit:

<http://www.propublicity.com/News.asp>

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### **About Ying E Chi**

Established in 1997, Ying E Chi 影意志 is a non-profit organization set up by a group of Hong Kong independent filmmakers. By uniting and focusing on the interests of these filmmakers, the organization promotes and distributes film works to audiences which highlight their creativity and the importance of independent film production. Ying E Chi believes that by enabling this process it will lead to the production of high calibre, innovative cinema. Titles represented by Ying E Chi have also been regularly featured in the Hong Kong International Film Festival and many other international festivals.

Ying E Chi's work includes organizing theatrical releases for independent production as well as releasing consumer titles on the digital medium. Recent cinema releases include Breeze of July 《七月好風》 and the mainland documentaries Useless 《無用》 and Umbrella 《傘》. The Indie film series releases on VCD and DVD include Night Corridor 《妖夜迴廊》, Fu Bo 《福伯》, and mainland director Jia Zhang Ke's Still Life 《三峽好人》 and Dong 《東》.

Ying E Chi is financially assisted by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. For further information, please visit the website: [www.yec.com](http://www.yec.com).

### **About The GRAND**

Located at ELEMENTS above MTR Kowloon Station, with twelve cinema houses and 1,600 seats, The GRAND is the territory's largest cinema in screen number. The GRAND offers the widest programming from Hollywood blockbusters, to international award-winning pictures, local, specialty and independent films. It is also the venue of film festivals creating an exciting and diverse selection of films into the mainstream movie-going environment.

### **The Films**

#### ***Indie Spirit Shorts***

Directors: Simon Chung, Jessey Tsang, Lawrence Wong, Vincent Chui, Chu Ka Yat, gurt@dyyd, Kwok Leung, Vai Yik Pun, Heiward Mak, Shum Ka Ki

What is the nature of indie cinema and how is it different from mainstream commercial cinema? The spirit of independent cinema is explored in a collection of 8 five to ten minute shorts by Hong Kong's indie directors.



### ***Three Narrow Gates***

Director: Vincent Chui

Cast: Liu Kai-Chi, Joman Chang, Wong Yik Nam and Raymond Wong

In *Three Narrow Gates*, a trio of characters is brought together through a murder on board a yacht. Constable 6277 is a 'good-for-nothing' who was kicked out from the police force because of his gambling addiction and debts; Eva is a fresh and eager reporter who has her eyes set on scaling the career ladder, and a priest who brought condemnation onto himself through questionable remarks on his own radio show. The story takes viewers on a journey where political scandals and business deals between tycoons and governments are exposed.

### ***Citizen King***

Director: Johnson Lee, Ching Lang

Cast: Johnson Lee, Brian Burrell, Farini Chang

Although Citizen King is a nobody in the Hong Kong film industry, he has his acting talent demonstrated in his own collection of 'acting with strangers' videos.

His ardent dream of becoming a Hollywood star may finally come to life when he meets Hollywood producer Larry Mills. His only obstacle being before Larry leaves Hong Kong, Citizen must present a filmed portfolio with martial arts performances in an audition.

He hires a washed-up Kung Fu director Master Cheung to help choreographs the fight scenes he needed. Meanwhile, the struggling actor is courting Annie, the only person who acknowledges his talent and tenderness. With a tight schedule and a large fee that Master Cheung demands, landing in Hollywood could be more than a rocky road for Citizen King... Can Citizen's passion help him to make it and become the King?



### **End of Love**

Director: Simon Chung

Cast: Lee Chi Kin, Guthrie Yip, Clifton Kwan, Ben Yeung, Joman Chiang

Ming is young, good-looking gay man whose mother committed suicide after a big argument over his sexual preference. He moves out of his public estate flat, becoming a male prostitute with the help of Cyrus, his roommate who is a flamboyant gay guy with a passion for drugs and partying. When Ming's boyfriend Yan finds out about how Ming makes his money, he leaves him. Later on, Yan's love for Ming brings them back together, but Yan wants Ming to stop selling his body.

Troubled by Ming's heavy partying as well as his way of making a living, Yan tries to exert greater control over him, leading Ming to withdraw into more partying and drugs. When Ming rebuffs Yan's suggestion to move in together, and propose that they break up instead, Yan calls the police on Ming. Ming is sentenced to a Christian drug treatment centre, where he encounters Keung, a recovering heroin addict.

Even though Ming finds the centre stifling, he is impressed by Keung's warmth and generosity, and forms a deep bond with him. When he is released from the centre, Ming moves in with Keung and his girlfriend Jackie, and becomes entangled in a complicated relationship with unexpected results.

### **Lovers on the Road**

Director: Tsang Tsui-shan

Cast: Joman Chiang, Dick So, Otsuka Masanobu

Before moving to Beijing, Lei and her boyfriend Nam had a huge fight over his ex-girlfriend. As Nam works during the day, Lei drifts around the city asking strangers questions like 'how long have you been in Beijing?' or 'What do you miss most?' She hooks up with a talkative Japanese guy who waits tables in the city's 798 art district, and travels with him to Shanxi to pay a visit to the Buddha statues. Will Lei take an initiative in making her advances? *Lovers on the Road* traces the perpetual journey of a self-adsorbed young woman, going nowhere in her life.

### **The Autumnal Equinox**

Director: Kwong Po Wai, Thomas Lam

Cast: Ong Yi Hing, Ma Yi Wei

Kiki is inspired by the traditional Cantonese musical work of *Blindman Nanyin* and decides to use it as a theme in her multi-media artwork. Lam is a music scholar who meets Kiki as she undertakes her research. They fall in love but professional differences on how Kiki's interpretation of *Blindman Nanyin* should be presented leads to the end of their relationship. Lam disappears with Kiki's work.

While she was looking for Lam, Kiki finds out that he was once betrayed by his former girlfriend and has attempted suicide. In the process, Kiki realizes how much *Blindman Nanyin* means to him. Meanwhile, Lam returns to Kiki's hometown in Suzhou, coming into the knowledge of the forgiving nature of love.



### **Magazine Gap Road**

Director: Nicholas Chin

Cast: Jessey Meng, Qu Ying, Richard Ng, Carl Ng, Elvis Tsui

Known for the seductive colours in his films and the *Tai Tai* short which was selected for the Cannes Film Festival, Nicholas Chin's first feature is *Magazine Gap Road*.

Perched high above the commerce and crowds of Hong Kong's Central is the winding Magazine Gap Road, a secluded enclave of where the wealth and privilege reside. Samantha is a curator for a private museum, and in her elite world, her best-kept secret is her past in the Japanese 'flesh trade'. One day, her history catches up with her in a phone call from Kate, another escort who is in trouble. For Samantha, helping Kate will mean going back to a world she escaped from. She will have to face the deadly men who operate the high-class prostitution ring, risking everything she has including her romance with a wealthy antique collector, but most importantly, coming to terms with her own fears that beneath a veneer of respectability, she always has a price.

### **King of Spy (2008 Version)**

Director: Chu Ka Yat

Cast: Hark Chu, Chris Fung, Lisa Ngan, Wilson Chu, David Chow

The budgets for productions in the scope of *James Bond*, *Mission Impossible*, *Matrix* or *The Departed* are astronomical, and probably cost even more with Jim Carrey's jokes thrown in, isn't it? Containing all of these elements, *King of Spy* surprisingly only costs HK\$5000 to make. Ridiculous as it may seem, the film is shot with flair in both technique and editing, paying tribute to the Hong Kong cinema industry, but most importantly, celebrating an independent filmmaking spirit.