

SOPHIA'S CHOICE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# ASIAN

POP-UP CINEMA

SEASON 14

March 13 - April 10, 2022

*Online • In Cinema*

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*Contemporary Films with English Subtitles*

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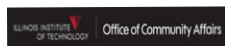


SOPHIA'S CHOICE

Proudly Presents

# ASIAN POP-UP CINEMA

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# From THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

## Asian Pop-Up Cinema Season 14 is here!

Inspired by Activist Angela Davis' quote: "Walls turned sideways are bridges", we continue building this "bridge" of Asian culture appreciation through our bi-annual film festivals as we enter the 3rd year of pandemic. Running between March 13 to April 10, 2022, Season 14 will pop-up in downtown Chicago and the north suburbs, including Niles and Wheeling.

Handpicked for you are twenty-eight (28) new films made by filmmakers from Canada, France, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan - with a strong mix of uncompromising, genre-bending films highlighting our common humanity. Eight (8) of them are made by emerging and seasoned woman filmmakers covering diverse subject matters that are both thought provoking and educational.

Korean star power from Choi Min-sik (Oldboy) and Park Hae-il (War of The Arrows) will open Season 14 (March 13 at AMC Niles 12) with the Midwest Premiere of HEAVEN: IN THE LAND OF HAPPINESS from Im Sang-soo, director of The Housemaid (2010) and The President's Last Bang. 'Heaven' is about a journey of two terminally ill men making a heart-throbbing finale of their lives.

This season's Centerpiece film is the festival's first North and South American Continental Premiere, Japan's ARC (April 3 at AMC River East 21). Based on the short story written by award winning author of speculative fiction Ken Liu (The Paper Menagerie), this fantasy and sci-fi feature film is directed and written by Kei Ishikawa (GUKOROKU -Traces of Sin) and co-written by Kaori Sawai. ARC follows the story of a woman who finds immortality while working with BodyWerks, a technology that plasticizes dead bodies and eventually transforms the way we look at eternal life.

The Closing film is Taiwan's North American Premiere of WAITING FOR MY CUP OF TEA (April 10 at AMC River East 21). Adapted from one of Phoebe Jan Fu-hua's best-selling novels with the same title, Phoebe Jan is making this her first directorial work. This love story stars popular boy band artist (SpeXial) and TV actor Simon Lien in his feature film debut.

We can't wait to see you online or at the cinemas.

Sophia Wong Boccio  
Founder & Executive Director  
Sophia's Choice Presents: Asian Pop-Up Cinema

# THANK YOU

**We want to take this opportunity of thanking the following companies and individuals for their generous gifts and assistance in the planning and presentation of Season 14:**

*ADG Group, Aimée Laberge, Alice Ang, Alicia Bunton, Ayaka Ito, Bob Hunter, Brad Kharchaf, Bronwyn Poole & Peter Schmitz, Candy Wong, Cecilee Dushkin, Chris Huang, Clifton Berger, Colleen Duke, David Wilentz, Ding Wu, Elly Lai, Emily & John Chen, Eric Chou, Erika Kono, Erin Farrell, Felix Tsang, George Kobayashi, Harmony Ching, Inoue Wataru, Jane Yao, Jason Lesniewicz, JD Kim, Jennifer Trautvetter, Jeff Semlow, Jin Park, John Bukacek, Kay Kihwa Rho, Linda Levin, Maki Shimizu, Mami Furukawa, Masako Okuda, Melissa Ng, Michael C. Boccio, Michael Takada, Michelle Son, Mio Suzuki, Patricia Chen, Sako Rikidai, Sanling Chang, Shibata Tsutomu, Shinji Sakoda, Shun Inoue, Stephen Toyoda, Susan Lee, Thavary Krouch, Ty Yamamoto, Umi Yamamoto, Van Choi and Wen Hsu.*

***We acknowledge with thanks a matching gift received from the Crowe Foundation.***



**ASIAN**  
POP-UP CINEMA

We wish continued success to  
**Asian Pop-Up Cinema**  
in its efforts to foster  
understanding and familiarity  
of diverse Asian cultures

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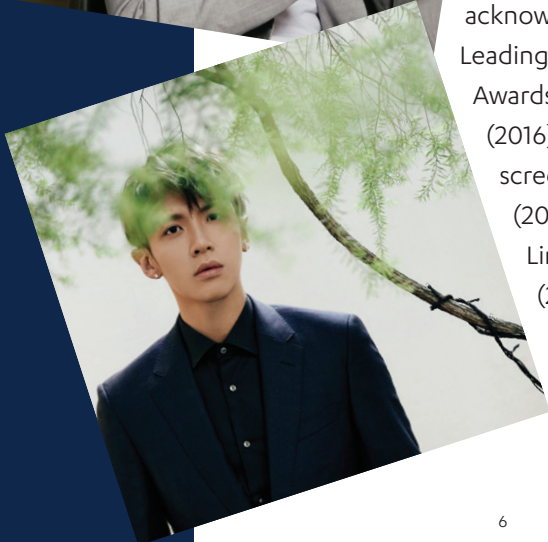
# Congratulations!



## KAI KO

Recipient of  
**BRIGHT  
STAR**

# Award



**KAI KO**  
KO shot to fame as the main lead of the movie adaption of Giddens Ko's novel the same name, *You are the Apple of My Eye* (2011). Through this film, he won Best New Performer at the 48th Golden Horse Awards, and at the 6th Asian Film Awards. His acting skills were once again acknowledged with his nomination for Best Leading Actor at the 53rd Golden Horse Awards for the film *The Road to Mandalay* (2016). In 2020, Ko returned to the big screen with Ariel Lin for the film *A Choo* (2020). Along with Chloe Maayan and JC Lin, Ko starred in the film *Moneyboys* (2021), which was nominated in the "Un Certain Regard" section of the 74th Cannes Film Festival.



DIRECTOR  
Yi Sung-il

## SUNDAY LEAGUE (선데이리그)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**Sunday, March 13, 1:30PM @ AMC Niles 12 located at 301 Golf Mill Ctr, Niles, IL 60714 inside the Golf Mill Shopping Center**

South Korea | Comedy/Sport | 2020 | 81 minutes  
*In Korean w/English subtitles*

**WRITER-DIRECTOR:** Yi Sung-il

**STARRING:** Lee Seong-uk, Shim U-seong

**FILM SOURCE:** M-Line Distribution

A one-time rising soccer star Jun-il is now only a temporary coach at a youth soccer center. He is too hot-tempered and lazy to teach young children respectfully and is about to lose his job. After receiving an offer to become a coach of three untalented players for a new futsal team, FC Cheolsu, he reluctantly agrees. If he succeeds in making the team a finalist of the Sunday Futsal League, he will receive a permanent position as coach of the center. As Jun-il struggles to change a team of losers, he learns how to change himself.

This heartwarming comedy brings hope and inspiration to those down on their luck and reminds us that when we step up to help others, we end up helping ourselves.

*Writer-Director Yi is scheduled to attend in person for this screening*



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
OFFICIAL SELECTION  
2020

FROM THE CANNES-INVITED DIRECTOR IM SANG SOO

# HEAVEN

TO THE LAND OF HAPPINESS

CHOI MIN SIK

PARK HAE IL

A FILM BY  
IM SANG SOO  
A HIVE MEDIA CORP. PRODUCTION



# Opening Night

## HEAVEN: TO THE LAND OF HAPPINESS (헤븐: 행복의 나라로)

MIDWEST PREMIERE - OPENING FILM

**Saturday, Sunday, March 13, 4:30PM @ AMC Niles 12 located at 301 Golf Mill  
Ctr, Niles, IL 60714 inside the Golf Mill Shopping Center**

South Korea | Odd-Couple Road/Crime Comedy | 2021 | 100 minutes

*In Korean w/English subtitles*

**WRITER-DIRECTOR:** Im Sang-soo

**STARRING:** Choi Min-sik, Park Hae-il, Youn Yuh-jung

**FILM SOURCE:** Fine Cut



DIRECTOR  
Im Sang-soo

Due to his incurable disease, Nam-sik desperately needs medicine that he can't possibly afford. Just to stay alive, he chooses to move around from hospital to hospital stealing medicine after work. Meanwhile, 203, a man in prison for embezzlement is suffering from severe headache and seizures, visits the hospital for a medical check-up. After being told that he has less than two weeks to live, 203 escapes and Nam-sik tags along on his unexpected journey.

"... At its most enjoyable when it (the film) embraces the chaos of a chase picture." Wendy Ide, *Screendaily*

"Appearing in her sixth Im [Sang-soo] feature, and an Oscar winner for *Minari*, national treasure Youn steals every scene she's in as the bedridden boss." Richard Kuipers, *Variety*

KOREA **KF**  
FOUNDATION



The Consulate General of the  
Republic of Korea in Chicago



# COMING TO YOU (너에게 가는 길)

U.S. PREMIERE

**March 14 – 20 Streaming available for U.S.**

South Korea | Documentary/LGBT | 2021 | 93 minutes

*In Korean w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR & SCRIPT WRITER:** Byun Gyu-R

**STARRING:** Navi, Vivian, Han-gyeol, Ye-joon i

**FILM SOURCE:** : M-Line Distribution

Nabi, a veteran firefighter, prided herself for living a successful life until one day her child, Hankyeol, comes out to her by saying: “Mom, I want to get a mastectomy.” Vivian, a flight attendant of 28 years, sheds tears after reading her son, Yejoon’s, letter: “I’m gay.” Nabi and Vivian had never heard of the term “LGBTQIA+” in their lifetime until Hankyeol and Yejoon started opening up their various problems. Facing the reality that their children are struggling, what should the two mothers do?

*Coming to You* is an eye-opening documentary shot in a society deep-rooted with prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.



DIRECTOR  
Byun Gyu-Ri

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@ WATCH.EVENTIVE.  
ORG/APUC14



# IN THE NAME OF THE SON (아들의 이름으로)

MIDWEST PREMIERE

**March 14 – 20 Streaming available for U.S. views**

**Physical Screening: Sunday, March 20, 4:30 PM @ Tower Auditorium at  
Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) (10 W 35th St., Chicago)**

South Korea | Drama | 2020 | 90 minutes

*In Korean w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR & SCRIPT WRITER:** Lee Jung-gook

**STARRING:** Ahn Sung-ki, Yun Yu-sun, Park Geun-hyung

**FILM SOURCE:** M-Line Distribution

This movie is about a man who was a riot police officer during the May 18 pro-democracy movement, repenting after suffering from a sense of guilt, and avenging those who were responsible during that time.

“This undercurrent of realism flows through the film which serves as a spiritual reckoning for Chae-geun. Despite seeming like a kindly old man in the present day, there are definite hints that Chae-geun’s past is filled with mistakes that he is, to this day, ashamed of. What’s really interesting is why...”  
Excerpt from William Schwartz’s review, *Hancinema*.

The film has received multiple awards including the “Best Narrative Feature” at the 2021 Cannes World Film Festival; “Critics Choice Award” in 2021 World Film Carnival Singapore & the Tagore International Film Festival; the “Best Actor’s Award”; “Best Producer Award” from 2020 Chicago Indie Film Awards.



DIRECTOR  
Lee Jung-gook

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## MY BIG MAMA'S CRAZY RIDE (큰엄마의 미친봉고)

U.S. PREMIERE

**March 14 – 20 Streaming available for U.S. views**

**Physical screening: Tuesday, March 15, 10:30 AM @ Korean Culture Center of Chicago (9930 Capital Drive, Wheeling)**

South Korea | Drama/Comedy | 2021 | 99 minutes  
In Korean w/English subtitles

**DIRECTOR:** Paek Seung-hwan

**STARRING:** Jeong Young-ju, Kim Ga-eun, Hwang Seok-jeong, Jung Jae-kwang, Cho Dal-hwan

**FILM SOURCE:** M-Line Distribution

For 40 years, the Yu family's Big Mama, Yeong-hui, has quietly cooked all the meals every holiday. But this year, she makes a big decision to stand up to the old tradition. Yeong-hui puts all the daughters-in-law into a van and escapes on the morning of ancestral rites. Thanks to Hyo-jeong, a streamer, this event is broadcasted across Korea in real-time. No one knows the final destination except for Big Mama.

Stellar performance by the ensemble cast of the men and women of the Yu family, the audience will enjoy the fun ride with the women having their big day off while the men struggle with even doing simple chores around the house.



DIRECTOR  
Paek Seung-hwan

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## ACTION HERO (액션히어로)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**March 14 – 20 Streaming available for U.S. views**

**Physical screenings:**  
**Saturday, March 19, 2:00 PM @ Korean Culture Center of Chicago (9930 Capital Drive, Wheeling)**

**Sunday, March 20, 1:30 PM @ Tower Auditorium at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) (10 W 35th St., Chicago)**

South Korea | Action/Comedy | 2021 | 91 minutes  
In Korean w/English subtitles

**DIRECTOR & SCRIPT WRITER:** Lee Jin-ho

**STARRING:** Lee Seok-hyung, Lee Joo-young, Kim Jae-hwa

**FILM SOURCE:** M-Line Distribution

Joosung dreams of becoming an action star but in reality, he's just an ordinary college student. One day, he meets a nerd, Chanyur in a filmmaking class and they decide to make an action film. While shooting the film, they accidentally discover a threatening letter sent to professor Cha. It's a letter to blackmail her using the fact that she is involved in admission frauds. The two then decide to capture her reaction to the blackmail as the main storyline of their action movie, but the more they become involved, the more things get messed up...

*Action Hero* is a high-spirited action movie about an undergrad who will undo injustice! For the first time here is a hero representing the MZ generation. The film has garnered 4 awards in the 2021 Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival for its exceptional ensemble cast made up of seasoned and rookie actors and actresses.



DIRECTOR  
Lee Jin-ho

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# ALONERS (혼자 사는 사람들)

ILLINOIS PREMIERE

**Saturday, March 19, 1:30PM @ Tower Auditorium at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) (10 W 35th Street, Chicago)**

South Korea | Drama | 2021 | 88 minutes | In Korean w/English subtitles  
*In Korean w/English subtitles*

**WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY:** Hong Sung-eun

**STARRING:** Gong Seung-yeon, Jeong Da-eun, Seo Hyun-woo, Park Jeong-hak

**FILM SOURCE:** Film Movement

Jina is the top employee at a call center, but despite talking to customers all day, she has shut out the world beyond her headset; she lives alone, eats alone, sleeps alone, and her cell phone is her constant companion. One day she's tasked with training a friendly and naive new hire, her icy armor is threatened. At the same time, she must navigate an incessantly ingratiating new neighbor, and increasingly urgent phone calls from her father, leaving Jina teetering on the edge of an existential crisis, forcing her to confront why she has isolated herself all these years.

Riffing on the Korean 'honjok' – a phenomenon of young people who live alone and skirt social interaction – to examine the personal traumas of loss and alienation, this subtly poetic directorial debut is a "stirring portrait of the cages we build for ourselves and questions how and when we may want to be free of them," *Ms. Magazine*.



DIRECTOR  
Hong Sung-eun



# MY BROTHER, THE ANDROID AND ME (弟とアンドロイドと僕)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**March 21 – 27 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Japan | Drama | 2022 | 94 minutes  
*In Japanese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR & SCRIPT WRITER:** Junji Sakamoto

**STARRING:** Etsushi Toyokawa, Yuki Kazamatsuri, Masanobu Ando, Hirotarō Honda

**FILM SOURCE:** Kino Films

Kaoru Kiryu is a lonely robot engineer. Since he was a child, he has lived without feeling that he exists like a robot himself. To counteract his anxieties, he devoted his time to develop his own android as another "me" in an old Western style building inherited from the family. One day, his half-brother, whom he hasn't seen for a long time, visits, and fights for his share of the property.



DIRECTOR  
Junji Sakamoto

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# WILL I BE SINGLE FOREVER? (ずっと独身でいるつもり?)

N. AMERICA PREMIERE

**March 21 – 27 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Japan | Romance/Drama | 2021 | 94 minutes

*In Japanese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Momoko Fukuda

**STARRING:** Minami Tanaka, Miwako Ichikawa, Sayuri Matsumura

**FILM SOURCE:** Nikkatsu Films

Mami Honda (Minami Tanaka) is 36 years old and a single writer who achieved overnight fame when her essay became an instant bestseller; but that was 10 years ago. Readers praised her honest writing about a woman's happiness and how she encouraged an independent and self-sufficient lifestyle. Today, she still finds herself stuck, unable to come up with a follow up hit.

While responding aptly to public demand for her next book, she senses a growing concern about single females her age, and is constantly being asked: "Will you be single forever?"

A live adaptation of Mari Okazaki's Manga, "Will I Be Single Forever?" Director Momoko Fukuda challenges Japan's definition of what's normal and puts the spotlight on her elaborated characters fighting for emancipation.



DIRECTOR  
Momoko Fukuda

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# MUSICOPHILIA (ミュージコフィリア)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

**March 21 – 27 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Japan | Drama/New Music | 2021 | 113 minutes

*In Japanese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Masaaki Taniguchi

**STARRING:** Kai Inowaki, Honoka Matsumoto, Ikusaburo Yamazaki

**FILM SOURCE:** Nikkatsu Films

Based on webcomic "Musicophilia" by Akira Saso published in 2011, this is a film about Saku Urushibara, a young man with a special ability to understand sounds in nature. His father is a prominent composer, and his younger half-brother is a genius music composer. Due to the success achieved by his father and half-brother, Saku Urushibara has an inferiority complex. He tries to stay away from music because of this, but he ends up enrolling at the University of Arts in Kyoto where his special ability helps him find his own voice in the world of contemporary classical music.

While classical music is highlighted in most of Japanese cinema, this is one of the rare films depicting young people exploring their interests and composition efforts in creating experimental and new music. This film was selected specially to honor New Music fans in the U.S.



DIRECTOR  
Masaaki Taniguchi

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# SKELETON FLOWERS (かそけきサンカヨウ)

N. AMERICA PREMIERE

**March 21 – 27 - Streaming available for U.S. views**

Japan | Drama/Family/Romance | 2021 | 115 minutes

*In Japanese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Rikiya Imaizumi

**STARRING:** Sara Shida, Ouji Suzuka, Arata Iura, Akiko Kikuchi

**FILM SOURCE:** Nagoya Broadcasting Network Co., Ltd.

“Based on a short story by Misumi Kubo, Rikiya Imaizumi’s *Skeleton Flowers* is a smorgasbord of contemporary Japanese movie themes. There’s a coming-of-age story about an artsy teenage girl, a love triangle involving the protagonist and two friends, and a family drama focusing on her father’s remarriage and her first encounter with her birth mother after many years apart.

“In contrast to the many Japanese films that focus on similar themes that shade dark in the name of realism, *Skeleton Flowers* is more like Sachiko’s painting of the title flowers — somewhat wispy and idealized, but evocative of its subjects’ youthful transformations. Yo, the artsy high-school girl, and her gentle-spirited classmate, Riku may not become transparent like skeleton flowers in the rain, but they do reveal their true, inner selves, as do others around them. Their honesty is this film’s beauty.”  
Excerpt from Mark Schilling’s review, *Japan Times*.



DIRECTOR  
Rikiya Imaizumi

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# RIBBON

N. & S. AMERICA PREMIERE

**March 21 – 27 Streaming available for Illinois State views only**

Japan | Drama/Youth | 2022 | 115 minutes

*In Japanese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER:** NON (Rena Nounen)

**STARRING:** NON (Rena Nounen), Daikichi Sugawara, Rio Yamashita,  
Daichi Watanabe

**FILM SOURCE:** Shinji Sakoda Office



DIRECTOR  
NON (Rena Nounen)

ATTEND VIRTUALLY  
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It is the winter of 2020, and a graduation project that had taken a year to complete can no longer be showcased at its planned venue because of COVID-19. Having been deprived of the channel to express herself, art student Itsuka (Non) struggles with her internal conflict of being unable to figure out what she should be doing. The occasional visits by her parents, sister and best friend/classmate while being homebound, Itsuka gradually finds new purpose in her lock-down life.

Directed/written/acted/edited by Non, *Ribbon* is an exceptionally engaging coming-of-age story. It is anchored by her irrepressible spirit and her metaphorical expression of emotion through ribbon art.

Note: The special effects team led by *Shin Godzilla* director Shinji Higuchi, animates the film’s ribbons in response to Itsuka’s many moods. Non herself created the character’s gorgeous paintings.



# MY FATHER'S TRACKS (僕と彼女とラリーと)

N. AMERICA PREMIERE

**March 21 – 27 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Japan | Drama/Romance/Family | 2021 | 105 minutes

*In Japanese w/English subtitles*

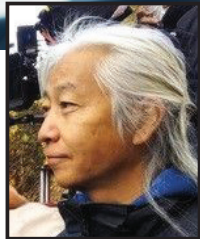
**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER:** Rempei Tsukamoto

**STARRING:** Win Morisaki, Mai Fukagawa

**FILM SOURCE:** Nagoya Broadcasting Network Co., Ltd.

Taiga Kitamura, who was separated from his mother at an early age, believes that his father's selfishness in devoting himself to the rally hastened her death. Determined to live a life without his father, he has been pursuing an acting career in Tokyo after graduating from university. Following the sudden news of his father's death, he decides to return to his hometown. There Taiga reconnects with the locals, especially his childhood friend Miho Uechi, and the reason why his father was so passionate about rallying begins to unravel.

Since the last hit "Bento Harassment" that our festival screened in Season 10, director Tsukamoto returns with this heartwarming story that reunites the estranged son with his father after the father's sudden departure...



DIRECTOR  
Rempei Tsukamoto

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# TOKYO SHAKING

MIDWEST PREMIERE

**Friday, March 25, 6:30PM @ Alliance Francaise de Chicago  
(54 W Chicago Ave)**

France/Japan | Drama | 2019 | 101 minutes

*In French & Japanese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Olivier Peyon

**STARRING:** Karin Viard, Stéphane Bak, Yumi Narita

**FILM SOURCE:** Icarus Films



DIRECTOR  
Olivier Peyon

In March 2011, the largest tsunami in Japan's history triggered the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Newly transferred to Tokyo from Hong Kong, French executive Alexandra (Karin Viard) finds herself in the middle of the confusion and panic of the crisis. While government officials scramble to assess the full extent of the damage, local media downplays the disaster.

While senior management flees back to France, Alexandra stays behind out of a sense of moral duty to her colleagues in the Tokyo office. However, as the crisis escalates and radioactive clouds threaten the city, Alexandra is increasingly torn between the demands of management and the desire to protect her colleagues and family.

*Tokyo Shaking* is a complex exploration of the struggle between personal duty and corporate bureaucracy in the shadow of a modern environmental catastrophe.

This film is specially selected to be part of the Francophonie Festival 2022 in collaboration with Alliance Française de Chicago.



# ISLANDS

MIDWEST PREMIERE

**April 1 - 3 Streaming available for Illinois State views Only**

Canada/The Philippines | Drama | 2021 | 94 minutes

*In Tagalog w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Martin Edralin

**STARRING:** Rogelio Balagtas, Sheila Lotuaco, Esteban Comilang

**FILM SOURCE:** Circus Zero Films

Joshua, a shy middle-aged Filipino immigrant, has lived in the comfort of his parents' home his entire life. As their health declines he longs for a partner, terrified of being alone after they pass.

"Islands is one of those films, like Percy Adlon's "Sugarbaby" (1985), about a dead soul coming to life. Looking at Joshua, we know that something has to change — that fate needs to throw a monkey wrench his way. You could say that he suffers from social anxiety disorder, and a lesser film would probably have diagnosed him that way and set about solving the problem. But Joshua has a personality he can't just change out of like a suit. That's the film's quietly authentic fascination: What does it look like, truly, when an unmolded lump of humanity wakes up? Rogelio Balagtas has never been an actor before, but his performance is exacting, and touching, in its casual repression. He shows you the prison this man is living in just because of who he is." Excerpt from Owen Gleiberman's review, *Variety*



DIRECTOR  
Martin Edralin

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# BAMBOO THEATRE

(戲棚)

U.S. PREMIERE

**Saturday, April 2, 1:30PM @ AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois)**

Hong Kong | Documentary | 2019 | 76 minutes

*In Cantonese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Cheuk Cheung

**FILM SOURCE:** Golden Scene

While permanent theatres are commonly built in most cosmopolitan modern cities, Hong Kong preserves a unique theatrical architecture, a Chinese tradition that has lasted more than a century – Bamboo Theatre. It is a makeshift, open-air and bamboo shed theatre, which is built and fixed by plastic straps, without any heavy-duty materials. During festivities in the villages, Chinese opera troupes perform ritualistic operas in the temporary theatres constructed in front of the temples, in order to express their gratitude to the Chinese gods they worship. Spirits and gods were the primary audiences. This film follows ritual practices in various villages and remote islands of Hong Kong for two years. It is a portrait of this traditional cultural space: its way of building and dismantling, and the collaborative work of troupes' performers, stage managers and wardrobe, etc. It allows audiences to observe multiple corners of the space, and the variety of ways in which people make use of it.



DIRECTOR  
Cheuk Cheung



## MAMA'S AFFAIR (阿媽有咗第二個)

U.S. PREMIERE

**Saturday, April 2, 4:30PM @ AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois)**

Hong Kong | Drama/Canto-pop | 2022 | 127 minutes

*in Cantonese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Kearen Pang

**STARRING:** Teresa Mo Shun Kwan, Keung To, Jer Lau Ying Ting

**FILM SOURCE:** Emperor Motion Pictures

Mei-fung was once a top artiste manager and helped produce some of the biggest stars for her record label. But when she got pregnant, she chose family over career.

Today, Mei-fung is living a seemingly worry-free housewife life, but her 17-year-old son, Jonathan, is about to study abroad, and the gap between her and her husband is growing ever wider. All alone, she decides to get back in action and rediscover her values in life.

Fong Ching is an orphan, and only works at the cafe to make ends meet, but his passion and talent have always been singing and dancing. Ching reignites Mei-fung's spark, except causing rivalry between her own son Jonathan and Ching. Most importantly, can Jonathan ever forgive Mei-fung and accept the new her?

Keung To and Jer Lau, two members of the wildly-popular Hong Kong boy band "Mirror" are making their screen debut in this movie.



DIRECTOR  
Kearen Pang



## LOVE AFTER LOVE (第一炉香)

U.S. PREMIERE

**March 27 – April 2 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Hong Kong | Drama/Romance | 2020 | 144 minutes

*In Mandarin w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Ann Hui

**STARRING:** Ma Si-chun, Eddie Peng, Yu Fei-hong

**FILM SOURCE:** Fortissimo Films

Set in colonial-era Hong Kong in the 1940s, the film tells the story of Ge Weilong (Sandra Ma), a young girl who travels from Shanghai to Hong Kong in pursuit of an education. Corrupted by her dazzling new environment, Ge is encouraged by her relative, Aunt Liang (Faye Yu) to marry a young man, Qiao Qiqiao (Eddie Peng), to gain access to his wealth.

The Hollywood Reporter calls *Love After Love*, "A gorgeously appointed period piece," stating that "Besides Hui at the helm, the involvement of star cinematographer Christopher Doyle, famous for his collaborations with Wong Kar-wai, and sterling composer Ryuichi Sakamoto should further help attract the attention of cinephiles around the globe."



DIRECTOR  
Ann Hui

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*“Now more than ever we need to talk to each other, to listen to each other and understand how we see the world, and cinema is the best medium for doing this.”*

—Martin Scorsese

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More info: [asianpopupcinema.org](http://asianpopupcinema.org)  
Admissions Free. RSVP is required.

**Saturday, March 19**

1:30 PM “Aloners” (South Korea)

4:30 PM “Jang-Gae: The Foreigner” (Taiwan/South Korea)

**Sunday, March 20**

1:30 PM “Action Hero” (South Korea)

4:30 PM “In the Name of the Son” (South Korea)

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# MADALENA (馬達·蓮娜)

N. AMERICA PREMIERE

**March 27 – April 3 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Hong Kong/Macau | Drama/Romance | 2021 | 98 minutes

*In Cantonese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER:** Chan Nga-Lei

**STARRING:** Louis Cheung, Chrissie Chau

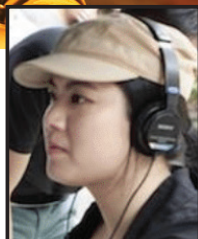
**FILM SOURCE:** One Cool Pictures

Early spring in the city of Macau, Mada (Louis Cheung), a divorced man in his 40's, lives in a dilapidated flat that's set for demolition. Suffering from a serious case of amnesia, Mada works the graveyard shift as a taxi driver to overcome the pain of his affliction.

One night, Mada picks up Lena (Chrissie Chau), who works as a restaurant receptionist by day and a bar hostess by night. After a misunderstanding sparks their friendship, Mada becomes Lena's driver, picking her up before and after work. Lena's arrival finally brings some color into Mada's life; he even begins to think that he can finally move on from his divorce. Yet, Lena feels lonely in Macau; she's disliked by her colleagues, who all think that she is a ruthless, money-grubbing hustler for using her voluptuous figure to get special treatment.

Nice write up by our Hong Kong Cinema advisor Tim Youngs in his published article:

<https://www.fareastfilm.com/eng/film/madalena/?IDLYT=7505>



DIRECTOR  
Chan Nga-Lei

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ORG/APUC14



# ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE (總是有愛在隔離)

SPECIAL ENCORE

**March 27 – April 3 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Hong Kong | Comedy | 2021 | 118 minutes

*In Cantonese w/Chinese & English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Vincent Kok, et al.

**STARRING:** Louis Koo, Tony Leung Ka-fai, Eric Tsang, Francis Ng, Gordon Lam, Philip Keung

**FILM SOURCE:** One Cool Pictures

On a quiet and peaceful afternoon, the Hong Kong Grande Hotel suddenly becomes the center of attention when it is suspected to be the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) orders the hotel to be sealed, forcing its guests to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine. While the guests are quarantined in the hotel, it brings them closer as human beings. As they face this difficult time together, they also learn to cherish what might be their final moments of spending time with one another.

The film is a benefit effort for Hong Kong film industry workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic launched by the Hong Kong Performing Artistes Guild and the Federation of Hong Kong filmmakers and produced by ten major local film companies. Despite its mindless fun, the film is packed with a who's who of Hong Kong cinema. It is a sincere love letter from the Hong Kong entertainment world to its fans.



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A FILM BY KEI ISHIKAWA

# ARC



## ARC (アーク)

N. & S. AMERICA CONTINENTAL PREMIERE – CENTERPIECE

**Sunday, April 3, 1:30PM @ AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois)**

Japan | Drama/Sci-Fi | 2021 | 127 minutes

*In Japanese w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Kei Ishikawa

**STARRING:** Kyôko Yoshine, Shinobu Terajima, Masaki Okada

**FILM SOURCE:** Bandai Namco Arts

Set in the near future, Rina (Kyoko Yoshine) lives a wandering life until she meets Ema (Shinobu Terajima). Ema becomes a mentor for Rina and Rina begins to work for Ema, who is the head of the BodyWerks division at Eternity, a major cosmetics corporation. BodyWerks are actual body sculptures of the deceased, preserved as if they were living, a technology that is available to the public to overcome their loss of their loved ones. Meanwhile, Ema's younger brother Amane (Masaki Okada) develops technology that is finally able to achieve immortality. Rina becomes the first recipient of the technology and lives forever with a 30-year-old appearance....

Arc is a haunting and stirring tale of the fundamental quest since the dawn of mankind – what it means to live. The story is based on one of Ken Liu's short stories, a multiple Hugo Award-winning American author of speculative fiction.



DIRECTOR  
Kei Ishikawa







# JANG-GAE: THE FOREIGNER (醬狗)

U.S. PREMIERE

**April 4 – 10 Streaming available for U.S. views**

**Physical screenings:**

**Friday, March 18, 6:00 PM @ Korean Culture Center of Chicago  
(9930 Capital Drive, Wheeling)**

**Saturday, March 19, 4:30 PM @ Tower Auditorium at Illinois Institute  
of Technology (IIT) (10 W 35th St., Chicago)**

Taiwan | Drama | 2020 | 107 minutes

*In Mandarin w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER:** Chang Chih-wei

**STARRING:** Ho Yeh-wen, Kim Yea-eun, Lee Hang-na, Joey Yu

**FILM SOURCE:** Joint Pictures Co., Ltd.

Ghost island Taiwan vs. Hell Korea. The Taiwanese Korean mixed-blood high school boy LEE Gwang-Yong is now stuck in the middle. Born and raised in Korea, he is often bullied and insists on not speaking in Chinese; he regards himself as Korean. Back home, Gwang-Yong faces his father who has been working on fighting for the rights and interests for Hwagyo (overseas Chinese). From time to time, his father teaches him in Chinese to “don’t lose your roots.”

Despite the pressure in life, there is still a girl who does not care that Gwang-Yong is Korean. At a time when Gwang-Yong is striving for an overseas scholarship, an unexpected family incident suddenly occurs....Will he be able to win back his life against all odds?

“Surprisingly introspective and emotional coming-of-age tale delivered by Ho Yeh-wen, who shares a similar background as a third-generation Chinese-Korean” *Taipei Times*



DIRECTOR  
Chang Chih-wei

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@ WATCH.EVENTIVE.  
ORG/APUC14



# NO MAN IS AN ISLAND (沒有人該成為孤島)

MIDWEST PREMIERE

**April 4 – 10 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Taiwan | Documentary | 2022 | 76 minutes

*In Korean w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Jay Chern

**FILM SOURCE:** Skyfilms Entertainment Co., Ltd.

Back when no one knew what a “quarantine hotel” was, a newly established team took on the challenge of becoming a quarantine hotel in March of 2020. Despite the fear and uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 global pandemic, a filmmaker spent a year documenting the quarantine staff’s difficult journey as they tried to ensure that “no man is an island” during the quarantine process, offering an intimate look inside the quarantine rooms as those returning home faced the 14-day quarantine for the first time.



DIRECTOR  
Jay Chern

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ORG/APUC14



## YOU HAVE TO KILL ME (我是自願讓他殺了我)

U.S. PREMIERE

**April 4 – 10 Streaming available for U.S. views**

Taiwan | Criminal/Thriller | 2021 | 105 minutes

*In Mandarin w/English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Chan Chun-Hao

**STARRING:** Rexen Cheng, Janel Tsai, Hsueh Shih-Ling, Jin Yu

**FILM SOURCE:** Studio76 Original Productions Co., Ltd.

Police officer Chou was about to propose to his girlfriend Chen. When he received a homicide case report and followed it to the mountain area, he found out that the deceased one was his girlfriend. Even though he was devastated, he tried his best to investigate about the suspect Li, who confessed.... However, according to Li's confession, the murder was initiated by Chen! Upon further investigation, Chou discovers another homicide case that got mixed up yet is linked to this one.

The story is adapted by Feng Shi's novel, "Love," which depicts females' revenge and their hidden motives.



DIRECTOR  
Chan Chun-Hao

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@ WATCH.EVENTIVE.  
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## INCREASING ECHO (修行)

U.S. PREMIERE

**Saturday, April 9, 1:30PM @ AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois)**

Taiwan | Drama | 2021 | 85 minutes

*In Mandarin with English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER:** Hsiang Chienn

**STARRING:** Chen Shiang-Chyi, Chen Yi-Wen, Huang Rou-Ming

**FILM SOURCE:** Gray Wolf International Film Production Co., Ltd.

Mr. Yan's mistress from many years ago suffers from dementia and lives in a nursing home. Mrs. Yan is secretly pleased when learning about this news. Her grievances for many years are finally eased now. Mrs. Yan decides to take her husband to see the mistress as revenge. Mr. Yan is aware of the revenge, but after all these years he seems like a castrated animal and loses the will to resist his wife's demand.

After seeing the mistress, Mr. Yan runs away. Their son's wedding is taking place soon. Mrs. Yan must get her lost husband back to fulfill his family duties.

"Chen Shiang-chyi as Mrs. Yan is impressive in the portrayal of her precarious patience, the bottled-up emotions and her resolve, while Chen Yi-Wen is excellent in the presentation of a man who has given up on a number of levels. Their chemistry is also great and finds its apogee in the bathtub scene, the most visibly intense one in the movie." Panos Kotzathanasis, "Chen Shiang-chyi as Mrs. Yan is impressive in the portrayal of her precarious patience, the bottled-up emotions and her resolve, while Chen Yi-Wen is excellent in the presentation of a man who has given up on a number of levels. Their chemistry is also great and finds its apogee in the bathtub scene, the most visibly intense one in the movie." Panos Kotzathanasis, *Asian Movie Pulse*



DIRECTOR  
Hsiang Chienn



## TREAT OR TRICK (詭扯)

U.S. PREMIERE

**Saturday, April 9, 4:30PM @ AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois)**

Taiwan | Action/Comedy | 2021 | 106 minutes

*In Mandarin & Taiwanese dialect with Chinese & English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Hsu Fu-Hsiang

**STARRING:** Chen Bo-lin, Chen Yi-wen, Liu Kuan-ting

**FILM SOURCE:** AV-Jet International Media Co., Ltd.

During a police raid led by the beat cop Feng and his men, Feng's buddy Chiang gets another idea after seeing the offenders' prized possession. He takes the diamonds, skipping town to a distant village to lie low. Feng has no choice but to bring his men Monk and Yang to retrieve the diamonds within 48 hours. Oddly enough, Chiang's cell phone signal suggests that he is in the village, but Feng cannot find him anywhere. Feng can only begin dealing with the seemingly innocent yet weird villagers, entailing everyone playing mind games on one another. Amidst this chaotic situation, a female ghost shows up, making it even worse - Can Feng eventually discover the truth and get his buddy back? Good or evil, the uncertainty leaves everyone feeling unsettled and suspicious.



DIRECTOR  
Hsu Fu-Hsiang



## GRIT (鱷魚)

U.S. PREMIERE

**Sunday, April 10, 1:30 PM @ AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois)**

Taiwan | Drama/Romance | 2021 | 102 minutes

*In Mandarin with English subtitles*

**DIRECTOR:** Chen Ta-Pu

**STARRING:** Angelica Lee, Kai Ko, Lee Kang-sheng

**FILM SOURCE:** mm2 Entertainment Ltd.

Kai Ko Chen-tung (You Are the Apple of My Eye, Road to Mandalay) and Angelica Lee (The Eye, The Garden of Evening Mists) make an unusual romantic pairing in this offbeat romantic comedy from director-cinematographer Chen Ta-pu. Ko plays Croc, a young gangster who goes back to work for his former boss at a city councilor's office after his release from jail. Croc's latest task is to deal with Ping, a headstrong farmer who adamantly refuses to give up her land for redevelopment. As Croc and Ping develop feelings for each other, Croc is determined to become a better man and hang on to his newfound happiness — even if it means defying his own mob.

Kai Ko giving a transformative performance in this movie, is the recipient of our festival's BRIGHT STAR AWARD. *See Page 6 to learn more about Kai Ko.*



DIRECTOR  
Chen Ta-Pu

把你放進腦海裡，毫無顧忌地用力想念

吳子霏 連晨翔

導演 詹馥華



# 一杯熱奶茶的等待

Waiting for My Cup of Tea

華文創作小說年度暢銷冠軍改編

# Closing Night



DIRECTOR  
Phoebe Jan Fu-hua

## WAITING FOR MY CUP OF TEA (一杯熱奶茶的等待)

N. AMERICA PREMIERE - CLOSING FILM

**Sunday, April 10, 4:30 PM @ AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois)**

Taiwan | Romance | 2021 | 114 minutes

In Mandarin with English subtitles

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER:** Phoebe Jan Fu-hua

**STARRING:** Simon Lien, Ellen Wu, Alex Chou

**FILM SOURCE:** Mandarin Vision Co., Ltd.

On a cold Valentine's Day on the 14th of February (about twenty years ago), a girl Xiao-Hua runs into a boy A-Wen who is waiting for his lover. Out of empathy, Xiao-Hua hands A-Wen a cup of hot milk tea. The two get to know each other. On the same day, Zi-Jie Huang also bumps into Xiao-Hua. Zi-Jie behaves like a jolly charming womanizer, that leaves a bad first impression for Xiao-Hua.

Xiao-Hua is convinced that A-Wen's lover must be Yi-Chun, nicknamed Butterfly. Out of surprise Xiao-Hua discovers Yi-Chun cheats on A-Wen with Zi-Jie. She feels even more sympathetic to A-Wen. Xiao-Hua later realizes that Zi-Jie never gives his heart to anyone, because he could die at any second. After Zi-jie confesses to Xiao-Hua his love for her, Xiao-Hua's ex-boyfriend Shao-Ping unexpectedly reappears and stirs up her peace. When Xiao-Hua finally admits her feelings for Zi-Jie, Zi-Jie is ill. As winter is coming to an end, will there be a happy ending?



The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in New York continues its mission to foster closer economic and cultural ties and promote mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the 31 eastern states of the USA.

For more information, check out our website ([www.hketony.gov.hk](http://www.hketony.gov.hk)) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram "Hong Kong Meets America".



**SOPHIA'S CHOICE**

Founded by international film and cultural curator Sophia Wong Boccio, SOPHIA'S CHOICE (蘇菲亞的精選) is a Chicago-based 501 C(3) not-for-profit cultural organization incorporated in May, 2015. Our vision is to foster an appreciation for diverse Asian culture. We realize our vision through a multi-pronged mission to:

- Cultivate an interest in and understanding of Asian cultures via a diverse offering of Asian films;**
- Connect the Asian film industry with local Chicago film students, educators and professionals; and**
- Promote Chicago as a destination for international visitors.**

Asian Pop-Up Cinema (亞洲躍動電影展) (APUC) is a semi-annual film festival — spring and fall—that provides a platform for specially curated Asian films in their original languages with English subtitles. Before COVID-19 films were presented primarily at the AMC River East 21 in Chicago or other live pop-up venues. We went “hybrid” since the fall of 2020 by presenting films online, in cinema, as well a drive-in location with live audiences. All the indoor events are in compliance with CDC guidelines since public safety remains our top priority!

Since our inaugural season in the fall of 2015 through Season 12 in 2020, APUC has premiered close to 200 screenings of contemporary Asian films from mainland China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. By hosting one event at a time, each APUC selected film and its filmmaker receive their own spotlight, resulting in a more meaningful dialogue with the audience and media. Based on the filmmaker’s availability, we also collaborate with other professional and academic institutions nationally and internationally to create outreach opportunities such as encore screenings, classroom lectures, panel discussions and industry networking, ensuring their visits to Chicago are as fulfilling as possible for both the filmmakers and the city.

Year 2022 will see us continuing with our online offerings hosted by a customized “virtual cinema” supported by a special grant from the Arts Work Fund. The APUC Virtual Cinema will serve our newly acquired national home viewers; and help long-term to keep audiences engaged between festivals for any independent series.

# OFFICERS & DIRECTORS OF SOPHIA'S CHOICE GOVERNING BOARD



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# TEAM APUC

TEAM APUC is made up of film festival professionals based in Canada, Chicago, Hong Kong, Japan, Los Angeles, and London. Each individual in TEAM APUC is part of the incredible driving force behind the successful planning and implementation of our hybrid festival each season. With many returning members, each season we welcome new members onboarding.

Bravos TEAM APUC and to ALL our dedicated volunteers.

**SOPHIA WONG BOCCIO** – Festival Director

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**YU-JEAN CHON** - Korean

**MASAMI TAKAHASI** – Japanese

**IU-LUEN JENG** - Chinese

[asianpopupcinema.org/team-apuc](http://asianpopupcinema.org/team-apuc)

# TICKETING INFORMATION:

[asianpopupcinema.org/14boxoffice](http://asianpopupcinema.org/14boxoffice)

## 11 FILMS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES:

**AMC RIVER EAST** (322 E. Illinois),

**AMC NILES 12** (301 Golf Mill Center, Niles),

**ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE CHICAGO** (54 West Chicago Avenue),

**TOWER AUDITORIUM AT ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT)** (10 West 35th Street)

**KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER OF CHICAGO (KCCOC)** (9930 S Capitol Drive, Wheeling).

Tickets are \$5.00 (general admission)

Rush tickets at the door are available at \$10 (cash only)

**Thanks to a generous grant from the Korean Foundation, all Korean films featured in Season 14 are Admissions Free.**

**Films at IIT or Alliance Française de Chicago are also admissions free per our cultural partners.**

**RSVP is required for all the FREE screenings.**

Doors open at 30 minutes prior to showtimes.

**Consent to be photographed/filmed:** Asian Pop-Up Cinema and its representatives may photograph, film, and/or otherwise record attendees at all festival activities. By attending, you consent to such photography, filming, and/or recording and to any use in any and all media throughout the universe in perpetuity and without compensation for the use of your appearance, voice, and name for promotional and/or advertising, or any other purpose by Asian Pop-Up Cinema and its affiliates and representative.

**PUBLIC SAFETY is our priority. Asian Pop-Up Cinema (APUC) follows area mandates and meets or exceeds CDC guidelines. Please refer to various venues' most updated COVID-19 guideline before attending the actual event.**

## 17 FILMS WILL BE PRESENTED AT APUC VIRTUAL

powered by DRM compliance *eventive*.

Unless otherwise mentioned, most films are available for 7-day rental, geo-blocked for U.S. at \$3.00 per rental. Please rent your films during the availability and once you unlock the films you will have 24 hours to finish watching the film.

For your quick reference here is the full list of admissions free online titles:

- My Big Mama's Crazy Ride (South Korea)
- Coming To You (South Korea)
- In The Name of the Son (South Korea)
- Action Hero (South Korea)
- Islands (Canada/the Philippines)
- Jang-Gae: The Foreigner (Taiwan/South Korea)

**WARNING:** APUC Virtual has various safeguards in place to protect the rights of creators, including traceable watermarking. Recording or photographing is strictly prohibited.

**All tickets sales are final, non-refundable and non-exchangeable. All programs are subject to change. In order to receive up-to-date screening information, please subscribe at [asianpopupcinema.org/subscribe](http://asianpopupcinema.org/subscribe) to receive our weekly e-newsletters.**

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# ASIAN


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