SEASON NINE
SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 10 2019

SOPHIA'S CHOICE PROUDLY PRESENTS

ASIAN POP-UP CINEMA

YOUR PASSPORT TO ASIAN CINEMA
CONTEMPORARY ASIAN FILMS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

WWW.ASIANPOPUPCINEMA.ORG
Welcome to Season Nine of Asian Pop-Up Cinema’s (APUC) biannual film festival. From September 10 to October 10, 2019, we will be showcasing 17 exciting new films made by filmmakers from Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Thailand. As of press time, we have confirmed 16 guests made up of directors, actors, producers, scriptwriter and artistic director to attend our festival with their films.

These films have been thoughtfully curated to represent authentic voices of Asia in artful narrations by Asian filmmakers, majority of which will be Chicago premieres, never before shown on the big screens. Mixed in the slate are four films heavily influenced by Hollywood musicals led by the newest Can’t Stop the Dancing from Japan, Swing Kids from South Korea, Office from Hong Kong and Miss Granny from the Philippines for your pure enjoyment. Continuing with our last year’s Mid-Autumn Festival offering “Movie with Mooncakes”, you will be treated to a spectacular martial arts film, namely, Shadow, by internationally known Zhang Yimou. Last but not least, APUC has included, for the first time, two awards-winning films from the Philippines highlighted as “Filipino Focus” in celebration of the Filipino American History Month.

Post screening discussions will continue to be staged to enhance your appreciation and understandings of the significant cultural and artistic aspects of the stories told.

All in all, we believe we have something for everyone! Buy your tickets or multiple-film passes early at www.asianpopupcinema.org/tickets.

See you at the movies!

Sophia Wong Boccio
Founder & Executive Director of Sophia’s Choice
presenter of Asian Pop-Up Cinema
GUESTS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

Awards Honorees:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Kenneth Tsang Kong (Hong Kong) – Actor, The Attorney

BRIGHT STAR AWARD
Christian Babies (the Philippines) – Actor, Signal Rock

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Lee Min-Jae (South Korea) – Director, The Odd Family: Zombie On Sale
Hong Seung-Wan (South Korea) – Director, Juror 8
Jared Grimes (U.S.) – Actor/Dancer/Singer, Swing Kids
Huo Meng (China) – Director, Crossing the Border
Song Wen (China) – Director, The Enigma of the Arrival
Gu Xuan (China) – Actress, The Enigma of the Arrival
Tanaka Seiji (Japan) – Director, Melancholic
Minagawa Yoji (Japan) – Producer/Actor, Melancholic
Ping Lumpraploeng (Thailand) – Director, The Pool
Christopher Sun (Hong Kong) – Director, Deception of the Novelist
Justin Cheung (Hong Kong) – Producer/Actor, Deception of the Novelist
Cherrie Lau (Hong Kong) – Executive Producer, The Attorney
Frances To (Hong Kong) – Scriptwriter, The Attorney

All films are shown in their original language with English subtitles. Post-screening discussions led by in-house moderator, Ron Falzone, Associate Professor of Cinema and Television Arts at Columbia College and guest moderators:

Darcy Paquet (South Korea) – Professor, Busan Asian Film School (AFIS), Artistic Director, Wildflower Film Awards Korea (필름영화상) and Programming Consultant, Udine Far East Film Festival
Jennifer Dorothy Lee, PhD (U.S.) – Assistant Professor of Art History, Theory & Criticism at School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Lane Alexander (U.S.) – Co-founder & director of Chicago Human Rhythm Project
Louella Cabalona (U.S.) – Newscaster, Chicago Philippine Reports TV; Writer; Via Times News Magazine; Lead Singer/Producer/Creative Director, SamaSama Project

(See page 46 for additional information on venues.)

More info: www.asianpopupcinema.org

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Introduction and Q&A with

**Director**
Lee Min-Jae

**Guest Moderator**
Darcy Paquet

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**THE ODD FAMILY: ZOMBIE ON SALE**  
*(기묘한 가족)*

**CHICAGO PREMIERE**
South Korea | 2019 | 111 Minutes | DCP  
In Korean w/English subtitles  
**Genre:** Comedy

**Director:** Lee Min-Jae  
**Starring:** Jung Jae-Young, Kim Nam-Gil, Uhm Ji-Won, Lee Soo-Kyung, Jung Ga-Ram, Park In-Hwan  
**Film Source:** M-Line Distribution

Human Bio, the biggest pharmaceutical company in Korea conducts illegal experiments on humans. One day, a test goes wrong resulting in the creation of a zombie. Soon after, in the remote countryside, the oddball PARK family makes their acquaintance with the zombie in question, Hyun-Woo. Rather than afraid of this strange creature, PARK’s family plots to make money out of him, especially after realizing the ‘old’ father’s sudden restored virility from a bite of the zombie. Only the youngest daughter Hae-Gul takes a liking to Hyun-woo, and nicknames him "Jongbie, the pet". Will Jongbie make a home with his ‘weirder than zombie’ family?

"Director Lee Min-Jae’s action-packed and self-referential debut takes everything to task with uproarious abandon." - NYAFF 18th edition

[asianpopupcinema.org/oddfamily91019](http://asianpopupcinema.org/oddfamily91019)

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Tuesday, September 10  
7:00 PM AMC River East 21
Introduction and Q&A with

DIRECTOR
HONG SEUNG-WAN

GUEST MODERATOR
Darcy Paquet

Thursday, September 12
7:00 PM AMC River East 21

JUROR 8 (배심원들)

CHICAGO PREMIERE
South Korea | 2019 | 114 Minutes | DCP
In Korean w/ English subtitles
Genre: Comedy/Drama/Law

Directors: Hong Seung-Wan
Starring: Moon So Ri, Park Hyeong Shik, Jo Soo Hyang, Jo Han Chul, Seo Jung Yeon, Kim Mi Kyung, Yoon Gyung Ho, Baek Soo Jang
Film Source: 815 Pictures, LLC

Juror 8 is a story of South Korea’s first trial by jury in 2008. It follows the case of a son brutally murdering his mother with all factors seeming to point to a guilty ruling. However, the trial does not go as smoothly as expected. The eighth juror, young entrepreneur Kwon Nam Woo, questions the defendant’s self-declaration of guilt. As a result, Kim Joon Gyum, the presiding judge, calls for a new debate to establish a guilty or not guilty verdict. The jury consists of 8 ordinary people with different ages and personality, but, after they become jurors, they seek out the truth of the case.

“.... a touching story that is both serious and fun” – M. Dang, soompi.com

asianpopupcinema.org/juror891219
Introduction and Q&A with

SWING KIDS

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
South Korea | 2018 | 133 Minutes | Blu-ray
In English and Korean w/English subtitles
Genre: Drama/Period-1950/Dance

Director and Screenplay: Kang Hyeong-Chul
Starring: Do Kyung-Soo, Park Hye-Su, Jared Grimes, Oh Jung-Se
Film Source: Well Go USA

Winner for Best Director at the 2019 Baeksang Arts Award, this swinging musical drama set during the Korean War, the soldiers at a POW camp plan a tap show to distract both themselves and the prisoners from the hardships of war. Led by a former Broadway dancer and a rebellious North Korean soldier, the band of prisoners find a new sense of freedom in dancing.

"Swing Kids is such a dizzying, anachronistic mash-up of genres and cultures -- tap-dancing musical, violent war movie, social-justice drama, and slapstick comedy with music from David Bowie, The Beatles and swing king Louis Prima -- that it deserves respect." – Cary Darling, Houston Chronicle

asianpopupcinema.org/swingkids91419

Saturday, September 14
2:00 PM IIT Tower Auditorium

ACTOR
JARED GRIMES

GUEST MODERATOR
Lane Alexander
Co-presented with the Office of Community Affairs at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), this season we are again featuring three films designed to spark cross-cultural conversations through films. The three films are: Swing Kids (South Korea); Shadow (China) and Long Time No Sea (Taiwan). Shadow is selected also to be our 2nd annual "Movie with Mooncakes" celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival. Complimentary mooncakes will be shared with the audience after the screening courtesy of the Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Shadow (影)

Sunday, September 15, 10:30 AM @ IIT Tower Auditorium
China | 2018 | 116 Minutes | Blu-ray
In Mandarin w/English subtitles
Genre: Action/War/Drama

Director: Zhang Yimou
Starring: Deng Chao, Sun Li, Zheng Kai, Wang Qian-Yuan
Film Source: Well Go USA

With Shadow, director Zhang Yimou (Hero, House Of Flying Daggers) once again pushes the boundaries of wuxia action to create a film like no other by masterfully painting a canvas of inky blacks and greys punctuated with bursts of color from the blood of the defeated. In a kingdom ruled by a young and unpredictable king, the military commander has a secret weapon: a “shadow”, a look-alike who can fool both his enemies and the King himself. Now he must use this weapon in an intricate plan that will lead his people to victory in a war that the King does not want.

“(The film)’s immaculate slow-build of training, tension and treachery shows the director has truly recaptured his mastery of the wuxia genre.” – James Marsh, South China Morning Post

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Introduction and Q&A with

CROSSING THE BORDER (过昭关)

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
China | 2018 | 94 Minutes | DCP
In Mandarin w/English subtitles
Genre: Family Drama

Director, Producer, Screenplay, Editor and Music: Huo Meng
Starring: Yang Taiyi, Li Yun-hu
Film source: Floating Light (Foshan) Film & Cultural Co. Ltd.

During summer vacation, Ning Ning, a 7-year-old boy, was sent back to the countryside to be taken care of by his 70-year-old grandfather named Li Fu-chang. Li Fu-chang accidentally got an old friend’s contact information and learned that his old friend had suffered a stroke and was dying. He decided to ride a motorbike with his grandson to visit his old friend who lived thousands of miles away.

“Life is precarious but it is also a magnificent adventure, and everyone has to overcome their own existential “boundaries.” The story is helped by a dose of subtle, refined humor making the closing scene of the film particularly memorable.” - Maria Barbieri, Udine Far East Film Festival

asianpopupcinema.org/border91819

Wednesday, September 18
7:00 PM AMC River East 21
Introduction and Q&A with

DIRECTOR
SONG WEN

ACTRESS
GU XUAN

THE ENIGMA OF THE ARRIVAL

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
China | 2018 | 112 Minutes | DCP
In Mandarin w/English subtitles
Genre: Drama

Director: Song Wen
Starring: Li Xian, Dong Borui, Gu Xuan
Film source: Fortissimo Films

After many years, a group of college friends reunite. They have not seen each other since the disappearance of Dong-dong, a girl that they all secretly fancied. The circumstances of her disappearance caused the end of their friendship. A lot remained unsaid. Until now.

"... a subtle examination of media consumption, masculinity, and declining social trust in a rapidly changing China." – Adam Keller, reelydope.com

Thursday, September 19
7:00 PM AMC River East 21

www.asianpopupcinema.org/enigma91919
Wushu Orphan（武林孤儿）

CHICAGO PREMIERE
Friday, September 20, 6:30 PM @ SAIC Room #MC1307
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
China | 2018 | 121 minutes | Blu-ray
In Mandarin w/English subtitles

Genre: Drama
Guest Speaker: Jennifer Dorothy Lee, PhD

Director: Huang Huang
Starring: Jin Jingcheng, Hou Yunxiao, Liu Zhihan, Shi Zhi, Ma Zhongshan, Wang Shulin

"In the late 90's, wet behind the ears Lu Youhong takes a job teaching Chinese at a remote martial arts academy. His many students could care less for academics except for Zhang Cuishan, who excels at schoolwork but hates martial arts, and is bullied for it.... Huang Huang's evocative feature debut is a beautifully poetic paean to the bittersweet pangs of growing up at all stages of life." NYAFF, 18th edition

"the whip-smart, original, and effortfully funny" – Ryan Charland, easternkicks.com

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INTRODUCTION AND Q&A WITH

DIRECTOR
SEIJI
TANAKA

MELANCHOLIC
(メランコリック)

CHICAGO PREMIERE

Japan | 2019 | 113 Minutes | DCP
In Japanese w/English & Chinese subtitles

Genre: Comedy/Romance/Crime/Thriller

Director and Writer: Tanaka Seiji
Starring: Minagawa Yoji, Yoshitomo Isozaki, Mebuki Yoshida, Stefanie Arianne, Yuta Okuba, Takanori Kamachi, Keiji Yamashita, Hiroko Shinkai, Makoto Hada, Masanobu Yada, Yasuyuki Hamaya

Kazuhiko isn’t enjoying his life despite earning his degree from a top university. One day, he runs into a high-school classmate, Yuri, at a bathhouse and later starts working there. His discovery that the place is being used for nefarious after-hours activities is bad enough, but then Kazuhiko finds that his colleague Matsumoto is an assassin.

Tanaka Seiji won Japanese Cinema Splash Best Director Award for his first feature film MELANCHOLIC in 31st Tokyo International Film Festival.

"Melancholic makes it darkly funny, viscerally thrilling and improbably heartwarming, all without departing far from the stark immediacy of its opening scenes.” – Mark Schilling, Japan Times

asianpopupcinema.org/melancholic92519

MODERATOR
Ron Falzone

Wednesday, September 25
8:00 PM Gene Siskel Film Center
CAN’T STOP THE DANCING
(ダンスウィズミー)

CHICAGO PREMIERE
Thursday, September 26, 7:00 PM @ AMC RIVER EAST 21
Japan | 2019 | 103 Minutes | DCP
In Japanese w/ English subtitles
Genre: Comedy/Musical
Speaker: Ron Falzone

Director: Shinobu Yaguchi
Starring: Ayaka Miyoshi, Yuu Yashiro, chay, Takahiro Miura, Tsuyoshi Muro, Akira Takarada
Film Source: Warner Bros., Japan

Suzuki Shizuka is an office lady at a large corporation who is treated by a hypnotist and left under the spell. Thereafter, she cannot but sings and dances whenever she hears any melody whatsoever. Shizuka heads back to the hypnotist for relief, but he is nowhere to be found when he is needed the most.

“A funny, fast-paced and deliriously joyful update of classic musicals featuring a delightful lead performance from Ayaka Miyoshi.” – JCCC Canada

asianpopucinema.org/dancing92619

BENTO HARASSMENT
(今日も嫌がらせ弁当)

CHICAGO PREMIERE
Friday, September 27, 7:00 PM @ Midwest Buddhist Temple
Japan | 2019 | 106 Minutes | Blu-ray
In Japanese w/ English subtitles
Genre: Family/Comedy/School/Drama

Director and Screenwriter: Tsukamoto Renpei
Starring: Ryoko Shinhara, Kiyoko Yoshine, Rena Matsui, Kanta Sato / Ryuta Sato
Film Source: Pony Canyon Tokyo

Kaori raises her high school-age daughter Futaba as a single mother. Her daughter is in her rebellious phase and ignores her mother. Kaori decides to take measures to communicate with her daughter and also get some “revenge” by creating messages in her daughter’s bento meals.

“Based on a real-life blog by a real-life Kaori that rose to No. 1 on the Ameba hosting site, the opening scenes of Bento Harassment offer fresh twists on the perennial theme of inter-generational strife as well as on familiar foodie movie tropes.” – Mark Schilling, the Japan Times.

asianpopucinema.org/bento92719
SEPTEMBER

10 The Odd Family: Zombie on Sale (South Korea) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21
12 Juror 8 (South Korea) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21
14 Swing Kids (South Korea) 2:00 PM IIT Tower Auditorium
15 Shadow (China) 10:30 AM IIT Tower Auditorium
18 Crossing The Border (China) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21
19 The Enigma of The Arrival (China) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21

OCTOBER

27 Bento Harassment (Japan) 7:00 PM Midwest Buddhist Temple
02 The Pool (Thailand) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21
03 Signal Rock (The Philippines) 7:00 PM The Alliance Française de Chicago
05 Office (Hong Kong) 2:00 PM Chinese-American Museum
06 Long Time No Sea (Taiwan) 2:00 PM IIT Tower Auditorium
09 Deception of The Novelist (Hong Kong) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21
10 The Attorney (Hong Kong) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21

Wushu Orphan (China) 6:30 PM SAIC Room #MC1307
Can’t Stop The Dancing (Japan) 7:00 PM AMC River East 21
Melancholic (Japan) 8:00 PM Gene Siskel Film Center
HONG KONG FILM: NEW ACTION

HKETONY x APUC
With the mission of promoting cultural, business, and economic ties between Hong Kong and the 31 eastern states of the United States, the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in New York (HKETONY) once again collaborates with Asian Pop-Up Cinema this fall, bringing outstanding Hong Kong movies to our friends in Chicago.

Hong Kong Cinema
In recent years, Hong Kong moving pictures have gotten a strong boost in policy and funding support by the government in nurturing young talents, raising capital and opening up new markets for distribution. The objectives are all the more clear: to sustain the momentum, to propel to new heights, and to add a new page of Hong Kong cinema to the world stage.

Film Development Fund
The Film Development Fund (DFD) has been in place in Hong Kong for 20 years to provide funding support for nurturing talent, enhancing local production, market expansion and building audiences.

Since 2007, the FDF has alloated US$21.4 million to provide financing for the production of small-to-medium-budget commercial films. The final 34 films thus produced encompassed a variety of genres, and marked the feature film debut of 19 new directors and 17 new producers. A total of 21 films have gone on to win 117 awards, with 52 additional nominations.

First Feature Film Initiative
In 2013, the Hong Kong government launched the First Feature Film Initiative to help inject new blood into local film production through a screenplay and production proposal competition. The winning new directors and their production teams will be wholly funded by the FDF to produce their first feature films. So far, the program identified more than 10 new directors over five iterations, and some of the winning projects that have been implemented have received various awards, both locally and overseas. One of the recent success stories is Still Human 《餘悸》. Directed by emerging star Oliver Chan, the film won more than a dozen of awards in Hong Kong and overseas, and had its Chicago premiere in May 2019.

This year, Hong Kong film talents continue to shine at Asian Pop-Up Cinema with veteran actor Kenneth Tsang Kong receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, in conjunction with his latest role as the shady politician Tsang Kwok-shan in the festival’s closing night film, The Attorney 《一級指控》. Other lineup includes the North America Premiere of Deception of the Novelist 《作家的謊言—筆忠誘罪》as another closing night film, and the encore screening of Office 《華麗上班族》to showcase a stylish musical rarely produced from Hong Kong.
THE POOL (นรก 6 เมตร)

CHICAGO PREMIERE
Thailand | 2018 | 91 Minutes | DCP
In Thai w/English subtitles
Genre: Action/Drama/Horror

Director and Writer: Ping Lumpraploeng
Starring: Ken Theeradej Wongpuapan, Ratnamon Ratchiratham
Film Source: Mono Film Co. Ltd

A couple stuck in a desolate pool twenty feet (6 meters) deep, without water, no ladder and no way out, struggle to survive this deadly situation.

“Filled with dark humor, nail biting thrills and seething with emotional turbulence, writer-director Ping Lumpraploeng’s film turns a seemingly mundane situation into an existential obstacle course as the protagonists face the greatest challenge of their lives. With a surprising element of suspense and metaphoric resonance, The Pool brings a fresh new style of thrilled to Thailand.” - NYAFF 18th edition

The Pool is Ping Lumpraploeng's (Loveaholic, Dreamaholic) 4th feature film. The film stars Thai superstar Ken Theeradeth Wonpuapan, who returns to big screen for the first time in 9 years since GTH's Bangkok Traffic Love Story.

Winner of Critic’s Prize at Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival 2019.

asianpopupcinema.org/pool10219
SIGNAL ROCK

CHICAGO PREMIERE
The Philippines | 2018 | 127 Minutes | Blu-ray
In Tagalog w/English subtitles
Genre: Drama

Director/Producer: Chito S. Roño
Starring: Christian Bables, Darío Ramírez, Nanding Josef, Mon Confiado, Elora España
ADG BRIGHT STAR AWARD Recipient - Christian Bables
Film Source: Regal Entertainment Inc.

"Signal Rock is the latest film by well-established director Chito S. Roño, shot again in his native Samar, on a small island, where he had shot Badil in 2013. A remote island, where women go far away to find a foreign husband, and where life is not so different of what it was decades ago. With his usual craft, Chito Roño tells the story of a young boy, Intoy, trying to help his sister, expatriated in Finland, to win a child custody battle. Signal Rock, or how to find the signal, is an amazing experience, beautifully shot by great cinematographer Neil Daza, and a comment on different ways of communication." – Mex Tessler, Udine Far East Film Festival.

Actor Christian Bables, already won Best Supporting Actor Award at multiple festivals for his trans woman character "Barbs" in the movie Die Beautiful, was declared Best Leading Actor at the 5th Hanoi International Film Festival for his character "Intoy" in the movie Signal Rock.

Net proceeds of this event will benefit Fylpro.org - A network of leaders passionate about the Filipino heritage and advocate for initiatives, programs, and causes that advance US and Philippine relations.

Tickets are $25 (Includes Meet & Greet Reception).
Purchase tickets at Fylpro.org/signalrockmovie
asianpopupcinema.org/signalrock10319
OFFICE (華麗上班族)

Saturday, October 5, 2:00 PM @ Chinese-American Museum
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hong Kong | 2015 | 117 Minutes | Blu-ray
In Cantonese and Mandarin w/ English subtitles
Genre: Musical/Comedy/Romance

Director and Producer: Johnnie To
Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Sylvia Chang, Eason Chan, Tang Wei
Film Source: China Lion, LA

Based on the hit play 'Design for Living' by star and producer Sylvia Chang, Office is a musical spectacular revolving around corporate maneuvering and romantic intrigue. Hong Kong legend Johnnie To delivers a biting takedown of capitalism, detailing the financial crisis following the Lehman Brothers collapse and what one company has to do to fight to stay alive - all in a lavishly detailed, wholly original musical production.

The film won the Best Art Direction in the 35th Hong Kong Film Awards and the 52nd Golden Horse Awards. We are enroicing this film to showcase a stylish musical rarely produced from Hong Kong.

asianpopupcinema.org/office10519

LONG TIME NO SEA

LONG TIME NO SEA
(只有大海知道)

Sunday, October 6, 2:00 PM @ IIT Tower Auditorium
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Taiwan | 2018 | 97 Minutes | DCP
In Mandarin and Tatu w/ English subtitles
Genre: Drama/Indigenous Community Dance

Director and Editor: Heather Tsui
Starring: Shang He-huang, Zhong Jia-jun, Feng Ying-li
Film Source: Taiwan Cinema Tool Kit

Manawei, a sweet, clever, and empathetic young boy, lives with his doting grandmother on Orchid Island, southeast of Taiwan, where the two search for ripe fruit in the trees. His mother has passed away and his father works in Taiwan. Chung-huan, a 30-something teacher, comes from the city to work with the indigenous community using dance to help them get in touch with their own potential as well as their traditions. As the two come together, perhaps they and their dance troupe can make it all the way to the National Aboriginal Dance Competition.

Long Time No Sea, based on the experiences of director Heather Tsui’s involvement with the Little Flying Fish Cultural Exhibition Dance Troupe and the children of the Yami people, is full of gentle humor and themes of cultural identity, the visual style capturing the island’s beauty as well as the energy of the children in tightly framed shots. And of course there is a double meaning to the film’s title: a nod of appreciation to the surrounding sea as well as Manawei’s longing for his father’s attention.

asianpopupcinema.org/nosea10619
MISS GRANNY

Tuesday, October 8, 6:00 PM @ Cindy Pritzker Auditorium,
Lower Level of Harold Washington Library
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CHICAGO PREMIERE
The Philippines | 2018 | 114 Minutes | Blu-ray
In Tagalog, English w/English subtitles

Genre: Drama/Song

Director: Joyce Bernal
Starring: Sarah Geronimo, Jaes Reid, Xiam Lim, Nova Villa and Buboy Garovillo
Film Source: Viva Films

In this Filipino remake of South Korean film Miss Granny (2014), a stubborn old woman named Pann (Niranuch Patamasute) steps into a photo studio and magically emerges as her 20-year-old self (Davika Hoorne). She uses the chance to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a singer.

“Sarah Geronimo is simply magnetic, capable of turning the most uninspired of scenes tolerable by just her presence.” Film critic, Oggs Cruz

The movie picked up the “Movie Actress of the Year”; “Movie Musical Score of the Year” from the 35th PMPC Star Awards for Movies as well as the “Movie Supporting Actress of the Year” from the 50th Box Office Entertainment Awards.

asianpopupcinema.org/granny100819
Life changes in a single decision. That’s what happened to legendary Hong Kong actor Kenneth Tsang Kong. He could have spent the last 50 plus years designing buildings, but instead, he became a prolific actor who starred in over 200 movies and countless TV shows, spanning from Hong Kong to Singapore to Hollywood.

Born in Shanghai and raised in Hong Kong, Tsang returned to his hometown in the early 1960s, after graduating with an architecture degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Much to his disappointment, the job as an architect was too boring for his liking. With the help of his younger sister, Jeannette Lin, who was one of the most sought-after actresses at the time, Tsang got connected to the film world in Hong Kong and began his life-long acting career.

Tsang played the romantic heartthrob in his early movies, starring against teen idols Connie Chan Po-Chu and Josephine Siao in a number of detective and kung fu movies. In the 1970s and early 1980s, Tsang joined local TV station TVB and appeared in numerous dramas as a main character. He also worked in a few Singaporean TV dramas during the 1990s. In the 1980s, Tsang joined the cast of John Woo’s A Better Tomorrow Trilogy and The Killer. A turning point in his career came when he made his Hollywood debut with Chow Yun Fat in The Replacement Killers. Subsequently, Tsang appeared in other Hollywood movies, including Anna And The King, Rush Hour 2, Die Another Day, and Memoirs Of A Geisha.

Tsang won the Best Supporting Actor Award at the 2014 Hong Kong Film Awards for Overheard 3. His latest film appearance is in The Attorney, a 2019 thriller directed by Wong Kwok Fai.

We salute actor-extraordinary Kenneth Tsang Kong as he receives Chicago-based Asian Pop-Up Cinema’s Lifetime Achievement Award, for his life-long dedication to the artistry and to the movie industry.
DECEPTION OF THE NOVELIST

(作家的謊言-筆忠誘罪)

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Hong Kong | 2019 | 90 Minutes | DCP
In Cantonese w/English & Chinese subtitles
Genre: Crime/Thriller

Director: Christopher Sun
Starring: Justin Cheung, Jeana Ho, Linah Matsuoka
Film Source: China 3D Digital Distribution Ltd., Hong Kong

Tsui is renowned as an excellent healing author as well as a young successful man. His pieces are called "Chicken Soup for the Soul" for soothing many readers' soul and spirit. The public image of Tsui is a kindhearted family man who loves his wife deeply, though, he has inherited his wealth from his father. A charming & beautiful new tenant, Elaine, moves into the top floor flat of Tsui's apartment that has caused disruptions of Tsui's peaceful family life.

asianpopupcinema.org/deception10919
SEASON NINE FINALE

Introduction and Q&A with

ACTOR
KENNETH TSANG KONG

THE ATTORNEY (一級指控)

CHICAGO PREMIERE
Hong Kong | 2019 | 102 Minutes | DCP
In Cantonese w/English subtitles
Genre: Courtroom Drama

Director: Wong Kwok-fai
Starring: Alex Fong, Patrick Tam, Nina Paw Hee-ching, Kenneth Tsang Kong, Carlos Chan, Liu Kai Chi
Film Source: Golden Scene Co. Ltd., Hong Kong

Politics and the law, money and murder, all compellingly intertwined in this taut mystery/courtroom drama. powerhouse attorney Lui has won 12 cases in a row, so it’s a bit bewildering when he agrees to take on the defense of a young kid who wakes up next to the murdered daughter of a billionaire businessman with no idea what happened the night before. What seems like an unwinnable defense, however, takes a surprising turn when it’s revealed that the young woman was involved with an up-and-coming shady politician.

“What makes this film works, while others have failed in the past, is the subtlety in the plot line and characters that we eventually cared about. In the days of lacking these kind of genre movies in Hong Kong cinema, The Attorney more than fills this void.” – Andrew Chan, neofilmsite.com

Thursday, October 10
7:00 PM  AMC River East 21

asianpopupcinema.org/attorney101019
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 cultures.

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) 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. Films are presented primarily at the AMC River East 21 in Chicago. Thanks to our diverse community partners and sponsors, we continue to add pop-up events across the city.

Since our inaugural season in the fall of 2015 through Season 8 in Spring 2019, APUC has premiered over 120 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.

Officers & Directors of Sophia’s Choice Governing Board

Sophia Wong Boccio
Founder & Executive Director
Curator of Asian Pop-Up Cinema

Gavin Guo
Secretary
HR Compensation Consultant at TransUnion

Colin Hara
President
Chairman Emeritus at Masuda Funai

Bronwyn Poole
Post President (2017-2018)
Change Leadership & Communications Advisor

Michael Foster
Vice President
Senior Sales Manager, The Whitehall Hotel

Stephanie Gaines
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Adtalem Global Education

Maureen Herlehy
Treasurer
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Justin Kuo
Senior Manager at Crowe LLP

We thank the following companies and individuals for their generous gifts and assistance in the planning and presentation of Asian Pop-Up Cinema Season Nine:


Matching gifts received from: Crowe LLP and TransUnion
SEASONAL STAFF & INTERNS

Danielle Garnier – Media Relations Director – Garnier Public Relations

Marquisha Lu – Assistant to Festival Director

Yuki Zheng – PASSPORT Designer & ADG Printing Coordinator

Gavin Guo – Festival Documentary Producer

Brian Lin & Dou Yin (Columbia College Chicago students) – Assistants to Documentary Production

Matt March – Theater Operations Manager

Paul Chen – Tribute to Kenneth Tsang Kong Trailer Editor

Jenna Del Brocco – Festival Trailer Editor

Howard Ouyang – Festival Trailer Music Composer

Dan Hanuella & Grace Cheng – Festival Photographers

Carmen Suen – Kenneth Tsang Kong Tribute Article Writer

INTERPRETERS:

Janice Ng (Chinese), Yu-jean Chon (Korean), Anny Dhamavasi (Thai), Masami Takahashi (Japanese) and Luke Paustian (Japanese)

And ALL of our dedicated volunteers.
MOVIE VENUES

AMC River East 21
322 East Illinois Street
amctheatres.com

The Alliance Française de Chicago
54 W Chicago Ave
af-chicago.org

Chinese-American Museum Chicago
238 West 23rd Street
ccamuseum.org

Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, Lower Level of Harold Washington Library
400 South State Street
chipublib.org/about-hwlc

Gene Siskel Film Center
164 N State Street
Siskelfilmcenter.org

Illinois Institute of Technology Tower Auditorium
10 W 35th Street
Web.IIT.edu

Midwest Buddhist Temple
435 W Menomonee Street
mbtchicago.org

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, #MC1307
112 South Michigan
SAIC.edu

TICKETING INFORMATION

Advanced tickets and registration for all the screenings is available at asianpopupcinema.org/tickets

- General Admission: Adults $15, Seniors (65+) $13 and Students (with valid ID): $8
- Select Community Partner Screenings are either “Free Admission” or just $10 donation (optional)
- Multiple films passes are available on line with discounted bundled rates.
- Limited number of free tickets are available to students on a first-come, first-served basis via advanced registration at asianpopupcinema.org/tickets. Students tickets holders: please carry your valid student IDs for random inspection.
- RUSH TICKETS at $15 (cash only, exact change required), and WILL CALL open 30 minutes prior to each screening at the specific venue.

All ticket sales are final, non-refundable and non-exchangeable. All programs are subject to change. For the latest news and up-to-date screening information, subscribe at asianpopupcinema.org/subscribe.