



TAIWAN BIENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL 2019
FILM INFORMATION/TIMELINE

October 18, 2019

7:30 pm – Opening Film HEAVY CRAVING

Billy Wilder Theater

In a special celebration, UCLA Film & Television Archive and Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles are excited to accompany the North American premiere of the film with a guest appearance by the film's acclaimed Director/Screenwriter Hsieh Pei-ju, who will participate in a post-screening Q&A.

HEAVY CRAVING (2019) Synopsis: a talented chef for a preschool run by her demanding mother, Ying-juan earns praise for her culinary creations but scorn for her weight. Even the children she feeds have dubbed her “Ms. Dinosaur” for her size. Joining a popular weight loss program seems like an answer but it’s the unlikely allies she finds outside the program—and the obstacles she faces in it—that help her find a truer path to happiness. Writer-director Hsieh Pei-ju doesn’t shy away from the darker sides of self-discovery in what ultimately proves a rousing feature debut, winner of the Audience’s Choice award at this year’s Taipei Film Festival.

Director/Screenwriter: Hsieh Pei-ju. Cast: Tsai Jia-yin, Yao Chang, Samantha Ko.

October 19, 2019

3:00 pm – “Focus on Taiwan” Panel

Billy Wilder Theater

Admission: Free

With the ‘Focus on Taiwan’ panel UCLA Film & Television Archive and Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles are thrilled to present a curated afternoon of timely conversations about issues facing the Taiwan film industry at home and abroad, including gender equality and inclusion of women and the LGBTQ community on screen and behind the camera, the challenges of marketing Taiwanese productions internationally and more. The sessions’ panel will feature

special guest line-up including noted Director-Screenwriter Zero Chou. Other participants to be announced soon.

October 19, 2019 - Continued

“Focus on Taiwan” panel topics:

“Marketing Taiwanese Cinema Beyond Taiwan” - This panel will bring together producers, distributors, filmmakers and marketing executives to discuss the strategies and opportunities for selling Taiwanese films in the America market and elsewhere. The discussion will focus on theatrical marketing models but also on the potential to build new audiences for Taiwanese film through new distribution platforms including streaming services.

“Gender Diversity in the Taiwan Film Industry” - This conversation will bring together the Biennial curators, filmmakers, producers and other invited critics and scholars to discuss the current state of gender diversity in the Taiwan film industry. On screen representation, as exemplified, in part, by the Biennial selections, as well as related statistics on behind-the-scenes participation will provide a foundation for the conversation.

7:30 pm – THREE MAKES A WHOLE

Billy Wilder Theater

The North American premiere of this special film includes a special guest appearance by the film’s acclaimed Director/Screenwriter Zero Chou, who will participate in a post-screening Q&A, in addition to the ‘Focus on Taiwan’ gender/diversity panel.

THREE MAKES A WHOLE (2019) Synopsis: Three female legends of Taiwanese cinema make whole the latest work by director Zero Chou. In the 1970s and ‘80s, filmmaker Liu Li-li famously adapted numerous works by romance novelist Chiung Yao. Rather than simply following the biopic format, Chiung Yao, credited with the story of *Three Makes a Whole*, returns the favor, paying tribute to Liu with a love triangle melodrama befitting the romances of youthful idealism that made them both famous. We meet Liu as a young woman finding her narrative voice in the stage, and later film, while juggling romance with a married director.

Zero Chou (*Spider Lillies*, *Drifting Flowers*) preserves the soap opera theatrics of 1970s romantic sentimentalism, but infuses them with a queer sensibility that defiantly proclaims that three is sometimes better than two.

Running Time: 96 min. Director/screenwriter: Zero Chou. Cast: Rainie Yang, Jay Shih, Huang Peijia.

October 20, 2019

7:00 pm – “THE WILD GOOSE ON THE WING”

Billy Wilder Theater

THE WILD GOOSE ON THE WING (1979) One of director Liu Li-li's first Chiung Yao adaptations proved to be one of her most enduring – and sinister. Synopsis: After studying in the UK, Dan Feng (Brigitte Lin) returns to Taiwan clad in black. Her sister has just died, presumably of a heart attack. Dan Feng suspects her sister's boyfriend Jiang Huai (Chin Han) had something to do with the untimely death, so on behalf of the sisters, Dan Feng embarks on a revenge plot to seduce and break the hearts of Jiang Huai... and his brother. A deranged love triangle (or rectangle?) of gothic proportions, this is Taiwanese melodrama at its most ravishingly sadistic.

Color, in Mandarin with English subtitles, 101 min. Director: Liu Li-Li. Screenwriter: Qiao Ye. Cast: Brigitte Lin, Chin Han, Tse Ling-ling.

October 21, 2019

7:30 pm – Short film LAST YEAR WHEN THE TRAIN PASSED BY
followed by **THE CHIEF OF THE YANGCHENG DISTRICT**

Billy Wilder Theater

The Los Angeles premiere of this 2018 short! **LAST YEAR WHEN THE TRAIN PASSED BY**
Synopsis: Racing down the tracks on a train, the filmmaker snaps a series of photos of homes through the window. A year later, he returns to the homes to ask the residents what they recall doing at the moment the photos were taken to create a powerful meditation on memory, time and place.

Color, 15 min. Director: Huang Pang-chuan.

Also a Los Angeles Premiere, **THE CHIEF OF THE YANGCHENG DISTRICT** is the story behind one of Taiwan's most notorious, innuendo-laden pop songs, first released in 1964 and promptly banned for being “harmful to good morals,” provides the leaping-off point for director Adion Lu's deep dive into the colorful local history of Yancheng, a major port city where pop culture, political corruption, organized crime and Cold War imperialism all come together in this ever-surprising, completely fascinating documentary.

Color, 51 min. Director: Adion Lu.

October 22, 2019

7:30 pm – OUR YOUTH IN TAIWAN

James Bridges Theater

OUR YOUTH IN TAIWAN (2018), the winner of the Golden Horse for Best Documentary follows two charismatic, young activists, Chen Wei-ting and Boyi Cai, fighting for change during one of the most tumultuous periods in the recent history of Taiwan and the surrounding region. Filmmaker Yue Fu begins her film just before Chen helps lead the student-driven, 23-day occupation of Taiwan's parliament in 2014 and the publication of Boyi Cai's book on her experiences as a mainland Chinese student engaged in political reform on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Throughout, Yue Fu offers herself as witness potential convert. What begins as a strikingly intimate portrait of each activist and the network of allies they build from Taipei to Hong Kong to Beijing, becomes a devastating account of the institutional challenges and personal pitfalls of building and sustaining political movements.

Color, 118 min. Director: Yue Fu.

October 24, 2019

7:30 pm – THE BOLD, THE CORRUPT AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Downtown Independent

The Los Angeles premiere **THE BOLD, THE CORRUPT AND THE BEAUTIFUL** (2017). Synopsis: From the luxuriant quarters of a labyrinthine mansion and its lush, expansive grounds, three generations of women weave a web of corruption as one of Taiwan's most powerful crime families. All of Taipei's upper class—financiers, politicians, gangsters—seem to be in thrall to Madame Tang and her avaricious daughters who use an antiques business as a front for money laundering, bribery and blackmail. When a murder investigation cuts too close to home, however, the family's secrets start to come undone in high cinematic style. After a five year hiatus writer-director Yang Ya-che (*Girlfriend, Boyfriend*) returned with this epic change of pace which won the Golden Horse Award for Best Picture while Hong Kong legend Kara Wai and newcomer, 14-year-old Vicky Chen, took home best actress and best supporting actress awards respectively, among the film's seven nominations.

Color, 112 min. Director/screenwriter: Yang Ya-che. Cast: Kara Wai, Wu Ke-xi, Vicky Chen.

October 25, 2019

7:30 pm – MISSING JOHNNY

Billy Wilder Theater

UCLA Film & TV Archive and Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles are delighted to accompany the Los Angeles premiere of the film with a guest appearance by the film's acclaimed Director/Screenwriter Huang Xi, who will participate in a post-screening Q&A.

MISSING JOHNNY is also the Los Angeles premiere of this 2017 feature. A handyman's car suddenly stalls, a young woman receives mysterious wrong number calls, an autistic boy rebels against his mother's control. Working in the resonant style of executive producer Hou Hsiao-hsien, writer-director Huang Xi weaves this trio of lives together, drawing us into the work of living and making meaningful connections, as the skyline of a teeming, indifferent Taipei looms ever-present in the background.

Color, in Mandarin and English with English subtitles, 106 min.

Director/screenwriter: Huang Xi. Cast: Lawrence Ko, Rima Zeidan, Sean Huang.

October 26, 2019

3:00 pm – RICHARD CHEN: EARLY WORKS: “The Archer,” “Through the Years,” “The Mountain” and “Liu Pi-Chia”

Billy Wilder Theater

Before becoming a leading director in the booming Taiwan commercial film industry of the 1970s and helming a series of classic melodramas starring then up-and-coming ingenue Brigitte Lin (*Come Fly with Me; Moon Fascinating, Bird Sweet*), Richard Chen was a film student at UCLA where he tried on a variety of genres and styles to explore issues of Taiwanese cultural and national identity. The Archive is honored to present four of Chen's student works newly restored by the Taiwan Film Institute. Los Angeles premieres of FOUR Short films:

THE ARCHER (1963) - Color, 5 min.

THROUGH THE YEARS (1964) -
Color, 11 min.

THE MOUNTAIN (1967) - b/w, 20 min.

LIU PI-CHIA (1967) - Color, 30 min

October 26, 2019

7:30 pm – FATHER TO SON

Billy Wilder Theater

The Los Angeles premiere of the bittersweet and beautiful, **FATHER TO SON** (2018) finds under the vibrant illuminations of a hardware store the quiet tremblings of an old soul. The store's purveyor Van is turning 60 and he's got the body of an old cowboy: rugged, but not as tough as he might like to believe. Around him, his peers are confronting their mortality, and so, with the opportunity to connect with a young adult son and to travel to Japan, he

reluctantly confronts his own, along with the emotional toll of inter-generational inheritance: of genes, baggage, lies. Sensitively told through characters who mirror each other and journeys that echo those taken years ago, Hsiao Ya-chuan depicts a man realizing that ignoring the future is as impossible as brushing aside the past.

Color and b/w, in Taiwanese, Mandarin and Japanese with Chinese and English subtitles, 115 min. Director/screenwriter: Hsiao Ya-chuan. Cast: Michael JQ Huang, Aria Wang, Fu Meng-Po.

October 27, 2019

7:00 pm – TEN YEARS TAIWAN

Billy Wilder Theater

Los Angeles premiere. Inspired by *Ten Years* (2015), omnibus film **TEN YEARS IN TAIWAN** (2018) that envisioned different futures for Hong Kong 10 years hence, this kaleidoscopic collection of shorts brings the concept to Taiwan and for the five participating filmmakers, the future looks a lot like the present. Dystopia reigns throughout but each story feels rooted in the political, economic, cultural, ecological and demographic anxieties of the current moment. It's what makes the project so captivating and unnerving: these futures are happening now.

Color, in Taiwanese, Mandarin, Yami and English with English subtitles, 108 min. Director: Hsieh Pei-Ju, Kek Huat Lau, Lekal Sumi Cilangasan, Lu Po-Shun, Rina B. Tsou. Screenwriter: Lekal Sumi Cilangasan, Chen Chia-ping, Lu Po-shun, Rina B. Tsou, Hsieh Pei-ju, Kek Huat Lau. Cast: Xie Jia-hui, Alina Tsai, Lu Dong-yang.

October 28, 2019

7:30 pm – Closing Short film THE GLAMOROUS BOYS OF TANG
followed by **RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN**

Billy Wilder Theater

*Celebrated with the Los Angeles premiere, **THE GLAMOROUS BOYS OF TANG** short from visual artist Su Hui-Yu conjures scenes from a famously unproduced Taiwanese cult film from 1980s, *Tang Chao Cho Li*, as a series of mesmerizing, erotic and gory tableaux.*

Color, 15 min. Director: Su Hui-Yu.

RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN is the Los Angeles *restoration* premiere of this famed 1979 film. Synopsis: Two rival groups of thieves arrive at a remote Buddhist monastery to steal an ancient sutra manuscript while the monastery itself is rife with intrigue as the monks vie to succeed its aging abbot. The second of two classic epics, the other being *Legend of the*

Mountain, shot by the legendary King Hu in Korea, *Raining in the Mountain* is a late-career masterpiece presented here in a new restoration.

Color, 120 min. Director/screenwriter: King Hu. Cast: Hsu Feng, Sun Yueh, Shih Chun.

Doors open 30 minutes prior to program start time.

Unless otherwise noted, General Admission tickets are \$10 each online. Discounted tickets only apply at the box office: \$9 general admission; \$8 for non-UCLA students, UCLA Alumni Association Members and seniors. Free admission for UCLA students.

This information can also be found at:

<https://www.cinema.ucla.edu/events/2019/taiwan-biennial-film-festival>

Theater Locations:

[Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum](#) - 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood Village

[Downtown Independent](#) - 251 S Main St., Los Angeles (Downtown)

[James Bridges Theater](#) - 235 Charles E. Young Drive West, Los Angeles (UCLA Campus)