



QUEER EAST FILM FESTIVAL 2021

Festival Programme
15–26 September 2021





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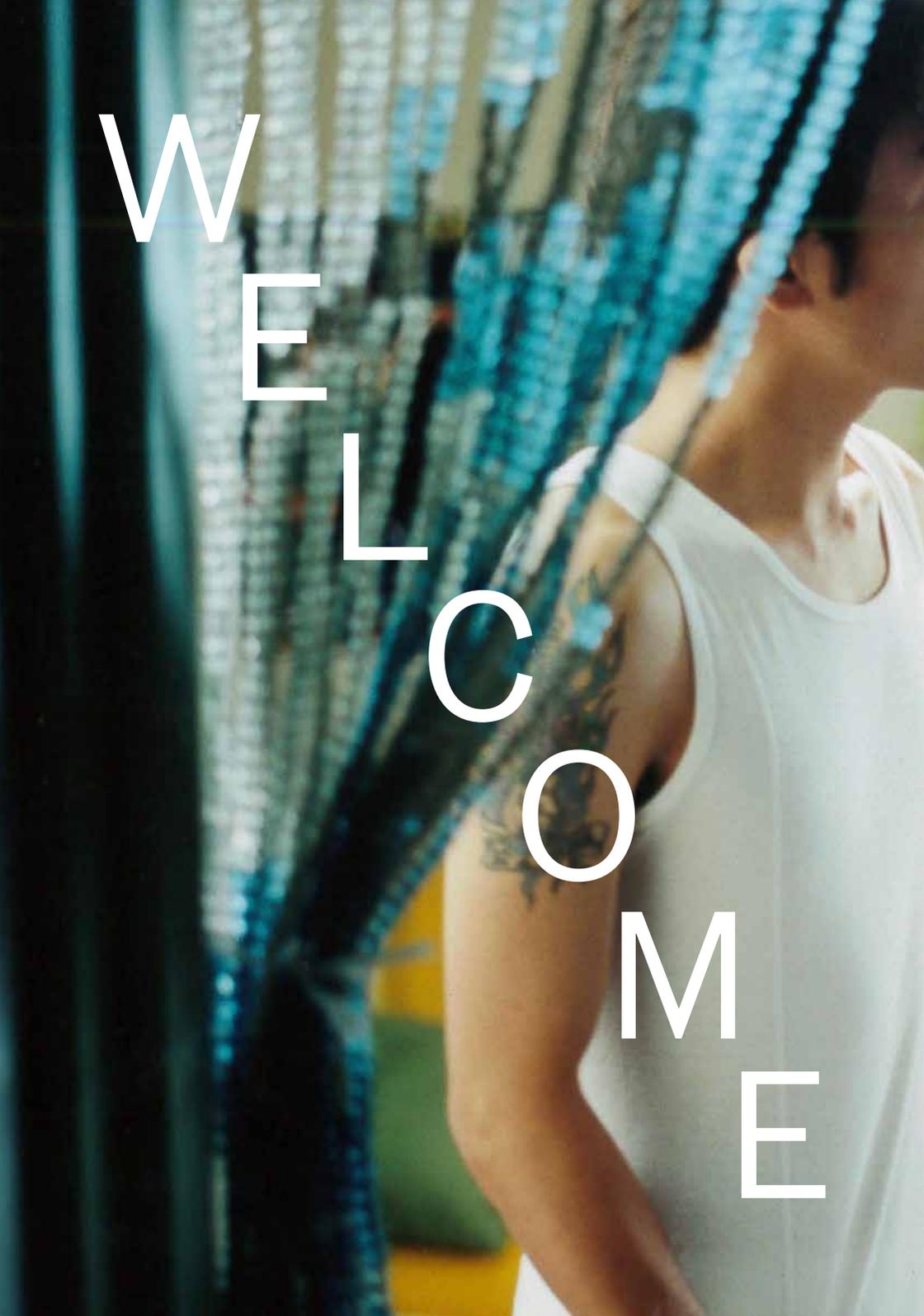


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Welcome to the second edition of Queer East Film Festival.

Global events of the past year, from Covid-19-related anti-Asian attacks to the Black Lives Matter movement, have once again reminded us how vital fair and authentic racial and sexual representation is for our society. I believe that film is one of the most direct and accessible mediums, that allows us to address issues and situations that people simply weren't aware of before.

Our programme this year includes a selection of 37 features, short films and artists' moving image works from 15 countries, ranging from new releases to classic retrospectives, mainstream box office hits to radical independent works, exploring the forces that have shaped the current queer landscape across Asia.

Campaigning for the legal recognition of, and protection for, marriage equality and same-sex families has been one of the focal points of LGBTQ+ movements in Asia. Therefore, the programme pays strong attention to those films that challenge conventional understandings of family kinship, and aims to provoke a conversation about how we understand and interpret the meaning and formation of a family through a queer lens.

Queer East would not be possible without our filmmakers, speakers, sponsors, supporters, partners, staff members and those who believed in us, and most importantly, our audiences across the world that have continuously supported us since we first started last year.

Advancing LGBTQ+ rights requires a collective approach, and I think it is important that Queer East plays a part in this, as a joint force together with many other allies. Together, we can work on tackling inequalities both outside and within LGBTQ+ communities, and ensure the full diversity of the queer community is well reflected through the power of storytelling.

Thank you and I hope you all enjoy the festival!

Yi Wang

Director and Programmer, Queer East Film Festival



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Opening night: Daughters

(UK Premiere)

Hajime Tsuda
Japan, 2020



Wednesday 15
September 2021
Genesis Cinema
6.30pm

RUNNING TIME
104 min

Daughters is about Koharu and Ayano, two young women who share an apartment in Tokyo. They are inseparable and all they care about is having fun. But change comes to their lives when Ayano suddenly becomes pregnant. She's not sure who the father is, but decides to have the baby anyway. Koharu makes up her mind to stay by Ayano's side and support her, but the pregnancy gradually transforms their lifestyle and challenges their friendship. Following ten months in the lives of two women in a committed relationship, *Daughters* challenges conventional ideas about what a family should mean, stimulating debate on whether a film needs to feature LGBT storylines in order to present an alternative queer perspective.

Closing night: Dear Tenant

(UK Premiere)

Yu-Chieh Cheng
Taiwan, 2020

Sunday 26
September 2021
Genesis Cinema
5.50pm

RUNNING TIME
112 min

Mr. Lin is a tenant in the rooftop apartment owned by the elderly Mrs. Chou, who is suffering from late-stage diabetes. Lin helps tend to her daily needs and looks after her nine-year old grandson, the orphaned Yo-Yu. But when Yo-Yu's uncle returns to Taiwan, he discovers that the ownership of the apartment has been transferred to the young boy, whom Lin has legally adopted. The stage is set for a conflict that uncovers a very different side to the seemingly perfect tenant. *Dear Tenant* is a heartfelt portrayal of unconditional love that explores whether, following the legalisation of same-sex marriage in 2019, Taiwanese society is ready to accept families who dare to break with conventional forms. This box office hit won three Golden Horse Awards, including for actor Mo Tzu-Yi, who gives a stunning performance.



Lan Yu

(20th Anniversary)

Stanley Kwan
Hong Kong,
China, 2001



Thursday 16
September 2021
Curzon Soho
6.20pm

RUNNING TIME
86 min

Lan Yu is one of the most famous LGBTQ+ films in Asia, a tragic romance based on a novel anonymously published on the internet, that won numerous awards and nominations across Asia upon its release in 2001. Director Stanley Kwan's adaptation is a passionate yet poignant portrait of a gay relationship. The film tells the story of Han-Dong, a successful businessman, and Lan Yu, a sensitive college boy, who first meet during a one-night stand. Undeterred by Han-Dong's compulsive promiscuity and impulsive marriage, Lan Yu demonstrates unwavering devotion to his lover - but can this save them from an unforgiving fate? To mark the twentieth anniversary of the film's release, *Lan Yu* has been newly restored, offering audiences the chance to rediscover this landmark in queer cinema.





My Dear Friend

(UK Premiere)

Ping-Dao Yang
China, 2018

Saturday 18
September 2021
Curzon Hoxton
3pm

RUNNING TIME
106 min

A young woman named Jing-Jing drives from the city to search for her boyfriend in his hometown. Instead, she encounters his grandparents, Shui-Mu and A-Fang, who live in a remote rural village. By accident, Jing-Jing unearths a mysterious relationship that has lasted for sixty years: Shui-Mu has a secret friend called Zhong-Sheng, who is mute and has lost all memory of his childhood. Jing-Jing agrees to help find Zhong-Sheng's true identity, which takes them on a foggy road trip to another village 300km away, and on a journey into the past. *My Dear Friend* is director Ping-Dao Yang's debut fiction feature, and a powerful portrayal of a lasting bond of love and friendship.



Number 1

(UK Premiere)

Kuo-Sin Ong
Singapore, 2020

Number One is a heart-warming musical comedy about Chee-Beng Chow, a middle-aged white-collar worker who is made redundant. Struggling to find a job to support his family, Chee-Beng reluctantly takes employment as a manager at 'Number One', a popular drag club. Soon, Chee-Beng is roped into dressing up and joining the drag queens on stage. But to everyone's surprise, Chee-Beng is a natural. His performance wows the audience, and he instantly becomes the club's biggest sensation – something he is desperate to conceal from his wife and son. Offering a rare glimpse into queer communities in Singapore, *Number One* features a hilarious and touching performance by Mark Lee as the reserved family man whose talents begin to flourish as he develops a bond with his fellow drag queens.

Saturday 18 September 2021
Genesis Cinema
9pm

RUNNING TIME
98 min



Days

Tsai Ming-Liang
Taiwan, France, 2020



Sunday 19
September 2021
Curzon Soho
12pm

RUNNING TIME
127 min

Kang lives alone in a big house, from which he looks out onto the treetops lashed by wind and rain. Non lives in a small apartment in Bangkok, where he methodically prepares traditional dishes from his native village. When Kang meets Non, gentle caresses soothe their pain and loneliness as they find consolation in each other. Acclaimed director Tsai Ming-Liang's experimental feature extends the boundaries of abstract realism, distilling his subtle cinematic language into its purest form. *Days* won multiple awards at major film festivals internationally, including the Teddy Jury Award at the 70th Berlinale. Kang is played by the magnetic Lee Kang-Sheng, who once again allows us to engage with the passage of time in all its painstaking richness.



Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence

Nagisa Oshima
United Kingdom, Japan,
New Zealand, 1983



Sunday 19
September 2021
Catford Mews
5pm

RUNNING TIME
123 min

David Bowie stars in Nagisa Oshima's portrait of friendship and obsession among four very different men confined in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in Java during World War II. In 1942, British officer Major Jack Celliers is captured by the Japanese and taken to a camp overseen by Captain Yonoi, a man fixated on discipline and the glory of imperial Japan. As the pair become locked in an obsessive psychological battle, Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence, the only inmate with a degree of sympathy for Japanese culture, develops a friendship with Sergeant Hara, a compassionate man beneath his cruel façade. Oshima's Palme d'Or-nominated masterpiece also stars the noted actor and director Takeshi Kitano, and marked the big screen debut of Ryuichi Sakamoto, who also composed the film's BAFTA-winning score.



Close-Knit

Naoko Oigigami
Japan, 2017



Monday 20
September 2021
Curzon Hoxton
6.15pm

RUNNING TIME
127 min

Schoolgirl Tomo lives a chaotic life with her mother Hiromi, who one day abandons her to chase after a man. Left on her own, Tomo heads to her uncle's apartment, where she finds him living with his beautiful girlfriend Rinko, a transgender woman. Rinko is warm and welcoming, and Tomo begins to realise that this is what a family should feel like. The three of them settle into a new lifestyle, but is society ready to accept their blissful existence? Directed by Naoko Oigigami, *Close-Knit* offers a sensitive portrayal of family life, and won numerous awards including the Teddy Jury Award and Panorama Audience Award at the 67th Berlinale, and audience awards at the Udine Far East Film Festival.



Hush!

(35mm, 20th Anniversary)

Ryosuke Hashiguchi
Japan, 2001



Hush! is classic film in the history of Japanese LGBTQ+ cinema, questioning the traditional structures of family, home, and parenthood. Asako has always avoided meaningful relationships, but after a chance encounter with a gay man, Katsuhiro, she sees the opportunity to become a mother by having a child with him through artificial insemination. When she makes the proposition, Katsuhiro and his partner Naoya are initially astonished, but gradually, they begin to open up to the idea of having a baby. Ryosuke Hashiguchi's film screened in the official selection of the 2001 Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight, and twenty years after its release, this groundbreaking work can be appreciated for its anticipation of current debates around same-sex families and parenthood.

Tuesday 21
September 2021
Genesis Cinema
6.10pm

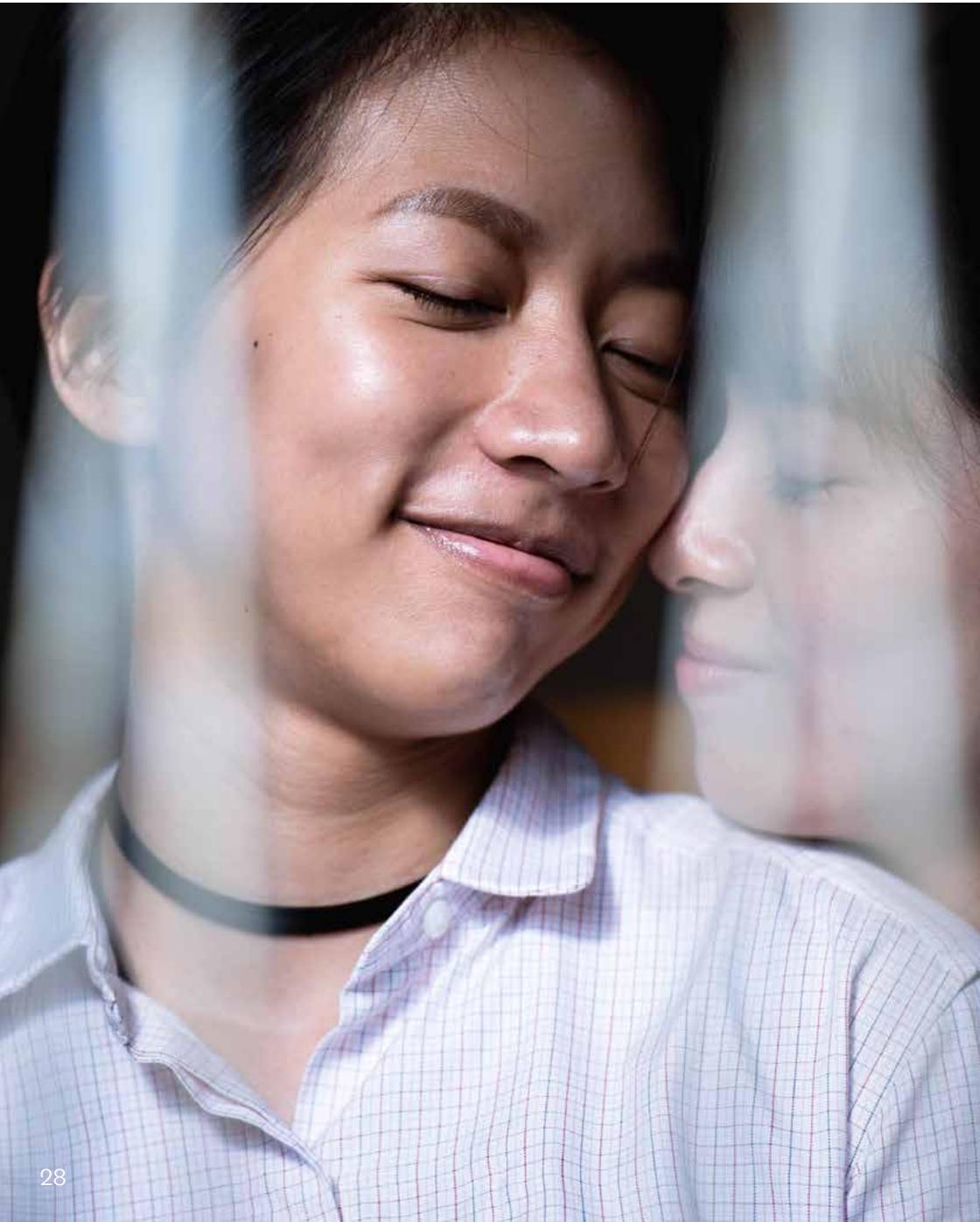
RUNNING TIME
135 min



Secrets of 1979

(UK Premiere)

Zero Chou
Taiwan, 2021



Tuesday 21
September 2021
The Lexi Cinema
8pm

RUNNING TIME
86 min

In the summer of 1979, during Taiwan's martial law period, Bing-Kuan asks her college friend Shu-Lan to help out on her family's banana plantation. As time goes by, the two girls secretly develop a romantic relationship, and decide to volunteer at the Formosa Magazine in order to promote democratic freedom of expression. Yet their youthful romance is threatened as the Kuomintang regime seeks to suppress dissident voices. *Secrets of 1979* is the latest film by award-winning director Zero Chou. Depicting a turbulent period in Taiwan's history, Chou explores the connections between political and sexual awakening, the film offering a stark reminder of the forces that seek to suppress change.

Queer Japan

Graham Kolbeins
US, Japan, 2019



Trailblazing artists, activists, and everyday people from across the spectrum of gender and sexuality defy social norms and dare to shine in this kaleidoscopic view of LGBTQ+ culture in contemporary Japan. Dazzling, iconoclastic drag queen Vivienne Sato peels back the layers of language and identity. Maverick manga artist Gengoroh Tagame tours the world with his unapologetically erotic gay comics. Councilwoman Aya Kamikawa recounts her rocky path to becoming the first transgender elected official in Japan. At legendary kink-positive hentai party Department H, non-binary performance artist Saeborg uses rubber to create a second skin. Featuring material from over 100 interviews conducted over three years, *Queer Japan* showcases a vibrant and inspiring group of people, sharing their experiences of queer expression in their own words.

Wednesday 22
September 2021
Bertha DocHouse
6.20pm

RUNNING TIME
100 min



Madame X (10th Anniversary)

Lucky Kuswandi
Indonesia, 2010



Wednesday 22
September 2021
The Prince
Charles Cinema
5.50pm

RUNNING TIME
90 min

Presented in partnership
with Unicorn Nights

When a land in the middle of nowhere is threatened by a militant and homophobic political party, the safety of the country depends on Adam, a hairdresser. Armed with make-up and extraordinary dance moves, he must defeat the bad guys before they are able to win an election. But Adam must first learn Lenggok, a mix of traditional Indonesian and modern dance, and transform into the legendary transgender superheroine Madame X. Blending action-packed superheroes with trashy queer parody and martial arts, director Lucky Kuswandi's debut film offers a riotously entertaining perspective on LGBTQ+ issues in Indonesia. Will high heels turn into loafers? Glitter make-up into dust? Leather trousers into cloth? With so much at stake, only one thing is certain: in order to battle gender bigotry, Adam must fulfil his destiny as Madame X.

Shinjuku Boys

Kim Longinotto,
Jano Williams
United Kingdom,
Japan, 1995

The Shinjuku Boys are three *onnabe* - Japanese women who live as men - working as hosts at a Tokyo nightclub for female clients. They dress like men and behave like men, a lifestyle that is not appreciated in Japan. Filmed at home and at work, they speak frankly about their lives, their hopes and their sexuality. Gaish acts tough and has many girlfriends, but in his heart, he is afraid of becoming lonely. Tatsu lives with his girlfriend. Kazuki has a relationship with a man who has chosen to live as a woman. The young women who come to the club often have relationships with the boys, but their underlying fear is whether such a relationship can withstand the pressures on a girl to get married and have children. This documentary from 1995 explores the complexities of sexuality in modern Japan.

Thursday 23
September 2021
The Horse Hospital
6.20pm

RUNNING TIME
54 min



Ghost in the Shell (1995)

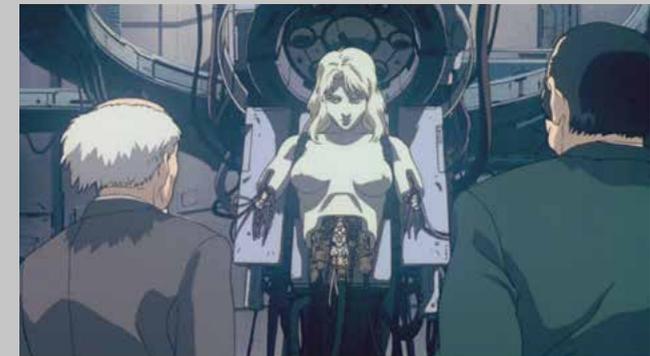
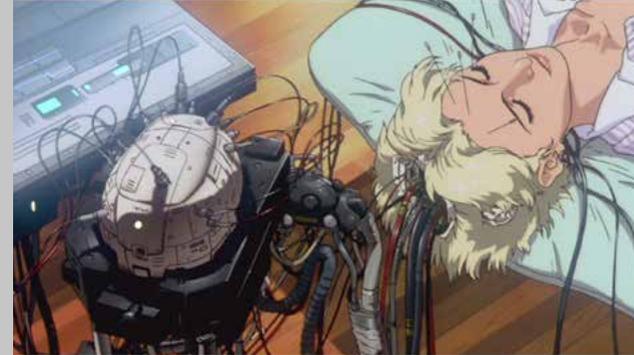
Mamoru Oshii
Japan, 1995



Thursday 23
September 2021
The Lexi Cinema
8.45pm

RUNNING TIME
106 min

Adapted from the manga by Masamune Shirow, this 1995 masterpiece remains a milestone of animated cinema. *Ghost in the Shell* takes place in 2029, with humanity and technology intertwined to such an extent that people can transfer their consciousness into cybernetic bodies. Cyborg cop Major Motoko Kusanagi leads a special police security unit that is tasked with tracking down 'ghost hackers', criminals who can clandestinely tap into the bodies and minds of other people. Imagining a future in which sexual reproduction has given way to mechanical replication, *Ghost in the Shell* has been acclaimed for its inversion of traditional gender roles and depiction of fluid sexuality. Both a high-octane adventure and a philosophical speculation on what it means to be human, Mamoru Oshii's film is a visionary piece of action cinema.



The End of the Track

Tun-Fei Mou
Taiwan, 1970

Friday 24
September 2021
The Horse Hospital
6.20pm

RUNNING TIME
90 min

Filmed during the martial law period and banned by the Kuomintang regime due to its homosexual undercurrents and likely for its political overtones, *The End of the Track* is a landmark in Taiwanese cinema. Friends Tong and Yongsheng are inseparable. They are best friends who spend their time wandering the countryside, training for athletics, and hanging out at the dumpling stall operated by Yongsheng's parents. Tun-Fei Mou's film makes a quietly radical statement about repressed desire, examining the psychological impact of trauma on a young boy. Formally innovative and emotionally charged, this heartbreaking classic is one of the earliest examples of queer cinema in Taiwan.



Gohatto (35mm)

Nagisa Oshima
Japan, 1999



Saturday 25
September 2021
Genesis Cinema
4pm

RUNNING TIME
100 min

Gohatto is Nagisa Oshima's final feature film, a stunning piece of work that was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, and screens from a rare 35mm print. The young and handsome Kano Sozaburo is admitted to the Shinsengumi, an elite samurai group that seeks to defend the Tokugawa shogunate against reformist forces. Kano is a skilled swordsman, but his physical beauty leads the members of the strictly male group to compete for his affections, generating tensions that threaten to become lethal. In *Gohatto*, Oshima explores the ambiguous forms of masculinity that the samurai code concealed, with a terrific cast including Ryuhei Matsuda, Takeshi Kitano and Tadanobu Asano subtly capturing the dangers of repressed homoerotic desire.



Miss Andy

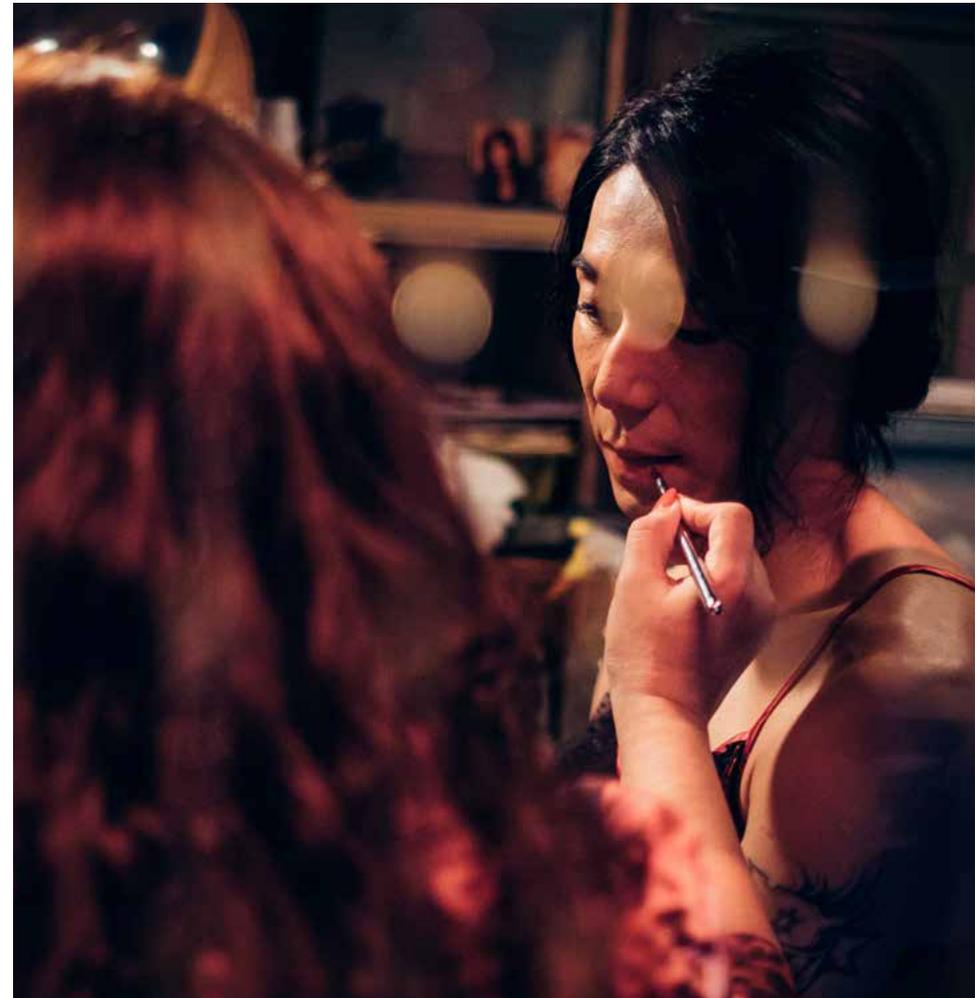
(UK Premiere)

Teddy Chin
Taiwan, Malaysia, 2020

Saturday 25
September 2021
Genesis Cinema
9pm

RUNNING TIME
108 min

Miss Andy tells the story of Evon, formerly known as Andy, a transgender woman living in Malaysia. Transitioning late in life after losing a wife, job, and family, she is subjected to prejudice in a society that restricts LGBTQ+ freedoms. Evon's life seems bleak until she has a chance encounter with an illegal migrant worker and her son, who are on the run with nowhere to go, and nobody to care for them. Evon offers them a place to stay, and her friendship with the pair slowly brings about change in her life, as she gains the confidence to begin trusting other people. Teddy Chin's powerful, melancholy film features an outstanding performance by Lee Lee-zen, and confirms the importance of small acts of kindness.



Moonlit Winter

(UK Premiere)

Daehyung Lim
South Korea, 2019



Sunday 26
September 2021
Curzon Hoxton
12pm

RUNNING TIME
106 min

Moonlit Winter tells the story of Saebom, a high school student who lives with her mother Yunhee, who has become depressed, having recently had a divorce. But she never shares her feelings with her daughter. So when Saebom finds a love letter sent to Yunhee from Hokkaido in Japan, she begins to wonder about her mother's mysterious past. Sensing the opportunity for them to develop a closer relationship, Saebom concocts a plan to find the sender of the letter, and the two embark on a trip to Hokkaido. Exploring the liberating effects of generational change, *Moonlit Winter* is a heartfelt tale about a woman's revisiting of her hidden past. The film won several prizes, including Best Director and Best Screenplay at the Blue Dragon Awards and the Korean Association of Film Critics Awards.

Goodbye Mother

Trinh Dinh Le Minh
Vietnam, 2019



October 2021
Iris Prize LGBT+
Film Festival

RUNNING TIME
106 min

Van, the heir of a Vietnamese family, returns home from the USA for the first time in nine years, as custom requires that he should be present for the moving of his father's tomb. But his whole family is surprised when with a young Vietnamese American named Ian comes with him. Nobody knows that Ian is Van's boyfriend, nor that the pair intend to announce their relationship to Van's widowed mother Mrs. Hanh. She expects her son to get married and have kids, in order to fulfil the duties of an heir. Things become more complicated, however, when Van's grandmother, who has senile dementia, mistakes Ian for her grandson. Thua Me Con Di's deeply moving, lightly humorous film won audience awards at festival screenings in Philadelphia and Toronto.





M O V I N G I M A G E P R O G R A M

A R T I S T S
A R T I S T S

Artists' Moving Image Programme

Friday 17 September 2021

The Horse Hospital

6.20pm

Four artists from across the world query the relationship between real and imagined realms. Their works reflect on sexuality, bodily experience, and desire, presenting multifaceted perspectives on queer pasts and futures.

Total Running Time: 104 min

Resurface

Wei Zhou

UK, 2021

8 min

Resurface is a work about transformation and healing, about the material experience of intangible memories and their re-surfacing as visible marks, be it temporary or permanent. Through the intense proximity of visual and distanced memories of the voice, the erotic oscillates.



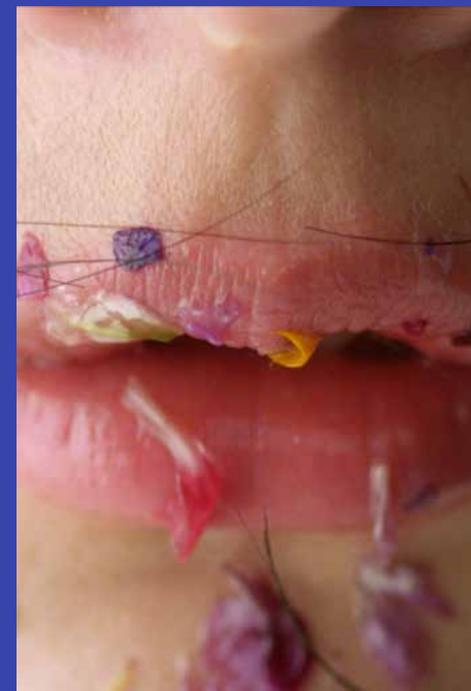
Grand Bouquet

Nao Yoshigai

Japan, 2018

15 min

Grand Bouquet is a beautiful surrealist work about a helpless woman who confronts a black object with a power greater than hers. The object shoots her questions, which the woman has to answer, but she cannot speak out loud. Instead of speaking, she begins to throw up beautiful, colourful flowers. Nao Yoshigai's film screened all around the world, was selected in the 2019 Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, and won various awards at festivals internationally.



The Women's Revenge

Hui-Yu Su
Taiwan, 2020
16 min

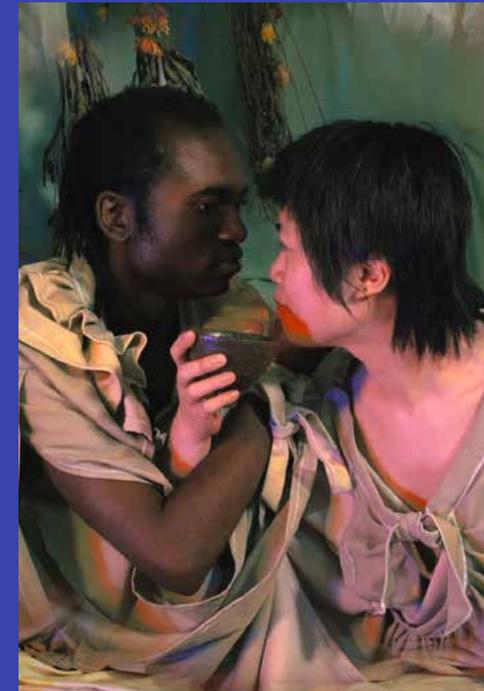
Prior to the lifting of martial law in Taiwan, a group of films influenced by the European wave of exploitation movies was produced in the 1980s. This filmic genre would usually portray a severely oppressed heroine enacting a bloody vengeance. *The Women's Revenge* uses these films as a starting point for re-examining problems of body regulation, modern discomfort, and the mediatized body. The film reflects on the misunderstanding and exploitation of female sexuality in the image system, exposing how the contemporary body is manipulated by image technologies. For the artist, these films point to a black hole in history, in which a mixed bunch of images devour possible clues to the life politics of an entire generation.



(Tending) (to) (Ta)

April Lin
UK, 2011
65 min

(Tending) (to) (Ta) is a narrative-led speculative fiction film grounding itself in 'tā', the monosyllabic sound which in Mandarin Chinese encompasses all third person pronouns: 他 (third person male), 她 (third person female), and 它 (more-than-human lifeforms and objects). The film follows an exchange of internal letters between two protagonists who imagine one another across parallel dimensions. Each communicates to an envisioned other, who exists as a possibility beyond their self-perceived boundaries of reality, and these two beings meet in a shared world of imagination. In this reciprocal reach for the unknown, a world that bears an uncanny resemblance to our contemporary reality – colonised by Western capitalist constructs of race, gender and class, and characterised by a collective distance from Ta – opens a portal to another realm.





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Shorts: Provocations

Friday 17 September 2021
The Horse Hospital
8.50pm

A programme of stylistically striking films about resilience and confrontation, showcasing the power of queer identity to challenge existing norms and break through boundaries.

Total Running Time: 106 min

Handscape

Yi-Ru Chen
China, 2019
19 min

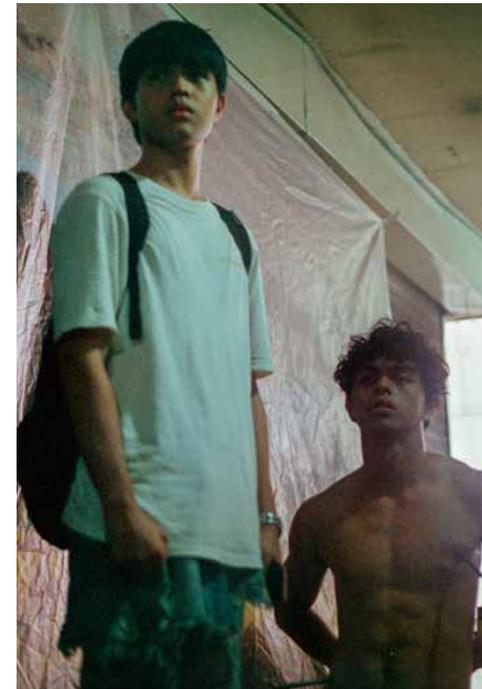
Xia Qing has a hearing impairment and a deep love of dancing. When a rare opportunity arises to join a dance company, he seeks his mother's approval by using the silent language of his fingertips.



How to Die Young in Manila

Petersen Vargas
Philippines, 2020
6 min

A teenage boy trails a group of young hustlers, thinking one of them may be his anonymous hook-up for the night. But as he makes his way across the city, the hustlers inexplicably appear as dead bodies strewn along the pavement.



Soy Sauce

Sarnt Utamachote
Germany, 2020
5 min

Marriage, especially between LGBT+ persons, is a means of securing one's place in another country but can lead to inequalities and power conflicts. This film is about spatial territories, gastronomic practices, personal memories, camouflaged identities, and political resistance.



The First Conversation Between Frank and I

Ohm Phanphiroj
Thailand, USA, 2018
13 min

This video artwork explores complex issues of intimacy between a straight soldier and a gay artist. Frank was an army infantryman who aspires to become a model and an actor. After four months of online communication, he went AWOL to come and see the filmmaker in New York City.



The Ant-Man

Viet Vu (Pham Quang Trung)
Vietnam, 2018
27 min

Tao, a Chinese guy, meets Sebastian, a local German, in this anti-romantic comedy, set in the early morning following a wild party in Berlin.



Red Aninsri; Or, Tiptoeing on the Still Trembling Berlin Wall

Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke
Thailand, 2020
30 min

The queer espionage film made in the tradition of Cold War-era Thai dubbed film. A ladyboy prostitute-turned-spy is assigned a mission to impersonate a cisgender man, in order to investigate a student activist.



Shorts: What We Want

Friday 24 September 2021
6.20pm

A collection of short films made by female filmmakers from across the world, capturing the different stages in women's lives as they explore newfound identities, experience sexual awakening, and fight for the right to live as they choose.

Total Running Time: 105 min

Legit Moms, Illegitimate Kid

Michelle Chu
Taiwan, 2020
19 min

Mota and City got married in 2019, but the two women are still not allowed to have their own child and become mothers. This documentary follows them as they refuse to back down, and embark on a 424-day journey full of physical and psychological challenges.



Tsuyako

HIKARI
Japan, USA, 2011
24 min

In post-war Japan, Tsuyako lives a demanding life as a mill factory worker, obedient wife, and loving mother. But the visit of an old lover, Yoshie, reignites old passions and she must choose between her duties and the promise of freedom.



We Outlaws

Kai-Xuan Wang
China, 2019
33 min

China in the early 1990s. By day, Chen Shi is a man employed in a textile workshop. At night, she is a woman in a red dress. One evening, she falls in love with a man she meets at a dance hall.



Unnamed

Chun-Yu Chung, De-Gao Hong
Taiwan, 2019
29 min

Ya-Ting wants to change her name because she considers it too feminine. She seeks help from her best friend Jia-Hao, but interrupts his one-night stand with a guy he met online.



FATbulous Me

Chia-Hsuan Tsai
Taiwan, 2021
19 min

'Being fat' often has negative connotations and is seen as a state that needs to be changed. Amy and Mallie suffered much frustration before learning to live in harmony with their bodies and advocating for body equality.

Screening in conjunction with
Shinjuku Boys



Moving in Between

Chia-Hsuan Tsai
Taiwan, 2019
32 min

This documentary follows Erika's gender transition as she moves between Taiwan and Japan, and undergoes sex reassignment surgery. Moving in Between illuminates the journeys of transgender people fighting their way through the social system.

Screening in conjunction with
Shinjuku Boys



Melt

Moxie Peng
China, 2019
11 min

When Little Jia is asked to read his essay about Women's Day out loud to his class, he has to hide the painful truth that only his friend Dong knows.

Screening in conjunction with
The End of the Track



Undercurrent

Yu-Tong Weng
Taiwan, 2020
19 min

Taiwan, a winter evening in 1979. The city is under curfew, but a curious teenager follows a mysterious young man along a riverside path and into an abandoned hut, where they exchange their fears and slowly develop a sense of mutual trust.

Screening in conjunction with
Secrets of 1979



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Women Make Film: In Conversation with Naoko Ogigami and Zero Chou

Saturday 18 September 2021
12.30 – 1.30pm

Online

This panel will explore how female filmmakers in East Asia have fought to promote equality both onscreen and behind the camera, advocating for the importance of diverse representation in the film industry. The panel includes Zero Chou, winner of the 2007 Berlinale Teddy Award and director of *Secrets of 1979*, and Naoko Ogigami, director of *Close-Knit*. Both the panellists will share their personal journeys, discussing how films can be designed to positively represent women of colour, how female desire is portrayed in East Asian cultures, and how existing power structures can be challenged in order to create a fairer environment in the industry.

PANELLISTS

Zero Chou, *director of Secrets of 1979*
Naoko Ogigami, *director of Close-Knit*

MODERATOR

Jo Duncombe, *Film Programme Manager, British Council Film*

Queer Movements: Fighting for LGBTQ+ Rights in Asia

Thursday 23 September 2021
12.30 – 1.30pm

Online

Over the past several decades, activists, advocates and politicians have been fighting for LGBTQ+ rights in Asia. While progress has been made, such as Taiwan passing landmark same-sex marriage laws in 2019, discrimination and the oppression of queer expression still exist across the continent. In this panel, frontline activists, policymakers, and researchers reflect on the progress made, and the challenges that millions still face. Topics will include the role played by grassroots LGBTQ+ and civic groups in influencing legislative processes, differences in Asian and western approaches to queer activism, and strategies for unifying global queer communities.

PANELLISTS

Yu Mei-Nu, *lawyer, former legislator of the Legislative Yuan in Taiwan*
Ryan V. Silverio, *Executive Director of ASEAN SOGIE Caucus*
Otgonbaatar Tsendendemberel, *former Executive Director of the
LGBT Center of Mongolia*

MODERATOR

Daniel Conway, *Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations,
University of Westminster*

Film as Resistance: Queer Film Festivals in Asia

Saturday 25 September 2021
12.30 – 1.30pm

At Queer East, we believe that arts and culture can contribute to positive social change. Film is one of the most direct and accessible mediums, able to shine a light on issues and situations that people were not previously aware of. This panel invites festival directors, programmers and organisers from across East and Southeast Asia to share their first-hand experiences of working in queer film festivals, from curatorial approaches and audience engagement, to the creation of successful impact and identifying obstacles still remaining. We will also discuss how festivals responded to the Covid-related lockdowns last year, and looking ahead to the post-pandemic era, ask the panellists their views on how ‘streaming’, ‘virtual’ and ‘online’ have now become keywords for cultural events.

PANELLISTS

Sachiko Imai, *Programming Director, Rainbow Reel Tokyo Film Festival*

Lini Zurlia, *Organiser at Southeast Asia Queer Cultural Festival*

Vita Lin, *Taiwan International Queer Film Festival*

Will Dai, *CINEMQ Shanghai*



FOCUS

Daughters
Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence
Close-Knit
Hush!
Queer Japan
Shinju ku Boys
Ghost in the Shell
Gohatto (Taboo)
Grand Bouquet
Tsuyako

In partnership with



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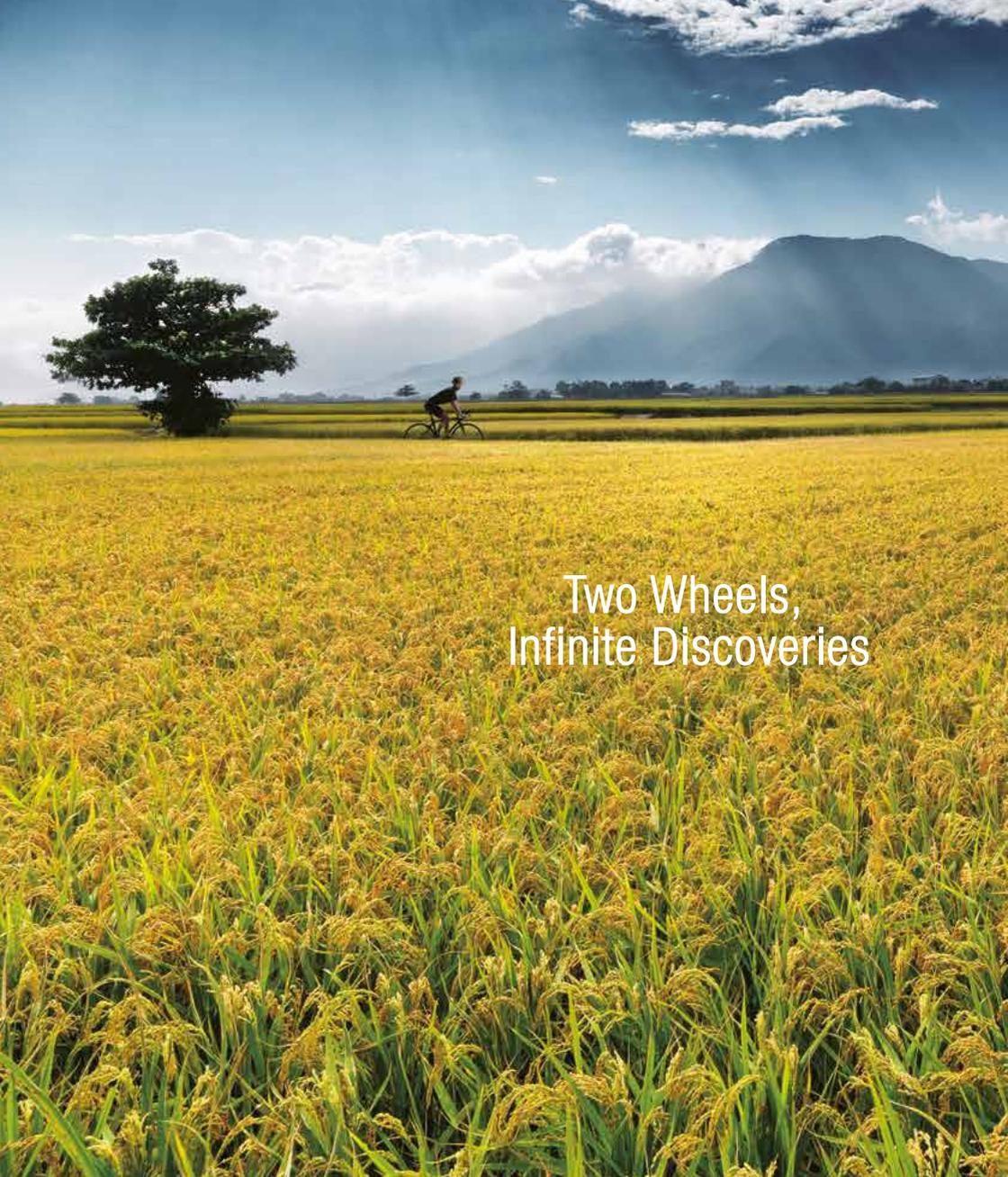
JAPAN

FOCUS

Days
Secrets of 1979
The End of the Track
Miss Andy
Dear Tenant
The Women's Revenge
Undercurrent
FATbulous Me
Moving in Between
Legit Moms, Illegitimate Kid
Unnamed



TAIWAN



Two Wheels, Infinite Discoveries

Team

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
& PROGRAMMER
Yi Wang

ACADEMIC CONSULTANT
Christopher Brown

PRESS AND MEDIA
Madeline Bennett /
GingerBread Agency

VISUAL DESIGN
Ben Hutchings

FESTIVAL TEAM
Penney Chu

WEB DEVELOPER
Josh Watts / Outpost Studio

FESTIVAL TRAILER - MUSIC
Wendy Wander 溫蒂漫步

FESTIVAL TRAILER - EDITING
Joe Lee 李曜辰

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