

2008tff.blogspot.com

[台灣電影節]



Taiwan 2008 Film Festival



Redemption Captured on Film

Thank you for joining us for the 2008 Taiwan Film Festival (TFF). The 2008 TFF builds on the success of the previous film festivals by again presenting the many facets of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Prepare yourselves for a cultural feast exploring youthful trials and redemption.

While international audiences have associated Taiwanese films with long camera shots and a minimum of dialogue as embodied in the films of Hou Hsiao-Hsien, Tsai Ming-Liang and Edward Yang, many emerging Taiwanese directors are breaking new ground by incorporating more modern and popular approaches to filmmaking.

In 2006, TFF screened movies showing the evolution of Taiwanese cinema in new directions, moving beyond the New Wave. In 2007, we continued to showcase young and upcoming film directors who created independent, documentary and experimental films that challenged comfort levels and typical global impressions of Taiwan.

This year, TFF will again bring you some of the island's best feature and documentary films focusing on youth and redemption. Whether about a gangster trying to "purge the guilt in his heart" in *The Gangster's God* or troubled souls journeying around the island in *The Most Distant Course*, these stories explore their young lives and how they find redemption. While the theme of "youth and redemption" is not uncommon, these stories serve as a window to a society rarely seen outside of Taiwan.

To compliment the films, we again welcome some of the filmmakers themselves from Taiwan, including Cheng Wen-Tang, Lin Jing-Jie, Ho Chao-Ti and Lin Yu-hsien. They will tour with the films, participating in post-screening Q&As at the five venues. Aside from the invited directors, this year's program will also include singer Enno Cheng, the leading actress of *Summer's Tail* and the movies' composer, Yeh Wan-Ching (KK). They will perform at the opening receptions at several participating universities.

We welcome you to the 2008 TFF and hope you enjoy the breadth of this year's selections.

Sincerely,



Hwalin Lee, Ph.D.
Chairman
The Chuan-Lyu Foundation



N. Bruce Pickering
Executive Director
Asia Society
Northern California



Tony Ong
Director, Press Division
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office
in San Francisco

Open to the public. Admission is free!

* Filmmaker(s) will be present for the post-screening Q&A.

» Please see p. 16-17 for information about the music performance.

10/16~10/17

University of San Francisco

Screening Venue:
Fromm Hall

October 16, Thursday

5:45pm Summer's Tail * p14

7:45pm Music Performance » p16

8:30pm Reception

October 17, Friday

5:45pm The Gangster's God * p24

7:30pm Reception

10/17~10/18

Stanford University

Screening Venue:
Cubberley Auditorium

October 17, Friday

8:00pm Secret p18

October 18, Saturday

2:00pm Elephant Boy and Robogirl * p26

3:30pm For More Sun * p30

8:00pm The Most Distant Course * p12

Release 2007
Genre Fiction
Director Cheng Wen-Tang
Time 99 min
Starring Bryant Chang
Enno Cheng
Dean Fujioka
Hannah Lin
Lu Yi-Ching

Summer's Tail

* 2007 Hong Kong Asian Film Festival
* 2007 Pusan International Film Festival



Yvette is a popular teen songwriter living in a small town in southern Taiwan. One day, while performing for her classmates, Yvette falls unconscious and is sent to the nurse's office. There Yvette and best friend Wendy meets Jimmy. While Wendy immediately falls for Jimmy, he only has eyes for beautiful school teacher Miss Xiu. Jimmy and Miss Xiu are forced to end their relationship lest she risk losing her job. While Wendy's gaze drifts towards soccer-loving Japanese exchange student Akira, Yvette recovers from her heart condition and opens her arms to embrace Jimmy's emotions.

10/16 5:45pm USF-Fromm Hall *»

10/20 6:45pm UW-Sieg Hall 134 *»

10/23 8:00pm UO-Willamette Hall 100 »

10/25 6:00pm UNLV-CBC A106 »

Cheng Wen-Tang

Born in 1958, Cheng Wen-Tang has extensive experience in all aspects of film-making. As an independent producer, Cheng builds up his reputation in producing documentary, short films, and subsequently, expanding into feature films. All this has earned him the recognition of the local movie industry. In addition to this various talents, Cheng is also an active scriptwriter, TV series director, as well as a stage actor. His newest production in 2007 is «*Summer's Tail*» .

Filmography / Awards

- 2007 «**Summer's Tail**» 35mm / 99min
Hong Kong Asian Film Festival | 12th Pusan International Film Festival
- 2005 «**Blue Cha-Cha**» 35mm / 108min
Represent Taiwan to compete in Oscar Academy Award Foreign Language Film category
France Deauville Asia Film Festival | Pusan International Film Festival
Tokyo International Film Festival
- 2004 «**The Passage**» 35mm / 105min
Tokyo International Film Festival | Korea Kwangju Film Festival
Asia Pacific Film Festival | Belgium Brussels Film Festival
- 2003 «**Badu's Homework**» 16mm / 35min
Taipei Film Festival - Best Film
- 2002 «**Somewhere over the Dreamland**» 35mm / 93min
Venice Film Festival - The International Critics' Week Award
Golden Horse Film Festival - Best Taiwanese Film
- 2000 «**Vanity Fair of Tan-Sui**» 35mm / 90min
Taipei Film Festival
- 1999 «**Postcard**» 16mm / 52min
Taipei Film Festival - Special Award
Singapore Film Festival | Melbourne Film Festival
- 1996 Producer «**The Blue Moon**» - Government Information Office - Best Screen Play
Scriptwriter «**The Poet and A-De**» - Korean New Current Film Competition



Special Presentation

Live performances by ENNO and KK from their movie soundtrack *Summer's Tail*.

10/16 7:45pm

Fromm Hall
University of San Francisco

10/20 5:30pm

Kane Hall, Walker-Ames Room
University of Washington, Seattle

10/23 6:45pm

Willamette Atrium
University of Oregon, Eugene

10/25 5:00pm

Barrick Museum
University of Nevada, Las Vegas



Enno Cheng

- **Lead Actress of *Summer's Tail* (2007)**

- **Singer-songwriter**

Enno Cheng is a multi-talented singer-songwriter and a film actress. As the lead actress of "*Summer's Tail*", she was nominated for the Best New Performer in 2007 Golden Horse Awards. She plays regularly in venues throughout Taiwan and appeared recently at the Formoz Festival.



KK is the bassist for Taiwanese indie band Aphasia. Aphasia made their music debut composing the soundtrack for the film "Summer's Tail". Aphasia recorded a number of songs for the film, mostly instrumental. Their first studio album "*Aphasic Crocodile Society*" will be released on September 12 by White Wabbit Records. Aside from being the bassist of Aphasia, KK is also the founder of White Wabbit Records.

KK (Yeh Wan-Ching)

- Bassist of Aphasia

- Founder of White Wabbit Records

Release 2006
Genre Documentary
Director Ho Chao-Ti
Time 49 min
Music Chen Guan-yu
The Hohak Band

The Gangster's God



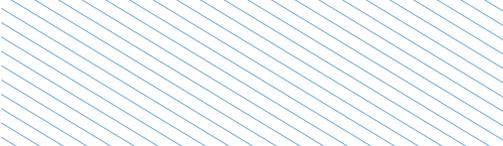
Every Lantern Festival in Taidong, a group of men strips bare above the waist, and wearing nothing but red shorts, stands on a sacred palanquin, allowing people to pound their bodies with bottle rockets, singeing their skin. They are believed to be human incarnations of the god Handan. The "Scorching of Handan" has in recent years become a major event in eastern Taiwan. Those who take part in the ritual have always been shrouded in mystery, and rumored to be members of the gangster underworld. The documentary *«The Gangster's God»* enters the heart of these men's universe, recording their dramatic lives.

10/17 5:45pm USF-Fromm Hall *

10/20 9:20pm UW-Sieg Hall 134 *

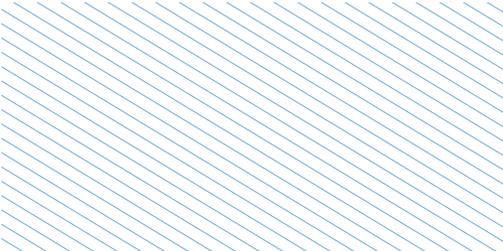
10/23 5:30pm UO-Willamette Hall 100 *

10/26 6:00pm UNLV-CBC A106 *



Ho Chao-Ti

Ho Chao-Ti is a documentary film producer and director. For many years, her films have centered on marginal, non-mainstream subjects, including traditional ethnic music and hybrid contemporary culture. Her films have been shortlisted at the Taiwan International Documentary Festival, the Taiwan International Ethnographic Film Festival, Women Make Waves Film Festival, South Taiwan Film & Video Festival, the Yilan Green International Film Festival, the Ho-Hai-Yan Music Film Festival and the Shanghai Mecooon Film Festival. She has received the Jury Special Award in Taipei Film Festival and the Golden Harvest Award of Excellence.



Filmography / Awards

- 2008 Producer and director, **«El Salvador Journal»** documentary / Digi Beta / 55 min / Chinese, English and Spanish/ Filmed on behalf of Public Television Service
 - 2006 **«Mouth of a Volcano»** documentary, part of the television series **«Baseball in Taiwan - A Tale of a Hundred Years»** Digi Beta / 49 min / Chinese / Filmed on behalf of Public Television Service
 - 2005 **«Cockroach Confidential»** documentary / Digi Beta / 47 min / English / Filmed on behalf of National Geographic Channel International and broadcast in 27 languages in 163 countries throughout the world, with a total of 205 million viewers
Producer and director, **«How Many Grams?»** documentary / Digi Beta / 30 min / Chinese / Filmed on behalf of the Legal Aid Foundation, Taiwan
 - 2003 Producer and director, **«Squeezebox on the Road»** documentary / DV / 55 min / Chinese, English, Czech, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish/Filmed on behalf of Public Television Service
 - 2001 **«County Road 184»** documentary / Betacam / 55 min / Mandarin, Hakka and English / Filmed on behalf of Public Television Service
- 

Release 2007
Genre Fiction
Director Jay Chou
Time 102 min
Starring Jay Chou
Guey Lun-Mei
Anthony Wong

Secret



*2008 San Francisco International Film Festival

On his first day at Tamkang Secondary School, Lun is lured by a mysterious piano solo. He follows the song and finds an ethereal girl playing piano in the old music room. The girl is Yu, one of Lun's classmates. The always tardy Yu ends up sitting next to Lun in the back row.

"What's the melody you played the first day we met?" asked Lun. "That's my secret." Yu whispered in his ear.

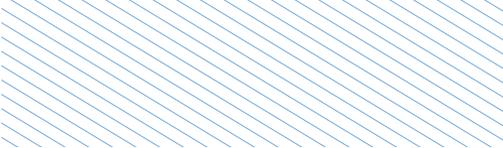
This is Jay Chou's directorial debut.

10/17 8:00pm Stanford-Cubberley Auditorium

10/21 8:00pm UW-Sieg Hall 134

10/24 6:00pm UNLV-CBC A106

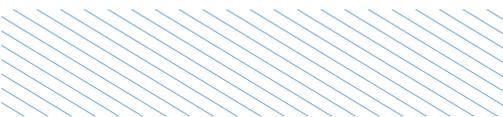
10/25 2:30pm UO-Willamette Hall 100



Jay Chou

Jay Chou (born January 18, 1979) is a Taiwanese musician, singer, producer, actor and director who has won the World Music Award three times. Trained in classical music, Chou combines Chinese and Western music styles to produce songs that fuse R&B, rock and pop genres. His lyrics covers issues such as domestic violence, war and urbanization.

A winner of more than 20 awards yearly and with album sales of 25 million worldwide, his music has earned him recognition throughout Asia and in overseas Chinese and Taiwanese communities. In 2007, he was named one of the 50 most influential people in China by the British think tank Chatham House. He starred in *«Initial D»* (2005) and *«Curse of the Golden Flower»* (2006). His career now extends into directing and running his own record company JVR Music.



Filmography / Awards

Actor

- 2009 *«Kung Fu Dunk 2»* - Lead Actor
- 2008 *«Ciqing shidai»* (in production)
«Kung Fu Dunk» - Lead Actor
- 2007 *«Secret»* - Lead Actor
- 2006 *«Curse of the Golden Flower»* - Supporting Actor
- 2005 *«Initial D - Drift Racer»* - Lead Actor
Golden Horse Award - Best New Performer
Hong Kong Film Award - Best New Performer
- 2003 *«Hidden Track»* - Cameo

Soundtrack

- 2006 *«Curse of the Golden Flower»* - performer
Hong Kong Film Award - Best Original Film Song
- 2005 *«Initial D - Drift Racer»* - performer and producer

Director

- 2007 *«Secret»*
2008 San Francisco International Film Festival

Writer

- 2007 *«Secret»*

Release 2006
Genre Documentary
Director Lin Yu-Hsien
Time 48 min

Elephant Boy and Robogirl



This film celebrates Xiang Xiang and Shan Shan. Nicknamed Elephant Boy for his love of elephants, Xiang Xiang is an 8-year-old, multi-handicapped boy. Although under tremendous pain, he expresses himself with enthusiasm and passion. Also 8, Robogirl suffers from Cerebral Palsy. It takes her 90 seconds to take three steps. Although her body is stiff like a machine and moving causes great pain, she doesn't give up. She keeps going, crying while yelling out, "I will make it! I will make it!"

10/18 2:00pm Stanford-Cubberley Auditorium *

10/20 8:30pm UW-Sieg Hall 134 *

10/24 8:00pm UNLV-CBC A106

10/25 1:00pm UO-Willamette Hall 100

Lin Yu-Hsien

Wit and humor dominate Lin Yu-Hsien's creations as he looks upon the issues that society faces. With his Jump Boys Films production, his works always reflect the humanity in situations. His shorts "Pray for Graffiti" and "His-Men Street" were in the running at the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival International Digital Shorts Competition in 2002 and 2003, respectively. His first documentary «*Jump! Boys*» was named Best Documentary at the Golden Horse Film Festival and broke box office records for the genre, being shown in Taiwan's theatres for three months. In 2006, «*Jump! Boys*» was aired in Japan, where it was well received. That same year, Lin was invited by Business Weekly to work on the documentary «*Elephant Boy and Robogirl*» as part of the «*One Taiwan, Two Worlds*» series. «*Exit No. 6*» is the director's first narrative film.

Filmography / Awards

- 2008 «*The man who plants trees*» 55 min / Documentary
- 2007 «*Exit No. 6*» Feature Film
- 2006 «*Elephant Boy and Robogirl*» 48 min / Documentary
- 2005 «*Jump! Boys*» 84 min / Documentary
Golden Horse Film Festival - Best Documentary
Golden Rooster and Full Blossom Awards
CJ Asian Independent Film Festival
Pusan International Film Festival
Fukuoka International Film Festival
Taipei Film Festival - Special Jury Award & Audience Choice Award
Government Information Office Golden Harvest Award for Excellence in Film
South Taiwan Film & Video Festival - Best Documentary
- 2004 «*E. T. Brother*» Screenplay
Government Information Office Excellent Film Screenplay Award
JVC Tokyo Video Festival
«*Pray for Graffiti*» 11 min / Documentary
San Diego Film Festival
- 2003 «*His-men Street*» 29 min / Documentary
Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival
Asia Television Documentary Film Festival
View Point Festival, Public Television Service Foundation
Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival

Release 2006
Genre Documentary
Director Lee Jong-Wang
Time 96 min

For More Sun

- * 2007 Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival, Korea
- * 2006 Taipei Film Festival
- * 2006 Green International Film Festival, Taiwan



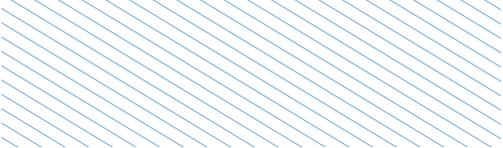
«For More Sun» is a documentary film that portrays the creativity and determination in Taiwanese young engineers. Professor Cheng and his students believed that any knowledge you learn in school should be applied to reality. Their dream was to build the fastest running hand-made vehicle. In 2005 they created FORMOSUN III, a world-class solar car for the World Solar Challenge in Australia, a 3,000 kilometers journey going from Darwin to Adelaide. Efficiency, coordination and extreme sunlight are the winning elements. As the underdog, they more than make up for it in their determination to win.

10/18 3:00pm Stanford-Cubberley Auditorium *

10/22 6:00pm UW-Physics-Astronomy Auditorium 102 *

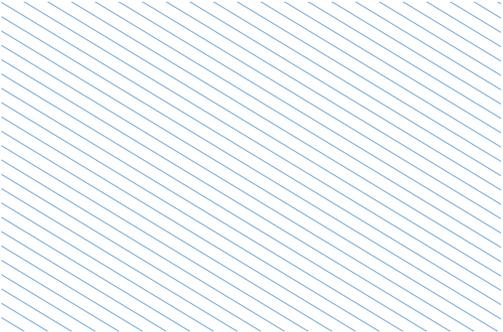
10/24 5:30pm UO-Willamette Hall 100 *

10/25 8:00pm UNLV-CBC A106 *



Lee Jong-Wang

Born in Chong-Li, Taiwan, Lee Jong-Wang is a veteran photographer of TV productions. After years of producing variety shows, news programs and TV series, he founded Studio Fullshot with friends in 1988. Since then he has devoted himself in making documentary films and teaching young documentary filmmakers. Studio Fullshot disbanded in 2006 but Lee continued his work in making and teaching documentary filmmaking. He is one of the few members in Taiwan who has been working in this field for over 20 years.



Filmography / Awards

- 2006 **«For More Sun»**
 - 2007 Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival, Korea
 - 2006 Taipei Film Festival – Global Chinese Films and Videos
 - 2006 Green International Film Festival, Taiwan
- 2004 **«Radio Mihu»**
 - 2004 Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival - Taiwan Award: Special Jury Prize
 - 2005 Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, Japan
 - 2006 The 4th Hong Kong Social Movement Film Festival



Release 2007
Genre Fiction
Director Lin Jing-Jie
Time 110 min
Starring Guey Lun-Mei
Mo Tze-Yi
Jia Siao-Guo

The Most Distant Course

*2007 Venice Film Festival -
International Critic's Week Award



Seemingly lost in life, sound recordist Xiao Tang embarks on a road trip around Taiwan to capture the "Sounds of Formosa." In need of some therapy himself, intense and unpredictable psychiatrist Cai gets up one day and just keeps driving. The two meet in a bizarre encounter and become unlikely travel companions on their island circuit. Xiao Tang sends his recordings to ex-girlfriend, but the tapes end up in the hands of the apartment's new tenant, Ruo-Yun, a young woman who is nursing a troubled relationship of her own. Lured by the peaceful recordings of wind, waves, and aboriginal songs, Yun takes to the road to follow the source of the sounds.

10/18 8:00pm Stanford-Cubberley Auditorium *

10/21 6:00pm UW-Sieg Hall 134 *

10/24 7:30pm UO-Willamette Hall 100 *

10/26 7:30pm UNLV-CBC A106 *

Lin Jing-Jie

Born in 1967, Lin has been exploring different art media in writing, filmmaking and theatrical directing. He has won major literary prizes and is regarded as one of the most promising film directors in Taiwan. All of Lin Jing-Jie's narrative films and documentaries show a very unique and powerful visual style.

Filmography / Awards

- 2007 **«The Most Distant Course»** Narrative / 35 mm / 110min
9th Taipei Film Festival, Opening Film
- Special Jury Award of Taipei Award
- Special Mention of New Talent Competition
64th Venice International Film Festival - International Critic's Week Award
12th Pusan International Film Festival
20th Tokyo International Film Festival
- 2006 **«Street Survivor»** Docu-drama / DV / 21min
7th Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival International Digital Shorts Competition
- Best Taiwan Film
Hong Kong Asian Film Festival
- 2004 **«Taipei, Looking Up?»** Documentary / DV / 57min
- 2003 **«We Don't Have a Future Together»** TV Narrative / HD / 86min
10th Shanghai Television Festival - Best Actor
- 2000 **«My Own Private Green Island»** Documentary / 35mm / 30min
12th Marseilles International Documentary Festival - New Director Award
- 1999 **«Taiwan's Little Theatre»** Documentary series / Betacam
- 1998 **«My Own Personal Gun»** Narrative / 35mm / 40min
2nd Taipei Film Festival - Most Promising Director of the Year
- Best Actress of the Year
43rd Asia Pacific Film Festival - Best Jury Award
- 1996 **«Murmur of Youth: Steppenwolf»** Narrative / 16mm / 30min
1st Pusan International Film Festival
19th Golden-Harvest Festival - Best Short Fiction Film