

For Immediate Release

Andrew Lau to join 37th HKIFF as Filmmaker in Focus

Celebrating over 30 years of filmmaking with free seminar and extensive showcase

29 November 2012 (Hong Kong) — The highly anticipated programme of the 37th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), running from 17 March – 2 April 2013, is yet to unveil, but organiser The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) revealed some exciting news today with its announcement of the 2013 Filmmaker in Focus – the remarkably successful director and veteran cinematographer Andrew LAU Wai-keung. The HKIFF's tribute to the ever-evolving filmmaker will include a representative retrospective programme, a public seminar, and, continuing the celebrated tradition of the Filmmaker in Focus series, the publication of a special bilingual catalogue.

“It is such a nice surprise to be invited to be the 37th HKIFF Filmmaker in Focus,” said Lau. “I hope film buffs in town will share my excitement at the opportunity of revisiting my past works. More importantly, it encourages me to reflect on the meaning of filmmaking once again, and to move beyond limits and explore new possibilities in the future.”

Offering an all-encompassing look at Lau's career that spans more than 30 years, the 37th HKIFF will screen 12 films directed or lensed by the dedicated filmmaker, including *City on Fire* (1987), *As Tears Go By* (1988), *Young and Dangerous* (1996), *The Stormriders* (1998), *Infernal Affairs* (2002), *Initial D* (2005) and *The Guillotines* (2012).

Lau will also attend the “Face to Face” seminar presented by the Jockey Club Cine Academy (JCCA) to share his far-reaching experience in the industry and incisive insights into Hong Kong cinema. To be held at 2:30pm on 28 March 2013 at Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the seminar will be open to free registration online at <http://jcca.hkiff.org/> from 3 December 2012. Each participant will receive a complimentary copy of a bilingual catalogue, featuring in-depth interviews and professional reviews.

Lau began in the film industry in 1981, working under cinematographer Peter NGOR at Shaw Brothers Studio. He first attracted attention with his exceptional and pioneering lensing skills, contributing to the vivid and unique visual style of Ringo LAM's *City on Fire* (1987) and WONG Kar Wai's *As Tears Go By*

(1988) as cinematographer. After years of extensive practical experience, he made his directorial debut *Against All* in 1990. His 1996 film *Young and Dangerous* reinvented the gangster genre by increasing its youth appeal and casting pop idols. Building on the success of the *Young and Dangerous* series, he continued to adapt local comics and directed megahits *The Stormriders* (1998) and *A Man Called Hero* (1999) which featured stunning computer graphics.

In 2002 Lau founded his own company and thrilled moviegoers with what would become a landmark of Hong Kong cinema, *Infernal Affairs* (co-directing with Alan MAK). The film won him a deluge of accolades including Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards and Golden Horse Awards. A morale booster for the stagnant industry at the time, it was remade by Martin Scorsese in 2006 as *The Departed*, which went on to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. But even before that Lau had found fame overseas with *Initial D* (2005), a film adaptation of a popular Japanese manga and anime series, grossing over HKD33 million at the local box office and near HKD200 million in Asia. It catapulted him to international recognition, and later he directed the South Korean film *Daisy* (2006) and Hollywood debut *The Flock* (2006). Recent years saw Lau reaching yet another peak of his career in China as a versatile filmmaker, helming *Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen* (2010), *A Beautiful Life* (2011) and *The Guillotines* (2012), and producing *The Last Tycoon* (2012).

“Lau strides across all genres. Always quick and nimble, he strikes a perfect balance between art and entertainment, amazing us with his virtuosity and professionalism. Indeed we are truly honoured to have him as our Filmmaker in Focus for the 37th HKIFF,” commented LI Cheuk-to, Artistic Director of HKIFFS.

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About Jockey Club Cine Academy – Face to Face

Face to Face is a programme of the Jockey Club Cine Academy (JCCA). Established in 2010, JCCA is a 3-year film education programme presented by The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, with the aim to foster film literacy among the youth in Hong Kong. JCCA consists of seven programmes: Master Class, Face to Face, Festival Tour, Educators Workshop, Short Film Competition, Youth Volunteer Programme and the Joint Universities Programme. The 2012 edition of Face of Face featured Mr. Peter Ho-Sun Chan and attracted more than 1,000 attendants.

About The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS)

Uniting the World through Film

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to the discovery and promotion of creativity in the art and culture of film.

Through its year-round programmes, the mission of the Society is to strengthen global appreciation of Asian and Chinese film culture and to promote inspiring films from around the world, enriching the cultural life of Hong Kong.

Committed to the development of a vibrant film culture in Hong Kong and Asia, the Society organises three annual flagship events in March and April: the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), the Asian Film Awards (AFA) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF).

Passionately believing in the power of films to unite cultures and generations, the HKIFFS is devoted to giving thousands of film lovers around the region direct access to the world's most inspired films all year round.

About The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Founded in 1884, The Hong Kong Jockey Club is not only one of the world's leading horse racing organisations but also a world top 15 charitable organisation and Hong Kong's largest community contributor, donating HK\$1.7 billion in 2012. It is also a major taxpayer, Hong Kong's single largest by far, generating over HK\$16 billion a year for public funds. The Club pioneers technology applications for sporting and betting entertainment, striving for the highest levels of customer service. As a membership club, it is recognised as one of Asia's most prestigious, with more than 23,000 members. These

multifaceted roles make it a well-respected and remarkable organisation, dedicated to its mission of enhancing the quality of life for all Hong Kong people.

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