



TAIWANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

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## 2023 Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival

### Selected Works of Online Taiwanese Cinema to Discuss Family Love and Self-worth

The Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival will cooperate with the Taiwan Film & Audiovisual Institute this year to screen 3 feature films online: "Cloudy", "Heavy Craving" and "The Most Distant Course". Additionally, 1 short film, "Mama Pingpong Social Club" will also be screened, which not only discusses family affection and love, but also covers the issue of women's self-worth.

"Cloudy" is directed by Wang Min Tai and stars Chi-hsia Chen and Liu Yin Shang. The film tells the story of Han Shunyun (played by Chi-hsia Chen), who is 60-years-old and unmarried. Because his brother and sister have been married and immigrated to the United States for many years, in order to take care of his elderly and disabled mother (played by Liu Yin Shang), he left the university early, but faced his mother's blame. The two seem to torture each other, but also rely on each other, trapped in a contradictory mother-daughter relationship. The film explores family ethics from a female perspective. In the gradually aging Taiwanese society, the film focuses on two generations of women who have devoted their lives to their families.

The film "Heavy Craving", directed by Hsieh Pei Ju, explores women's self-worth through slimming culture. The film tells the story of "Big Dinosaur Teacher" Jiang Yingjuan (played by Tsai Jia Yin), who has been discriminated against because of her plump and round figure. In order to be loved, she is determined to lose weight, but the hell-like training makes her overwhelmed, and she can't help but wonder what the meaning of weight loss is. The film analyzes how modern women bind their body image to self-worth. While the wave of "body self-love" advocated in the West has gradually reversed the mainstream aesthetics in recent years, this film explores the issues from a Taiwanese perspective, and skilfully combines the issue of gender identity, exploring modern social issues faced by a spectrum of identity groups.

In addition to the above three films ranging in length from 90 minutes to 113 minutes, the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society has also selected a 26-minute short film titled "Mama Pingpong Social Club" by Chuang Shiang-An. This short film explores family relationships with the audience from a different perspective. The short film tells the story of a middle-aged



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mother, A Mian (played by Chuang Wang), who notices that her husband and daughter do not return home often. One day, she discovers that her husband is having an affair and her family is thrown into a crisis. Her daughter's words make her determined to change her life, so she joins the "Mama Pingpong Social Club"; however, she becomes a vampire due to an accident. The film is different from the traditional vampire story's obsession with immortal youth. It explores the loneliness of middle-aged mothers facing the empty nest period and is a metaphor for the alienation and hardship of family relationships.

The Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society hopes to introduce the cultural characteristics and advantages of Taiwanese films through film appreciation, media advertising and other activities, and also hopes to introduce Taiwan's social and humanistic characteristics to Canadians.

For more information or inquiries, please visit the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival website <https://tccfestival.ca/> or follow the TCCF Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TCCFestival/>

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