HONG KONG香港 電影節FILM FESTIVAL UK英國2025

Transient and in transition

12.09.25 - 28.09.25



Funding Partners





Programme, Community and Venue partners























































Welcome

A warm welcome to the third edition of Hong Kong Film Festival UK! With over fifty titles—features, documentaries, shorts and artist moving-image—we gather work that speaks to, but not restrained to, migration, activism, marginalised communities, memory and belonging. Opening in London in September, the festival will be extending across the UK later this year.

Across the programme, "Transient and in transition" unfolds: lives poised between departure and return; memory and (de)colonisation discourses interrupted, refracted and retold; kitchens of care alongside streets of protest; archives that remember as narratives resist erasure; a retrospective traces decades of filmmaking attentive to diaspora, drift, and reinvention—an ongoing dialogue with the present. We foreground women's lens across the programme—bringing into focus a lineage of Hong Kong women filmmakers often overlooked, so their voices shape both the screen and the discourse around it.

This year we're extending across outer London—alongside relaxed and family-friendly screenings, pay-what-you-can options and free community events, to broaden access for communities for whom cost and distance can be barriers. Co-curated through a guest curator programme, this edition is shaped with ESEA practitioners embedded across our team and invited as guest programmers. Their perspectives keep the programme connected to London's neighbourhoods with wider diasporic routes.

Hong Kong's new and established diaspora—together with wider ESEA communities—continue to shape the UK's cultural fabric. A safe and reflective social space with film and art, where our identities are made visible, openly discussed, and carried forward, is vital. With gratitude to our funders, partners, filmmakers, artists, collaborators, our team and volunteers—and to each of you to make this space possible. We look forward to meeting you across London and beyond, in spaces where our stories come alive

Index

Headliners	Montages of a Modern Motherhood – Opening Film	4
	Valley of the Shadow of Death	5
	Queerpanorama	6
	Four Trails	7
Focus: Forever	They Say the Moon is Fuller Here	S
Foreigner: The	Farewell China - 2K Restoration	10
Films of Clara Law	The Goddess of 1967	11
	Drifting Petals - Closing Film	12
Features	Next Stop, Somewhere	13
	Another Home	14
	No Time For Goodbye	15
	Unfinished (De)colonisation: Cinema Strada	16
	+ Lecture Performance + Panel Discussion	
	Securing the Story - Frontline Filmmaking and Digital Safety:	17
	Resisters in Borderland + Panel	
	Lviv Diary	18
Anniversaries	Ten Years	19
	Spacked Out - 2K Restoration	20
Shorts	Afterimage	21
	all memories were once strange	22
	Feels Like Home	24
	Contours of Migration: Life Goes On in the In-between	26
Communities	Martial Angels: The Heroic Trio + A World, A Girl, A Gun Workshop	27
	Somewhere We Continue: South Korea X Hong Kong Double Bill	28
	A Taste of Connection: Sweets and Stories from Hong Kong and Japan	29
	Outdoor Festive Screening at Mid Autumn Fair	30
	Sleeping Dogs: Spatial Representations of Hong Kong in Western Gaming	32
	I'm (not) Fine: Creative Writing Workshop	33
	Walking Tour: Brick Lane – Where All the Hidden Traces Meet	34
Virtual	Online Panorama	35
Ticketing &		38
Acessibility		
Team & Thanks!		39
Calendar		40

Montages of a Modern Motherhood 虎毒不



Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 112' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Oliver Chan 陳小娟 Cast: Hedwig Tam談善言, Siuyea Lo 盧鎮業

Over the last decade, Hong Kong has seen a new wave of social realist filmmaking with director Oliver Chan as one of its most exciting proponents. With *Montages*, she follows up her landmark debut *Still Human* (2018) with an acutely observed drama about a young baker, Jing, and the challenges she faces as the mother of a newborn, stuck between a pushy mother-in-law and an unhelpful husband.

Akin to the work of a socially-conscious filmmaker like Ken Loach, a realist depiction of motherhood is used to explore the subtle, everyday forms of oppression that maintain women's position within patriarchal Asian societies. This critique develops through an increasingly stifling soundtrack, made with accomplished sound designer Tu Duu-chih (Yi Yi, In the Mood for Love, Millennium Mambo), that threatens to push the film toward psychological horror.

Premiering at Busan and officially selected at Tokyo International Film Festival, it won the Golden Horse NETPAC Award and Best Actress at Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards. Indeed, it is a masterful character study carried by Hedwig Tam's central performance – one that sympathetically explores the social expectations that can overwhelm new mothers in the seemingly unavoidable collision between traditional values and modern sensibilities.

With a pre-recorded introduction by director Oliver Chan.



Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 84' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir: Jeffrey Lam Sen 林善, Antonio Tam 譚善揚
Cast: Anthony Wong 黃秋生, Louisa So 蘇玉華, George Au 歐鎮灝, Sheena Chan 陳書昕,
Summer Chan 陳紫萱

Pastor Leung struggles between faith and seeking vengeance. After being released from prison, the man who caused his daughter's death is taken into custody by his church. Should Leung pursue punishment for sin, or should he practice what he preaches on God's forgiveness? Formidable yet restrained, Anthony Wong (*Infernal Affairs, Initial D*)'s powerful performance as the torn pastor is the heart of the film. A cross is carried against the windy bare hills, and conflict overwhelms the soul.

Premiering at Tokyo International Film Festival 2024, *Valley of the Shadow of Death* is an ambitious feature co-directed by Jeffrey Lam Sen and Antonio Tam. Both under 30, Lam and Tam are two exciting names emerging from Hong Kong's new generation of filmmakers.

Film distributed in the UK by Showalker UK.

Headliners

23 Sept 2025 (Tue) 6.30pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)

13 Sept 2025 (Sat) 3pm. Picturehouse Central

14 Sept 2025 (Sun) 1pm, Picturehouse Central Four Trails

UK Premiere

香港四徑大步走



USA & Hong Kong | 2025 | B&W | 87' | In English and Mandarin with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Jun Li 李駿碩 Cast: Javden Cheung 張迪文



Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | Documentary | 101' | In English and Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Robin Lee

A gay man takes up a multitude of personas: an actor, a scientist, a teacher, an architect. His identity is constantly evolving - all impersonations, as he becomes his previous lover in the next casual encounter. He reimagines the lives of these intimate strangers, stringing together a new version of himself from their homes, spaces, and brief stories, wondering if this is the only way he can truly be himself.

In gorgeous black and white, Golden-Horse winning writer-director Jun Li (Tracey, Drifting) invites us into an erotic labyrinth of bodies, connections, performance, desire and conversations, as we follow our protagonist in his external and internal seeking of closeness, meaning and the real. Officially selected at Berlinale Panorama 2025 and Frameline Film Festival, Queerpanorama is a tender and introspective exploration into Hong Kong's queer lives, led by a riveting and revelating performance by Jayden Cheung in his acting debut.

Presented in partnership with Queer East.

A box office sensation and the talk of the town, Four Trails brilliantly captures Hong Kong's breathtaking natural beauty which is often eclipsed by its towering skyline. Among this, a different Hong Kong emerges.

72 hours, 298km, more than 14,500m of vertical elevation change - this is Hong Kong's most daunting athletic challenge, where ultra runners strive to cover the city's four iconic hiking trails in one go. The success rate is only 6%, yet each year, 15-25 runners take on this task to test their ultimate endurance. No trekking poles, no music, and no sleep. Just pushing physical boundaries to their limit.

An up close documentary, Four Trails is Robin Lee's impressive debut feature length film, winning him Best New Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Accounting for the challenge's 2021 edition, the film explores its origins and the athletes that dare. Some held ambitions to break the impossible 50-hour barrier, others grew delirious as they trekked through darkness. The concrete jungle blends into wilderness, and bodies persist against mountains and seas.

Followed by an in-person Q&A with Jacky Leung, accomplished ultra-runner and featured participant in the film.

Headliners

Forever Foreigner: The Films of Clara Law

20 Sept 2025 (Sat) 12.20pm. Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)

They Say the Moon is

UK Premiere, 40th Anniversary

Fuller Here 外國的月亮圓些?

Curated by Eleanor Lu and China Wona

Clara Law is often introduced as part of the 'Hong Kong New Wave', although she refuses to be defined by territorial labels, a form of categorisation she continually challenges throughout her body of works. Born in Macau, raised in Hong Kong, and now based in Melbourne, Law—like many of her characters is perpetually in motion, crossing national borders and cultural boundaries, making the sense of displacement in diaspora a recurring theme in both her life and work.

This retrospective charts the turning points in her career, beginning with They Say the Moon Is Fuller Here, her rarely screened first feature, made while studying film in London after directing drama programmes at the Radio Television Hong Kong, Returning to Hong Kong in the 1990s, Law emerged as a rising filmmaker with Farewell China, the first instalment of what became her 'migration trilogy'. In 1994, she moved to Australia with her partner and long-term collaborator Eddie Fong, and gained recognition at major festivals with Australian-made films, including *The Goddess of 1967*. In her latest work Drifting Petals, she revisits Macau and Hong Kong, reflecting on her personal ties to both cities. Some of the films are shown for the first time in the UK.

With thanks to Cecilia Wong.

They Say the Moon is Fuller Here 外國的月亮圓些?

20 Sept 2025 (Sat), 12.20pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), Page 9

Farewell China 愛在別鄉的季節 (2K Restoration)

21 Sept 2025 (Sun), 12.20pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), Page 10

The Goddess of 1967 遇上1967的女神

20 Sept 2025 (Sat), 7pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), Page 11

Drifting Petals 花果飄零

28 Sept 2025 (Sun), 2pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), Page 12





UK | 1985 | Colour | 78' | In English and Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Clara Law 羅卓瑤 Cast: Clara Law 羅卓瑤

> What was originally conceived as a graduation short at the National Film and Television School became Clara Law's notable debut feature: a 16mm film that launched her cinema of the diaspora and offers a rare glimpse of her captivating onscreen performance.

Ling (played by Clara Law), a Hong Kong fine art student studying abroad in London, is working on a project to reinterpret the poignant Chinese legend Butterfly Lovers through dance. As she struggles to help her British peers to grasp the rich cultural nuances in the choreography and share her aesthetic sensibility that defies the East-West dichotomy, Han Wah, an engineering student on a state scholarship from mainland China whose artistic ambitions have been curtailed, comes to her aid.

Set against the backdrop of the impending handover of Hong Kong and the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution, the film portrays the inner turmoil of those caught between worlds in times of political upheaval, and was awarded the Silver Plague at the Chicago International Film Festival.

Followed by a live online Q&A with Clara Law and Eddie Fong. With thanks to Chun Chun Wong.

8

Focus: Forever Foreigener: The Films of Clara Law

Focus: Forever Foreigener: The Films of Clara Law

Farewell China 愛在別鄉的季節 (2K Restoration)

21 Sept 2025 (Sun) 12.20pm. Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) 20 Sept 2025 (Sat) 7pm. Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)

The Goddess of 1967 遇上1967的女神



Hong Kong | 1990 | Colour | 116' | In English and Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Clara Law 羅卓瑤 Cast: Maggie Cheung 張曼玉, Tony Leung Ka-Fai 梁家輝



Australia | 2000 | Colour | 119' | In English with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Clara Law 羅卓瑤 Cast: Rose Bryne, Rikiya Kurokawa

The moon does not seem any fuller, nor does the grass look any greener in New York City as the American dream has promised. At least not for illegal migrants like Nansan and Hung (Tony Leung Ka-Fai and Maggie Cheung), a couple from a rural Guangdong village seeking a better life in the United States. The film follows Nansan's search for his wife, who left for New York and eventually disappeared. Retracing her faint footprints, scattered across the city's grimmest corners and weighed down first by hope – soon replaced by despair, he gradually uncovers the brutal truth of her survival story.

Made on the heels of the 1989 Tiananmen Crackdown. Clara Law reflects on the condition of voluntary exile in the diasporic Chinese community. Set to a sorrowful blend of Heng Chun folk music from Southern Taiwan and electric blues, the film pays attention to the forgotten aspiring migrants, whose hardships were not redeemed, forever longing for a home they cannot reclaim. Winner of 4 Golden Horse awards including Best Feature Film.

Followed by a live online Q&A with Clara Law and Eddie Fong. © 2010 Fortune Star Media Limited All Rights Reserved.

A car aficionado (Rikiya Kurokawa) travels from Japan to Australia to buy his dream car, a Citroën DS, and meets a mysterious blind girl (Rose Byrne) from the area. The two strangers embark on a journey where an intimacy develops between them as they confront past traumas along the way.

Clara Law offers a unique twist on the genre of the road movie, with the film presenting a mosaic of visual styles and featuring an outstanding performance by Rose Byrne in her first leading role, which won the Volpi Cup for Best Actress at Venice. The meticulously crafted colour schemes, from the cold, futuristic blue of Tokyo to the sun-bleached palette of the deserted Outback, guide viewers through the non-linear narrative and convey the characters' emotions in relation to the environments they inhabit.

Focus: Forever Foreigener: The Films of Clara Law

28 Sept 2025 (Sun), 2pm. Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) 20 Sept 2025 (Sat) 4pm, Garden Cinema **UK Premiere**

Next Stop, Somewhere 別來無恙



Australia | 2021 | Colour | 110' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Clara Law 羅卓瑤 Cast: Jeff Lai 黎卓然, Ariel Ng 吳紫琳, Dickens Ko 高迪鏗

journey through the streets of their hometown. Jeff spends his sleepless nights

wandering Hong Kong and is unexpectedly drawn into a stranger's family

affairs, while the filmmaker returns to her birthplace, Macau, and encounters a boy who reminds her of her missing brother. These two seemingly separate

stories are bound by an entangled past, as the title suggests — petals from the

Incorporating historical materials from the 12-3 incident in Macau, and footage from the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement, into a story partially inspired by Law's

personal life, this 5-year self-funded project was shot with hand-held digital camera and a small crew. Devised by Law and her long-term collaborator

Eddie Fong, the film experiments with alternative modes of storytelling and

Followed by a live online Q&A with Clara Law and Eddie Fong hosted by Victor Fan, as well as a meet and

won her Best Director at the Golden Horse Awards.

Malaysia | 2025 | Colour | 87' | In Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese with Chinese and **Enalish subtitles** Dir.: James Lee 李添興 Cast: Anthony Wong 黃秋生, Kendra Sow 蘇凱璇, Angel Lee 李雪, Mike Chuah 蔡煒祥

> Whether caused by the rising cost of living or our tumultuous political environments, many of us across Europe and Asia are bound by the desire to emigrate and seek greener pastures in another country. But what are the

> In Next Stop, Somewhere, filmmakers James Lee and Jeremiah Foo explore the personal struggles of emigration in all their intimacy and complexity through two parallel stories of separation and connection: Huang (Anthony Wong), a Hong Kong actor enduring a two-week hotel quarantine upon relocating to Taiwan, and Kim (Kendra Sow), a Vietnamese woman navigating challenging new relationships as she arrives in Malaysia for an arranged marriage.

> Framed with the sensitivity of an Edward Yang film, an unusually tight aspect ratio, and a beautiful use of colour, Next Stop, Somewhere is a tender exploration of diasporic experience and what happens when our longing to escape confronts the realities of emigration.

Followed by a live online Q&A with Producer Jeremiah Foo.

emotional costs of such a move?

same flower drifting apart.

greet with actor Indy Lee. 12

Another Home 日泰小食



Taiwan, Hong Kong, France | 2024 | Colour | Documentary | 84' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Frankie Sin 冼澔楊



Frankie Sin presents the warmth and daily life of his home island through his debut feature, winner of the Mecenat Award for Best Documentary at Busan International Film Festival. Also selected at Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, Another Home is a carefully crafted portrait of societal change, generational memory, and localities of daily life with a humble food stall at the centre of it all.

Reserve two tickets and receive a 20g bottle of Hong Kong style chilli oil, while stocks last. The giveaway is supported by SunLi Chilli Oil.



UK | 2025 | Colour | 106' | In Cantonese and English with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Don Na 吳曉東 Cast: Yiu-sing Lam 林耀聲, Kitty Yu 余子穎

> Fleeing from political turmoil in Hong Kong, Bosco hopes to build a new life in Britain while seeking refugee status. He meets Yasmin, also an asylumseeker from Hong Kong, and the two share a longing for home and freedom. The future is uncertain, but Bosco powers through, navigating immigration red tape as he settles into a foreign land. With Yasmin, he connects with Afghan, Ukrainian, African and Kurdish refugees — a new community grows, and might iust flourish.

> One of the first key features produced by new Hong Kong immigrants in the UK, Don Ng's feature debut is a tale of the heartbreaking choices behind forced exile, the realities of British migrant policies, and the pains of protecting liberties. It is also a stark reminder of the complexities of post-2019 Hong Kong and the trauma left on its youth. Selected as one of the WIP projects at the Taipei Golden Horse Film Project Promotion, No Time For Goodbye has won Best Narrative Feature Film at London Independent Film Festival, and Best Feature and Best Social Justice Film at the New York International Film Awards.

Followed by an in-person Q&A with director Don Na.

Unfinished (De)colonisation: Cinema Strada 聲影路

- + Lecture Performance
- + Panel Discussion

24 Sept 2025 (Wed)
5pm, UCL Bloomsbury Campus
Pay-what-you-can, free admission
for students
Event Duration: Approx. 3 hours

22 Sept 2025 (Mon) 6pm, Garden Cinema Event Duration: Approx. 2 hrs Speaker: Sai , Toru Kubota, Tammy Cheung **World Premiere**

Securing the Story -Frontline Filmmaking and Digital Safety: Resisters in Borderland + Panel



Japan & Myanmar | 2024 | Colour | Documentary | 60' | In Burmese with English subtitles

Dir.: Toru Kubota 久保田徹

Curated by Security Storytelling Network

Have you ever filmed something that felt risky to share? In an age where your phone can be both a witness and a weapon, Resisters in Borderland offers a powerful look at what it means to document truth under threat. Directed by Toru Kubota (Best New Director 2025, ATP, Japan), the film follows exiled Burmese filmmakers who continue to resist the Myanmar junta – armed only with their cameras.

Paired with a live panel hosted by the Security Storytelling Network (SSN), this event explores how we protect our footage, our communities, and ourselves. Whether you're an activist, artist, or everyday phone user, this screening invites you to rethink how stories are captured and secured.

The panel speakers include **Sai**, an artist, curator, and activist from Myanmar who will attend in person; **Toru Kubota**, the director of *Resisters in Borderland*, joining virtually; and **Tammy Cheung**, a documentary filmmaker from Hong Kong who will also attend in person.

to hungs the fair

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | Documentary | 106' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Donna Ong 王茵茵

Hong Kong's cultural development has long been shaped by the tensions between its colonial history and the ongoing process of decolonisation, a project that has continued from the 1960s to the present day.

This programme includes the screening of *Cinema Strada*, a biographical film about Hong Kong's esteemed film critic and programmer Law Kar. Directed by Donna Ong, it draws on rich historical materials and features Law narrating, in his own voice, how cinema and the arts have accompanied him through Hong Kong's many transformations — from the Cold War era, when early calls for decolonisation emerged under colonial rule, to the present.

In response to the film, artist-curator **Ngo Chun Phoenix Tse** will present a lecture performance "Cinephile Spiral" that traces uncertain identity through fragmented cinema, memory, and diasporic drift. Hong Kong studies scholars **Professor Stephen Ching-kiu Chan** and **Dr Law Wing-sang** will reflect on what Hong Kong's cultural identity might mean today, as decolonisation continues to shape Hong Kong culture.

Presented in partnership with UCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities. With thanks to Tom Cunliffe.

All proceeds (excluding expenses) will be donated to Docu Athan, supporting filmmakers in exile.

Lviv Diary



UK | 2025 | Colour | Documentary | 76' | In Ukrainian with English subtitles

Dir.: Tammy Cheung 張虹

War overshadows Lviv, a beautiful ancient city in western Ukraine, but life continues to move forward. How does one cope with maintaining normalcy, when sirens are ablaze with constant Russian attacks threatening all aspects of society? Hong Kong iconic documentary filmmaker Tammy Cheung (Secondary School, Rice Distribution) dives into the realities lived by Lviv and its people, her camera as her tool of solidarity, sharing the stories of ordinary citizens, refugees, drafted men, journalists, medics, and more.

Lviv Diary is a sombering insight into the tears and trauma of war, shining necessary spotlight on the people holding onto Ukraine's fight for freedom and against authoritarian expansion. As a practitioner of "Direct Cinema" and longtime documentarian on social and political causes. Cheung does not employ voice over or interviews, reiterating the unifying power of observation and being present. Holding its world premiere at Hong Kong Film Festival UK, Lviv Diary is Cheung's second documentary about the war in Ukraine.

Followed by an in person conversation with director Tammy Cheung, moderated by Chris Berry. With support from Amnesty International UK.





Hong Kong | 2015 | Colour | 103' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Kwok Zune 郭臻, Wong Fei-pang 黃飛鵬, Jevons Au 歐文傑, Chow Kwun-wai 周冠威, Ng Ka-leung 伍嘉良 Cast: Liu Kai-chi 廖啟智, Leung Kin-ping 梁健平, Catherine Chau 周家怡, Neo Yau 游學修, Ng Siu-hin 吳肇軒

> In 2015, five up-and-coming filmmakers came together to make an anthology film that explored their deepest fears about what the next decade might look like for Hong Kong. The resulting film was a sensation, winning Best Film at the 35th Hong Kong Film Awards, inspiring a host of sold-out guerilla screenings across the city, and reigniting interest in Hong Kong cinema from international critics.

> Across its five parts, ranging from faux documentary to experimental drama, Ten Years explores questions of protest, community, preservation, and language, including an exploration of the role Britain might play in supporting the future of its former colony. Although many of its controversial predictions would, in fact, materialise only 5 years after its release, what shines through in Ten Years is its gentle optimism in the power of human connection and solidarity.

> On the poignant tenth anniversary of its release, Ten Years remains a defining production of Hong Kong's 21st century film industry.

Followed by a panel discussion. With support from Amnesty International UK.

Spacked Out 無人駕駛 (2K Restoration)



Hong Kong | 2000 | Colour | 90' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Lawrence Lau 劉國昌 Cast: Debby Tam 譚潔雯, Angela Au 區文詩, Christy Cheung 張詠妍, Maggie Poon 潘美琪

On the 25th anniversary of its release, we celebrate Spacked Out – a rarelyseen landmark of Hong Kong independent cinema and a vivid time capsule of early 2000s fashion and culture. Channelling the punkish energy of 1990s productions like Made in Hong Kong (Fruit Chan, 1997) and Kids (Larry Clark, 1995), Spacked Out follows four teenage girls wandering around Tuen Mun, spending their days hustling for cash, taking drugs, and sleeping around: preferring the company of delinquents and triads over their parents, teachers, and unsupportive institutions. After 13-year-old Cookie has a pregnancy scare, the group come together to help secure an abortion.

Given a rare adults-only age rating for its honest representation of youth rebellion. Spacked Out remains a riotous piece of social realism, a testament to found family, and a vital documentation of life for Hong Kong's angry, queer, and disillusioned teenagers in the uncertain years after the 1997 handover to China. Produced by Johnnie To.

With an introduction before screening. Programmed and presented in partnership with Queer East. 13 Sept 2025 (Sat) 6.30pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Runtime: 102'

Afterimage

Wounds healing, scars left behind. Years have gathered since collective trauma, and heads are simultaneously looking forwards while looking back. Reconciliation is a many-faced monster — is it iust a typhoon, or iust by chance that these are the colours chosen to represent it all? Alienated and rootless, we persist onwards, pondering between worlds.

Followed by a live online Q&A with filmmakers in this programme. Presented in partnership with Ying E Chi. With support from Amnesty International UK.



Colour Ideology Sampling.mov 顏色擷取樣本.mov

Taiwan & Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 59' | In Cantonese with Chinese and **English subtitles**

Dir.: Chan Cheuk-sze 陳卓斯, Kathy Wong 王紀堯

A visual deconstruction of symbolism, design, and power of colour. Hong Kong Yellow or Taiwan Blue, colours are political - in social movements, in elections. in identification. Best Documentary Short Film at the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival 2024.



UK Premiere

Cyclone氣旋

Taiwan & Hong Kong | 2023 | Colour | 13' | No dialogue and subtitles

July 1, 2022. As Hong Kong marks its 25th anniversary of sovereignty handover to China, the city braces for the arrival of a disastrous Typhoon Chaba.



International Premiere

The Land of Bliss 極樂

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 30' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles Dir.: Steve Li 李昊

Four disappointed youths, a night under ecstasy. A car crash transforms them into lost souls stranded between life and death, and each must reckon with their former lives.

Experimental

all memories were once strange

This programme brings together seven works by pioneering and emerging Hong Kong video artists, spanning from 1990 to 2025. They uncover hybrid terrains of memory, erasure, representation and vanishing. These works blur the boundaries between archive and affect, collective history and personal reverie—disrupting binaries such as coloniser/colonised, native/foreign, original/translated. Moving across eras of social unrest, global capitalism, technological flux, and linguistic hybridity, memory surfaces in fractured, shifting patterns where meaning drifts, overlaps, and re-emerges.

Presented in partnership with Hong Kong Action Archives. With thanks to Ngo Chun Phoenix Tse.



Diversion 兩頭唔到岸

Hong Kong | 1990 | Colour | 5' | No Dialogue and subtitles Dir.: Ellen Pau 鮑藹倫

Produced a year after the June 4th incident, *Diversion* reflects on Hong Kong's emigration wave. Archival swimming contest scenes and found footage – including a burning newspaper goat-head – unfold as darkly humorous metaphors, a personal reflection on collective memory.



Recycling Cinema 循環影院

Hong Kong | 1999 | Colour | 8' | No dialogue and subtitles Dir.: Ellen Pau 鮑藹倫

An allegory of memory, reality, metaphysics and cinema, the work transcends the sociological, theoretical or formal conventions of cinematic practice through various experimental explorations of a Hong Kong expressway. Exhibited as part of the 49th Venice Biennale.



Who's Afraid of Ghost!? 邊個驚鬼!?

Hong Kong | 2009 | Colour | 15' | No dialogue with English subtitles Dir: Anson Mak 麥海珊

Through re-exploring the local Ghost Festival, this experimental documentary expresses the artist's revisits to childhood experience and her concern of Kwun Tong which is undergoing the largest urban re-development plan (2009-2026) ever in Hong Kong. M+ Hong Kong Collection.



Non-Place • Other Space 隱城•懸浮半空

Hong Kong | 2009 | Colour | 13' | No dialogue with Chinese and English subtitles
Dir.: Linda Chiu-han Lai 黎肖嫻

Dir.: Linda Chiu-nan Lai 黎月娴

A video diary compiling years of the artist's visual ethnography—walking the cities of Hong Kong and Macau (1991–2008). "Walking through" becomes a precarious act — the work explores states which are neither monumental, nor illusionary.



Muted Bridges

Hong Kong | 2021 | Colour | 3" | No dialogue and subtitles Dir.: Winnie Wai-yin Yan 忻慧妍

A quiet observation over a year of five bridges on Hong Kong Island between 2019 and 2021, that were once canvases of political expression during social unrest. Now refurbished and stripped of their markings, the bridges stand as mute witnesses to what has been erased.



The memory of a cicada is longer than its life

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 12' | In Cantonese with English subtitles Dir.: Chan Hau Chun 陳巧真

A portrait of a park once vital to communal life. Waves of cicada song envelop blurred, sun-drenched images of kapok trees and passersby – suggesting a suppressed, flickering memoryscape between presence and disappearance.



Too Long Ago, Not Far 在不太遙遠的很久以前

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 13' | In Cantonese with English subtitles Dir.: Winnie Wai-yin Yan 忻慧妍

Shot on Super 8 before emigrating to the UK, this artist reframes the city through Huaying Tongyu, published in 1867, one of the earliest English-Cantonese textbook. Merging phonetic notations, ambient visuals, and intimate gestures, it becomes an archive of language, longing, and departure.

Feels Like Home

Is family synonymous to home? Is home where your roots are, or where you choose to settle? And your people; are they tied by blood or by chosen love? Reimagining the family and the home, reflection can be gently inspired through the simplest means. Suitable for children and a relaxed screening for the whole family.



Eternity in the Universe 宇宙有什麼不是暫時

Hong Kong | 2025 | Colour | 23' | In Cantonese with English and Chinese subtitles Dir.: Thyestes Tong 唐浩賢

A brother and sister were placed in a foster home by social workers and learned to take care of each other after their parents' divorce.



The Last Summer 最後的夏天

Hong Kong | 2025 | Colour | 36' | In Cantonese with English subtitles

Dir.: Alvin Low 劉健鴻

After a long time apart, a family reunited for the first time to bid a farewell to their father. But, everybody was stuck as he rallied.



UK Premiere

Tape

Finland | 2024 | Colour | Animation | 5' | No dialogue Dir.: Candace Hui Wing Ki

A piece of plastic tape takes a young woman on an emotional journey through memories she thought were long forgotten.



Torikase理想委托人

Hong Kong | 2025 | Colour | Animation | 7' | In Cantonese with English and Chinese subtitles Dir.: Jenny Tsoi

Mini Mouse, a creature from Heaven, was appointed to solve the problems of a girl to extend his life.



"See You Soon!"「之後見!」

UK | 2025 | Colour | Animation | 3' | In Cantonese with English subtitles

Dir.: Ryan Leung

A story about friendship and farewells as a child named Chris struggles to accept the fact that his friend is leaving to another country.

Contours of Migration: Life Goes On in the In-between

18 Sept 2025 (Thu) 6pm, Garden Cinema Runtime: 96'

The prism of diaspora transforms one's identity into complex colours, in exchange for existing in a liminal space between cultures, generations, borders, and time. Enriching perspectives can be found across wider East and Southeast Asian experiences. A perfect day, the dangers of border-crossing—is grass indeed greener on the other side?

Followed by an in-person Q&A with filmmakers in this programme.

Ticket holders will receive a free drink of Hong Kong-style milk tea, supported by My Cup of HK Tea.



Clearance

Malaysia | 2025 | Colour | 15' | In English and Bahasa Melayu with English subtitles Dir.: Charles Normsaskul

With the help of a translator on the phone, a Malaysian woman is interviewed by an immigration officer to decide if she can enter the United Kingdom.



JK Premiere

Side A: A Summer Day A面:我的一天

Taiwan | 2024 | Colour | 21' | In Mandarin, Cantonese and Hindi with English subtitles

Dir.: Kin Fai Wan 溫景輝

Fei will get the best birthday present ever if he finishes his homework, his mother promised. But it's already the last day of summer, and Fei hasn't received anything yet. Best Live Action Short at Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival 2024.



World Premiere

Give and Take

Canada | 2025 | Colour | 60' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles Dir.: Jimmy Lo 羅志明

A schoolteacher and an artist, two newlyweds, leave their lives in Hong Kong and wrestle with the promise of freedom in Canada.

14 Sept 2025 (Sun) 1pm, Theatreship, Canary Wharf Event Duration: Approx. 2.5 hrs Floating Cinema

Martial Angels: The Heroic Trio 東方三俠+ A World, A Girl, A Gun Workshop



Hong Kong | 1993 | Colour | 83' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Johnnie To 杜琪峯 Cast: Michelle Yeoh 楊紫瓊. Anita Mui 梅艷芳, Maggie Cheung 張曼玉

Curated by Elizabeth Gabrielle Lee and Jade Meili Barget

Martial Angels is the 5th Edition of the screening series Fatal & Fallen, an everevolving programme that unearths the trope of the deadly, deranged and delinquent woman pictured in grindhouse, exploitation, and arthouse cinema. Fatal & Fallen consists of the genres Hong Kong's Girls with Guns, Japan's Pinku Eiga, South Korean hostess and thriller films and Taiwan's Black Movies, investigating the enduring yet contested motif of revenge across cinema, popular media, collective narratives, and contemporary imaginaries.

This edition zooms in on the Hong Kong Girls with Guns genre, the female-led action movies and anime emerging from the 1980s to 2000s. The screening presents a 1993 classic, *The Heroic Trio*, directed by Johnnie To, featuring the lethal woman unholy trinity, Anita Mui, Michelle Yeoh and Maggie Cheung. The film is accompanied by A World, A Girl, A Gun, a participatory worldbuilding workshop inspired by the genre, exploring the concepts of final girlhood, revenge, rage, and agency. The workshop will be facilitated and hosted in collaboration with lecturer and technical artist **Jenn Leung**.

This event will take place at Theatreship - a floating arts centre and cinema housed in historic cargo ships at Canary Wharf.

27 Sept 2025 (Sat)
2.30pm, Act One
Event Duration: Approx. 1.5 hr

Film & Food, Relaxed Screening, Family Friendly

A Taste of Connection: Sweets and Stories from Hong Kong and Japan

Connecting with local ESEA communities, our Hong Kong and Japan crossover event consists of two short films and a mochi-making demonstration. Suitable for children. The screening pairs a Golden Horse-winning short about three generations of Hong Kong women with a tender tale of a Japanese American girl navigating the unfamiliar terrain of her inherited ties in Japan.

The screening is followed by a Hong Kong and Japan cross-cultural mochimaking demonstration, participants may have a chance to make mochithemselves. Prices include 2 mochis and a drink.

Co-curated and presented in partnership with Ealing and Northfields Hong Kong Club.

Curated by Heeyeon Park

Chinese words 緣 and 連, meaning 'fate' and 'connection' respectively, correspond to Korean syllables both written as '연 (Yeon)'.

This double-bill screening features films from South Korean and Hong Kong filmmakers, presenting stories of chance / destined connections against the backdrop of London, a foreign land at once connected and removed from the protagonists' homelands.

A meet-and-greet with Director Michael Mui before the screening, followed by a post-screening refreshment and chit-chat.



UK Premiere

Travelling on the Night Tube, Thinking About Iced Lemon Tea, Less Sugar 徹夜難眠, 想起凍檸茶少甜

25 Sept 2025 (Thu)

Methodist Church

Pay-what-you-can Runtime: 100'

7.30pm, New Malden

UK | 2025 | Colour | 13' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles

Dir.: Michael Mui 梅廷徽

On a quiet London night, a boy and girl from Hong Kong meet by chance and travel together on the Night Tube, searching for iced lemon tea, less sugar.



The Continuing Land 이어지는 땅

South Korea | 2022 | Colour | 87' | In Korean with English subtitles

Dir.: Jo Heeyoung 조희영

Cast: Minjeung Gong 공민정, Hoeryn Jung 정회린, Seil Ryu 류세일, Donghwan Kam 감동환, Seokyung Kim 김서경

Horim picks up a camcorder off a random street in London and watches the footage inside. Not long after, she encounters her ex-boyfriend Donghwan, his new girlfriend Kyungseo, and their friend Yiwon - who is curiously the very woman she saw from the camcorder's footage. Official selection, Busan International Film Festival 2022.



IK Premiere

3 Generations 3 Days 紅棗薏米花生

Hong Kong | 2019 | Colour | 20' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles
Dir.: Nicole Hoi Ying Chu 朱凱濙

Ching's mother asks her to take her grandmother in until a nursing home is available. Best Live Action Short at Taipei Golden Horse Awards 2019 and Best Director at Fresh Wave International Short Film Festival 2019.



Moon Rabbit 月の兎

Japan | 2018 | Colour | 14' | In Japanese and English with English subtitles
Dir: Kae Ho 何嘉慧

Seven-year-old Rio visits her grandparents in Japan for the first time. As she navigates the unfamiliar surroundings, something happens behind closed doors.

Communities

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Outdoor Festive Screening at Mid Autumn Fair

27 Sept 2025 (Sat)
11am-5pm, Goldsmiths College
Free Admission for screening
(Note: £1 entrance fee for London Mid
Autumn Fair, free for children under 12)
Runtime: 52' (The programme will run on loop)

A free screening held at the London Mid Autumn Fair at Goldsmiths College, University of London, this short film programme is narrative-driven, easy to digest and entertaining for all. Enjoy mooncakes and reunite with friends and family to celebrate the Mid Autumn Festival. Please note there is £1 entrance fee for London Mid Autumn Fair, free for children under 12.

This screening is presented in partnership with Urban Garden Fair.



UK Premiere

Hail, A Taxi Home 過海的

UK | 2025 | Colour | 17' | In English and Cantonese with English subtitles
Dir.: Jay Liu

A Hong Kong filmmaker questions why a 1.5-generation Hong Kong-American manually built the only operational Hong Kong taxi in the United States.



UK Premiere

Anatomy of a Call 通訊默示錄

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 17' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles Dir.: Arnold Jing Wah Tam 譚鉦樺

A burnt out producer tries to push back investor's requests, a struggling telemarketer shoots his shot as a success guru, and a lonely mother deals with problems much greater than her aging brain can handle.



LOYAL

UK | 2024 | Colour | 9' | In English with English subtitles Dir.: Sara Chia-Jewell, Antonis Papamichael

Arlo gets coffee from the same cafe everyday. One day, she tries a new place, and her barista catches her betraval.



Kin's Hair 一毛所有

Hong Kong | 2018 | Colour | Animation | 5' | In Cantonese with English subtitles

Dir.: Kwun-chung Chan 陳冠聰, See-wan Chang 鄭思蘊, Tsz-yin Wong 王子妍

A taxi driver reflects on his hair loss and the heartbreak from twenty years ago that induced it.



LIK Dromiore

Cloud with Salts 白雲加鹽

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | Animation | 4' | In Cantonese with English subtitles
Dir.: Fish Ng 魚湯

On a hot countryside summer day, five teens race each other to the store for a refreshing drink.

Communities

Sleeping Dogs: Spatial Representations of Hong Kong in Western Gaming

25 Sept 2025 (Thu)
Doors Open 7.30pm,
Loading Bar, Stoke Newington
Pay-what-you-can
Speakers: Aidan Page,
Dr. Rob Gallagher

27 Sept 2025 (Sat)
2.30pm, House of Annetta
Pay-What-You-Can
Event Duration: Approx. 3 hours
Facilitator: Fedzilla

Writing Workshop

Communities



Credit: United Front Games



Writer and curator **Aidan Page** will be in conversation with King's College London's **Dr. Rob Gallagher** to present a workshop on the spatial representations of Hong Kong in the video game *Sleeping Dogs*, focusing on the complexities and challenges of depicting the city through the lens of non-Asian developers. Set in local Hackney gaming pub Loading Bar, guests are invited to mingle over drinks and join discussions following the lecture. This event offers a unique intersection of gaming, urban studies, and cultural critique, exploring how digital spaces shape our understanding of place and identity.

Doors open 19:30, event begins 20:00.

32

This event is presented in partnership with KCL Department of Culture, Media, and Creative Industries.

A creative writing workshop on writing as care, healing, and a creative act of resistance.

In light of recent civil resistance and the ongoing struggles faced by Hong Kong and East and Southeast Asian diaspora communities—including the trauma carried, the resilience built, and the need for spaces of restoration—this workshop offers writing as both healing and empowering practice.

In this writing session, open to all, rapper and poet **Fedzilla** walks you through prompts, ideas and personal experience in putting feelings of despair, anxiety and hope on paper. Via short stories, poetry, spoken word and more, you'll be exploring the innate value of your stories and thoughts. We'll dive into metaphors, opening lines, tone, repetition, rhyme and all the tools you may need to get comfortable on paper, however that may look for you.

We encourage everyone to join, participate and give it a try. There is no expectation to finish nor share with the group. Come find a space where you are supported and encouraged, we'd love to have you there.

Hosted by and presented in partnership with Bosla Arts

Walking Tour: Brick Lane – Where All the Hidden Traces Meet

21 Sept 2025 (Sun)
3-5pm, Brick Lane
(details will be sent upon
successful registration)
Event duration: Approx. 2 hours



Credit: Dan Dodman / Unsplash

Our programme partner Urban House Hong Kong will take us to Brick Lane, a street now famous for its vintage shops and graffiti, hidden with traces of migrants from different cultures in the past few centuries. From the French in the 17th century, to the Jewish community between the 19th-20th centuries, to the Bangladeshis today, different generations of migrants have brought changes to the architecture and food cultures to the community. While the memories of the previous generations remain, it is where old and new, East and West, and different stories and memories meet, contributing to the diversity of this vibrant landmark.

This programme will be conducted in Cantonese with English translation. Hosted by and presented in partnership with Urban House Hong Kong.

For audiences based outside of cities with in-person screenings, the following eight short films have been selected for online viewing from anywhere in the UK. This selection reflects the festival's themes of migration, activism, LGBTQ+ and marginalised communities; of people in transition and in stillness; as explored through stories spanning Hong Kong, Asia, and Europe. Anyone in the UK can register to view films in this virtual programme during the designated period for free.

With support from Amnesty International

Registration:





UK Premier

Afterwards, 而後

UK & Hong Kong | 2024 | B&W with Colour | 19' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles Dir.: Chung Hong Iu 姚仲匡

Two independent stories - one from 2014 and the other from 2019 - are placed together, looking back at the Umbrella Movement, a pivotal moment in Hong Kong's pro-democracy activism.



Special Online Preview

Ah Cheung: Wings of Hope 無拘飛祥

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 52' | In Cantonese with English subtitles

Dir.: So Ka Ue 蘇家榆

The late Law Wai-cheung, also known as Ah Cheung, is a prominent advocate for disability rights in Hong Kong. Born with quadriplegia, he never let his disability define him or limit his potential. A documentary with animation.

Communities





Special Online Preview

The Black Dog 黑犬

Taiwan | 2024 | Colour | 19' | In Mandarin with English subtitles
Dir.: Ling Yang 楊羚

A father on the verge of losing his wife is witnessed by his young daughter as he makes peculiar sounds during a nightmare.



Move On. Move On. 即使多轉變

Hong Kong | 2025 | Colour | 26' | In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles
Dir.: Yihao Zheng 鄭一昊, Wing-yi Lo 盧穎怡,
Lin Chen 陳林

Wing reconnects with Ching to learn about her current life, having met 10 years ago before her gender transition.



Cahā

UK | 2025 | Colour | 9' | In English with English subtitles Dir.: Chak Hin Leung

The first encounter between two immigrants - one Indian, one Bruneian - finding an unexpected connection over a brew in a London teahouse.



Sweet Lime

UK & Hong Kong | 2023 | Colour | 10' | In English and Urdu with English subtitles
Dir.: Fatema Abdoolcarim

After eavesdropping on a conversation between her mother and aunt, eleven-year-old Amra must choose whether to reveal a tragedy she has innocently discovered.



From the Void of Time

Hong Kong | 2024 | Colour | 9' | In Cantonese with English subtitles

Dir.: Lok Yiu Wong 王樂堯

A lyrical treatment of an imprisonment experience through a tangled tapestry of summer recollections.



Two Travelling Aunties

UK, Singapore | 2025 | Colour | 21' | In English with English subtitles
Dir.: Christine Seow

Two spirited Singaporean seniors ditch conventional living for van life, embracing adventure, newfound freedom, and the joy of living on their own times.

Ticketing & Accessibility

Team & Thanks

Accessibility

We believe cinema should be enjoyed by everyone. Our festival includes a range of access measures, such as relaxed screenings, family-friendly screenings, and a focus on venues with accessible facilities. For details of each venue's accessibility, please refer to the venue's own website.

We also believe cost should not be a barrier. Selected events use a Pay-What-You-Can ticket model, allowing attendees to choose an amount that suits their circumstances so everyone can enjoy the festival.

If you have any questions about our accessibility measures, please contact: info@hkff.uk

Ticketing

Tickets for all programmes are available online and for theatrical screenings at the cinema box office. Please visit hkff.uk for details.

Films under our "Online Panorama" (Virtual) programme are free to watch and available exclusively to viewers within the UK. The films will be streamed on the Vimeo On Demand (VOD) platform, and you will need to set up a Vimeo account prior to watching these films. Each film will be available to be streamed online as many times as you like for seven consecutive days within the viewing window from 12 September to 17 October 2025.

Please visit hkff.uk/full-programme/online-panorama for details:



Screening/Event Starting Time

Kind reminder: we do not show commercial trailers or advertisements. Festival events commence within five minutes of its advertised start time.

Team

Festival and Programme Director Ching Wong

Festival Producer & Marketing Manager Joyce Chiang

Programme & Project Manager Siu Heng

Public Programme Curator

PR & Marketing Officer Xinyi Wang

Event Coordinator King Fai Cheung Wan Yin Ho

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Security Storytelling Network

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Eleanor Lu
Elizabeth Gabrielle Lee & Jade Meili Barget
Heeyeon Park
Helen Chan (Ealing and Northfields Hong Kong Club)
KCL Department of Culture, Media, and Creative Industries
Dr. Rob Gallagher

Thanks

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Richard Choi

Sara Rvdkvist

Tammy Cheung Tina Jenkinson

Thomas Holmes

Sarah-Jane Meredith

Calendar

12 Sep (Fri)	18:30	Picturehouse Central	Montages of a Modern Motherhood 虎毒不 - OPENING FILM
13 Sep (Sat)	15:00	Picturehouse Central	Four Trails 香港四徑大步走
	18:30	Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)	Afterimage
14 Sep (Sun)	13:00	Theatreship, Canary Wharf	Martial Angels: The Heroic Trio 東方三俠 + A World, A Girl, A Gun Workshop
	13:00	Picturehouse Central	Four Trails 香港四徑大步走
	16:00	Picturehouse Central	Ten Years 十年 (10th Anniversary)
17 Sep (Wed)	18:30	Rio Cinema	Spacked Out 無人駕駛 (2K Restoration) (25th Anniversary)
18 Sep (Thu)	18:00	Garden Cinema	Contours of Migration: Life Goes On in the In-between
	20:20	Garden Cinema	Lviv Diary
19 Sep (Fri)	18:00	Throwley Yard Cinema	No Time For Goodbye 風繼續吹
20 Sep (Sat)	12:20	Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)	They Say the Moon Is Fuller Here 外國的月亮圓些?
	16:00	Garden Cinema	Next Stop, Somewhere 別來無恙
	19:00	Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)	The Goddess of 1967 遇上1967的女神

21 Sep (Sun)	11:00	Throwley Yard Cinema	Feels Like Home (Family Screening)
	12:20	Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)	Farewell China 愛在別鄉的季節 (2K Restoration)
	15:00	Brick Lane	Walking Tour: Brick Lane – Where All the Hidden Traces Meet
	18:00	Close Up Cinema	all memories were once strange
22 Sep (Mon)	18:00	Garden Cinema	Securing the Story - Frontline Filmmaking and Digital Safety: Resisters in Borderland + Panel
23 Sep (Tue)	18:30	Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)	Queerpanorama 眾生相
24 Sep (Wed)	17:00	UCL Bloomsbury Campus	Unfinished (De)colonisation: Cinema Strada 聲影路 + Lecture Performance + Panel Discussion
25 Sep (Thu)	19:30	Loading Bar, Stoke Newington	Sleeping Dogs: Spatial Representations of Hong Kong in Western Gaming
	19:30	New Malden Methodist Church	Somewhere We Continue: South Korea X Hong Kong Double Bill
26 Sep (Fri)	18:30	Ealing Picturehouse	Another Home 日泰小食
27 Sep (Sat)	11:00	Goldsmiths College, University of London	Outdoor Festive Screening at Mid Autumn Fair
	14:30	House of Annetta	I'm (not) Fine: Creative Writing Workshop
	14:30	Act One	A Taste of Connection: Sweets and Stories from Hong Kong and Japan
	18:30	Rio Cinema	Valley of the Shadow of Death 不赦之罪
28 Sep (Sun)	14:00	Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)	Drifting Petals 花果飄零 - CLOSING FILM

Foregrounding transient and transitioning identities, this year's Hong Kong Film Festival UK centres voices that challenge, navigate, and reimagine what it means to belong.

Now in its third edition, the Festival runs from 12–28 September 2025 in London, followed by a tour around the UK from autumn 2025 into early 2026—featuring boundary-shifting cinema from Hong Kong and the ESEA diaspora.

Web: www.hkff.uk FB: /hkff.uk

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