

Opening Screening of “HONG KONG PROGRAMME”

Red Lotus Asian Film Festival in Vienna, Austria

(26 April 2024)

Speech by DBL

Dear Katja (Ms Katja Wiederspahn), Liuying (Ms Cao Liuying / 曹柳鶯),
Petra (Ms Petra Krassnitzer), [Ambassador QI (Ms QI Mei 齐玫)],
[Ambassador LI (Mr LI Song 李松)], Distinguished Guests, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

Good evening, and a warm welcome to the screening of the opening
film of the “HONG KONG PROGRAMME”.

2. (As Katja and Liuying have highlighted,) this year is the third edition
of the Red Lotus Asian Film Festival, and it is a great pleasure for the Hong
Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin to reaffirm our unwavering
supporting for this exciting new force that brings together Asian movie
enthusiasts from Vienna and beyond. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the
Festival organisers for their dedication in curating this cinematic extravaganza,
and for their passion for Hong Kong cinema and their sharp eyes in identifying
and bringing quality Hong Kong movies to the wider European audience.

3. Indeed, Hong Kong has always been proud of its East-meets-West culture, where modernity blends with tradition. The openness and diversity in Hong Kong empower our filmmakers to delve into a wide range of issues, crafting extraordinary stories that offer fresh and unique perspectives. On the part of the Government, we are committed to nurturing the sustainable development of film industry, not only through financial support but also by fostering global exchanges and enhancing exposures. As an example, we recently launched the Hong Kong-Europe-Asian Film Collaboration Funding Scheme to subsidise film projects co-produced by filmmakers from Hong Kong and European or Asian countries. I sincerely invite those of you working in the film industries to check out more details of this funding scheme online afterwards.

4. This year, the Festival is bringing two stellar Hong Kong film productions to Vienna's eager audience. We are honoured to be presenting the movie *All Shall Be Well* (從今以後) tonight as the opening film, which receives the prestigious Teddy Award for Best Feature Film at the Berlinale this year. Through a deeply moving story of a lesbian couple in Hong Kong, Director Ray Yeung navigates the taboo subjects in traditional Chinese families in a potent yet tender manner, while portraying the societal complexities of wealth and hierarchies in our society.

5. And on this Sunday, there will be a screening of *The Goldfinger* (金手指), which is a gripping drama that perfectly weaves together action, drama and crime elements. Renowned Director Felix Chong invites us on a journey through the boom and bust of a multi-billion-dollar empire in 1980s, a story brought to life by none other than the titan of Hong Kong cinema, Tony Leung. Tony has recently won the lifetime achievement award at the Venice Film Festival, and was just crowned the Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards last week for his outstanding performance in the movie.

6. I hope that you would all be captivated and inspired by tonight's movie, *All Shall Be Well*, and if you have the time, please also mark your calendar for *The Goldfinger* for this Sunday. Thank you once again for joining us and please enjoy the show!

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