

## **Five Flavours Asian Film Festival**

**(17 November, Warsaw)**

### **Speaking Points for Acting D(BL)**

- Good evening, Warsaw! Welcome to the opening of the Wong Kar-wai retrospective of the 15th edition of the Five Flavours Asian Film Festival. This year, seven films from Hong Kong's iconic film director Wong Kar-wai will be screened throughout the festival until 24 November, showing you the diversity and versatility of Hong Kong and our film productions.
- Being an international centre for business, trade and travel, you can imagine that the pandemic had a strong impact on Hong Kong in many aspects. However, the arts and creative sectors, including the film industry, did not stand still. In recent years, Hong Kong's film industry has flourished, more and more outstanding filmmakers and actors appear in international film festivals' award lists.
- Some of you may know that Hong Kong has one of the largest and most dynamic film entertainment industries in the world. Our film talents and professionals have also made their names known in both Eastern and Western movie markets. The most well-known one are perhaps Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee, but I am sure many of you are also familiar with the renowned film director Wong Kar-wai.
- Wong Kar-wai emerged from the creative ferment of the Hong Kong film industry of the 1980s, which, at its peak, was producing over 200 films a year. Today, Wong is primarily renowned as an art film auteur, yet his films traverse genres from melodrama to martial arts.
- Whether this is the tortured romance between two men stranded in Buenos Aires in "Happy Together" or the unconsummated love affair of "In The Mood For Love" and its sequel, "2046", Wong's filmography is an extended meditation on the ordeals of the heart. To say it in Wong's words: "Cinema can be the citric scent of a peeled orange, the touch of warm skin

through a silk stocking; or simply a darkened space bathed in anticipation.” Wong’s films act as a powerful form of cultural memory.

- Each film is a gem in Hong Kong’s film industry, reflecting the unlimited potential and endless boundaries of Hong Kong’s filmmakers. It is definitely an exceptional opportunity to be able to watch seven Wong Kar-wai’s intoxicating films on the big screen at Five Flavours Asian Film Festival this year.
- The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has been supporting the creative industries over the years: In the 2021-22 Budget, an additional injection of HK\$1 billion (around 500 million Zloty) into the CreateSmart Initiative to drive the development of the creative industries was announced. On top of that, an additional allocation of HK\$900 million (around 460 million Zloty) was earmarked for the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme to further promote culture and arts from all sectors.
- On the other hand, we always welcome film production professionals from around the world including Poland to work in Hong Kong. The **Talent List of Hong Kong** has been drawn up with a view to attracting high quality talents globally to support Hong Kong’s development into a high value-added and diversified economy. Currently the List comprises 11 professions, among them “creative industries professionals” include not only film production professionals but also game developers and many others.
- I would like to conclude my welcoming remarks by once again thanking you all for being here with us tonight, and I wish you a wonderful evening watching “In the Mood for Love” and many more excellent films that will keep you yearning for more. Thank you!

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