

**Filmasia - Screening of “In the Mood for Love”
(15 February 2026)**

Speech by HPR

Karla, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to the opening of the Filmasia Presents section. With the funding support of the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency of the Hong Kong Government and Film Development Fund, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin is pleased to continue its support for the festival.

2. Films possess a unique power to transcend borders—geographical, cultural, and societal—offering profound glimpses into the rich tapestry of human experience and emotion. We are delighted to bring the exceptional narratives of Hong Kong cinema to Brno this time, offering Czech audiences fresh and distinctive perspectives.

3. It’s truly inspiring to witness how Hong Kong — a city of boundless energy and creativity — is being championed on the world stage. The Hong Kong Government has made a clear and powerful commitment to sharing its cinematic voice far beyond its borders, through platforms like Filmasia and other global film festivals. Hong Kong’s popular culture — its films, music, and visual language — offers a unique window into a society that is both deeply rooted in tradition and fiercely modern. What’s most remarkable is how these efforts aren’t just about visibility — they’re about honouring the people behind the camera. The world is now seeing, more clearly than ever, the heart, soul, and extraordinary craftsmanship of Hong Kong’s filmmakers. And when we watch their work, we don’t just see a movie — we see a culture, a spirit, and a vision that transcends borders.

4. Tonight, I hope you are all in the mood for Wong Kar-wai because we will kick start the festival with the opening film “In the Mood for Love”, one of Hong Kong cinema’s most poetic, haunting, and enduring masterpieces. As we all know, yesterday was Valentine’s Day. A day of roses, chocolates, and grand declarations of love. But tonight, we’re diving into a different kind of romance — one whispered through doorways, glimpsed in alleyways, and lingers in the unsaid, the unspoken, the almost. Directed by the legendary Wong Kar-wai and starring the unforgettable duo of Tony Leung and Maggie Cheung, In the Mood for Love is set in 1960s Hong Kong — a world of narrow apartments, steamy noodle shops, and the rustle of silk gowns. It swept Hong Kong Film Awards, Golden Horse Awards, and won recognition from critics across the globe — from the New York Film Critics Circle to the British Independent Film Awards. In 2016, it was named the second-greatest film of the 21st century by the BBC — a testament to its timeless power.

5. I also encourage you to explore any of the other two iconic Wong Kar-wai films being screened during the next weeks. Next Friday and Saturday, two more iconic classics, namely “Chungking Express” (重慶森林) and “Fallen Angels “ (墮落天使) will be screened, offering audiences the chance to revisit the timeless masterpiece by the world-renowned director.

6. Thank you once again for joining us this evening to celebrate the vibrant legacy of Hong Kong cinema. I sincerely wish Filmasia continued growth and success, and I extend my warmest regards to each and every one of you.

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