

Opening Film of Window: Hong Kong
at the Zurich Film Festival
(29 September 2023)

Speech by DBL

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, and welcome to the screening of the opening film of the *Hong Kong Window* under the 19th Zurich Film Festival this year. Our opening film this year, *A Guilty Conscience*, or 毒舌大狀 in Cantonese, is an exciting courtroom drama from Hong Kong. The film tells the thrilling story of a mother's struggle for justice for her deceased child. Written and directed by Jack Ng, *A Guilty Conscience* has reached a record-breaking milestone: it has become the highest-grossing Hong Kong film ever. What's more, the film managed to achieve this feat in less than 30 days of its release, the fastest movie to ever do so.

2. In fact, Hong Kong people have always been very proud of its film industry, for it has managed to export our culture far and wide ever since the Bruce Lee era. Films can bring people together by helping us understand other cultures by giving us an up-close and personal look at a foreign culture. Being a small economy by itself, Hong Kong cherishes this excellent platform for connecting with people from different cultures.

3. To further build on its legacy, Hong Kong is now actively positioning itself as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. We are now in the course of mapping out a blueprint for arts and culture and creative industries development, nurturing a diverse talent pool,

and upgrading cultural infrastructure to further enhance the relevant ecosystem. This will open up plenty of opportunities in Hong Kong's film sector. I sincerely invite all the film and creative professionals from around the world, including those of you here, to come to Hong Kong, and join us in creating even better quality productions that bring a positive impact to the world.

4. Before we dive in, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Zurich Film Festival for providing a prominent platform to shed a spotlight on Hong Kong's latest productions to the wider European audience. This year is the eighth year that the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin is working with the Film Festival. For those who are familiar with the Chinese culture, you would know that the number "8" is a lucky number. With this inherent blessings, I am confident that this year's festival will be a very successful one, and I sincerely look forward to many more eight years of great collaborations with the Film Festival. Meanwhile, I would also count on all of you to continue to support Hong Kong's film industry, and I hope that you would have the chance to enjoy the other three Hong Kong productions at this year's Film Festival.

5. Thank you once again for joining us tonight to discover Hong Kong and our culture through the eyes of Director Ng. Please sit back and enjoy!

– Ends –

(~ 500 words; 4 minutes)