

## **Five Flavours Asian Film Festival (12 November 2025)**

### **Speech**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. Thank you for joining the screening tonight supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin. It is our pleasure to support the Five Flavours Asian Film Festival, and this year is particularly momentous as it is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our office establishing the partnership with the Festival.

2. Movie is a powerful medium that connects people across cultures. Over the past decade, the Five Flavours Asian Film Festival has played a vital role in bringing Hong Kong's rich cinematic heritage and contemporary voices to Polish audiences. Tonight, we gather again to celebrate the transformative power of film - an art form that transcends borders, connects diverse cultures, and tells stories that resonate with people from all walks of life.

3. The festival this year presents a specially curated selection of six films spanning a wide range of genres, reflecting the creativity and diversity of Hong Kong movies. Let me introduce a few of them and start with the classics. For those who cherish Hong Kong cinema for its distinctive blend of martial arts and humour, the restored version of *Mr Vampire* by Ricky Lau is sure to delight. This legendary film, released in 1985, pioneered the kung fu comedy subgenre featuring hopping vampires, which became a cultural phenomenon in its time.

4.        *The Last Dance*, a film by Anselm Chan, is last year Hong Kong's blockbuster hit, and selected as submission for the best international feature film category at the 98th Academy Awards. The movie explores themes related to the meaning of life and death through showcasing stories happened in a Hong Kong family and discussions on the preservation of traditional funeral rituals.

5.        I would love to show this movie to you tonight but this year's selection covers a number of outstanding movies with thought-provoking reflections on society, including the film that we are going to watch tonight, *The Way We Talk* directed by Adam Wong. The film tells the story of three young deaf friends with different approaches to live their lives. The director is also invited by the festival to visit Poland later this month to meet with local audiences and share his movie journey.

6.        This evening, we also hope to immerse you in Hong Kong culture beyond the cinema screen – through the Cantonese music played and tea experience offered at the reception. It is a pleasure to share the culture and traditions of my city in such wonderful setting. So now, please enjoy the movie and thank you once again for joining us this evening. Thank you.

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