



**Visible  
Secrets**  
**Hong Kong's  
Women  
Filmmakers**

**09.10.09**

**03.11.09**

Season sponsored by:

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Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London

# A UK-first season of new films from Hong Kong's women filmmakers, including a focus on the contemporary films of award winning director Ann Hui.

From the auteur to the avant-garde, Hong Kong cinema has a strong tradition of women working behind the camera. To celebrate this, *Visible Secrets: Hong Kong's Women Filmmakers*, presents a unique season of film premieres, events and special guests.

To coincide, season curators Sarah Perks and Andy Willis have guest edited the autumn edition of *Film International* magazine, focusing on Hong Kong cinema and including an extended article on *Visible Secrets*, available from the Bookshop.

This is a Cornerhouse touring season, for details on UK tour venues and dates visit: [www.cornerhouse.org/visiblesecrets](http://www.cornerhouse.org/visiblesecrets)

Season curated by Sarah Perks,  
Programme & Engagement  
Director at Cornerhouse  
and Andy Willis, Reader in  
Film Studies at the University  
of Salford.



Image credits:  
Cover: Ming Ming.  
Opposite left: *This Darling Life*.  
Opposite right: *Claustrophobia*.

## Gala Tickets

£10.00 full/£8.00 concs. Tickets include a glass of wine or a Tsingtao beer.

## Opening Gala/ *This Darling Life* (12A) Fri 9 Oct 20:30

Dir Angie Chen/2008/80 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
*This Darling Life* centres around a series of interviews where the protagonists' relationships with their pets leads them to question their lives, loves and decisions. The film is punctuated by Chen's own conversation with her brother and exploration of their family history, the other ten segments visit a wide cross-section of society from a homeless man who lives under a bypass with his dog to a woman who single-handedly runs her own shelter with over 100 dogs.

Director introduction and post-screening Q&A with Angie Chen.

## Closing Gala/ *Claustrophobia* (PG) Tue 3 Nov 20:30

Dir Ivy Ho/2008/100 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Karena Lam, Ekin Cheng, Chucky Woo, Eric Tsang  
An intriguing retrospective narrative strategy reveals much about the relationship between two ordinary office workers Tom and Pearl (Hong Kong superstars Cheng and Lam) and the colleagues they share a ride to work with. The directorial debut of screenwriter Ivy Ho (*Comrades, A Love Story, July Rhapsody*).

Director introduction and post-screening Q&A with Ivy Ho.

## Confucius Institute Gala Screening/ *Lovers on the Road* (15) Fri 30 Oct 20:20

Dir Tsang Tsui Shan/2008/  
75 mins/Mandarin wEng ST  
Jorman Chiang, Dick So,  
Otsuka Masanobu  
*Lovers on the Road* follows Lei who, despite their rocky relationship, follows her boyfriend to Beijing for his new job. This debut feature marks out Tsang Tsui Shan as a director to watch and won Best Feature at the South Taiwan Film and Video Festival 2009.

Director introduction and post-screening Q&A with Tsang Tsui Shan.

Presented in association with the Confucius Institute at The University of Manchester.

## Floating Landscapes: New Directors

This strand showcases recent features by new and emerging directors to keep watch of, revealing the breadth, variety and vibrancy of work produced by young Hong Kong women filmmakers.

## The Floating Landscape (12A) Mon 12 Oct 20:25

Dir Carol Lai/2003/96 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Karena Lam, Ekin Cheng, Liu Ye  
After the death of her lover a young woman Mann (Lam) sets out to find the landscape her artist boyfriend had painted from a childhood memory, with the aid of the local postman Lit, played by rising mainland star Ye. The film's beauty was rewarded in a best cinematography award for Arthur Wong at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

## High Noon (CTBA)

Wed 21 Oct

13:50

Dir Heiward Mak/2008/100 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Sham Ka-kei, Anjo Leung,  
Venus Wong

*High Noon* marks the feature film debut of 24-year-old Heiward Mak and is a remarkable achievement for such a young director. The film focuses on the intertwining lives of a group of Hong Kong teenagers and their experiences of sex, violence and education.

## Wonder Women (15)

Thu 22 Oct

20:25

Dir Barbara Wong/2007/108 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST

Gigi Leung, Fiona Sit, George Lam  
Barbara Wong is an actor, writer and director with six feature films under her belt. To coincide with the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover, *Wonder Women* follows Joy (Leung) through the major events of the decade including the Asian financial crisis and SARS.

Join us in the Bar afterwards for special *Wonder Women* cocktails only £3.75 each!

## Butterfly (15)

Sat 24 Oct

17:55

Dir Yan Yan Mak/2004/124 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST

Josie Ho, Yuan Tian, Eric Kot  
Flavia is a married, thirty something teacher who feels she has to accept her life as it is until a chance meeting with an attractive young woman in a supermarket revives her memories of her earlier relationship with Jin. *Butterfly* was selected for several international film festivals and marked the arrival of a vital new voice on the Hong Kong cinema landscape.

## Anna & Anna (15)

Mon 26 Oct

18:00

Dir Aubrey Lam/2007/95 mins/  
Mandarin & Cantonese wEng ST

Karena Lam, Lu Ye, Tender Huang  
Karena Lam plays Anna, a successful business woman who moves from Singapore to Shanghai and meets someone who looks very much like her. Heavily influenced by Kieslowski's *The Double Life of Véronique*, *Anna & Anna* succeeds in finding its own voice and explores what might happen if we met another version of ourselves on a different route through life.



Image credits:  
This page: *Wonder Women*.  
Opposite page: Left: *High Noon*.  
Middle: *Secondary School*.  
Right: *Traces of a Dragon*.

## Ming Ming (15)

Wed 28 Oct

17:55

Dir Susie Au/2007/105 mins/  
Mandarin & Cantonese wEng ST  
Zhou Xun, Tony Yang, Daniel Wu  
*Ming Ming* is the debut feature from renowned commercial and music video director Susie Au. An energetic visual feast, the film follows Ming Ming (played by top mainland actress Xun) as she steals from gangster Brother Cat on her mission to find D (Hong Kong heart-throb Wu).

## This Darling Life: Documentaries

Exploring a wide range of documentaries made by women directors. See also *This Darling Life* in the *Gala Screening* section.

## Secondary School (PG)

Thu 15 Oct

18:10

Dir Tammy Cheung/2003/85 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Director Tammy Cheung, one of Hong Kong's longstanding and leading documentary filmmakers, uses a 'direct cinema' approach, in this documentary which takes a close look at the present condition of the troubled school system and the children, teachers and parents who are all part of it.



## Traces of a Dragon: Jackie Chan & His Lost Family (CTBA)

Sat 17 Oct

20:40

Dir Mabel Cheung/2003/94 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Jackie Chan, Fang Shi-De,  
Chan Yu-Lan

In the context of his mother's poor health, Jackie Chan's father decides to reveal the true story behind his family history including lost siblings, violent Nationalism, opium smuggling and the fact that Chan isn't their real family name. Not just for Jackie Chan fans (although this film will convert you!), this is also a fascinating insight into modern Chinese history and family life.

## The Decameron (15)

Sat 31 Oct

20:00

Dir Yan Yan Mak/2009/117 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
An extremely engaging documentary that unites two Hong Kong female artists – film director Yan Yan Mak and Canto-pop star Denise Ho. Together they are raising the profile of mental illness and the attitudes of society towards it; interviewing over 20 people including psychiatrists, singers, and artists who have all fought with mental illness.

Director introduction and post-screening Q&A with Yan Yan Mak.



## Visible Secret: The 21st century films of Ann Hui

We are pleased to present a very special focus on director Ann Hui, one of the most respected, well loved and internationally renowned of all of Hong Kong's women filmmakers. It is Hui's 2001 film *Visible Secret* that gives this season its title and we are proud to showcase the contemporary works of this inspirational figure, having produced an astonishing 25 films over four decades. This is a rare opportunity to gain a better understanding of Hui's unique filmmaking style.

## The Postmodern Life of My Aunt (15)

Sat 10 Oct  
16:00

Dir Ann Hui/2006/111 mins/  
Mandarin wEng ST  
Ziqin Gaowa, Chow Yun-fat,  
Zhao Wei

An old fashioned woman (Gaowa) finds the world modernising around her treasured Shanghai lifestyle. Featuring a star turn by Hong Kong megastar Chow Yun-fat, the film won best actress and best screenplay at the 2006 *Taiwan Golden Horse* awards.

## Goddess of Mercy (CTBA)

Sat 10 Oct  
18:00

Dir Ann Hui/2003/110 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Zhao Wei, Nicholas Tse

Utilising a fascinating narrative formula that shifts between the present and the past, *Goddess of Mercy* tells the story of a female police officer (Wei) involved with a handsome young drug smuggler (Tse). Walking the tightrope between commercial and art cinema, *Goddess of Mercy* is a surprisingly complex film.

## July Rhapsody (CTBA)

Wed 14 Oct  
14:20

Dir Ann Hui/2002/103 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Jackie Cheung, Karena Lam,  
Anita Mui

An honest and upstanding teacher of Chinese literature (Cheung) slowly realises he is falling for one of his students (Lam). A strong character piece including the last screen role of Anita Mui, an extremely talented actress and singer who died of cancer in 2003, aged only 40.

Curator introduction from  
Sarah Perks, *Cornerhouse*.

## The Way We Are (PG)

Sun 11 Oct  
18:20

Dir Ann Hui/2008/91 mins/  
Cantonese wEng ST  
Paw Hee-Ching, Leung Chun-lung

This quietly understated film, shot in HD, follows the life of mother and son - Mrs Cheung and Ka-On - as they get on with their lives in Hong Kong's 'City of Sadness', Tin Shui Wai. The film won Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Director and Best Screenplay at the 2009 Hong Kong Film Awards and is a companion piece to *Night and Fog*.

## Visible Secret (CTBA)

Mon 19 Oct  
20:40

Dir Ann Hui/2001/98 mins  
Eason Chan, Qi Shu,  
Anthony Wong, Sam Lee

This visually inventive combination of traditional ghost story and comedy proved something of a surprise box-office hit for Ann Hui. Taiwanese actress Qi Shu plays June, a woman whose left eye sees ghosts!

## Night and Fog (CTBA)

Fri 23 Oct  
20:20

Dir Ann Hui/2008/122 mins/  
Mandarin & Cantonese wEng ST  
Simon Yam, Zhang Jingchu,  
Jacqueline Law

Opening this year's prestigious Hong Kong International Film Festival, *Night and Fog* is an absorbing tale of a mainland Chinese woman's experiences in Hong Kong's Tin Shui Wai, or 'City of Sadness', housing complex. Following reports of her death, a number of people who had come into contact with her recollect events in her life when questioned by the police.

## Hong Kong Snapshots: Shorts & Experimental Films

Three programmes of exciting acclaimed short films curated by Teresa Kwong, director of the Hong Kong Independent Film and Video Awards (IFVA) in Hong Kong. Presented in association with IFVA and the Hong Kong Arts Centre.

## Snapshots: These Shoes Weren't Made for Walking (CTBA)

Thu 29 Oct  
18:00

The first of two programmes that deal with the cultural identity, history, family and space of postcolonial Hong Kong. *These Shoes Weren't Made for Walking* is actually directed by Paul Lee but is a personal documentary about the women in his family and a wider look at the role of women in Chinese society. Anson Mak's *Invisible Bodies (And So The Cities)* is an experimental 60-minute meditation on place across Macau, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Hangzhou.

Curator introduction from  
Teresa Kwong.

## Snapshots: Où est

la sortie? (CTBA)

Sat 31 Oct  
14:00

A programme of three films by *Visible Secrets* directors: Heiward Mak's *Lovers' Lover* is about the him and her of a relationship, *Où est la sortie?* by Tsang Tsui Shan follows a Chinese woman's life in Paris and Yan Yan Mak's *Scarlet Robe* is about a daughter's ambition to follow her performer mother into Cantonese opera.

Director introduction with  
Yan Yan Mak.

## Snapshots:

Invisible City (CTBA)

Sun 1 Nov  
Time TBC

The second of two programmes exploring the socio-cultural space of postcolonial Hong Kong including Rita Hui Nga Shu's *Invisible City*. Anson Mak's *A Wishing Well Under the Not a Big Blue Sky* explores her position as a foreigner in LA whilst her *Goodbye* remembers the iconic Central Star Ferry Pier in Hong Kong, *Still (Poon Yick-sum)* follows a women living in Hong Kong through the SARS epidemic and *The Live and Times of Ho Chung Village (Tsang Tsui Shan)* is a journey of time, change and memories.

Curator introduction from  
Teresa Kwong.

## Additional Events

### Talk/Visible Secrets

Mon 5 Oct

18:30 – 19:30

FREE, Booking required

Season curators, Sarah Perks and Andy Willis, will introduce the films from *Visible Secrets* and discuss the individual filmmakers involved.

### One Hour Intro/Ann Hui

Sun 11 Oct

16:30 – 17:30

£3.50 full/£3 concs

FREE for *Cornerhouse* Members or when you buy a ticket for any Ann Hui film.

Andy Willis, Reader in Film Studies at the University of Salford and co-curator of *Visible Secrets*, leads this introduction on to one of Hong Kong's most prolific and acclaimed auteur filmmakers, Ann Hui.

### Event/Visible Secrets in Conversation

Sat 31 Oct

11:00 – 13:00

FREE, Booking required

Short presentations by leading academics and filmmakers looking at the impact of women on the Hong Kong Film Industry post-handover, followed by an open discussion.



Image credits:  
Top: *Où est la sortie?*  
Bottom: Left: *Postmodern Life of My Aunt*. Right: *Night & Fog*.

# Visible Secrets Calendar

Mon 5	Preview talk/Visible Secrets		18:30
Fri 9	Opening Gala/This Darling Life (12A)		20:30
Sat 10	The Postmodern Life of My Aunt (15)	16:00	
	Goddess of Mercy (CTBA)		18:00
Sun 11	One Hour Intro/Ann Hui	16:30	
	The Way We Are (PG)		18:20
Mon 12	The Floating Landscape (12A)		20:25
Wed 14	Intro/July Rhapsody (CTBA)	14:20	
Thu 15	Secondary School (PG)		18:10
Sat 17	Traces of a Dragon (CTBA)		20:40
Mon 19	Visible Secret (CTBA)		20:40
Wed 21	High Noon (CTBA)	13:50	
Thu 22	Wonder Women (15)		20:25
Fri 23	Night and Fog (CTBA)		20:20
Sat 24	Butterfly (15)		17:55
Mon 26	Anna & Anna (15)		18:00
Wed 28	Ming Ming (15)		17:55
Thu 29	Snapshots: These Shoes Weren't Made for Walking (CTBA)		18:00
Fri 30	Lovers on the Road (15)		20:20
Sat 31	Event/Visible Secrets In Conversation	11:00	
	Snapshots: Où est la sortie? (CTBA)	14:00	
	The Decameron (15)		20:00
Sun 1	Snapshots: Invisible City (CTBA)	TBC	
Tue 3	Closing Gala/Claustrophobia (PG)		20:30

Explore podcasts and featured guest interviews at: [www.cornerhouse.org/visiblesecrets](http://www.cornerhouse.org/visiblesecrets)

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