

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2009 HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SPOTLIGHTS HONG KONG CINEMA**
*Hong Kong Cinema Sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic & Trade
Office*

HONOLULU, HI (October 15, 2009) – Hong Kong cinema has helped the Chinese-speaking world become a cinematic powerhouse and this year, the Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) is honored to present four outstanding examples of HONG KONG CINEMA sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, which includes the centerpiece screening of RED CLIFF by legendary Hong Kong action director John Woo.

Two other Hong Kong films having their Hawaii premieres are the kidnap thriller THE BEAST STALKER and the martial arts movie IP MAN, starring international superstar Donnie Yen. The third film in HIFF's exciting HONG KONG CINEMA lineup is, OVERHEARD, a crime drama from screenwriters-directors Alan Mak and Felix Chong, whose detective trilogy INFERNAL AFFAIRS was remade into Scorsese's THE DEPARTED.

"Hong Kong cinema is back!" proclaims Anderson Le, Director of Programming. "The films this year are an especially strong bunch, perhaps the best from Hong Kong in several years. With the migration of Hong Kong filmmakers to mainland China, it is good to see the Hong Kong industry is still alive and well, led by veteran and innovative filmmakers who capture the true urban essence of the venerable island city."

Over 170 films from 36 different countries will be featured at this year's festival. HIFF's 2009 program is being held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters from October 15–25. Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are available for \$10 or \$9 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at HIFF's box office at 650 Iwilei Road #101 across from Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters or by phone at (808) 548-5905. The film guide is available now online at www.hiff.org. For more information please visit us at www.hiff.org.

**FILM SYNOPSES: (All screening times subject to change)
(MY HIFF: Indicates Other Films Viewers Might Like)**

RED CLIFF
CENTERPIECE SCREENING
HAWAII PREMIERE

RED CLIFF opens in the year 208 A.D. -- Militaristic Prime Minister Cao Cao convinces the fickle Emperor Han that the only way to unite all of China is to declare war on the kingdoms of Xu in the West and Wu in the south. Thus began a military campaign of unprecedented scale. Left with no other hope for survival, the kingdoms of Xu and East Wu formed an unlikely alliance, as brokered by military strategist Zhuge Liang (Takeshi Kaneshiro). Increasingly aware of the monumental struggle ahead, both sides commence

for a battle that will ultimately shape the future of an entire nation. During this epic battle, two thousand ships were burned, and tens of thousands died.

John Woo's RED CLIFF is the largest production in Chinese history. With a roster of Pan-Asia's biggest stars, this immense and risky enterprise to adapt one of China's greatest stories is fully realized in a cinematic war epic that can only be fully appreciated on the silver screen. This is sponsored by Modern Luxury Hawaii and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office.

China 2008 | Mandarin w/ English subtitles | 150m

Director: John Woo

Producer: Sanping Han, Terence Chang, John Woo

Cinematographer: Yue Lu, Li Zhang

Script: John Woo, Khan Chan, Cheng Kuo, Heyu Sheng

Cast: Tony Leung, Chiu Wai, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Fengyi Zhang, Chen Chang

21-Oct 8:00 PM Dole

THE BEAST STALKER CHING YAN

Hong Kong Cinema
Hawaii Premiere

To repent for a botched raid, officer Tong Fei risks everything to rescue a little girl from a volatile kidnapper. Director Dante Lam, has made the Hong Kong action hit of the year, elegantly fusing a solid action picture with the depth of an emotional psychodrama. Building suspense with wonderfully staged action and a rhythmic atmospheric score, THE BEAST STALKER grips like a vice from the opening frames till the very end. This screening is sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office.

Hong Kong 2009 | Cantonese w/ English subtitles | 110M

Director: Dante Lam

Cast: Nicholas Tse, Nick Cheung, JingChu Zhang, Kai Chi Liu

22-Oct 9:30 PM Dole

24-Oct 10:30 PM Dole

MY HIFF: IP MAN / OVERHEARD

IP MAN

Hong Kong Cinema
Hawaii Premiere

Destined to become a classic in the martial arts genre, HIFF is proud to present IP MAN, starring international action superstar Donnie Yen. In this thrilling biopic, Yen portrays the title role of the famed Wing Chun master Ip Man, who counted Bruce Lee among his many students. With intense combat sequences by action director Sammo Hung, IP MAN is sure to entertain audiences with its powerful combination of moving drama and breathtaking action. This screening is sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office.

Hong Kong 2008 | Cantonese w/ English subtitles | 107M

Director: Yip Wai-shun

Producer: Raymond Wong

Cast: Donnie Yen, Simon Yam, Hiroyuki Ikeuchi

17-Oct 3:45 PM Dole

18-Oct 12:30 PM Dole

MY HIFF: ONG BAK 2 / REAL SHAOLIN

OVERHEARD

QIE TING FENG YUN

Hong Kong Cinema
International Premiere

In OVERHEARD, three police surveillance officers on a corporate crime-busting mission cross the ethical line, triggering disastrous consequences. Screenwriters-directors Alan Mak and Felix Chong (whose detective trilogy INFERNAL AFFAIRS was remade into Scorsese's THE DEPARTED) take the shady concept of eavesdropping, plant it in Hong Kong's wheeling-and-dealing financial sector and set in motion a tightly-coiled, character-driven, morally ambiguous parable of crime and punishment. This screening is sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office.

Hong Kong 2009 | Cantonese w/ English subtitles | 100M

Director: Felix Chong, Alan Mak

Cast: Daniel Wu, Louis Koo, Sean Lau Ching Wan, Zhang Jingchu,

19-Oct 10:00 PM Dole

20-Oct 3:45 PM Dole

MY HIFF: INVISIBLE KILLER / PRIVATE EYE

Festival Information

Established in 1981, the Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America through the medium of film. HIFF is the premier international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. For the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific features, documentaries and short films in the nation, it is a primary source. The festival has premiered such movies as ONCE WERE WARRIORS, THE PIANO, SHINE, SHALL WE DANCE, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN and CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON. Plus, DEPARTURES, a Japanese film, had its U.S. premiere at HIFF in 2008, won the HIFF Audience Award and then went on to win the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

HIFF's major sponsors include: Regal Entertainment Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, Halekulani, Hawaii Tourism Authority and The VILCEK Foundation.

The 2009 Hawaii International Film Festival will be held October 15-25. Images of the films can be downloaded at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/hiff2009images/>

[2009FallFilmImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjSudrp5ob2iwE&feat=directlink](http://picasaweb.google.com/hiff2009images/2009FallFilmImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjSudrp5ob2iwE&feat=directlink). For more information please visit our website at www.hiff.org.

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