

Filmasia - Screening of “Fly Me To The Moon”
(5 December 2024)

Speech by DBL

Dear Karla, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to the opening of the Filmasia Asian Film Festival.

2. This year is particularly momentous as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Filmasia. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin is most delighted to continue our partnership with the Festival, which has been a vital platform for showcasing some of Asia’s finest films to the Eastern European audience. I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Festival for the excellent collaboration and its enduring support for Hong Kong cinema over the years.

3. Hong Kong takes pride in its vibrant popular culture, which offers a unique window into our dynamic way of life and rich heritage. And that is why our Government places strong emphasis on promoting Hong Kong’s cultural footprint, particularly through supporting the growth and international reach of our film industry. We have, for instance, increased funding support and established a dedicated scheme to foster film collaborations between Europe and Hong Kong. We also actively encourage and facilitate the participation of Hong Kong filmmakers in international festivals like Filmasia. This not only elevates the global visibility of Hong Kong cinema, but also celebrates the exceptional creativity and talent of our filmmakers.

4. This year at Filmasia, we are proud to be presenting the outstanding works of Hong Kong female directors under the theme “Women of Asian

Cinema”, which I find both timely and inspiring. Tonight’s opening film “Fly Me To The Moon” (但願人長久) is directed by an emerging talented female director from Hong Kong, Sasha Chuk (祝紫嫣). The movie portrays the struggles of two sisters as they navigate a new life in Hong Kong after leaving their home in Hunan Province. We are thrilled to have Sasha with us tonight, who will share her stories behind the making of this remarkable film.

5. Beyond tonight’s screening, I encourage you to explore the other Hong Kong films featured at this year’s Festival. Tomorrow, Heiward Mak’s acclaimed film “Fagara” (花椒之味) will be screened, with the director herself present to engage with the audience. And on Sunday, we invite you to revisit two iconic classics by the world-renowned Wong Kar-wai, and they are “Chungking Express” (重慶森林) and “Fallen Angels“ (墮落天使), which continue to captivate audiences worldwide with their timeless artistry.

6. Thank you once again for joining us to celebrate Asian cinema and the creative voices behind it. I wish the 20th edition of Filmasia a resounding success. Please enjoy tonight and the rest of the Festival!

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