

Welcome letter from Robert Rosen

In 1984, I was swept away by the films I saw in Beijing, showcased by the China Film Association.

As one of the first American film scholars to visit and teach film in China, I had the privilege of seeing a wide range of productions that were largely unknown to the outside world. Created largely by two newly empowered generations of talented filmmakers, the narratives were boldly provocative, and the elements of style were aesthetically innovative. It was clear to me that the new Chinese cinema fully deserved to engage, entertain, and astound global audiences.

When I returned to the United States and resumed my post as the director of the UCLA Film and Television Archives, and later as Dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, I was passionately committed to doing all that I could to promote these powerful films and filmmakers as world-class cinema. Generations of new directors and new films since that time have continued to excite me.

Today, as China's cultural and economic influence grows, so too should its impact on international media culture. In pursuit of this goal and as an avid supporter of Chinese film, I am proud to be associated with the Los Angeles Chinese Film Festival. By showcasing fine films and talented directors, the festival brings today's audiences the excitement of discovery that I first found in Beijing more than three decades ago.

Enjoy!

Theyest for

Robert Rosen

Honorary President of the Advisory Board



Welcome Letter from Baifan Xie

Welcome to the 2018 Los Angeles Chinese Film Festival (LACFF)! We are excited to have you and cannot wait to share with you the amazing films at our festival this year, and to introduce you to the filmmakers and panelists we have invited this year.

2018 truly is an amazing year for us to celebrate the achievements of Chinese films and filmmakers. With Ash Is Purest White and Long Day's Journey Into Night both gone to Cannes and box office hits like Crazy Rich Asians and The Meg, one cannot be more excited about the boundless prospects and rising potential of the Chinese creative markets. At LACFF, the only film festival in Los Angeles to promote and showcase independent Chinese language and culture-focused films, we are passionate about helping usher in the next fleet of Chinese language and heritage filmmakers and creating a platform for them to find their own footing and limelight on an international stage.

Of the 255 film submissions we received this year — 42 features and 200+ shorts — LACFF truly had an international reach, attracting filmmakers and submissions from multiple regions, including China, the United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Netherlands, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Czech Republic. While it was difficult to pare down all of these fantastic submissions, we were able to hone it down to the 21 select films that comprise this year's festival.

From family dramas to sci-fi love stories, stop motion shorts to documentaries on typography in the digital age, we have curated a host of diverse and inclusive films that we cannot wait to share with you.

Thank you so much for joining us and for supporting Chinese language and heritage films and filmmakers. We could not have done any of this without your support. We hope you have a blast, and look forward to having you back.

Baifan Xie
Director of Programming







THURSDAY NOV 1ST

6:30PM - 7:15PM • **RED CARPET**

7:15PM - 7:30PM • OPENING CEREMONY

7:30PM - 10:00PM • OPENING FILM

WALKING PAST THE FUTURE Q&A

10:15PM - 12:00AM • DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

HANZI I'VE GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM

FRIDAY NOV 2ND

6:30PM - 9:45PM • SHORT FILM SHOWCASE 1

BARRY BESIEGED LIFE AS HE LIKES CUPCAKE BIRTHDAY PARTY ARCOSANTI: A STATE OF FUGUE Q&A

E. T. MADE IN CHINA

10:00PM - 11:30PM • NARRATIVE FEATURE

SATURDAY NOV 3RD

10:45AM - 12:30PM

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE 2

MISS WORLD
JIEJIE
SPECULATOR
ONE DAY IN GAOYI
THE QUINTET OF THE SUNSET
MOTHER EDEN

12:45PM - 2:05PM

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE 3 (EXPERIMENTAL)

CRY BABY AYESHA LIGHT Q&A

2:20PM - 4:20PM

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Co-Hosted by Koreans in Media & Visual Communications PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF DESIRE

Q&A

4:35PM - 7:00PM

NARRATIVE FEATURE

Co-Hosted by AWFF TRANSCENDENT Q&A

8:30PM - 11:30PM

VIP NIGHT

@ONEPIECE WORK SANTA MONICA



SUNDAY NOV 4TH

FILMMAKERS' BRUNCH 11:00AM - 1:00PM • 2:00PM - 3:10PM • **BUSINESS PANEL** Co-hosted by China Film Insider THE FUTURE OF FILM CO-PRODUCTION. FINANCING, AND DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN CHINA AND HOLLYWOOD 3:30 PM - 4:40PM **CREATIVE PANEL** Co-hosted by CAPE CROSSING OVER: CONTENT CREATION IN CHINA AND THE U.S. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM NARRATIVE FEATURE Co-hosted by AFI Fest GIRLS ALWAYS HAPPY **COCKTAIL RECEPTION** 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM • **COMMUNITY SCREENING** 7:20 PM - 8:05 PM PINING DAISY ONE SMALL STEP 0&A 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM • AWARDS CEREMONY

CLOSING FILM

LINSANITY Q&A

9:30 PM - 12:00 AM

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Monday, 10/29/2018 8:00PM - 10:00PM ARCLIGHT CULVER CITY

DYING TO SURVIVE

Co-hosted with AWFF, ASSC and COB Q&A

Saturday, 11/03/2018 **3:00PM - 5:30PM** BILLY WILDER THEATER

RIVER'S EDGE

Presented by China Onscreen Biennial in association with LACFF Q&A

Friday, 11/9/2018 **6:15PM** TCL THEATRE 6

BLOWIN' UP

Co-sponsored screening with AFI Fest

Saturday, 11/10/2018 6:30PM TCL THEATRE 6

DEAD PIGS

Co-sponsored screening with AFI Fest

Sunday, 11/11/2018 **9:15PM** TCL THEATRE 6

DEAD PIGS

Co-sponsored screening with AFI Fest

Tuesday, 11/13/2018 12:15PM TCL THEATRE 6

BLOWIN' UP

Co-sponsored screening with AFI Fest

Sunday, 11/18/2018 7:00 PM BILLY WILDER THEATER

BABY

Presented by China Onscreen Biennial in association with LACFF

JURY



Rebecca Baron

Rebecca Baron is a Los Angeles-based media artist known for her lyrical essay films which explore the construction of history, with a particular interest in still photography and its relationship to the moving image. Her works have screened widely at international film festivals and media venues including documenta 12, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the New York Film Festival, the Anthology Film Archive, the Toronto Film Festival, the London Film Festival, the Pacific Film Archive, the Flaherty Film Seminar, the Viennale, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her films have received awards at the San Francisco, Black Maria, Montreal, Leipzig, Athens, Onion City, KIN, Sinking Creek and Ann Arbor Film Festivals. She is the recipient of a 2002 Guggenheim Fellowship and a 2007 Fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She has taught documentary and experimental film at the Massachusetts College of Art. Harvard University, and since 2000, at the California Institute of the Arts.



David E. James

David E. James teaches in the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California. His teaching and research interests focus on avant-garde cinema, culture in Los Angeles, East-Asian cinema, film and music, and working-class culture. His recent books include *The Most Typical Avant-Garde: History and Geography of Minor Cinemas in Los Angeles*, and the co-edited collections, *Optic Antics: The Cinema of Ken Jacobs* and *Alternative Projections: Experimental Film in Los Angeles, 1945-1980*. His *Rock 'N' Film: Cinema's Dance With Popular Music* was published by Oxford University Press in 2016.



Gabrielle Kelly

Gabrielle Kelly is a screenwriter and producer of diverse content for the global marketplace. A Fulbright Scholar to Taiwan and the Philippines and author of the ground-breaking book *Celluloid Ceiling: Women Film Directors Breaking Through*, Gabrielle has worked in the studio and indie worlds in New York and Hollywood as a writer, producer, and executive for director Sidney Lumet, producer Robert Evans, and many others. An expert in media story labs and global film development, she has taught at UCLA, USC, NYU, and major film programs around the world and is currently on the faculty of AFI and developing coproductions and VR /digital projects with global storytellers from China to Ireland and Myanmar to Brazil.



Ruijun Li

Li Ruijun has been a rising star of China's independent cinema as a director and a screenwriter since 2006. His films *The Summer Solstice* (2007), *The Old Donkey* (2010), *Fly with the Crane* (2012), *River Road* (2014), and *Walking Past the Future* (2017) have been official selections of the 69th Venice Film Festival, the 65th Berlin International Film Festival, the 70th Cannes Film Festival and other major film festivals around the world.



Richard Liang

Richard Liang is an independent producer previously based in Beijing, and now in Los Angeles. His feature-length productions include, *The Next Life* (IDFA and GZDoc 2011) and *The Road* (IDFA 2015, Göteborg Film Festival, TIDF, Sydney Film Festival, AFI Docs, and DOC NYC 2016). Richard's productions have won Best Feature Documentary Award at the Chinese Academy of Documentary Films 2012, Best Chinese Documentary Award at TIDF 2016, and Special Mention at DOC NYC 2016. In addition to being a producer, Richard also has experience in distribution and event organizing. He previously ran a copyright agency for feature documentaries in China from 2013-2016, a monthly feature documentary screening event in China during 2013-2014, and he has been scouting Chinese films for IDFA since 2013 and was on the jury of IDFA in 2015.



Helder K. Sun

Helder K. Sun is a Los Angeles-based cinematographer and director. His short films have screened internationally at Sundance, SXSW, and The Cannes Film festivals. As a director of photographer, his credits include the Emmy Awardwinning Robot Chicken (Seasons 6 & 7), Supermansion (Season 1), episodes of The Simpsons and Adventure Time, as well as multiple commercials for Honda, Apple, Playstation, Disney XD, Target, Progressive, Denny's, Dominos, Samsung, and Amazon.



Jeff Swimmer

Jeff Swimmer is a professor of documentary at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. teaching documentary production to undergraduates and graduate students. He has also led many of Chapman's renowned international documentary programs, including "Destination: Africa" and "Sikhlens," where students travel with Professor Swimmer to countries in the developing world to create short documentaries about innovators and inspiring characters. He has produced, directed and written television documentaries for the BBC, National Geographic, PBS, Discovery, CNN, A&E, Arte (France/ Germany) and others. He is a past winner of the Dupont Award for Documentary, and his students' films have been accepted into festivals including Cannes, Telluride, and many others. They have also been finalists for the Emmys and the Student Academy Award, His 2015 textbook, Documentary Case Studies: Behind The Scenes Of The Greatest (True) Stories Ever Told is widely used in documentary production classes in the United States. He lives in Santa Monica, California with his four children and wife, Gayle Gilman, CEO of short-form digital content production company Ripple Entertainment.



Linhua Zheng

Zheng received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Oil Painting from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in 1982. He spent six years as a professional artist working with Shantou Literature & Art Association and teaches fine arts classes at Shantou University on a part-time basis. Lin moved to the United States in 1987, continuing to produce a variety of fine art paintings including human figures, seascapes, landscapes, and still-life, which have been widely sold and collected by individuals, fine art galleries, universities, and museums around the world. In the Hollywood animation film industry and overseas studios, Lin has credits on more than twenty films and television shows, serving as Art Director and Visual Development Artist. Lin is an Emmy Award winner and has received Emmy nominations on two other occasions. Linhua Zheng currently lives with his wife in Southern California.

PROGRAMMERS

SENIOR PROGRAMMERS

Sei Hong Cheng, Zhuoyun Chen, Yannan Huang, Dun Jin, Nien-Chen Lin, Tianyi Liu, Christal Segura, Mengdi Tao, Rui Yao

PROGRAMMERS

Aaron Bray, Stephen Crompton, D. Jesse Damazo, Jian Feng, Bohan Gong, Andrius Kelly, Flora Lau, Yuan Li, Desiree Moore, Juliana Sakae, Angel Teng, Xiaotong Wang, Xiwen Wang, Yuxiao Wang, Jaclyn Wu, Iyana Yee

PANELISTS

INDUSTRY PANEL



Rong Chen

Rong Chen is the Senior Vice President of the Perfect World Company and CEO of Perfect World Pictures (USA). Rong Chen ioined Perfect World (then trading on Nasdag under ticket PWRD) in 2009 as Director of Strategy and went on to become Vice President of company's Film & TV business, which became known as Perfect World Pictures (PWPIC) as it spun off from Perfect World in 2011. PWPIC is a leading entertainment company in China, engaging in the production, distribution and marketing of high quality film and television content. PWPIC produces 600-800 episodes of TV drama every year and released multiple high grossing romantic comedies such as Sophie's Revenge (starring Zhang, Ziyin and Fan, Bingbing), Love Is Not Blind and Let's Get Married. PWPIC, as one of the active marketers of foreign films in China, brought Ghost Rider 2, The Last Stand, Ender's Game, Rush, and The Divergent franchise into the China market.



Mike Gabrawy

Mike Gabrawy is the Chief Creative Officer at Arclight Films. Before coming to Arclight Films, Gabrawy was responsible for acquiring and developing the Sony PlayStation game Resident Evil for film production via his production and development position at Constantin Films. The film went on to become Sony Screen Gems' highest grossing film in 2002, and the franchise is now the second highest grossing franchis for Sony behind Spiderman. Since joining Arclight, he has produced numerous films including Bait 3D which premiered at the 2012 Venice Film Festival and went on to become the highest grossing independent film in China when it was released. Most recently Gabrawy is the producer of the highly anticipated Hotel Mumbai starring Armie Hammer and Dev Patel, as well as the true-life survival thriller Jungle starring Daniel Radcliffe. Gabrawy has maintained his position as an independent producer, executive producer, and consultant on a myriad of other projects along the way.



Randy Greenberg

Randy Greenberg is the Executive Producer of *The Meg* (2018) which was released worldwide by Warner Bros and Gravity Pictures in August 2018. It has done over \$500 million in box office revenue. Greenberg has overseen the green-lighting, marketing, and distribution of 200+ films and his strategies have produced over \$5 billion in theatrical revenues over the course of his career. He has helped negotiate and close international acquisitions for films, such as Hellboy, Gosford Park, and House of Flying Daggers. For the last decade, he has led the Greenberg Group, a global entertainment content strategy and marketing/distribution consultant company.

PANELISTS



Bennett Pozil

Bennett Pozil has been a banker for 25 years and currently serves as an Executive Vice President at East West Bank, where he leads the Corporate Banking Group. As part of his role, Pozil oversees the development of the Entertainment Lending sector in the U.S. and China. Recent film projects financed by East West Bank include John Woo's The Crossing and Chen Kaige's The Monk. Prior to joining East West Bank, Pozil served for 11 years as the Managing Director of the Los Angeles office for Natixis, the French Banking Concern. At Natixis, Pozil structured the financing of over a hundred motion pictures including Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Hero; Fearless; and Lost in Translation.



Xian Li

Xian Li currently serves as Senior Vice President, Production for SK Global Entertainment. In this capacity, she works together with domestic and international teams and is charged with enhancing and expanding the company's slate of Asia-focused, globally minded film and TV projects. This is following the great success of SK Global's co-financed and co-produced feature film Crazy Rich Asians. Prior to joining SK Global, Li had led Asia productions at Twentieth Century Fox International, where she oversaw creative development and production across Asia. She specializes in international co-productions as well as sourcing international materials for global English-language features. For her work in development and production, Li has been shepherding feature film projects with top filmmakers in Hollywood as well as from Asia. Additionally, Li also worked for Twentieth Century Fox International Theatrical, where she helped manage international marketing and distribution for over the thirty film titles from 2012 to 2015.



June Tan (Moderator)

June Tan is a bilingual entertainment attorney at Loeb & Loeb LLP and is deeply involved in the firm's Asia entertainment and media practice. As one of the few Mandarin-speaking attorneys in Hollywood, June has in-depth knowledge of cross-border transactions where she has represented industry-leading Chinese film production companies, distribution companies, digital media companies and investors in their dealings with Hollywood. She also counsels U.S.-based production companies and talent on their entertainment content licensing, financing, development, production, and distribution deals. June is also a board member of Chinese in Entertainment.

CREATIVE PANEL



Jessica Gao

Jessica Gao is a Los Angeles-based screenwriter. She was born in Beijing and raised in the San Gabriel Valley, a suburb of LA. She has written for Rick & Morty, Silicon Valley, Corporate, and Robot Chicken. She co-hosts "Whiting Wongs," a podcast about race and writing with Dan Harmon. She recently won an Emmy Award for her work on "Pickle Rick" (Rick & Morty).



Jimmy O. Yang

Jimmy O. Yang is an actor, stand-up comedian, and writer best known for his portrayal of Jian Yang on HBO's Emmy-nominated series *Silicon Valley* and his dramatic turn opposite Mark Wahlberg in the highly acclaimed film *Patriot's Day*. He can currently be seen in the hit Warner Bros. film *Crazy Rich Asians*. Born in Hong Kong, Yang moved to Los Angeles when he was thirteen, where he eventually made his television debut on the CBS series *2 Broke Girls* and his first late-night stand-up appearance on The Arsenio Hall Show, where he received a rare standing ovation. He is the author of the book *How to American: An Immigrant's Guide to Disappointing Your Parents, and lives in Los Angeles*.



Helen Shang

Helen Shang is a Los Angeles-based screenwriter. She was born in Beijing and raised in the Bay Area. She has written for season 3 of NBC's *Hannibal*, and realized her true creative home was in dark psychological dramas. She has since written on CBS's *Hawaii Five-O* and *Heart of Darkness* (Crackle), a sci-fi adaptation of the Joseph Conrad novel. She's currently writing on Netflix's series *13 Reasons Why*.

PANELISTS



Rui Yao

Rui Yao is a Chinese writer, screenwriter and director. He is an Associate Professor at Guangzhou University and currently a visiting scholar at UCLA. He has written eight scripts for film and TV, including *Lin Shi Yan Yuan* (2017) and *Angry Kid* (2013). Rui has been a fellow of the Kyoto Filmmakers Lab at the 2009 Kyoto Historica International Film Festival, the Berlinale Talent Campus at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival, and the Asian Film Academy at the 2008 Busan International Film Festival.



Rachel Song

Rachel Song is a bilingual independent film producer on Variety's "10 Producers to Watch in 2018" and founder & president of XS Media. She started her entertainment career as a producer for the renowned theatre director Tian Qinxin. Over the past few years, she has expanded her professional career with global companies such as IM Global and Kylin Pictures. She recently produced feature film A Kid Like Jake (2018) starring Jim Parsons, Claire Danes, and Octavia Spencer with That's Wonderful Productions and Burn Later Pictures. She also worked on the Sundance award-winning film Nancy (2018).



Andrew Hu

Andrew Hu is a Chinese American writer, director, and alum of the American Film Institute. He was a 2015 Humanitas Prize's David & Lynn Angell Fellowship finalist, and in 2016 he was featured by *The Black List* in their annual TV Writers Staffing Book. Internationally, Andrew has written TV and films for companies in China and Germany, and his work has screened at festivals such as the Vienna Independent Film Festival and the Miami Film Festival.

Hu is also the co-chair of Chinese in Entertainment's writers' workshop.

SPECIAL GUEST

Zheng Xu



Zheng Xu is a Chinese actor and director. Xu first found fame on the wacky TV series *Sunny Piggy* (2000) and later branched out into directing and producing. Notably, he produced, directed, co-wrote and starred in the 2012 Chinese box-office hit *Lost in Thailand*, which grossed more than \$200 million in global box office and even boosted Chinese tourism to Thailand. More recently, the movie Xu co-produced and starred in, *Dying to Survive*, gained critical acclaim, making him one of the most popular and influential contemporary film figures from China

This year, LACFF has partnered up with Asia Society, Asian World Film Festival (AWFF) and China Onscreen Biennial of UCLA to bring this fan favorite actor to Los Angeles to meet and interact with local audiences. LACFF will co-host a masterclass taught by Zheng Xu himself at the UCLA Anderson School of Business on Oct. 29th. The program is open to film majors, young industry professionals and global audiences interested in Chinese cinema. On Oct 29th, along with AWFF, LACFF will also co-host Zheng Xu's Dying to Survive, which grossed 309.9 million RMB back in China, at the ArcLight Culver City. Xu will stay after for a Q&A session after the screening, offering a rare interactive experience with the highly sought-after actor himself.



Final Draft, a Cast & Crew Company, has published Final Draft® software – the number-one selling screenwriting application in the world – for 27 years. Final Draft automatically paginates and formats your script to industry standards, allowing writers to focus on what they do best – writing scripts. Used by such industry giants as J.J. Abrams, James Cameron and Aaron Sorkin, Final Draft software is the professional's choice and the entertainment industry standard. In addition to its flagship software product, Final Draft offers the annual Big Break Contest – a screenwriting competition that launches careers, and awards over \$80,000 in cash and prizes. Final Draft also offers the Final Draft Mobile™ app for iPhone and iPad, making creativity truly portable. To learn more about Final Draft and its products and services, visit: www.finaldraft.com

OPENING & CLOSING

ACFF's Opening & Closing Screenings present two critically acclaimed films from renowned filmmakers. The opening drama, Walking Past the Future, is from well-known independent director Ruijun Li, who is also a jury member of the 2018 LACFF. The film was nominated for the Un Certain Regard Award at the Cannes Film Festival. After the awards ceremony, we will present the classic documentary Linsanity, by Evan Jackson Leong, as the closing film. Linsanity is about the life of basketball sensation Jeremy Lin. The film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in 2013.



WALKING PAST THE FUTURE | 路過未來

(Thursday, Nov 1st 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Opening screening



RUIJUN LI 李睿珺/CHINA/128MINS CAST: ZISHAN YANG 楊子姍 /FANG YIN 尹昉

A daughter of aging migrant workers copes with harsh realities, as their dreams of a better future crumble in the era of drastic change in China. With dim hopes of providing her family a home of their own, she takes part in a series of high-paid medical experiments with tragic consequences.

LINSANITY | 林來瘋

(Sunday, Nov 4th 9:30 PM - 12:00 PM

Closing screening



EVAN JACKSON LEONG/U.S./89MINS CAST: JEREMY LIN 林書豪

Linsanity started filming in 2010, while Jeremy Lin was still a relatively unknown basketball player at Harvard University and chronicles his ups and downs, culminating in a record-breaking string of games in February 2012, creating the pop culture phenomenon known as "Linsanity" -- where the world watched; where the world was watching one of the most remarkable underdog stories ever to unfold in the history of sports. Stuck in the mire of a disappointing season, the New York Knicks looked to the end of the bench and gave backup point guard Jeremy Lin one last chance before cutting him. He took full advantage, scoring more points in his first five NBA starts than any other player in the modern era, and created a legitimate public frenzy in the process. Prior to this now-legendary run, Lin had faced adversity in his career at every turn, overcoming them each time, with the help of his friends, family, and faith.

NARRATIVE FEATURES

This section presents the best narrative features from Chinese-speaking communities released from 2017 to 2018. We have selected three nominees to compete for this year's Best Narrative Feature Award.

E.T. MADE IN CHINA 1 我兒子去了外星球

© Friday, Nov 2nd, 10:00 PM - 11:30 PM



XIAOSHA ZHANG 張小鯊/CHINA/90MINS/WORLD PREMIERE

Villager Chen Ligen discovers an unidentifiable body suspected to be of extra-terrestrial origins. Chen thinks the body might be linked to the recent disappearance of his son. In an attempt to bring his son back, he decides to protect the body at all costs.

镜像人·明日青春 | TRANSCENDENT

(1) Saturday, Nov 3rd, 4:35 PM - 7:00 PM

Co-hosted with AWFF



LINZI ZHANG 張林子/CHINA/118MINS/NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Liang-hui was once an excellent race car driver, but was emotionally crippled when he witnessed his best friend Zhou Xiao-Jie die in a racing accident. In the end he turned to driving a truck as a living. The only thing that is left of his friend is a GPS device with AI called "Lee Ciri."

Interim doctor Tian Xiao-Xin takes care of a quiet and constantly beaten boxer by the name of Xiao-Sun. Xiao-Sun is quite reclusive and always losing his matches. Tian Xiao-Xin tends to his injuries gently, which touches Xiao-Sun deeply.

Years later, we arrive at the story of Xiao-Xiao, who turns out to be the son of Xiao-Sun. Birthed from both human and Transcendent origins, Xiao-Xiao has contracted a rare disease, and his only hope lies with an exile Transcendent known as Mr. 9.

GIRLS ALWAYS HAPPY | 柔情史

(L) Sunday, Nov 4th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Co-hosted with AFI Fest



MINGMING YANG 楊明明/CHINA/116MINS

Girl Always Happy portrays a single mother living with her daughter in a Beijing hutong. Using a novel perspective to look at contemporary urban life, Girls Always Happy explores the spectacle of mutual repulsion, hatred, and harm between a single mother and her daughter; and from their despair, the power of tender love. Director Yang Mingming uses this complexity to explore unique observations and expressions of female relationships.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

This section presents the best documentary features from Chinese-speaking communities released from 2017 to 2018. We have selected three nominees to compete for this year's Best Documentary Feature Award.

HANZI | 漢字

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MUMING TSAI 蔡牧民/TAIWAN/56MINS/LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Hanzi is a documentary exploring international design, visual culture, and identity through the lens of modern Chinese typography. The film explores subjects such as "How does language shape identity?" and "What role does handwriting play in the digital age?" Collaborating with filmmakers from various countries, Hanzi includes interviews from ShaoLan, creator of Chineasy; renowned font designer Kobayashi Akira from Japan; veteran Chinese font designer Sammy Or; as well as a look into the last Chinese letterpress type foundry in the world and more. Focusing on Chinese typography and keeping insights globally applicable, Hanzi encourages its audience to revisit and rethink their own culture, language, and identity.

I'VE GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM | 我有一個憂鬱的, 小問題

(h) Thursday, Nov 1st, 11:15 PM - 12:00 AM



XIMING ZHANG 張溪溟/CHINA/44MINS/LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Known for shooting nude photos of Chinese youth and his explicit representation of Chinese sexuality, Ren Hang seeks to photograph a group of nude models in the streets of Beijing. However, his shooting plan receives biased criticism and encounters problems with the law. Facing an ongoing battle with manic depression, which adds inconceivable difficulty to his already troublesome existence, he ultimately ends his young life.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF DESIRE | 虚你人生

(L) Saturday, Nov 3rd, 2:20 PM - 4:20 PM

Co-hosted by Koreans in Media and Visual Communications



HAO WU 吳皓/CHINA/95MINS

In a digital universe where live streamers earn as much as \$200K a month, can virtual relationships replace real-life human connection? People's Republic of Desire tells the stories of two such online stars who have risen from isolation to fame and fortune in China. The film takes us on a vérité journey through their live streaming showrooms, which have become virtual gathering places for hundreds of millions - from the super-rich who lavish performers with digital gifts, to poor migrant workers who worship them. The characters are brought together in a series of bizarre online idol competitions, where they discover that happiness in their virtual world may be just as elusive as in the real one.

NARRATIVE SHORTS

This section presents the best narrative shorts from Chinese-speaking communities released from 2017 to 2018. We have selected six nominees to compete for this year's Best Narrative Short Award.



BESIEGED

圍城

(L) Friday, Nov 2nd, 6:30 PM - 9:45 PM

MENGCHEN NIU 牛萌琛/U.S./28MINS

Besieged follows the lives of Yang and Victor, Chinese half-brothers who have been in competition with each other their entire lives. Yang, an aspiring actor, auditions for a prestigious film role, only to realize that his younger brother Victor, a violin prodigy, is auditioning for the same role as well. In a vicious effort to win the part, Yang stealthily sabotages his brother throughout the audition process. Unbeknownst to Yang, Victor is tired of carrying the burden of being a prodigy and longs to escape the expectations of their father and the pressure of performing. Besieged vividly depicts the darkness of jealousy threaded within sibling rivalry.



BIRTHDAY PARTY

生日宴

© Friday, Nov 2nd, 6:30 PM - 9:45 PM

THEO MA 馬小雨/CHINA/21MINS

Yang, the head of the city's Hui Gangsters, is preparing to kill Kun at his birthday party. Kun is the leader of another rival gang, fighting to occupy the area. But when Yang discusses his plans with his followers, Kun shows up at the factory unexpectedly.



CUPCAKE

杯子蛋糕

© Friday, Nov 2nd, 6:30 PM - 9:45 PM

DAWEI ZHANG 張大尉/CHINA, JAPAN & U.S./32MINS

Set in Japan, Yui, an innocent, warm, high school girl, saves her classmate Arai from several high school bullies and gives her a cupcake as a kind gesture. Arai has since developed a tormented obsession with Yui. One night, Yui discovers that Arai has a secret virtual world, which she finds herself imprisoned in, and it is up to Yui to decide which world is better for her.



JIEJIE

姊姊

© Saturday, Nov 3rd, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

FENG-I ROAN 阮鳳儀/U.S./15MINS

Embarrassed by her un-American looks, Fen betrays her younger sister on their first day at church, fueling the first unprecedented outburst since their immigration.



MISS WORLD

(1) Saturday, Nov 3rd, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

GEORGIA FU 傅惟晨/TAIWAN/20MINS

Jane, a young Taiwanese woman, comes home from the U.S. to spend time with her father before he goes to prison. On her father's last day of freedom, Jane experiences the worst day of her life, derailing her desire to connect with him. Going out into the night and looking for an escape, Jane learns she has to come to terms with her own issues before she can finally say goodbye.



MOTHER EDEN

母親的樂園

© Saturday, Nov 3rd, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

ERZHUO WANG 王爾卓/CHINA/28MINS NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Today's China has already passed the time of the Red Revolutions. Those idealistic students from the 80s have reached middle age, accepting their ordinary lives. Ms. Yao was one of them. Recently in her school, two teachers had an affair and eloped together. It reminded Ms. Yao of her own life, and many of these memories and experience come flashing back to her.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

This section presents the best documentary shorts from Chinese-speaking communities released from 2017 to 2018. We have selected four nominees to compete for this year's Best Documentary Short Award.



ARCOSANTI: A STATE OF FUGUE 亞高山地

⑤ Friday, Nov 2nd, 6:30 PM - 9:45 PM KEHUI FENG 馮可慧/CHINA/33MINS NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

A story about several residents who live in Arcosanti, an urban laboratory, looking to find a future in this prototypical city in Arizona, as they try their best to make this experimental community continue after its construction.



LIFE AS HE LIKES

從心所欲

⑤ Friday, Nov 2nd, 6:30 PM - 9:45 PM LIZHU YANG 楊驪珠/CHINA/19MINS

Yang Qiaoyuan is an old Chinese man who lives in destitution and poor conditions by his own choice, disliked by his family. His wife divorced him when they were eighty. His sons and daughters harshly and continuously criticize his lifestyle.

Every day he puts his hunched body under high pressure, working the fields and taking water from the streams; he also enjoys meditation and calligraphy. He is unwilling to talk to people, which is why he spends lots of time reading, isolated from the rest of the world. Although people can only see his unkempt appearance, his daughter will follow him to prove that under the shabbiness, there is a strong pursuit of happiness. The final letter that Yang Qiaoyuan dedicates to his granddaughter is an elegy of refined writing and skillful calligraphy, and is a pleasure for the eyes and the ears.



ONE DAY IN GAOYI

妄見

⑤ Saturday, Nov 3rd, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

JIAXUAN XIAO & MUQIU QIN 肖家瑄 & 覃牧秋/CHINA

17MINS/LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

On the village street of Gaoyi, a public announcement is posted recruiting actors for government cultural activities, and the villagers watch with great interest. However, the announcement does not disturb the rhythm of their daily lives. Everything in the village goes on as usual: the butcher slaughters the meat, the boats continue on schedule, and the villagers' lives turn out to be the most natural and real performances.



SPECULATOR 投機分子

© Saturday, Nov 3rd, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

YUNTAO DU 杜雲濤/CHINA/18MINS LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

The arrival of the Uber app in the Chinese market has changed how people travel and at the same time has created a group of speculators in this special land. Will the billions in investment help Uber dominate the Chinese market or will it simply generate generous donations from speculators in China?

EXPERIMENTAL AND ANIMATION SHORTS

This section presents the best experimental & animated shorts from Chinese-speaking communities released from 2017 to 2018. We have selected five nominees to compete for this year's Best Experimental & Animated Shorts Award.



AYESHA

⑤ Saturday, Nov 3rd, 12:45 PM - 2:05 PM YANYU DONG 董妍妤/U.S./19MINS LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Ayesha is the imaginary biography of the filmmaker's mother who, in her youth, dreamed of being a Bollywood dancer. In a lush fantasy through the heart of India, I reclaim her destiny and desires lost in another age.



BARRY 小羊貝禮

⑤ Friday, Nov 2nd, 6:30 PM - 9:45 PM ANCHI SHEN 沈安琪/U.S./4MINS

A well-educated goat with grand career aspirations goes job hunting and faces the most honest and brutal challenges reality can throw at him.



CRY BABY **小孩**

(Saturday, Nov 3rd, 12:45 PM - 2:05 PM XINER JIANG 蒋欣兒/U.S./5MINS LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Set in a surrealist world, a young woman grapples with her conflicting duties as a mother and a daughter.



LIGHT

光

⑤ Saturday, Nov 3rd, 12:45 PM - 2:05 PM TATSU AOKI 青木達幸/U.S./32MINS LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Inspired by the life of Bessie M. Lee, who after immigrating to New York City spent two years in indentured servitude. *Light* is a film in which dance, memory, music, and poetry collide in a visual and aural landscape; a meditation on women being propelled into the unknown by courage and faith to risk their lives and everything they have for freedom. In LIGHT, Aoki and Lee highlight the lives of women, including Bessie M. Lee who through their resilience and triumph over unimaginable experiences, were grounding forces in the creation of the New York Chinatown community in the early 1900s. In memory of Bessie M. Lee (1894 - 1955)



THE QUINTET OF THE SUNSET **日暮之**隙

Saturday, Nov 3rd, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM
 JIE WENG 翁劼/CHINA/7MINS/WORLD PREMIERE

Our relationships with animals reflect our own expectations: how we want to be treated, respected, and how we relate to those who exist outside of our own experiences. Told from a cat's perspective, this film looks at the evolution and changes in a woman's life, as each of her cats stays true to its own instincts and personality, yet loves and cares for her. As she dies, their hearts beat as one as they all stand by her side.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BUSINESS PANEL:

THE FUTURE OF FILM CO-PRODUCTION, FINANCING, AND DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN CHINA AND HOLLYWOOD

The success of The Mea (2018) has proven the vitality of US-China co-productions. What does this box office hit that appeals to both Chinese and U.S. markets implicate for future co-production? How do we view the roles of the Hollywood and Chinese players in their dealings with each other in the film and broader entertainment space? How is the current industry development changing the landscape of production, financing and distribution of international films?

Sun, Nov. 4th 2:00 PM - 3:10 PM

Co-hosted by China Film Insider

JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE, Platinum Room 900 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Moderator: June Tan - Entertainment Attorney at Loeb&Loeb LLP

- Panelists: Rong Chen Senior Vice President of Perfect World, CEO of Perfect World Pictures (USA)
 - Mike Gabrawy Chief Creative Officer of Arclight Films
 - Randy Greenberg Executive Producer of The Meg
 - Bennett Pozil Executive Vice President of East West Bank
 - Xian Li Senior Senior Vice President, Production of SK Global Entertainment

CREATIVE PANEL:

CROSSING OVER: CONTENT CREATION IN CHINA AND THE U.S.

American shows and films have been popular with Chinese audiences for many years. Recently, since Netflix's purchase of the overseas rights to Day and Night (2017) and The Rise of Phoenixes (2018), an increasing number of Chinese shows and films have come to the attention of U.S. audiences. What are the differences in the process of content creation between Chinese and American screenwriters? What inspires them to tell their stories in these media? What challenges are they facing in creating their stories?

() Sun, Nov. 4th, 3:30PM - 4:40PM

Co-hosted by CAPE

 JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE, Platinum Room 900 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Moderator: Andrew Hu - American writer, director

- Panelists: Jessica Gao Writer and winner of 2018 Primetime Emmy Awards for Rick and Morty
 - Jimmy O. Yang Actor, Silicon Valley and Crazy Rich Asian
 - Helen Shang Writer, 13 Reasons Why, Hannibal & Hawaii Five-0
 - Rachel Song Founder & CEO of XS Media, Variety's 10 Producers to Watch for in 2018
 - Rui Yao Professor and Writer of Lin Shi Yan Yuan and Anary Kid

VIP NIGHT

ONEPIECE WORK

631 Wilshire Blvd 3rd floor, Santa Monica, CA 90401

This evening event provides access to a network of award-winning filmmakers, industry professionals, and film scholars from all around the world to celebrate and discuss Chinese language and heritage films over a light dinner. LACFF focuses on listening to unique voices and innovative thoughts, and bringing together creators in that spirit.

COMMUNITY SCREENING

Each year, LACFF presents distinguished works from our partner film festivals at our Community Screening. This year, we will showcase several award winning animations from student creators to well-established animation filmmakers. Tickets are free and open for reservation online. See our Ticket Information for more details.



PINING

⑤ Sunday, Nov 4th, 7:20 PM - 8:05 PM CAIBEI CAI 蔡採貝/U.S./2MINS15SECS DC Chinese Film Festival Best Animation Short

Pining uses itchiness as a metaphor to describe the unobtainable feeling that you get when you can't reach a person.



DAISY

⑤ Sunday, Nov 4th, 7:20 PM - 8:05 PM YUYU 余聿/U.S./8MINS

Student Academy Awards Animation, Domestic Film Schools, Sliver

Daisy is a young girl who is being looked after by Ben, a caring robot, during wartimes. After a bomb attack, Daisy vanishes. This begins Ben's search for her.



ONE SMALL STEP

© Sunday, Nov 4th, 7:20 PM - 8:05 PM ANDREW CHESWORTH & BOBBY PONTILLAS/ U.S./8MINS

Canberra Short Film Festival - Best Animation Short

Luna is a vibrant young Chinese American girl who dreams of becoming an astronaut. From the day she witnesses a rocket launching into space on TV, Luna is driven to reach for the stars. In the big city, Luna lives with her loving father Chu, who supports her with a humble shoe repair business he runs out of his garage. As Luna grows up, she enters college, facing adversity of all kinds in pursuit of her dreams.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

DYING TO SURVIVE | 我不是藥神

Monday, Oct 29th, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM◆ ARCLIGHT CULVER CITY

Co-hosted with AWFF, ASSC and COB



MUYE WEN 文牧野/CHINA/117MINS CAST: ZHENG XU 徐崢/CHUANJUN WANG 王傅君/YIWEI ZHOU 周一圍/ZHUO TAN 譚卓

A story on how a small drug store owner became the exclusive selling agent of a cheap Indian generic drug treating chronic granulocytic leukemia in China.

RIVER'S EDGE | 父子情

Saturday, Nov 3rd, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM◆ BILLY WILDER THEATRE





CHAO WANG 王超/CHINA/96MINS CAST: WAKE LI 李娃克/ZIQI YI 易子琦/SHUHUI ZHANG 張書會

In director Wang Chao's meditative drama, whose spell lingers long after its last frame fades to black, a wealthy Beijing businessman travels to a poor, remote village to search for the body of his son who has died in a river-boat accident. By the film's end the wealthy out-of-towner has turned accidental witness to a rural China that while placid on the surface is in fact roiled by powerful socioeconomic currents from afar.

DEAD PIGS | 海上浮城

Saturday, Nov 10th, 6:30 PM TCL THEATRE 6 Sunday, Nov 11th, 9:15 PM TCL THEATRE 6

Co-hosted with AFI Fest



CATHY YAN 閻羽茜/CHINA/130MINS CAST: VIVIAN WU 鄔君梅/MASON LEE 李淳/MENG LI 李夢

Five lives collide in Cathy Yan's quirky and comic debut — a bumbling pig farmer, a salon owner battling gentrification, an American expat looking for the Chinese dream, a romantic waiter and a spoiled rich girl. DEAD PIGS sharply examines a contrasting China, where modern culture clashes with the traditional.

COB CLOSING NIGHT

BABY | 寶貝兒

⊕ Sunday, November 18th 7:00 PM● BILLY WILDER THEATER





LIU JIE 劉傑/CHINA/96MINS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: HOU HSIAO-HSIEN 侯孝賢 CAST: YANG MI 楊冪/JINGFEI GUO 郭京飛/HONG-CHI LEE 李鴻其

Rising Chinese star Yang Mi gives the performance of a lifetime in this gripping social drama about a young woman Meng who kidnaps a newborn to save it. As played by Yang, Meng is by turns vulnerable and an indomitable force, going up against friends, family and the cops, her every act of transgress posing the question, "Does one who gives life have the right to take that life away?" Executive produced by Hou Hsiao-hsien, Baby world premiered at the recent Toronto and San Sebastian film festivals to wide praise. Variety called it "[d]evastating yet brimming with tender compassion."

SPECIAL EVENTS

BLOWIN' UP

Friday, Nov 9th, 6:15 PM TCL THEATRE 6 Tuesday, Nov 13th 2:15PM TCL THEATRE 6

Co-hosted with AFI Fest



STEPHANIE WANG-BREAL/U.S./97MINS

Blowin' Up is an intimate portrait of a New York criminal court and the rebel heroines working to change the way women charged with prostitution are prosecuted. Stephanie Wang-Breal's essential and fascinating documentary reveals the complex hurdles sex workers must face, and the steadfast efforts of those helping to change their lives.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Come mingle and network with our filmmakers, special guests, and audience members before the closing night. This event is open to the public, and will be held at the Downtown Independent Theater. You will be able to purchase an LACFF Signature Cocktail at the bar.

AWARD CEREMONY

The last event of the 2018 Los Angeles Chinese Film Festival will reveal the winners of all the competition categories, as well as special programming awards. Please join us to celebrate the spirit of Chinese independent film!

SPONSORSHIP

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WED WED. **WED**

SPONSORSHIP



XS Media was founded in early 2017 by bilingual independent film producer Rachel Song. As an independent, youthful, brand based in Los Angeles and Beijing, XS Media is committed to producing outstanding content for millennial audiences. We work with talented young filmmakers in China, the United States, Britain, Europe, and around the world to craft creative and innovative content that captures the zeitgeist of our times. XS Media focuses on high-quality independent films and episodic series that possess both international film festival winning-potential and multi-platform profitability.

We are eager to discover and produce great, genre-bending stories with low-to-medium budgets, controllable risk, and word-of-mouth potential. (e.g. A KID LIKE JAKE, Official Selection at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival; NANCY, winner of Sundance's 2018 Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award)

In project development, we bravely embrace the most sincere human feelings and experiences in contemporary society and seek out leading genre integration and creative concepts. (e.g. SUMMER KNIGHT, STRANGE STORIES, BEEFEATERS, THE LEFTOVERS) International Co-Productions

We have feature-producing experience in both China and the United States. For instance, our 2018 Sundance film festival nominated our film "A Kid Like Jake" Sundance award-winning "Nancy," and the film "Summer Knight", which was shot in Chengdu, China. We provide full process services such as a Chinese-American bilingual production team and multinational communication. Our experienced production team and our excellent financial and legal systems in both China and U.S ensure the high quality of all projects. We provide legal, and financial consulting, location scouting, casting, talent connection, crew employment, translators, equipment, shooting permits, insurance, logistics, multinational finance, third-party payment, completion bonds and other services.

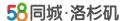
Hollywood Writer's Room

The most valuable lesson the XS creative team has learned from Hollywood is the "Writers' Room," which is the key to great content and something countless compelling films and TV shows benefit from. Our internal creative writing team and diverse independent screenwriters compose our "Writers' Room" for different projects, assisting in various projects and controlling the core direction of the script so as to create original works with a unique "XS" style.

PARTNERSHIP

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The Los Angeles Post

MARKETING PARTNERS













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TICKET INFORMATION

HOW TO BUY

For all ticket information, please checkour official website at www.lacff.org

You can also purchase the tickets through Eventbrite at lacff2018 eventbrite.com

Or festival passes at lacff2018vip.eventbrite.com

TICKET POLICY

Tickets are valid for the 2018 Los Angeles Chinese Film Festival at the Downtown Independent Theater. You will be able to redeem the tickets for particular events and/or screenings 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time, pending available seating.

LACFF offers a refund on tickets returned 24 hours before the listed show-time and/or event-time, and as long as they are unused.

Details vary based on different ticketing types. For more information, please refer to "Tickets Description" while purchasing tickets through Eventbrite.com or other LACFF authorized channels.

TICKET BUNDLE

All Access Festival Pass

\$150, Includes All LACFF-Exclusive Screenings, Events and Awards Ceremony

Socialite Pass

\$85, Opening & Closing Films, VIP Party, Panels A & B, Opening & Award Ceremonies

Opening Night Pass (Thursday)

\$23, Opening Ceremony, Opening Film, Documentary Feature 1

Friday All-Day Pass

\$20, Short Film Showcase 1, Narrative Feature 1

Saturday All-Day Pass

\$70, Short Film Showcase 2 & 3, Documentary Feature 2, Narrative Feature 2, VIP Party

Sunday All-Day Pass

\$60, Business Panel (Panel A), Creative Panel (Panel B), Narrative Feature 3, Community Screening, Cocktail Hour, Award Ceremony, Closing Film

Panel Pass

\$35, Business Panel, Creative Panel

INFO

THEATRE & VENUES

DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT 251 S Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

ONEPIECE WORK 631 Wilshire Blvd 3rd floor, Santa Monica, CA 90401

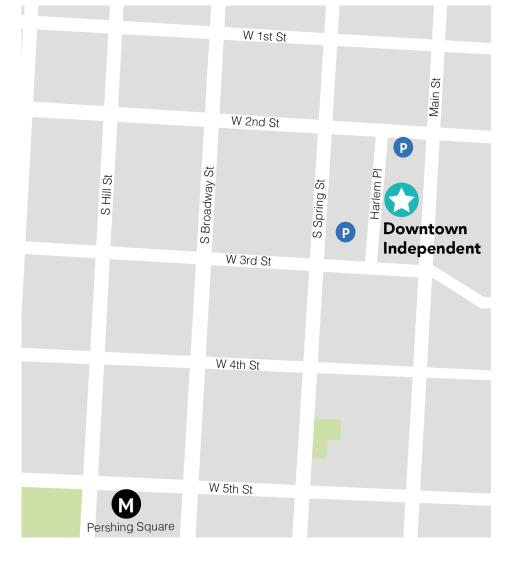
JW MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES L.A. LIVE, PLATINUM ROOM 900 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015

PARKING

Pay parking lots are available in Downtown LA. There is a lot behind the theater at 233 S Main St (enter on Spring Street or Harlem Place). Limited street parking is also available after 6pm.

Joe's Auto Park #220 233 S Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 629-3263

Paragon Parking 340 S Spring St, Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213) 689-4818





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THANK YOU

Dear Film Lovers,

Thank you for being part of the LACFF 2018 family! We want to express our sincerest gratitude for your love and support of Chinese language and heritage films and independent filmmakers. We are here because of you, and could not have done any of this without your contributions, passion, and enthusiasm! We hope you have a fantastic time and enjoy the films. See you next year!



www.chineseinentertainment.org

Chinese in Entertainment (CIE) is a Los Angeles based 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that supports and promotes Chinese talent and culture in the United States. Our members are mostly young professionals working in entertainment, media and the arts.

Chinese in Entertainment hosts the annual Los Angeles Chinese Film Festival, the monthly Los Angeles China Mixer and the monthly Writers' Workshop. In addition, Chinese in Entertainment has also launched its own digital media site Sino-Screen, which publishes original stories of Chinese talent on screen around the world. To learn more about Chinese in Entertainment and Sino-Screen, please go to our website chineseinentertainment.org or sino-screen.com.

