**Appendix 1: Programme Details**

|  |
| --- |
| **Cries and Whispers: Film Retrospective of Lee Isaac Chung** |
| **Opening Film: *Minari***  29.07 (Fri) 7:45 PM  **\*Director Lee Isaac Chung will attend the virtual after-screening talk.**  Director: Lee Isaac Chung  Cast: Steven Yeun, Yeri Han, Alan Kim, Noel Kate Cho, Youn Yuh-jung, Will Patton  **Best Supporting Actress, Academy Awards 2021**  **Best Supporting Actress, British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2021**  **Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award for U.S. Dramatic Competition, Sundance Film Festival 2021**  USA | 2020 | 115 mins | DCP | Colour | In Korean and English with Chinese and English subtitles  *“Minari is truly the best. It grows anywhere, like weeds. So anyone can pick and eat it. Rich or poor, anyone can enjoy it and be healthy.”*  A tender and sweeping story about what roots us, *Minari* follows a Korean-American family that moves to a tiny Arkansas farm in search of their own American Dream in the 1980s. The family home changes completely with the arrival of their sly, foul-mouthed, but incredibly loving grandmother. Amidst the instability and challenges of this new life in the rugged Ozarks, the film shows the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home.  *Minari* is a semi-autobiographical take on the upbringing of Lee Isaac Chung. Many critics declared it one of the best films of 2020. The director has cited Fyodor Dostoevsky and Willa Cather as inspirations when he wrote the story. In Chung’s words, the film is about “a family trying to learn how to speak a language of its own. It goes deeper than any American language and any foreign language. It’s a language of the heart.”  ***Lucky Life***  30.07 (Sat) 7:45 PM  **\*Co-writer and producer Mr Samuel Gray Anderson will attend the virtual after-screening talk.**  Director: Lee Isaac Chung  Cast: Daniel O’Keefe, Megan McKenna, Kenyon Adams  **Nominated for Best Narrative Feature, World Narrative Competition, Tribeca Film Festival 2010**  **Nominated for Grand Prix, Bratislava International Film Festival 2010**  USA | 2010 | 97 mins | Digital | Colour | In English with English subtitles  *“Dear waves, what will you do for me this year?*  *Will you drown out my scream?”*  A beach trip from the past lingers in Mark and Karen’s minds as they prepare for the arrival of their newborn. One year, the ritual of a seaside vacation shared by a group of friends becomes a farewell for Jason, who is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Steeped in tenderness and affection, the friends continue their laughter and camaraderie in even the most quotidian activities, and conceal their grief to face the last days of Jason. As memory plays back, the couple embraces another phase of life.    Lee Isaac Chung’s contemplative, understated second feature on companionship, memory, life, and loss is inspired by the poetry of Gerald Stern, whose work lends the film its title. With much of the dialogue absent from the film’s outline, the actors improvise in the scene. The film has been shot in natural light without a storyboard, and Chung describes this spontaneous journey of filmmaking to seem like “an exercise of faith”. Eric Kohn of *IndieWire* praises the director for “his uncanny ability to elevate seemingly minor exchanges to a place of deeper significance”.  ***I Have Seen My Last Born***  31.07 (Sun) 7:45 PM  **\*Co-director Mr Samuel Gray Anderson will attend the virtual after-screening talk.**  Directors: Lee Isaac Chung, Samuel Gray Anderson  Cast: John Kwezi  **Nominated for Best Documentary Feature, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2015**  Rwanda, USA | 2015 | 79 mins | Digital | Colour | In Kinyarwanda with English subtitles  *“I thought about what it means to be a true human, and that’s what I chose to be.”*  Lee Isaac Chung and his frequent collaborator, Samuel Gray Anderson, return to Rwanda to co-direct a documentary on 39-year-old Jean Kwezi, who was marked profoundly as a young adult by the 1994 genocide: separated from his family, only re-uniting with them years later, long after they had assumed him dead. The dramatic events of Jean's reunion with his parents and, much later, the daughter that he once abandoned, have already taken place; but his deep emotions remain present. Each moment echoes the continuing power of these events and the vitality with which Jean has emerged from a dark past to live with a new purpose. What is he? How to be a Rwandan? What is Rwanda?  Chung’s only documentary continues to demonstrate the co-directors’ strengths as keen observers – respectful, unassuming and thoughtful*. I Have Seen My Last Born* is a powerful companion to *Munyurangabo*.  ***Abigail Harm***  05.08 (Fri) 8:00 PM  **\*Ms Amanda Plummer (lead actress) and Mr Eugene Suen (producer) will attend the virtual after-screening talk.**  Director: Lee Isaac Chung  Cast: Amanda Plummer, Tetsuo Kuramochi, Will Patton  **Grand Jury Prize for Best Narrative Feature and Special Jury Prize for Best Director, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2013**  USA | 2013 | 80 mins | Digital | Colour | In English with English subtitles  *“It has nothing to do with love.”*  Abigail Harm reads books to the blind and lives at the edge of the city, where no one can see her. "You have no idea how it would be if one day you were the only person left in the city,” Abigail whispers to herself. She keeps her eyes turned away, but secretly she watches, listens, and hopes. She remembers an old story about a woodcutter who saves the life of a deer and is granted a wish. The woodcutter wishes for a companion. Before long, this tale seems to come alive as a mysterious man appears in Abigail’s world, and she falls in love with him.    Lee Isaac Chung’s daringly original take of the Korean folktale *The Woodcutter and the Nymph* exudes the air of a surreal urban fairy tale. Multiple Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress, Amanda Plummer, plays the titular heroine. She has starred in numerous films and TV series including Quentin Tarantino’s *Pulp Fiction* as the unforgettable Honey Bunny, and Terry Gilliam’s *The Fisher King*. Violet Lucca of the *Village Voice* praises Plummer’s arresting and emotive performance, which “exudes more emotion in a wistful sideways glance than most actresses do over their entire careers.”  ***Munyurangabo***  06.08 (Sat) 7:45 PM  **\*Masterclass on Film Directing with Lee Isaac Chung will take place right after the screening.**  Director: Lee Isaac Chung  Cast: Cast: Jeff Rutagengwa, Eric Ndorunkundiye  **Grand Jury Prize, AFI Fest 2007**  **Best First Film, Mexico City International Contemporary Film Festival 2008**  Rwanda, USA | 2007 | 97 mins | Digital | Colour | In Kinyarwanda with English subtitles  *“What is your battle?”*  Munyurangabo is orphaned by the Rwandan Genocide and is eager to seek justice for his Tutsi parents. After stealing a machete from a market in Kigali, he and his Hutu friend, Sangwa, leave the Rwandan capital and return to their impoverished village, where Sangwa gets loving care from his family, and Munyurangabo is met with hostility from the family. “Hutus and Tutsis are supposed to be enemies,” Sangwa’s parents balk at this friendship. As the two adolescents confront and reconcile their differences, they also learn to survive the aftermath of the Rwandan Civil War.    This debut of Lee Isaac Chung is also the first narrative feature in the Kinyarwanda language. It started as a project to allow genocide orphans, returned refugees, the undereducated, and those barely making a living who were not film professionals to become Munyurangabo’s cast and crew. In the words of Chung, “[T]his is a film that focuses on memory, a collective one, and it was a quest to discover spiritual elements within memory.” American critic Roger Ebert calls it "in every frame a beautiful and powerful film - a masterpiece."  **Masterclass on Film Directing with Lee Isaac Chung**  **\*Starts right after the screening of *Munyurangabo* in the Louis Koo Cinema, Hong Kong Arts Centre**  Guest: Lee Isaac Chung (Director)  Moderator: Maggie Lee (Film Critic and Curator)  \*Chung and Lee will join the masterclass virtually.  After a screening of his debut feature *Munyurangabo* (festival participation includes Cannes, Berlin, Toronto and Rotterdam), Lee Isaac Chung will share his journey of filmmaking with the audience - from starting his career as an independent filmmaker to receiving popular international recognition. Chung has been persistent in his art with an authentic vision and determined efforts. His is more than a story of success, but of a film artist who is brave, sincere and faithful to his medium and his viewers. |