

FAR EAST
FILM
FESTIVAL
21

26 April/4 May 2019 – Udine – Teatro Nuovo and Visionario

FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 21

JEON DO-YEON WILL BE THE QUEEN OF OPENING NIGHT

**From the 26th of April to the 4th of May,
a lineup of 77 films (52 in competition)
from 13 countries and regions.**

Press release for the 25th of April 2019
For immediate release

UDINE – A lineup of 77 titles (52 of which in competition) from 13 countries and regions, a retrospective, a monograph, a tribute to the new independent Korean cinema, the world premiere of a restored classic and more than 100 themed events in the heart of the city. For the twenty-first time, here is Europe's largest popular Asian cinema event: the Far East Film Festival of Udine.

On Friday the 26th of April the spotlights will be turned on with the world festival premiere of powerful Korean drama *Birthday* and the Italian premiere of HK super action thriller *Bodies at Rest*. Accompanying *Birthday* to the stage will be its director, Lee Jong-un, and its extraordinary protagonist: Jeon Do-yeon, the biggest female star in Asian cinema today. Crowned Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival for *Secret Sunshine*, the queen will also be crowned in Udine with the Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement award, taking her place in the hall of fame

alongside giants of Asian cinema like Jackie Chan, Joe Hisaishi, Brigitte Lin and Johnnie To.

And on the subject of giants of Asian cinema, two other guests of honour will also be receiving the **Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement award**: mister **Anthony Wong**, a Hong Kong living legend (who is coming back to Udine exactly twenty years after he was a guest of the very first FFFF!) and wonderful Chinese activist-diva **Yao Chen** who, with her 80 million followers on social media, *Time Magazine* has listed as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. And **until Saturday the 4th of May**, the world is going to be in Udine's "**Giovanni da Udine**" **Teatro Nuovo**.

Films of today and films of tomorrow - movies that speak the language of current events, starting with the 14 first films included in the line-up (which are competing for the **White Mulberry** award and will be submitted to the scrutiny of three jurors: **Giovanna Fulvi**, programmer of the Toronto Film Festival, **Freddy Bozzo**, historical founder of the BIFFF – the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival, and **Mattie Do**, the first and only female director from Laos). Films which sometimes examine the same theme from completely different perspectives, like the three wonderful studies of old age **Only The Cat Knows**, **Romang** and **Heaven's Waiting**: one Japanese, one Korean, and one Filipino. **How does the perception of reality change from country to country?**

A fascinating "spot the difference" that doesn't end there, nor even with **Intimate Strangers**, the long awaited Korean remake of Italian comedy **Perfetti Sconosciuti**. In fact, **FEFF 21** has gone so far as to create a special segment for it: **The Odd Couples**, curated by Mr. **Roger Garcia**. Two pairs of **cinematographic twins** where **the East faces off against its western "double" and vice versa** (*My Name Ain't Suzie/The World of Suzie Wong* and *City On Fire /Reservoir Dogs*).

Another special segment is **100 Years of Korean Cinema: I Choose Evil - Lawbreakers Under the Military Dictatorship**. A retrospective (8 films) and a monograph developed by the **FEFF 21** with the support of the **KOFIC (Korean Film Council)** and the collaboration of the **KOFA (Korean Film Archive)** which examines concepts of "freedom" and "censorship" to celebrate **the centenary of Korean cinema**.

A unique and strategic observation point over Asia, the **Far East Film Festival** is a true "island of cinema" where - with **3** world premieres, **12** international premieres and **18** European premieres - we don't just **celebrate** film but we also **look to its future**: this year, **15 projects** have been chosen for **Focus Asia**, the Festival's marketplace, and **10** for its Asia/Europe

workshop **Ties That Bind**. Over **200 industry professionals** from **36 countries** are expected in Udine, and there'll be an important innovation: **Co-Production Day**. Scheduled for the **1st of May**, this grand **round-table** will bring together European and Asian filmmakers and producers to analyse and develop the 2018 Italy/China co-production agreement.

So all that's left to say is... dim the theatre lights, it's time for FEFF 21!

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