

MACAO  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL &  
AWARDS

## I Int'l Film Festival Reaching out

The official IFFAM ambassadors this year include acclaimed directors Johnnie To, Ann Hui, Choi Dong Hoon and Clemens Klopfenstein.

The 2016 Talent Ambassador is Korean actor Jang Keun Suk, whose entertainment career spans more than 20 years.

The IFFAM committee has organized a number of activities leading up to, and in tandem with, the festival, which are aimed at reaching out to the community and fostering creative and cultural exchanges.

The Macao Short Film Competition aims to foster short film development by promising local talent, while the BFI Film Academy Project - held in partnership with the British Film Institute - is a week-long workshop for 12 of Macau's most promising young filmmakers, who will work with industry professionals to develop a short film for screening at IFFAM and BFI's Future Film Festival 2017.

For the **CINEFANTASY International Short Film Screenwriting Competition**, five short-listed finalists will present their scripts to a jury on December 10 at the Macao Cultural Centre, with the final award ceremony scheduled for December 13 at the MGM Grand. For the **Creative Tee Contest**, Taiwan's Jack Lo On Choi bagged the gold prize and had his design used as the IFFAM staff uniform.

The Industry Hub is the Asia-Pacific region's newest platform for film industry professionals to exchange ideas and forge new business relationships.

IFFAM also organized a **Trophy Design Contest** for the Macao Audience Choice Award. The winning submission will be presented to one of the 12 competition films selected by local audiences at the IFFAM closing ceremony.

### SHOWING TODAY

The Competing Films II  
The Shorts' Competition  
The Industry Hub  
The Trophy

# And the Award goes to TH

Twelve feature films of a variety of topics and origins are in competition for the top IFFAM Award. They will be shown in Macau venues - from December 9 to 12 - as Asian or international premieres. In this second supplement, MDT presents the remaining six competing movies



## Saint George / São Jorge

Portuguese-French production *Saint George (São Jorge)* stars Nuno Lopes as Jorge, a debt-ridden former boxer on the verge of losing his young son and Brazilian wife. As one of many Portuguese nationals unable to repay their debts when Europe embarks on economic restructuring (troika), Jorge reluctantly accepts a job with a collection agency, and is quickly embroiled in a world of violence and crime. *Saint George* has had film festival releases in Portugal, Italy and the U.S., and will have its Asian premiere at IFFAM.

Lisbon-born director Marco Martins is best known for his 2005 film *Alice*, which premiered at Cannes that year and won Best Picture at the Directors' Fortnight, and was longlisted for the Academy Awards' Foreign Language Film prize. His short film the following year was a contender at the 63rd Venice International Film Festival.

Portuguese actor Nuno Lopes headlines the cast, having previously worked with Martins on *Alice*. He won Best Actor at the Festival de Cinema Luso-Brasileiro and the Shooting Star award at the Berlin International Film Festival for his performance.



## Sisterhood

Performed in both Cantonese and Mandarin, home-grown film *Sisterhood* tells the story of two Macau masseuses, Seiya and Kay, living under the Portuguese administration. On the eve of Macau's handover to China, the girls fight and part ways: Seiya moves to Taiwan while Kay stays in Macau with her infant son. Years later, Seiya - now 40 - returns to Macau to meet Kay's son, and discovers its transformation into a neon metropolis.

Director Tracy Choi approaches *Sisterhood* through a lens of nostalgia for Macau's pre-casino days. A film graduate from Taiwan's University of Shih Hsin, her documentary *I'm Here* won the Jury Award at the Macao International Film and Video Festival. That same year, she was invited to join various festivals in Asia, as well as the Paris International Lesbian and Feminist Film Festival in France.

Gigi Leung is a Hong Kong Cantopop singer and actress. She has starred in more than 20 movies opposite veteran actors from Hong Kong and mainland China.



## Survival Family / Sabaibaru Famiri

Japanese film *Survival Family* imagines the trials and tribulations of the Suzukis, a typical nuclear family unit, in a world without electricity. Written and directed by Shinobu Yaguchi (*Waterboys*, 2001), the film aims to capture the zeitgeist of the 21st century.

Kanagawa-born Yaguchi won Best Screenplay at the 2005 Yokohama Film Festival for his film *Swing Girls*. He has directed 13 films to date, with various screenwriting and cinematography credits. Lead actor Fumiyo Kohinata hails from Hokkaido, and has starred in almost 40 films and nearly 30 television series.



# THE COMPETING FILMS II



## The Winter / El Invierno

Argentinean-French production *The Winter (El Invierno)* is set in Patagonia and performed entirely in Spanish. It depicts an elderly ranch foreman forced into retirement when a younger man arrives in town with his wife and children. When the oncoming winter threatens to cut the region off from the rest of the world, both men must fight for survival.

Argentinean director Emiliano Torres has 23 credits as an assistant director and four as a writer. *The Winter* is his directorial debut. Lead actor Alejandro Sieveking is a Chilean playwright, theatre director and actor.



## Trespass Against Us

U.K. film *Trespass Against Us* - premiering in Asia at the inaugural IFFAM - focuses on three generations of the Cutler crime family, who live as outlaws in the wealthy neighbourhoods of the Gloucestershire countryside. When the family patriarch organizes the burglary of a stately English country home, his son is faced with a dilemma: should he do as his father bids or strike out alone?

English director Adam Smith has worked in television dramas, documentaries and music videos. He has directed episodes of numerous BBC series and collaborated with artists such as The Chemical Brothers as creative director. He has also made commercials for Nike, The National Lottery and the Children's Society. *Trespass Against Us* is his feature film debut.

The film stars Michael Fassbender and Brendan Gleeson. Fassbender is an Irish-German actor of stage and screen who has starred in blockbusters such as *X-Men*, *12 Years A Slave*, *The Counselor* and *Steve Jobs*, among many others. Gleeson, who plays the father of Fassbender's character, is a veteran Irish actor whose best-known performances include supporting roles in *Braveheart*, *Gangs of New York*, *28 Days Later* and a diverse array of independent films.

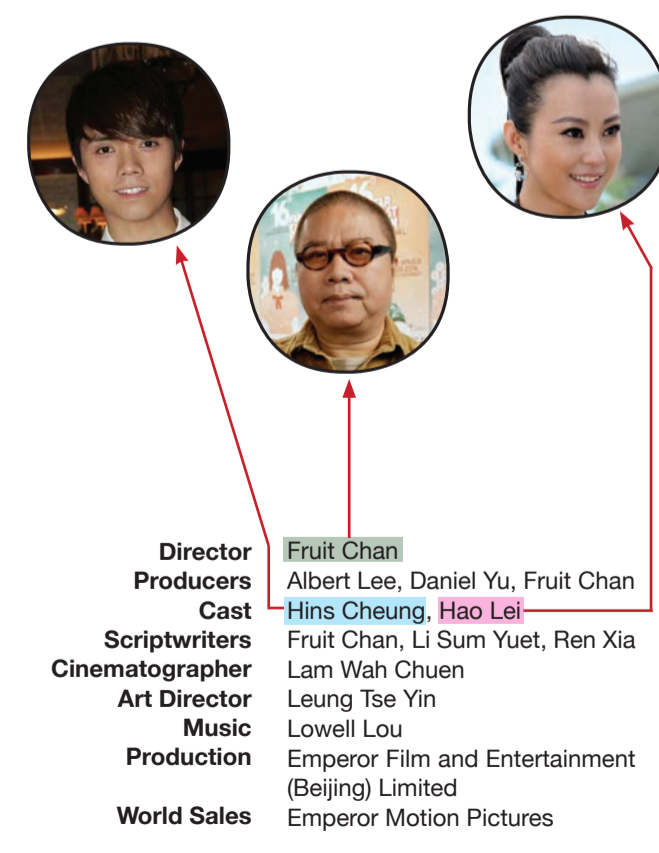
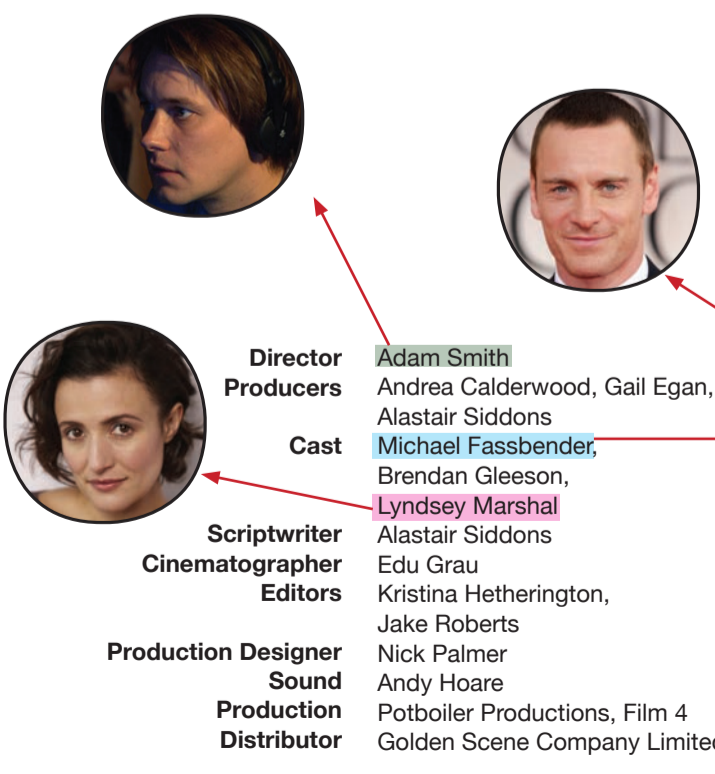
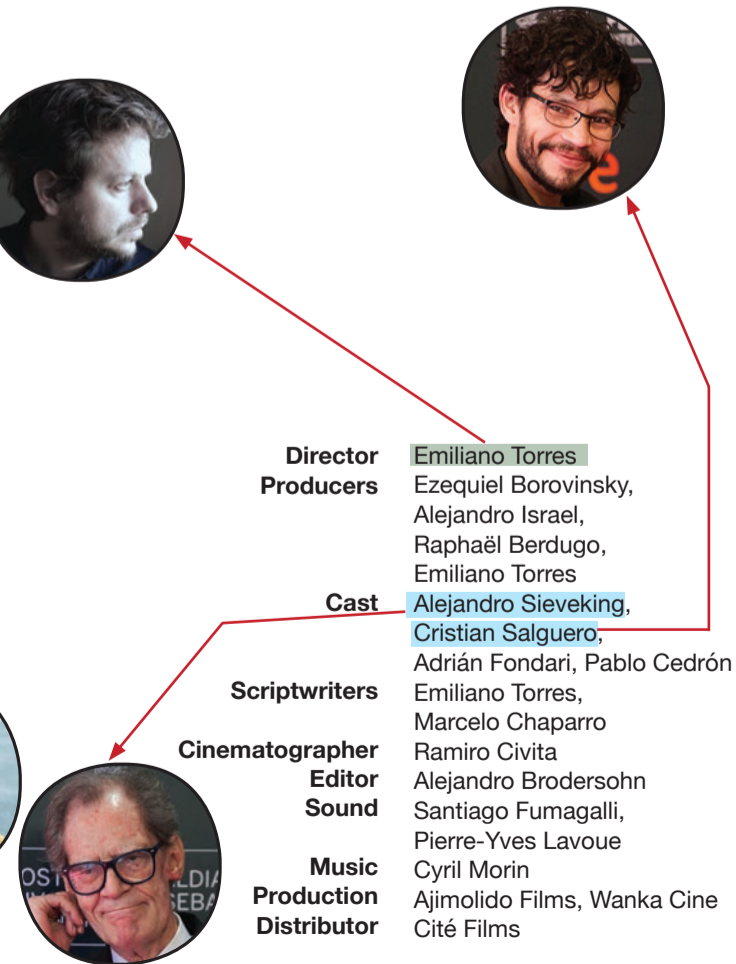


## Shining Moment

Putonghua film *Shining Moment* tells the tale of Yu, a young man who quits the gymnastics team and reinvents himself as a Latin dance instructor for children. The film questions whether Yu can overcome his own insecurities to bring out the best in his young students and help them shine on stage.

*Shining Moment* is directed by award-winning independent Hong Kong screenwriter, filmmaker and producer Fruit Chan, best known for realistic films depicting the everyday lives of Hong Kong people. Guangzhou-born Chan is regarded within the industry as a maverick willing to transcend genre boundaries and explore contemporary sociopolitical scenarios.

Leading man Hins Cheung is a Chinese Cantopop singer-songwriter based in Hong Kong. Like Chan, he was born in Guangzhou. Cheung is currently under contract with Emperor Entertainment Group.



# For Macau Only THE SHORT FILM COMPETITION

IFFAM's first-ever Macao Short Film Competition aims to promote the development of the local film industry by encouraging Macau's aspiring filmmakers to conceptualize and direct their own movies. It offers an opportunity for enthusiasts from all over the world to witness local Macau film in action.

Contestants must be Macau residents aged 18 and above, and can enter as individuals or as a team of up to five members. Shortlisted entrants stand to win cash prizes between MOP2,500 and MOP6,000.

All films in the competition must have been produced in 2016 and submitted to IFFAM no later than 7.00 p.m. on November 30, 2016. Submissions must be in Cantonese, Portuguese or English - subtitled in either Chinese or English - and must have a runtime of between five to 30 minutes.

The film must include creative elements unique to life in Macau, such as songs, history or iconic scenes. Submissions will be judged on their storytelling, originality, creativity and technical excellence by a committee comprising representatives of the Macao Government Tourism Office, the Macau Films & Television Productions and Culture Association, and three film directors from Macau and Hong Kong.

Voting on the three finalists will run from 12.00 a.m. on Thursday, December 8 to 11.59 p.m. on Monday, December 12. The results will be announced at the IFFAM award ceremony.



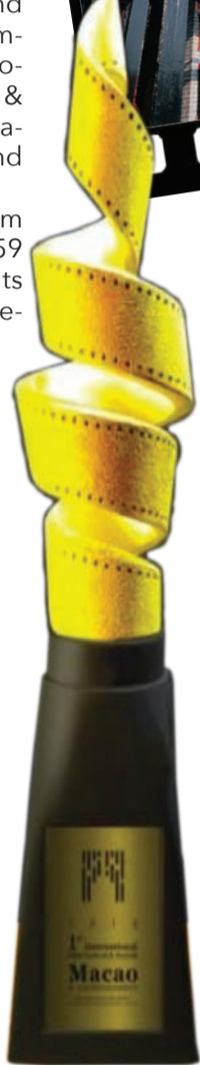
## THE INDUSTRY HUB Cultural and business exchanges

The IFFAM Industry Hub is the Asia-Pacific region's newest platform for film industry professionals to exchange ideas and forge new business relationships. The Hub's services include the Crouching Tigers Project Lab, industry panels, exclusive screenings and networking opportunities.

Key among these is the Crouching Tigers Project Lab. Established by IFFAM in 2016, the Lab aims to help accredited film professionals who are seeking co-production and co-financing for their projects. The Lab is designed to foster creative collaboration and integration of both Asian and non-Asian filmmaking elements, focusing on classic and contemporary genre cinema.

The four-day Lab offers participants one-on-one consultancy sessions with experts, as well as specialized workshops, forums and panels. All accredited members will receive a complimentary market guide featuring in-depth profiles of individual projects. Lab events are typically hosted at the Macao Science Center or the Macao Cultural Center.

The Crouching Tigers Project Lab 2016 is sponsored by Fox International, Ivanhoe Pictures and Huage Pictures. This year's Lab is held in partnership with Blood Widow, Frontieres and SITGES.



## TROPHY The spiraling reel

The IFFAM trophies are the creations of internationally acclaimed production designer and art director **Dante Ferretti**. The 73-year-old Italian - who began work in the late 1960s and ventured into international sets in the

1980s - has collaborated with award-winning Hollywood directors such as Martin Scorsese (*The Aviator*, *Hugo*) and Tim Burton (*Sweeney Todd*).

Ferretti has won three Academy Awards and been nominated for 16. His work in production design has also swept film prizes from around the world, including three BAFTA Awards and four of Italy's David di Donatello Awards. The Italian press has awarded Ferretti 12 Silver Ribbons over nearly 25 years.

Ferretti also designed Rome's Cinecittà World, the first Italian theme park dedicated to cinema, and helped establish the Museum of Federico Fellini in Rimini.

His IFFAM trophies, shaped like a spiraling film reel, symbolize the unforgettable origins and the promising future of cinema.



DANTE FERRETTI

## IFFAM FAQ

### Q WHAT IS IFFAM'S MISSION?

**A** IFFAM aims to raise awareness of the East Asian and international cinema: as a form of popular entertainment, as a thriving creative industry, and as a platform for free cultural exchange. The festival includes retrospectives and tributes to local cinema's most influential individuals.

### Q WHO ARE THE ORGANIZERS OF IFFAM?

**A** The inaugural International Film Festival & Awards Macao ("IFFAM") is jointly organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Macau Films & Television Productions and Culture Association (MFTPA). As the local tourism authority, MGTO aims to develop Macau as an international hub of arts and culture. MFTPA is a non-profit association whose mission is to develop the local film and television industry through grants, workshops and promotional activities.

### Q WHO IS THE IFFAM FEATURED ACTOR OR ACTRESS?

**A** This year's IFFAM Actress in Focus is Gwei Lun-Mei, a Taiwanese film and television actress. Gwei began acting in 2002 with the film *Blue Gate Crossing*, and later won more recognition for her leading role in Jay Chou's *Secret*. She has starred in 25 films and two television series to date, as well as assorted music videos. This year's IFFAM will feature three of Gwei's newest and best-known films: *Forêt Debussy*, *Secret* and *The Flying Swords of Dragon Gate*.