



MACAO
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL &
AWARDS

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

SUPPLEMENT

MON 04.12.2017



SHOWING TODAY
The Competing Films I
The Opening Film 'Paddington 2'
The New Director
The Jurors

II Int'l Film Festival

PADDINGTON 2

The opening

The International Film Festival and Awards Macao (IFFAM) is back for the holidays - and it's bigger and better than ever.

The second IFFAM, titled "A New Avenue to the World of Films", will screen more than 40 Asian and international films. This year's edition will open with the regional premiere of family film 'Paddington 2', followed by films in various categories - including competi-

tion, gala and special presentations - over a week.

IFFAM's competition segment will again be presided over by a global jury, this time with industry leaders from France, Austria, the UK and Singapore.

The festival's star-studded ambassador lineup includes Hollywood actor Jeremy Renner, Hong Kong stars Donnie Yen and Miriam Yeung, Korean singer D.O., and acclaimed

directors John Woo and Pang Ho-Cheung. Woo and Pang will host this year's IFFAM Masterclasses, which were highlights of the festival's inaugural edition.

The festival will also offer a workshop with the British Film Institute, a special screening of a movie starring Malaysian Chinese actress Michelle Yeoh, and a networking forum.

The 2017 IFFAM runs from December 8 to 14.

Quality and Diversity in THE

Ten feature films of a variety of topics and origins are in competition for the top IFFAM Award 2017. They will be shown in Macau venues - from December 9 to 13 - as Asian or international premieres. In this first supplement, MDT presents the first six competing movies, by alphabetic order while the second installment will be published on tomorrow, December 5



Beast

British director Michael Pearce makes his feature film debut with *Beast*, which focuses on Moll Huntford, a young woman living on the island of Jersey, just off the coast of England. Moll's life has been tightly controlled by her family, especially her domineering mother, since her involvement in a violent incident as a teenager. She develops feelings for the enigmatic outsider Pascal, but when the body of a young girl is discovered - the fourth victim of a sexual predator and serial killer - Moll's life is thrown into chaos.

Born in Jersey, Pearce studied directing at the Arts Institute at Bournemouth and the National Film & Television School (NFTS). His NFTS graduation film *Madugada* won best short at the Royal Television Society Award, and his next two short films *Rite* (2011) and *Keeping Up With The Joneses* (2014) were both nominated for the British Academy Film Awards and British Independent Film Awards. His debut TV drama, *Coming Up: Henry*, was broadcast by Channel 4 in 2013. *Beast* had its world premiere at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

The two lead actresses are Jessie Buckley and Geraldine James. Buckley is an Irish singer and actress who starred in the West End revival of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* as well as three BBC series, including the adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. James is a classically trained English actress and Tony Award nominee, known for her roles in *The Merchant of Venice* on Broadway (1989) and *She's Been Away* (1989). She has been nominated for the British Academy Television Awards four times.



Borg/McEnroe

In the rainy summer of 1980, tennis fans the world over wait with bated breath for Björn Borg - the world's number one player at the tender age of 24 - to claim his fifth Wimbledon title. Unknown to many, Borg is burned out and struggling with anxiety. Younger rival John McEnroe, 20, wants to usurp Borg's throne - but both men come to realize that they are the only ones who truly understand each other.

Danish director Janus Metz stepped into the global limelight with *Armadillo* (2010), which won the critics' prize, or *Semaine de la Critique*, at the Cannes Film Festival. He previously worked as a documentary researcher, and made his directorial debut with the short *Township Boys* (2006) before making *Love on Delivery and Ticket to Paradise* (both 2008), a two-part series about mail-order brides from Vietnam and Thailand. In 2015, he directed an episode of acclaimed HBO series *True Detective*.

Sverrir Gudnason, a Swedish actor raised in Iceland, stars as Borg. He previously starred in the TV series *How Soon is Now* (2007) and has taken roles in *Wallander* (2010) as well as Gothenburg and Stockholm city theater. Hollywood actor, performance artist and filmmaker Shia LaBeouf (*Transformers*, *Indiana Jones*) plays McEnroe, with veteran Swedish actor and blockbuster star Stellan Skarsgård (*The Hunt for Red October*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Marvel's The Avengers*) cast as Borg's coach.

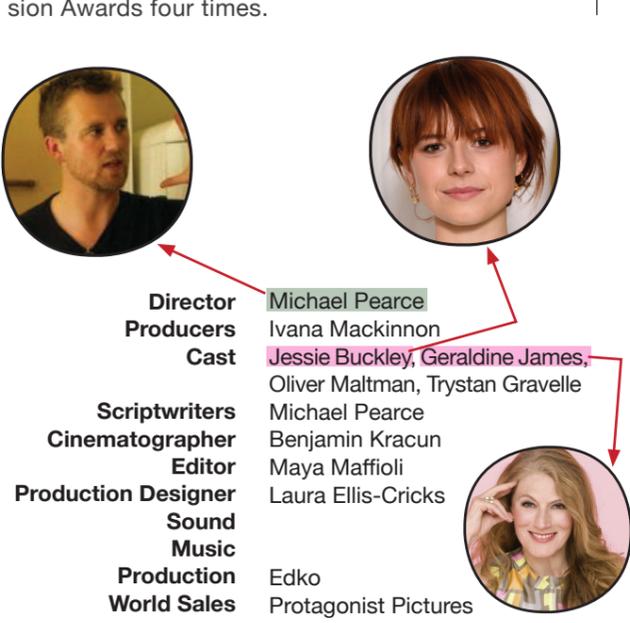


Custody

In *Custody* (*Jusqu'à La Garde*), divorced parents Myriam and Antoine Besson are battling for sole custody of their 12-year-old son, Julien. Myriam is fighting to protect her son from a father she claims is violent and abusive, while Antoine drives home his status as a man scorned. They take the case to court and the judge rules in favor of joint custody. When it transpires that Antoine has been harboring ulterior motives to regain control over his traumatized ex-wife, young Julien is caught between his parents in a rapidly escalating conflict.

French-born writer-director Xavier Legrand studied drama at the National Conservatory Of Paris. He is a prolific theater actor and has starred in films for directors such as Philippe Garrel, Brigitte Sy and Laurent Jaoui. His first short film, Oscar-nominated and Cesar Award-winning *Just Before Losing Everything* (2013), played at over 100 international festivals. His first feature film, *Custody*, is an expansion of that short. It had its world premiere in competition at the Venice Film Festival in September, where it won Legrand the Best Director award and the Silver Lion for best debut film.

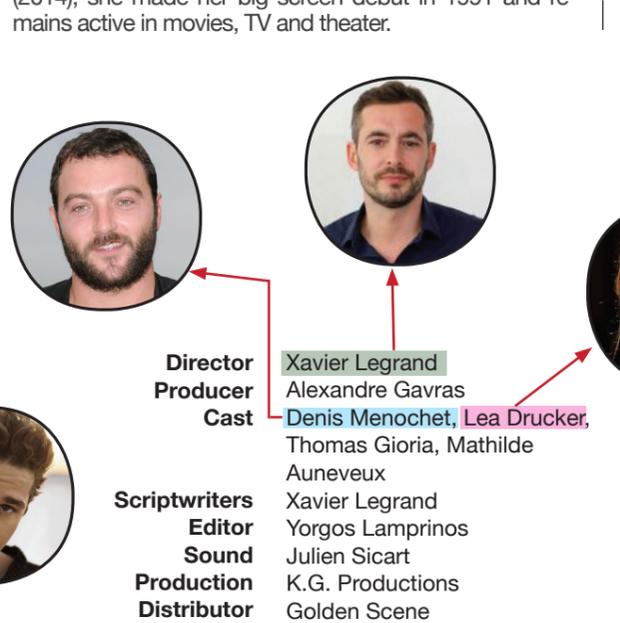
Denis Ménochet was born in Val-d'Oise, France. After doing several short films and TV episodes in the early 2000s, he went on to take a small role in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds* (2009), followed by *Grand Central* (2013), *The Program* (2015) and *Assassin's Creed* (2016). His co-star, accomplished actress and director Léa Drucker, hails from Calvados, France. Arguably best known for *Just Before Losing Everything* (2013) and *The Blue Room* (2014), she made her big screen debut in 1991 and remains active in movies, TV and theater.



Director Michael Pearce
Producers Ivana Mackinnon
Cast Jessie Buckley, Geraldine James, Oliver Maltman, Trystan Gravelle
Scriptwriters Michael Pearce
Cinematographer Benjamin Kracun
Editor Maya Maffioli
Production Designer Laura Ellis-Cricks
Sound
Music
Production Edko
World Sales Protagonist Pictures



Director Janus Metz
Producers Jon Nohrstedt, Fredrik Wikström, Nicastro
Cast Sverrir Gudnason, Shia LaBeouf, Stellan Skarsgård, Tuva Novotny, Ian Blackman
Scriptwriters Ronnie Sandahl
Cinematographer Niels Thastum
Editors Per Sandholdt, Per K. Kirkegaard
Production Design Lina Nordqvist
Sound Design Rasmus Winther Jensen, Heikki Kossi M.P.S.E
Production SF Studios
World Sales: SF Studios



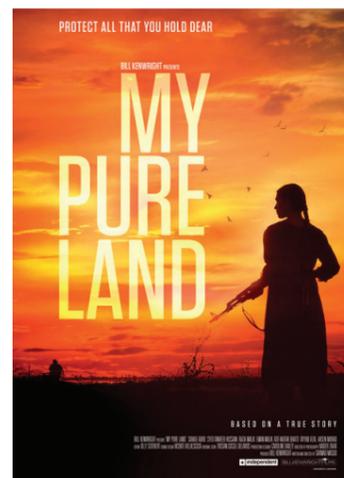
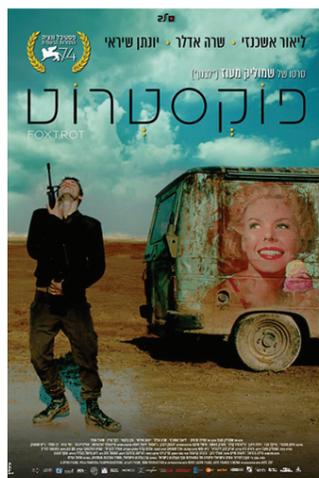
Director Xavier Legrand
Producer Alexandre Gavras
Cast Denis Ménochet, Léa Drucker, Thomas Gioria, Mathilde Auneveux
Scriptwriters Xavier Legrand
Editor Yorgos Lamprinos
Sound Julien Sicart
Production K.G. Productions
Distributor Golden Scene

SHOWTIME
Dec 11 (Mon) | 9:00pm | Macao Cultural Centre

SHOWTIME
Dec 9 (Sat) | 9:00pm | Macao Cultural Centre

SHOWTIME
Dec 12 (Tue) | 6:45pm | Macao Cultural Centre

THE COMPETING FILMS - I



Foxtrot

The controversial war movie *Foxtrot* depicts a Tel Aviv couple's devastation when Israeli military officials announce the death of their son Jonathan after a disaster at a desolate military post. Caught up in a whirlwind of overzealous grieving relatives and army bureaucrats, Jonathan's father later begins to doubt that his son is truly dead. *Foxtrot* follows Jonathan's parents in the hours after receiving the news before plunging into a gritty portrait of Jonathan's experiences as a military conscript in northern Israel.

Director Samuel Maoz, himself from Tel Aviv, received an 8mm camera and a roll of film as a gift at the age of 13. However, as a young man, his promising film career was put on hold when he went to war in Lebanon as a gunner in a tank crew. Twenty years later, Maoz finished his first feature film, *Lebanon* (2009), inspired by his experiences. It won the Golden Lion at the Venice International Film Festival. *Foxtrot*, his second feature film, won the Grand Jury Prize at the same festival eight years later, and was nominated for 13 Ophir Awards.

Screen and stage actor Lior Ashkenazi was born in Israel to Sephardi Jewish immigrants from Turkey. He was previously seen in *Big Bad Wolves* (2013), *Walk on Water* (2004) and *Late Marriage* (2001). He studied acting at Beit Zvi School for the Performing Arts and did voice work for dubbed Disney movies before making his movie debut in the early 2000s. The leading lady is Parisian actress Sarah Adler, who also appears in *The Cakemaker* (2017).

Director Samuel Maoz
Cast Lior Ashkenazi, Sarah Adler, Yonatan Shiray
Scriptwriters Samuel Maoz
Cinematographer Giora Bejach
Production Arad Sawat
Sound Design Alex Claude
Productions Spiro Films, Pola Pandora
World Sales Filmproduktions, The Match Factory

SHOWTIME
 Dec 12 (Tue) | 9:00pm | Macao Cultural Centre



Hunting Season

Hunting Season (*Temporada de Caza*) follows Ernesto, a well-respected hunting guide in Patagonia, where he lives with his new family after parting ways with his first wife. When she dies, Ernesto is forced to take in his estranged teenaged son Nahuel. Ernesto struggles to contain the violent outbursts of his son, who grows increasingly alienated from his new family and periodically lashes out against his father. When the duo go hunting in the wilds together, it tests both of their capacities to kill and forgive.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, director Natalia Garagiola graduated from the Universidad del Cine and later earned an MA in screenwriting from FIA-UIMP in Spain. She wrote and directed three short films: *Rincon de Lopez* (2011), *Yeguas y Cotorras* (2012) and *Sundays* (2014), with the last two screened at the Cannes Film Festival. *Hunting Season* had its world premiere in Critics Week at this year's Venice Film Festival, where it won the audience prize. It is Garagiola's first feature film and she is currently working on her second.

Lead actor Germán Palacios plays the father of newcomer Lautaro Bettoni. Palacios, who is married with two children, was born on May 30, 1963 in Villa Ortúzar, Capital Federal, Argentina. He is best known for his work on films such as *Celeste* (1991), *XXY* (2007) and *Amor prohibido* (1986). He started studying acting at age 15 and is a former national handball player.

Director Natalia Garagiola
Producer Benjamin Domenech
Cast German Palacios, Lautaro Bettoni, Boy Olmi, Rita Pauls
Scriptwriter Natalia Garagiola
Cinematographer Fernando Lockett
Editor Gonzalo Tobal
Production Design Marina Raggio
Sound Design Santiago Fumagalli
Production REI CINE
World Sales Alpha Violet

SHOWTIME
 Dec 9 (Sat) | 6:45pm | Macao Cultural Centre



My Pure Land

The UK's official contender for the Best Foreign Language Oscar was shot in Pakistan with dialogue in Urdu, and is strongly reminiscent of a spaghetti western. This lean and harrowing 98-minute film tells the true story of three women living peacefully in a farmhouse in rural Pakistan, who are forced to take up arms and defend their home when a bitter family feud leads to the family patriarch's incarceration. Despite a scheming uncle calling in a vicious local militia of 200 bandits armed to the teeth, the heroine, Nazo, refuses to surrender even when she is down to her last bullets.

Based in London, director Sarmad Masud achieved early success with his debut short film *Two Dosas* (2014) which was funded by Film London and awarded the best film in its London Calling Plus category by *Harry Potter* and *Fantastic Beasts* director David Yates. Masud also wrote and directed *Adha Cup*, the first Urdu-language drama commissioned by British broadcaster Channel 4, which was later developed into a six-part series at the BBC. *My Pure Land* is his first feature film and had its world premiere at the 2017 Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Leading the *My Pure Land* cast - mostly comprised of relative newcomers to the international film festival circuit - is Suhaee Abro, perhaps best known for her work on *Peacock Palace* (2016) and *The Kalasha and the Crescent* (2013).

Director Sarmad Masud
Producer Bill Kenwright
Cast Suhaee Abro, Eman Fatima, Razia Malik, Syed Tanveer Hussain
Scriptwriters Sarmad Masud
Cinematographer Haider Zafar
Editor Olly Stothert
Production Design Caroline Bailey
Music Tristan Cassel-Delavois
Sound Design Vicente Villaescusa
Production Bill Kenwright Films
World Sales Independent Film Sales

SHOWTIME
 Dec 13 (Wed) | 4:15pm | Macao Cultural Centre

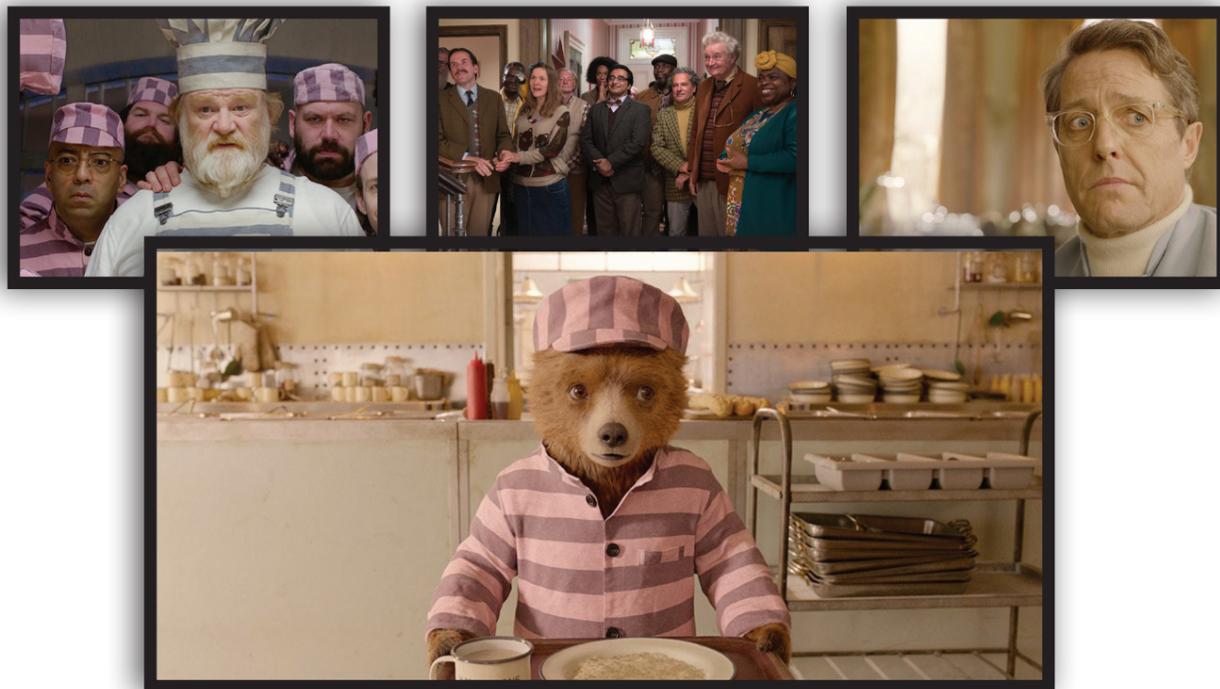
Opening film PADDINGTON 2

Part live-action, part CGI animation, this heartwarming tale of a Peruvian bear in London picks up where its crowd-pleasing 2014 prequel left off, with the title character happily settled with an English family in Windsor Gardens. It is based on the Paddington Bear stories by children's author Michael Bond, who appeared in the first movie before passing away in June 2017.

After the events of the first film, Paddington (voiced by Ben Whishaw) has become a pillar of his community. He takes on odd jobs for money to buy his aunt a pop-up book for her 100th birthday, but is framed and jailed when the book is stolen from the shop. Over the course of the film, Paddington befriends the inmates and reforms the prison while his family fights to prove his innocence.

British director Paul King pulls double duty as screenwriter alongside Simon Farnaby. King works in television, film and theatre, and brings a deft comedic touch to the Paddington movies, the first of which earned him two nominations at the BAFTA Film Awards.

King previously directed all three series of BBC Three comedy "The Mighty Boosh", for which he was nominated as Best New Director at the 2004 BAFTAs. He wrote and directed "Bunny and the Bull", his first feature film, in 2009. The film stars Simon Farnaby and Edward Hogg with cameo appearances by Noel Fielding, Julian Barratt and King's former Cambridge classmate, Richard Ayode.



New artistic director and team

Mike Goodridge will succeed Macau Government Tourism Office director Helena de Senna Fernandes as IFFAM's artistic director, following her replacement of Marco Müller last year.

The ex-journalist and former CEO of Protagonist Pictures - a London-based film financing, production and distribution house - wants IFFAM to "cook up a feast of world cinema" and "shine a spotlight on young filmmakers" to grow Macau as an entertainment hub.

Goodridge worked at Screen International US for almost 20 years, including a stint as editor. He has programmed the Sarajevo Film Festival's Kinoscope section since 2011, and sat on more than 25 international film festival juries in addition to writing several books.

Returning as head of festival management is pan-Asian producer and consultant Lorna Tee, who has worked with global film companies and festivals for over 10 years. Tee is the director of CinemAsia Film Festival (the Netherlands) and the Asian representative of Back Up Media Group (France).

This year's five programming consultants are veterans of the international film festival circuit. The team comprises Giovanna Fulvi, IFFAM 2016 judge and Asian cinema expert; Fionnuala Halligan, Screen International UK's Reviews Editor; Violeta Bava, Latin American consultant for the Venice International Film Festival; arts journalist Aseem Chhabra, director of the New York Indian Film Festival; and Japanese producer Hiromi Aihara.

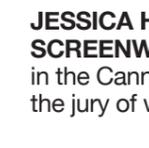
Rounding out the team is Head of Industry June Wu, founder of Taiwan-based film distributor Ablaze Image.



JURY MEMBERS



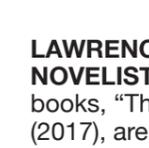
LAURENT CANTET, (JURY PRESIDENT) FRENCH DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER AND SCREENWRITER. His film "Entre les murs" won the Palme d'Or at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival and received an Oscar nomination.



JESSICA HAUSNER, AUSTRIAN DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER. Three of her films have been screened in the Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard section, the jury of which Hausner joined in 2016.



JOAN CHEN, CHINESE-AMERICAN ACTRESS, DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER AND PRODUCER. She has starred in nearly 50 films. Her TV credits include "Twin Peaks", "Journey to the West" (2010) and Netflix series "Marco Polo".



LAWRENCE OSBORNE, AWARD-WINNING BRITISH NOVELIST AND PROLIFIC JOURNALIST. Two of his books, "The Forgiven" (2012) and "Beautiful Animals" (2017), are being made into films.



ROYSTON TAN, ACCLAIMED SINGAPOREAN FILMMAKER AND SCREENWRITER. He came to prominence in the early 2000s for his short films and later directed a number of feature-length musical comedies.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- IFFAM's Official Selection comprises eight categories, curated by the Artistic Director and a team of international consultants.
 - Except for films in the retrospective categories, submissions must not have been screened to public audiences before January 1, 2017.
 - An international jury of five to seven industry leaders decides competition winners.
 - There will be no joint winners and no submission can receive more than one award, but the final decision rests with the jury.
 - The Artistic Director will recommend nominees for the Career Achievement award to the Organizing Committee.
- All submissions must display the IFFAM logo and mention any prizes received.
- Non-English films must have English or Chinese subtitles for all languages and/or Chinese dialects.