



## **CORNERHOUSE**

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### **BRILLIANT BRILLANTE - CANNES WINNER APPEARS AT CORNERHOUSE, MANCHESTER**

#### ***AS PART OF THE UK'S ONLY ASIAN ART TRIENNIAL***

**1 October – 27 November 2011**

This Autumn the first-ever **Asia Triennial Film Programme**, curated by Cornerhouse, will be screened as part of the UK's only **Asian Art Triennial**.

As a major part of this vibrant showcase of current contemporary visual art from Asia, the **Asia Triennial Film Programme** will include six UK premieres, new features, short films, and special events from all across the region, plus a major retrospective of Philippine director **Brillante Mendoza**, recently named best Director at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival. He will be a guest at the Triennial, along with many of the most exciting names in new Asian cinema.

Also spotlighted are films from revered Chinese director **Zhang Yimou** and Cannes award-winning writer-director **Lee Chang-dong** (South Korea), along with the debut fiction feature from **Herb Hsu Li-wen**, a focus on Chinese artists' films, and a special UK Premiere Double Bill of *Quattro Hong Kong*, where eight established directors return to short filmmaking.

Renowned for a hyper-realist style that utilises the latest in lightweight cinema technology, Brillante Mendoza's films depict the harsh social realities of the contemporary Philippines and tell compelling stories of ordinary people coping in extraordinary situations.

"I have always been a simple and observant person," says Mendoza. "I have never been into gangs and have had a normal childhood. I try as much as possible to merge with the people from the community where I stay and I tell the stories of these common people. I choose to tell them because they are more real, interesting, more truthful and honest. These are stories that are really happening and I think that the mere fact that my films are being discussed and debated is a good reaction. Films are all about discussion and communication."

The Festival's **Opening Gala** on Saturday 1 October (18.00) features Mendoza's award-winning 2009 film **Lola** (CTBA). The director will take part in a post-screening Question and Answer session.

**Kaledo** (Summer Heat) (CTBA) and **Manoro** (The Teacher) (CTBA) both have UK Premieres during the festival. The season also includes the director's controversial Cannes-winning **Kinatay** (Butchered) (18) and his multi-award-winning films **Service** (Serbis) (18) and **Slingshot** (Tirador) (15, as well as his debut feature **The Masseur**

Patrons Danny Boyle Damien Hirst Helen Mirren

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(Masahista) (15).

There's also a FREE (booking required) **One Hour Introduction: The Films of Brillante Mendoza**. In addition to the films in the retrospective, Mendoza's short film **Purple** is showing as part of the **Quattro Hong Kong I & II** double bill.

"Asian films are amongst the most vigorous and thrilling in the world right now and we're very excited to have this unique opportunity to showcase so many brilliant examples," says Sarah Perks (Cornerhouse Programme & Engagement Director), who has programmed the season along with Andy Willis (Reader in Film Studies, University of Salford). "We're especially pleased to welcome Brillante Mendoza to Cornerhouse, giving our audience the opportunity to meet such an important filmmaker, when he discusses this major retrospective of his work.."

The Festival's **Closing Gala** on Saturday 26 November is **Hotel Black Cat** (CTBA). The debut fiction feature from **Herb Hsu Li-wen** tells the interweaving stories and lingering past traumas of the offbeat residents of the eponymous residence. Actress and director Herb Hsu Li-wen will be the guest at a post-screening Q&A.

UK Premieres at the **Asia Triennial Film Programme** include **Zhang Yimou's** ravishingly-shot **Under the Hawthorn Tree** (CTBA) and **The Gaze Returned** (CTBA), a special screening of three key short artist's films from China. A recent initiative by the Hong Kong Film Festival, **Quattro Hong Kong**, sees established directors return to short filmmaking, with each instalment containing four 15 minute gems. In the first series, Hong Kong heavyweights **Fruit Chan**, **Herman Yau** and **Clara Law** are joined by new kid on the block **Heiward Mak**, while the second and more recent programme includes veteran **Stanley Kwan**, with **Brillante Mendoza** (Philippines), Cannes Film Festival award-winner **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** (Thailand) and **Ho Yuhang** (Malaysia). Also from Hong Kong, there's the UK Premiere of **The Stool Pigeon** (CTBA) from director Dante Lam, and **Gallants** (15), a lovingly nostalgic, thoroughly entertaining kung-fu comedy and tale of respecting ones elders, boasting a remarkable cast of Hong Kong veterans. Director Derek Kwok will take part in a post-screening Question and Answer session.

**Villain** (Akunin) (15) is based on a popular Japanese crime noir novel and winner of 5 Japanese Academy Awards including Best Actor and Actress, while **Poetry** (12A) from writer-director Lee Chang-dong (**Green Fish** and **Peppermint Candy**) was Best Screenplay winner at the Cannes Film Festival 2010.

Ends

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### **Credits**

The Asia Triennial Film Programme is Sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London is the official representation of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in the UK, promoting Hong Kong's economic and cultural links with the UK. With support from the Confucius Institute at the University of Manchester, EVA Airways, MINT Hotel Manchester, Manchester School of Art at Manchester Metropolitan University, the Philippine Embassy London, The Taipei Representative Office in the UK, and Tiger Beer.

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

The UK's only Asian Art Triennial opens 1 October – 27 November 2011 in Manchester, with a vibrant and exciting showcase of current contemporary visual art from Asia. Asia Triennial Manchester 11 is a festival of visual culture that features a series of exhibitions, commissions and interventions by international and UK artists exploring the theme of Time and Generation, presenting new site-specific work alongside work not seen before in the UK, and challenging stereotypical viewpoints of contemporary Asian artistic practice. Cornerhouse is curating the Asia Triennial Film Programme that includes a range of new films from across the region with a major retrospective of Philippine director Brillante Mendoza, recently named best Director at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival.

The artistic vision for ATM11 looks at one of the most important stories of our time: the migration of peoples from one place to other parts of the world. This continuous movement of people has radically changed our demographics, giving rise to new politics of identity focused on place, territory, belonging, global economic changes and community.

### **About Cornerhouse**

Cornerhouse is Greater Manchester's centre for international contemporary visual art and film. A place where all can engage with contemporary ideas through a unique, risk taking, cross art-form and culturally diverse high quality programme of art and film.

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Gallery opening times: Mon: Closed, Tue – Sat: 12.00 – 20.00, Sun: 12.00 – 18.00

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