







# Taiwan Lost Commercia Cinema

À la découverte du cinéma populaire de Taiwan (1960-70)



PROGRAMME

















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Did you know regular filmmaking on Taiwan only started in the 1950s? With a Taiwaneselanguage film industry? Between then and the 70s, 1,000-plus Taiwanese-language features were made. However, the budgets were miniscule, the companies short-lived, and there was no archive. They were quickly forgotten, and only 200-plus survive. But now Taiwan's lost commercial cinema is being recovered and restored by the Taiwan Film Institute. Our project – part of a screening tour across the UK and Europe - brings 4 scholars together for 2 days featuring 4 screenings of English-subtitled films, conferences and discussions (in English and French).

The selected movies represent the historical and generic range of Taiwanese-language cinema, and are among the most well-known of the surviving Taiwanese-language films.

#### 25/01/18 AMPHI MILC | 35, RUE RAULIN | LYON 7<sup>E</sup>

#### 10:00 AM

Lecture

Dr. Ming-Yeh RAWNSLEY (SOAS) "Politics of Everyday : Taiwanese-language cinema of the 1950s-1960s."

## 11:00 AM

Screening 1

The Bride Who Has Returned from Hell 地獄新娘 | 1965 | Director : Xin Qi

Made in 1965 and adapted from Victoria Holt's novel, Mistress of Mellyn, this film embodies the Taiwaneselanguage film industry's enthusiasm for exploring new stories, fresh elements, and foreign influences. The 'who-done-it' narrative combines family melodrama's rifts, risks, and restoration of domestic order with the suspense, mystery, romantic entanglement, and supernatural elements of Gothic romance. Highly enjoyable



The Bride Who Has Returned from Hell

Lunch break

2:00 PM

# Lecture

Professor **Chris BERRY** (King's College London) "Taiwanese-Language Films (Taiyupian) : An Alternative Cinema of Poverty?"

### 3:00 PM

Screening 2

The Best Secret Agent 天字第一號 | 1964 | Director : Zhang Ying

This first ever Taiwanese-language spy movie produced in Taiwan has a lot of innocent charm. *The Best Secret Agent* is a remake of a 1945 movie of the same name that caused



a sensation in Shanghai. Fuelled by a dog-eat-dog plot and the many changing faces of the protagonist, the film created a new Taiwanese box office record in the early 1960s and kick-started the popularity of the Taiwanese-language spy film genre for years to come.

The Best Secret Agent

5:00 PM

Round Table with Professor Chris BERRY, D' Ming-yeh RAWNSLEY, D' Wafa GHERMANI, D' Corrado NERI

6:00 PM Screening 3

Back to Anping Harbor 回來安平港 | 1972 | Director : Wu Feijian



Back to Anping Harbor

Starring Yang Lihua in a mother and daughter double role, this romantic melodrama reworks the Madame Butterfly myth. Falling pregnant to a Dutch ship's doctor who vows to return to Anping Harbour, she dies without him fulfilling his promise. Her redhaired daughter grows up to fall for a medical student about to go overseas. Will the pattern repeat itself ? Made as Taiwan had become a global trading power but faced expulsion from the UN, *Return to Anping Harbor* expresses the cosmopolitan anxieties and aspirations of the early 1970s.

#### 26/01/18 AMPHI MALRAUX | 20, 24 RUE PROFESSEUR ROLLET LYON 8<sup>E</sup>

# 3:00 PM

Lecture D' Wafa GHERMANI (Cinémathèque française)

« Le cinéma en taiwanais et en mandarin à l'épreuve de la modernité »

# 4:00 PM

Screening

Fantasy of the Deer Warrior 大俠梅花鹿| 1961 | Director : Zhang Ying

Cosplay meets Aesop's Fables in this furry fantasy that veers between the wacky and the preachy. Actors in animal outfits gambol in the forests until they are attacked by a pack of marauding "wolves." Will they overcome internal divisions and defend themselves ? Is *Fantasy of the Deer Warrior* an allegory for Taiwan ? Who do the wolves represent ? Audiences at revivals have offered different interpretations at the same time as hailing *Deer Warrior* as a cult movie.



Fantasy of the Deer Warrior

6:00 PM Round Table with Professor Chris BERRY, D<sup>r</sup> Ming-yeh RAWNSLEY, D<sup>r</sup> Wafa GHERMANI, D<sup>r</sup> Corrado NERI