

Employment agency convicted of overcharging foreign domestic helper

A licensee of an employment agency (EA) was convicted and fined \$8,000 at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts today (July 25) for overcharging a foreign domestic helper (FDH).

In March 2017, the Employment Agencies Administration (EAA) of the Labour Department (LD) received a complaint by a FDH against My Friends Service Limited (My Friend) (located in Tsuen Wan) for overcharging her an excessive amount of commission. With the FDH concerned agreeing to assist in the investigation which revealed sufficient evidence, LD took out prosecution against the agency.

According to the law, EAs are not allowed to collect from job seekers any fees or charges other than the prescribed commission, which is set at no more than 10 per cent of the latter's first month's salary upon successful placement.

My Friend is the third EA being convicted of overcharging this year. Two other EAs named Quality Consultants Agency (located in Tsim Sha Tsui) and Familia Employment Agency (located in Tai Po) were convicted of overcharging FDHs an excessive amount of commission.

LD reminds EAs to operate in full compliance with the law as well as the Code of Practice for Employment Agencies at all times. Failure to do so may lead to prosecution and possible revocation of licences. The Employment (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 enacted on February 9 this year has also raised the penalty for the offence of overcharging job-seekers to a maximum fine of \$350,000 and imprisonment of 3 years.

For enquiries or complaints about unlicensed operation, on overcharging job seekers' commission by EAs or concerning the Code, please call the EAA of the LD at 2115 3667, or visit its office at unit 906, 9/F, One Mong Kok Road Commercial Centre, 1 Mong Kok Road, Kowloon.

Missing man located

A man who went missing has been located.

Chan Wing-piu, aged 77, went missing after he entered Hong Kong in the afternoon of March 19. His family made a report to the Police on June 9.

The man was located in a hospital in Shatin Pass Road, Wong Tai Sin

today afternoon (July 25).

Film Programmes Office to showcase wide range of aesthetics in black-and-white films (with photos)

In the 1970s, colour films came to dominate the world's cinemas, yet anti-trend, monochrome images have continued to shine with their unique aesthetics. The new programme "Black & White as an Aesthetic Choice", presented by the Film Programmes Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in collaboration with the Hong Kong Arts Centre, will screen 11 noteworthy black-and-white films produced after 1970, from August 25 to October 1 at the Cinema of the Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA) and the Louis Koo Cinema of the Hong Kong Arts Centre. Post-screening talks will also be arranged for all the screenings.

Peter Bogdanovich's "The Last Picture Show" (1971) is an iconic non-conformist work of its time, and also emblematic of American cinema's golden age that was in bloom in the 1970s. Set in a cinema in a small Texas town in the early 1950s, the realistic and poetic film tells a coming-of-age story of several teenagers. Hollywood veteran Robert Surtees' evocative cinematography animates the 1950s melancholic poignancy and connects with the 1970s atmosphere. The film won both Best Actor and Best Actress in a Supporting Role at the 1972 Academy Awards as well as Best Screenplay at the 1973 BAFTA Awards.

Despite being asked to shoot on colour stock, Mel Brooks insisted to film "Young Frankenstein" (1974) in monochrome for nostalgia reasons, paying tribute to the 1930s Universal Studio series of Frankenstein films. The film mixes genres like comedy, horror and science fiction. Gerald Hirschfeld's photography samples the visual expressionism of Universal's 1930s monster flicks, wedding it to the gothic romanticism of the 1818 original novel. The film won Best Horror Film and Best Director at the 1976 Saturn Awards.

"Killer of Sheep" (1977), made under Charles Burnett's direction, scripting, cinematography and editing, was shot on 16mm black-and-white "short ends" – the end-of-reel stock often discarded. The work not only shines a light of realism on the conditions of African American life, but also reacts to Hollywood dominance as well as blaxploitation flamboyance through returning filmmaking to the basics. Made as an ordinary student project, the film became a monument in the landscape of black American cinema after several years and was the winner of the FIPRESCI Prize at the Berlin

International Film Festival 1981.

Directed by and starring Woody Allen, the romantic comedy "Manhattan" (1979) saw Allen collaborate with legendary cinematographer Gordon Willis to stage a memorable array of monochromatic images in widescreen format, presenting New York in all its glory with the iconic cityscape including a museum, a bookstore and the Queensboro Bridge. The city plays an indispensable role in the story while the affairs among characters wander elegantly between witty humour and romance. The film won Best Film and Best Screenplay at the 1980 BAFTA Awards.

"Down by Law" (1986) was directed by Jim Jarmusch, a key member of the 1980s American indie renaissance who is fond of black and white. The film follows the two male leads, who are innocent but imprisoned, and their Italian cellmate, hatching a plan to escape. Jarmusch partnered with Dutch cinematographer Robby Müller, nicknamed the "Master of Light", who adds a touch of European class to the film. The film won Best Foreign Feature Film in the 1987 Norwegian Film Festival Amanda Award.

Cult bad boy Shinya Tsukamoto is a type of all-round director rarely seen in Japanese cinema. For "Bullet Ballet" (1998), he directed, wrote, acted, photographed and more to capture the story of a man who, after his girlfriend shoots herself, becomes obsessed with death and guns and runs into criminal underground warfare. The camera movements, compositions and editing rhythms give out strong visual impacts. The film won the Jury Grand Prize at the Sweden Fantastic Film Festival 1998 and Best New Talent at the Yokohama Film Festival 2001.

Co-directed by Béla Tarr and his wife Ágnes Hranitzky, "Werckmeister Harmonies" (2000) tells of a small town being thrown into turmoil by the arrival of a circus with its gigantic whale and a mysterious man, "The Prince". Tarr's art is marked by long takes, and this over two-hour-long story, filmed with seven cinematographers, is told in only 39 shots. The shot which shows a truck carrying the gigantic whale into the town has become a classic over time. The film won the Berliner Zeitung Readers' Jury prize at the Berlin International Film Festival 2001.

Jiang Wen's "Devils on the Doorstep" (2000) is a far cry from standard anti-Japanese aggression war films. Set in a small mountain village in Hebei, the film follows a villager who is told to take custody of two prisoners from the Japanese army, thus throwing the whole village into a ridiculous and uncontrollable situation that showcases national traits and humanity during wartime. Jiang's editing leaves audiences room for reflection while cinematographer Gu Changwei's photography animates the events with sharply cut images, soaked in various shades of evocative grey. The film won the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival 2000.

In Michael Haneke's "The White Ribbon" (2009), children in a remote village in Germany are required to wear white ribbons on their arms as punishment and a reminder after they have done something wrong. When a series of accidents breaks out in this tranquil village, the purity of humans is

challenged. Cinematographer Christian Berger first shot the film in colour with a Super 35 camera, then removed the hues afterwards with digital technology, enriching the details in the images. The film won Best Foreign Language Film at the 2010 Golden Globes as well as the Palme d'Or and the FIPRESCI Prize at the Cannes Film Festival 2009.

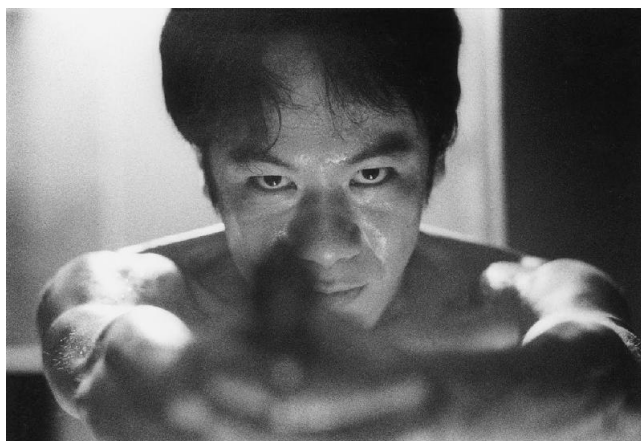
Believing that the "best version of this movie is black and white", George Miller produced "Mad Max: Fury Road (Black & Chrome Edition)" (2015) after the release of the film's colour version. The film depicts a female rebel in a post-apocalyptic wasteland fighting against a tyrannical ruler and searching for her homeland. Under John Seale's cinematography, the original version already excelled in depicting a post-apocalyptic world. Taking on a different tone, the black-and-white approach portrays the horrific future with a striking new aesthetic, making the film an extraordinary action work in black-and-white cinema. The film won Best Film Editing and Best Costume Design at the 2016 Academy Awards.

Directed and scripted by Lav Diaz, a master in Filipino cinema, "The Woman Who Left" (2016) follows a woman who is released from 30 years' imprisonment for a crime she did not commit and schemes to take revenge. Diaz also photographed his film, and his signature long takes and chiaroscuro images of washed-out sunlight, backstreet shadows and urban fluorescence capture the forbidding reality and horrific textures of life conditions. The film won the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival 2016.

"The Last Picture Show", "Young Frankenstein", "Killer of Sheep" and "The Woman Who Left" have Chinese subtitles; "Down by Law", "Bullet Ballet", "Werckmeister Harmonies" and "Devils on the Doorstep" have English subtitles; "The White Ribbon" has Chinese and English subtitles; and "Manhattan" and "Mad Max: Fury Road (Black & Chrome Edition)" are without subtitles. As "The Last Picture Show" is classified as Category III, only persons aged 18 and above will be admitted.

In addition, two workshops themed on photography will be held from October 5 to 7 at the Hong Kong Art School Main Campus of the Hong Kong Arts Centre and around Wan Chai. The workshop entitled "Photography Without Camera – Photogram" will enable participants to enjoy photo-taking with primitive photographic concepts, not digital devices, in an evening and the following morning. In the "Peep into the Community Materials – Pinhole Camera" workshop, participants can create their own pinhole cameras from materials collected from the community and gain darkroom experience. All workshops will be conducted in Cantonese.

Tickets for HKFA screenings are priced at \$55, those for Hong Kong Arts Centre screenings are priced at \$65 and \$75, and workshop tickets are priced at \$280 each. Tickets are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries, please call 2734 2900 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en_US/web/fpo/programmes/1970bnw/index.html.



[Police take precautions against terrorism threat](#)

As a metropolitan financial centre and a transport and communications hub, Hong Kong should take precautions at all times under the threat of terrorism.

The remark was made by the Police Director of Operations, Mr Tang Ping-keung, today (July 25) at a press conference to review the crime situation in Hong Kong in the first half of 2018.

Mr Tang stated that there was no specific intelligence suggesting Hong Kong will be under attack. The Force has been keeping an eye on terrorist attacks around the globe, remaining alert all the time and making deployment in light of the assessment of the current threat.

Besides maintaining close liaison with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement and intelligence agencies in exchange of intelligence and assessment of threat, Police also conduct training and inter-departmental or multi-agency exercises regularly. The Force conducted 11 large-scale counter-terrorism exercises in the first six months of this year. Reinforced exercises will be conducted at the new major infrastructures in the second half of 2018.

The Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit (ICTU), comprising officers from Police and five other disciplined services, was set up in April this year.

“The ICTU will further enhance Hong Kong’s counter-terrorism capability and ensure our capability and preparedness are adequate to combat terrorism through improving counter-terrorism strategies, action plans, inter-departmental coordination, intelligence gathering and efforts in training and public education,” said Mr Tang.

Reviewing road safety in Hong Kong, Mr Tang said there were 7,502 cases of traffic accident in the first half of this year, representing a decrease of 4 per cent as compared with the same period of last year. There were 62 cases of fatal traffic accident and 82 people were killed.

As driving inattentively is the prime contributory factor of traffic accidents, Police step up enforcement against relevant offences, including careless driving, speeding, disobeying traffic signals, drink driving or drug driving, and using a handheld telecommunications equipment while driving.

A number of major infrastructural projects including the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point will soon be completed.

“Police are well prepared, putting in place corresponding measures in collaboration with other government departments. Police will ensure the smooth functioning of the roads adjoining the infrastructures through enhancing inter-departmental collaboration, conducting well-planned exercises and effectively implementing traffic control measures,” said Mr Tang.

On engaging the community, the Force garners continuous support from all sectors of the community through social media, youth engagement and various types of activities.

Police Facebook page and Instagram page have become important channels for disseminating Police information and crime prevention messages to the public and the media.

In view of a rising demand for electronic case reporting service and an increase in types of cases reported, the Force launched a new e-Report Centre in June to improve service quality and enhance case investigation efficiency.

The Junior Police Call (JPC) Scheme continues to serve as the major platform of the Force to nurture young people as leaders and partners in the combat against crime. It also provides its 4,000 ethnic minorities members with vocational training, football drills and guided tours to different police formations and other disciplinary services with the aim of broadening their perspective and enhancing their sense of belonging. From the coming September, the eligibility age for the JPC Scheme will be lowered from nine to six, and more young kids will be able to participate in JPC activities.

The JPC@Pat Heung, which was opened last August, is an important facility of the Force for promoting youth development and community engagement. Over

25,000 visitors have undergone training so far.

Mr Tang concluded that with wide support from the community, the Force achieved positive results in the first half of 2018.

Overall law and order situation in the first half of 2018 remains stable

The overall crime situation in Hong Kong in the first half of 2018 remained stable with a decrease of 6.2 per cent in the overall crime figure over the same period in 2017, according to the Police Director of Crime and Security, Mr Li Chi-hang.

Speaking at a press conference today (July 25) to review the crime situation in the territory between January and June this year, Mr Li said a total of 26,550 cases of crime were recorded during the period, representing a decrease of 1,759 cases or 6.2 per cent over the corresponding period of last year, hitting a new low since 1977 in which half-year crime statistics were first kept.

There were a total of 4,361 violent crime cases recorded in the first half of this year, a decrease of 3.2 per cent when compared with the same period of last year.

Decrease was seen in majority of the crimes whilst crimes recorded with increase included homicide, wounding and serious assault, indecent assault and deception.

There were 17 homicide cases in the first half of 2018, a rise of six cases. All cases were detected. Most of the cases arose from family disputes and couple relationship. A double murder case committed with genuine firearm has aroused grave concern in the society.

Currently, there is no indication of worsening situation in regard to genuine gun crimes or inflow of firearms, nevertheless Police will always remain alert, maintain close contact with relevant departments, and spare no effort to look into every single case and intelligence involving firearms in order to ensure the safety of members of the public and the society.

A total of 2,316 cases of wounding and serious assault were recorded in the first half of this year, a rise of 82 cases. The rise was mainly driven by disputes caused by drunkenness and daily trivial matters. Increase was also noted for cases involving domestic violence, triad and debt collection activities.

There were 537 indecent assault cases in the first six months of 2018,

an increase of 19 cases. Cases committed by strangers totalled 320, and cases in which the victims acquainted the offenders via Internet increased by five cases to 15 cases.

For deception, 3,671 cases were reported, a rise of 110 cases or 3.1 per cent. There were 272 cases of romance scams, an increase of 2.5 folds; 69 cases of employment frauds, an increase of 3.3 folds; 90 cases of investment frauds, an increase of 70 per cent; and 382 cases of deception involving hacking of instant messaging applications, an increase of 4 folds. For telephone deception and street deception, 165 cases (a drop of 62.8 per cent) and 16 cases (a drop of 70.4 per cent) were recorded respectively.

Police conducted multiple enforcement operations against investment fraud, employment fraud and online romance scams in the first half of this year and arrested a total of 109 persons in connection with these types of deception in which over 700 victims were defrauded, incurring over \$253 million of loss in total.

Police established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) in July last year. As at June 30, the ADCC has received more than 22,000 calls for help, and intercepted over \$530 million of payment in 288 deception cases in collaboration with the banks.

“In view of remarkable achievement of the ADCC, Police will strengthen its functions in aspects including intelligence analysis, interception of crime proceeds, anti-deception publicity, as well as collaboration with other stakeholders, with a view to preventing deception in a timely and effective manner,” said Mr Li.

Crimes with the number of cases dropped included rape, burglary, serious drugs offences and robbery.

There were 23 rape cases in the first half year of 2018, down by nine cases, and 20 cases were detected. Three cases were committed by strangers and eight cases involved victims aged under 16.

For burglary, there were 808 cases, a drop of 170 cases, marking a record low since half-year crime statistics were first kept in 1977. Around 70 per cent of the cases were committed at domestic premises.

In the first half of 2018, 732 serious drug cases were recorded, a drop of 104 cases or 12.4 per cent.

Mr Li pointed out that international collaboration was crucial to the interception of inflow of drugs to Hong Kong. As such, Hong Kong Police have maintained close liaison and intelligence exchange with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies.

Recent successful joint operations included the Mainland-Hong Kong joint operation in January, in which six persons were arrested by both sides in total for trafficking a ton of “ice” by sea. In a joint operation with the Australian police in May, four Hong Kong people were arrested in Australia and 200 kg of “ice” was seized.

In the first six months of 2018, there were 82 robbery cases, being a decrease of 8.9 per cent, which hit its lowest since half-year crime statistics were first kept in 1977. Over the period, there were four cases with substantial amount of loss, including three jewellery store robberies and a case in which staff members of a money exchange company were robbed. Among them, three cases were detected with eight persons arrested and most of the lost property recovered.

To combat this type of robbery, Police will step up patrol at high-risk spots, maintain swift response capabilities, maintain close liaison with relevant industries for possible enhancement of the security measures, and strengthen intelligence work, including the collaboration with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, to prevent and detect robbery cases, and neutralise related criminal syndicates.

As regards child abuse, 467 cases were recorded in the first half of the year, being an increase of 9.1 per cent. The rise was mainly driven by the increase of those involving ill-treating and neglect of child, which totalled 154 cases, an increase of 43 cases. Case with serious casualties also increased.

Police proactively work on publicity and education to enhance the society's alertness and identifying ability of these cases. Over the first half of this year, Police organised a total of eight thematic seminars together with the Social Welfare Department and the Education Bureau for over a thousand kindergarten, primary and secondary school teachers, staff members and social workers to help them identify and handle the cases.

"In conclusion, the law and order situation in the first half of 2018 remained stable. Deception, facilitated by the use of technology such as social media platforms, remains one of the greatest challenges of the Force in recent years. The criminals committed crimes by taking advantage of the extensive, anonymous and cross-boundary nature of the cyber world, and that the lack of knowledge of some people about emerging industries and information technology also allowed the criminals to convince victims to send money with various excuses.

"In the light of the recent crime trends, Police will strengthen the collaboration with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, the innovation and technology as well as the financial and banking sectors, and enhance the capability in detection and recovering the ill-gotten gains.

"The ADCC will enhance its capacity to identify the ever-changing modus operandi, strengthen intelligence capability and exchange with various stakeholders, and continuously adjust anti-deception strategies with a view to alerting members of the public of the latest pitfalls in good time and fostering our partnership with the community in combating and preventing deception," said Mr Li.