

# LCSD to showcase film classics of six Hollywood auteur directors

The Film Programmes Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will hold the "INSPIRE Series: Hollywood Auteurs: Ideas of Cinema" from September 11 to October 16 to screen 14 classics of six auteur directors from Hollywood's "golden age" at the Cinema of the Hong Kong Film Archive and K11 Art House. Six of the screenings come with free post-screening talks while another two screenings will be accompanied by free seminars, enabling audiences to explore with veteran film critics the artistic quality of classic Hollywood films and how the ideas of master filmmakers translate into their great works.

The era from the 1940s to 1950s is regarded as the "golden age" of Hollywood film during which many talented directors were nurtured. These talented directors had a strong sense of *mise-en-scène* and conceived a meaningful world beyond story and entertainment. They are thus regarded as "auteurs". The six auteur directors featured in the programme are John Ford, Otto Preminger, Jacques Tourneur, Ida Lupino, Howard Hawks and Vincente Minnelli. The films selected were rarely shown in Hong Kong in recent years.

As a towering figure in classic American cinema, John Ford is renowned for exploring humanism through his westerns. His compositions were neatly arranged, carrying multi-layered meaning in a concise manner, with big skies and stunning landscapes to create a sense of greatness. The series includes three classics by Ford filmed at Monument Valley, namely "Fort Apache" (1948), "The Searchers" (1956) and "Cheyenne Autumn" (1964), all of which showcased Ford's scrutiny of the relationship between Native Americans and White Americans and the racial policy in America.

Otto Preminger favours dramas of human passion subjected to a rational and objective examination. He often used long takes and deep focus to show a network of relationships or connections formed by the characters. The three works selected are characterised by his attitude of subverting conformity. In "River of No Return" (1954), Marilyn Monroe took on a refreshingly human role, defying the "dumb blonde" cliché with which she had been typecast for so long. In "Laura" (1944), Preminger successfully chiselled the obsessiveness and abnormality behind high society with fluid *mise-en-scène*. In "Daisy Kenyon" (1947), the female character desires self-expression against the obsession of the male characters to control her fate.

Jacques Tourneur's films often reflect his character of modesty and subtlety. Tourneur's films emphasise the light source, the use of space, and the relationship between lighting and the actors. His films are also fascinated with the unknown, the unexplained and the ambiguous. Tourneur's "Night of the Demon" (1957) was regarded as the most refined of his horror classics while the "Out of the Past" (1947) was widely recognised as one of the most accomplished film noir.

Ida Lupino was one of the very few female directors in Hollywood's "golden age". The actress-turned-director focused on marginal characters generally overlooked in mainstream cinema, and her work captured the spirit of reality of a documentary. Her classics include "The Hitch-Hiker" (1953) and "The Bigamist" (1953); both examine the human condition and the dark shadow of modern existence from a sophisticated perspective.

Howard Hawks was an all-round director who was capable of filming a wide variety of genres. His films are fascinating for their fluidity in storytelling with an orderly succession of shots. Hawks was gifted in catalysing interactions between actors and had a genius eye for creating legendary shots for them. "His Girl Friday" (1940) and "The Big Sleep" (1946) featured in this series were Hawks's signature classics.

Vincente Minnelli had an aesthetic flair for creating a splendid filmic world with his profound experience in costume, set design and directing musicals in Broadway theatre. The visual grandeur of his works often reflects the characters' social status and psychological state. His classics include "The Bad and the Beautiful" (1952) and "The Band Wagon" (1953), with the latter representing the pinnacle of his work as a director of musicals.

All films selected either have Chinese and English subtitles or have English subtitles only. American film critic Chris Fujiwara has been specially invited to contribute an essay film titled "Inner and Outer Spaces in American Film" and an article about this subject. He will speak at two of the post-screening talks and one of the seminars. Details of the essay film are available at [www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=39](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=39).

Tickets for screenings scheduled at the Cinema of the Hong Kong Film Archive are priced at \$60 and available at URBTIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)) starting today; for credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999. For screenings scheduled at K11 Art House, tickets are priced at \$110 and available at the website of MCL Cinemas ([www.mclcinema.com](http://www.mclcinema.com)) starting today. For programme enquiries and concessionary scheme, please call 2734 2900 or visit [www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=38](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=38).

The Film Programmes Office is also launching the lecture series "Genius of the System: When Art and Commerce Converge on Film". The lectures in September will talk about the big-name auteurs of Hollywood's "golden age", including all the auteurs mentioned above. Please visit [www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=31](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=31) for more details.

To comply with the anti-epidemic regulations, audience members should take note of pandemic prevention measures and the admission arrangements implemented at relevant cinemas. In order to comply with the requirements stipulated in the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and relevant requirements of administrative instructions, all persons are required to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code with their mobile phones/devices before being allowed to enter the venues managed by the LCSd for necessary contact tracing if a confirmed case is found. In accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Vaccine Pass) Regulation (Cap. 599L) and relevant

requirements of administrative instructions, all persons entering indoor venues under the management of the LCSD must comply with the relevant requirements of the Vaccine Pass. According to the latest requirements on the Vaccine Pass announced by the Government, all persons whose Vaccine Pass QR code is displayed in red or amber are not allowed into the Hong Kong Film Archive.

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## **Judicial appointments**

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Judiciary today (August 12) announced the appointment of Ms Charmaine Lo Hong-wai and Ms Vivian Ho Wai-han as Permanent Magistrates. Both appointments are made by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission. They will take effect on August 15, 2022.

Further judicial appointments will be announced in due course.

The biographical notes of the appointees are as follows:

Ms Charmaine Lo Hong-wai

Ms Lo was born in the United Kingdom. She obtained an LL.B. from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom in 2004 and a P.C.LL. from the University of Hong Kong in 2005. She was called to the Bar in Hong Kong in 2006. She has been in private practice since 2007.

Ms Vivian Ho Wai-han

Ms Ho was born in Hong Kong. She obtained an LL.B. from the London School of Economics and Political Science in the United Kingdom and a P.C.LL. from the University of Hong Kong. She was called to the Bar in Hong Kong in 2005 and has been in private practice from the same year.

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## **Prior consent granted to SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited to cease its 2G services**

The Office of the Communications Authority today (August 11) announced

the Communications Authority (CA)'s decision to grant prior consent to the application by SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited (SmarTone) to cease the provision of all its second generation mobile (2G) services starting from October 14, 2022.

In assessing the application from SmarTone for the service cessation pursuant to Special Condition 10.4 under its Unified Carrier Licence, the CA has taken due consideration of factors including no provision of 2G service plans at present by SmarTone to any new and existing customers, the extremely low percentage of affected customers (namely those who are still using 2G handsets/devices for connection to SmarTone's network), incentive offers provided by SmarTone to the affected customers to upgrade their 2G handsets/devices, favourable termination arrangements provided by SmarTone for those who choose not to upgrade their 2G handsets/devices, and sufficient time of notification and customer support provided by SmarTone to the affected customers. Moreover, in approving the application, the CA also requires SmarTone to maintain satisfactory 2G network coverage until the network is shut down.

The spectrum to be freed up by the cessation of 2G services can be redeployed by SmarTone for providing higher generation mobile services, so that its customers will be able to enjoy higher network capacity and enhanced features of more advanced mobile services.

Affected customers may refer to the [press release](#) issued by SmarTone today announcing its cessation of 2G services. They are advised to contact SmarTone for details of the arrangement as soon as possible, and consider upgrading their 2G handsets/devices to those of higher mobile generations for better service quality as well as more advanced and innovative functions and features available from newer generations of mobile services.

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## **Declarations of interests by CE, politically appointed officials and ExCo Members**

A Government spokesman said today (August 11) that the first declarations of interests made by the Chief Executive (CE), Secretaries of Departments, Deputy Secretaries of Departments, Directors of Bureaux, the Director of the CE's Office and Members of the Executive Council (ExCo) after assuming office are available on government websites for public inspection.

The declarations of interests of the CE have been uploaded to the website of the CE's Office ([www.ceo.gov.hk/en/links.html](http://www.ceo.gov.hk/en/links.html)). The declarations

of interests made by Secretaries of Departments, Deputy Secretaries of Departments, Directors of Bureaux and the Director of the CE's Office, as required by the "Code for Officials under the Political Appointment System" (the PAO Code), have also been uploaded to the websites of the respective offices or bureaux.

Information on the registrable interests of ExCo Members (including the President as well as Official and Non-official ExCo Members) has been uploaded to the ExCo website ([www.ceo.gov.hk/exco/eng/interests.html](http://www.ceo.gov.hk/exco/eng/interests.html)).

The PAO Code stipulates that politically appointed officials shall declare their investments and interests on appointment and annually thereafter. These declarations are uploaded to the websites of the respective offices or bureaux. The CE voluntarily observes the above declaration arrangement. ExCo Members are likewise required to declare their registrable interests on appointment and annually thereafter. These declarations are uploaded to the ExCo website.

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## **Volume and Price Statistics of External Merchandise Trade in June 2022**

Further to the external merchandise trade statistics in value terms for June 2022 released earlier on, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (August 11) the volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for that month.

In June 2022, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods and imports of goods decreased by 12.5% and 6.9% respectively over June 2021.

Comparing the first half of 2022 with the same period in 2021, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods and imports of goods decreased by 7.5% and 6.8% respectively.

Comparing the second quarter of 2022 with the preceding quarter on a seasonally adjusted basis, the volume of total exports of goods and imports of goods decreased by 7.3% and 1.6% respectively.

Changes in volume of external merchandise trade are derived from changes in external merchandise trade value with the effect of price changes discounted.

Comparing June 2022 with June 2021, the prices of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 7.6% and 8.4% respectively.

As regards price changes in the first half of 2022 over the same period in 2021, the prices of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 9.1% and 9.7% respectively.

Price changes in external merchandise trade are reflected by changes in unit value indices of external merchandise trade, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, specific price data.

The terms of trade index is derived from the ratio of price index of total exports of goods to that of imports of goods. Compared with the same periods in 2021, the index decreased by 0.8% in June 2022 and 0.5% in the first half of 2022.

Changes in the unit value and volume of total exports of goods by main destination are shown in Table 1.

Comparing June 2022 with June 2021, declines were recorded for the total export volume to the mainland of China (the Mainland) (-17.8%), the USA (-10.7%) and Taiwan (-7.1%). On the other hand, the total export volume to Vietnam (31.8%) and India (71.9%) increased.

Over the same period of comparison, the total export prices to all main destinations increased: Taiwan (9.4%), the Mainland (9.2%), the USA (6.4%), Vietnam (4.9%) and India (4.3%).

Changes in the unit value and volume of imports of goods by main supplier are shown in Table 2.

Comparing June 2022 with June 2021, declines were recorded for the import volume from Korea (-31.4%), the Mainland (-18.6%) and Japan (-5.1%). On the other hand, the import volume from Taiwan (9.2%) and Singapore (9.5%) increased.

Over the same period of comparison, the import prices from all main suppliers increased: the Mainland (11.9%), Korea (9.3%), Taiwan (7.9%), Singapore (5.9%) and Japan (1.0%).

#### Further information

Details of the above statistics are published in the June 2022 issue of "Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Index Numbers". Users can download the publication at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1020006&scode=230](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1020006&scode=230)).

Enquiries on merchandise trade indices may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4918).