<u>Christmas Family Screen 2018 to greet</u> festive season

"Christmas Family Screen 2018" will screen six fascinating films for all ages from December 15 to 30 at the Auditorium of the North District Town Hall, the lecture halls of the Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Space Museum, Grand Kornhill Cinema, Movie Town and the STAR Cinema.

Presented by the Film Programmes Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in collaboration with MCL, the programme is one of the highlights of the "Cheers!" Series.

"The Legend of Timm Thaler or the Boy Who Sold His Laughter" (2017), which is an adaptation of a best-selling German novel for young adults, follows the diabolical Baron Lefuet who schemes to steal Timm Thaler's charming laughter. He proposes a deal by which Timm will win every future bet he ever makes. But when Timm closes the deal, he finds his life will never be the same. The film won the BIFAN Children's Jury Award at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival 2017.

In Norway's biggest family box office hit "Santa Swap — Merry Christmas Mr Andersen" (2016), carpenter Andersen is preparing to wear a Santa costume when he bumps into the real Santa. The two decide to swap identities, giving their respective families a memorable Christmas.

Adapted from a famous German children TV series, "The Peppercorns and the Curse of the Black King" (2017) features a group of smart young agents who endeavour to uncover the reasons behind a series of mysterious accidents that have happened at the Gruber Family's mountain ranch, such as the cattle falling sick and the well water turning black.

Regarded as the French version of "Lassie", "Belle & Sebastian, Friends for Life" (2017) is adapted from a TV series which tells of the life of a little boy, Sebastian, and his beloved dog, Belle who live in the magnificent Alps. A man claims to be Belle's rightful owner, causing Sebastian, who doesn't want to lose Belle, to escape from home with his dog — and they embark on an adventure.

In "Christmas & Co." (2017), the elves in Santa's workshop — who have long been his assistants — fall ill and pass out, causing the toy production line to halt. Santa searches for a cure for his elves in order to get the Christmas gifts out on time.

Animation "Leo Da Vinci: Mission Mona Lisa" (2018) features Leonardo, who loves to invent machines, using his inventions to find hidden treasure so as to safeguard his best friend's home. Leonardo's journey becomes adventurous as a group of sinister pirates is closing in.

Experienced dubbing artists Pat Kwok and Kinson Lai will perform live Cantonese dubbing for "The Legend of Timm Thaler or the Boy Who Sold His Laughter" and "Santa Swap — Merry Christmas Mr Andersen", which also has English subtitles. "The Peppercorns and the Curse of the Black King" is in German; "Belle & Sebastian, Friends for Life" is in French; "Christmas & Co." is in French and Russian and "Leo Da Vinci: Mission Mona Lisa" is in English. The aforementioned films will have Chinese and English subtitles.

Tickets for North District Town Hall screenings are priced at \$50; Science Museum and Space Museum screenings are priced at \$60 and other screenings are priced at \$70. Tickets are now available at URBTIX (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/cfs2018/index.html.