

Film Archive to screen "Love in a Dangerous City" in support of World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (with photos)

In support of World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will present a special screening of "Love in a Dangerous City" (1955) at the Cinema of the HKFA at 2pm on October 26 (Monday). The film stars the celebrated male "huadan" (female lead) Chan Fei-nung, Mak Bing-wing, Law Kar-kuen, Siu Sun Kuen and Tsang Wan-sin.

With the support of \$20 million allocated to the HKFA in the 2019-20 financial year, the HKFA has embarked on a five-year digitisation project to transfer invaluable films in its collection to the Digital Cinema Package format. This can minimise the risk of further damage to the original celluloid film copies, as they would not be used for projection. As one of the films held in a sole copy in the HKFA's collection, "Love in a Dangerous City" had not been shown since 1987, when it was screened in the Cantonese opera film retrospective of the 11th Hong Kong International Film Festival. Over 30 years later, the movie can once again be shared with the world after digitisation.

Directed by Chin Tai-soak and Lee Kai, "Love in a Dangerous City" is the only available opera movie in Hong Kong featuring a female lead played by a man. Chan Fei-nung first appeared on the silver screen as a male "huadan" and plays the role of a beautiful princess. Also taking up the role as a screenwriter, Chan adapted his own signature opera elements into the movie, which fully demonstrates his skills in singing and gestures.

The film is in Cantonese and without subtitles.

Tickets priced at \$45 are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme details, please call 2739 2139 or visit www.filmarchive.gov.hk/en_US/web/hkfa/programmesandexhibitions/programmes/2020unesco/index.html.

In 2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated October 27 of every year as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. It promotes awareness of the importance of preserving audio-visual documents from the past, which play an integral role in recording local and regional cultures.

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, special admission, ticketing and seating arrangements will be implemented for screening programmes held at the HKFA Cinema. For details, please visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/HKFA/en_US/web/hkfa/aboutus/openhl.html or contact the HKFA at 2739 2139.

