

International Children's and Youth Film Carnival 2021 to offer a world of films this summer (with photos)

This summer vacation, the Film Programmes Office (FPO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will present the International Children's and Youth Film Carnival (ICYFC), offering entertainment to those with families to spend their holidays in the city.

The ICYFC 2021 is a highlight of the International Arts Carnival and will present a selection of international animations, feature films and short films to be screened from July 10 to August 28. The screenings will take place at the Cinema of the Hong Kong Film Archive, the Theatre of Hong Kong City Hall, the Lecture Halls of the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Space Museum, and the Auditorium of the North District Town Hall.

Among the 11 feature films, five are animations. "Turu, the Wacky Hen" (2019) features a singing and dancing chicken which is also the star of a circus. A debt-ridden poultry dealer schemes to "hen-nap" her for money. The film won Best Animated Film at the Cinema Writers Circle Awards in 2021. In "Raggie" (2020), Ruby's brother makes a doll named Raggie to keep Ruby company. However, Raggie leaves home as the doll feels guilty for replacing Ruby's brother's position. "Sheep and Wolves: Pig Deal" (2019) tells of a village in which sheep and wolves live in harmony. The village is later attacked by a pack of fierce black wolves and they turn all the villagers into pigs. "Bigfoot Family" (2020) follows Adam's father, who is the legendary Bigfoot, wishing to save the earth from pollution. One day, Bigfoot mysteriously disappears after visiting a village. Adam then conducts an investigation with his animal friends to rescue his father. In "Boxi and the Lost Treasure" (2019) little Kartomi finds a treasure map and decides to seek out the treasure with his canine, through which the duo encounter many surprises.

Those who are courageous can enjoy adventures with the characters of the four feature films below. "Jim Button and the Wild 13" (2020) features orphan Jim and his good friend, taming an evil dragon and re-awakening it as the "Golden Dragon of Wisdom", arousing the attention of a band of pirates known as the Wild 13, who want to capture them. The film won Best Youth Film at the Bavarian Film Awards in 2021. In "Faunutland and the Lost Magic" (2020), Emily discovers the magic forest is becoming a lifeless and joyless place since the disappearance of its magic crystal. She then goes on a journey to search for the crystal and restore the forest to normal. "Jackie & Oopjen" (2020) follows Jackie, who runs into Oopjen, a woman who steps out of the canvas of a famous 17th century portrait at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum. Accompanied by Jackie, Oopjen decides to search for her missing sister in the real world. Picking up a mysterious spray, Max in "Foxter & Max" (2019) paints a dog with superpowers that helps him to regain confidence. But the

dog and Max also end up attracting unwanted attention from dangerous criminals. The film won Best Film at the Children KinoFest in 2020.

The remaining two feature films centre on friendship. In "My Hero Alexis" (2019), young Chilean football fan Tito meets his idol, Alexis Sánchez, and their unexpected friendship grows and they teach each other invaluable life lessons. "Help! I Shrunk My Friends" (2020) tells of Felix, whose friends are suspicious of Melanie, a girl who Felix is entranced by. During a school trip, when Felix sees that his friends are about to ruin his date with Melanie, he shrinks his friends in the heat of the moment.

The "Youthful Encounter" section has specially selected "TKKG – Detective Agency" (2019) for young moviegoers. The film depicts four youngsters, an outcast transfer student, a spoiled plump boy, a bullied short kid and a loner, uniting and unleashing an incredible power as a team, which detects a shocking case.

This year's "Film Tunnel" section will screen an animated classic of Walt Disney Studios' "The Aristocats" (1970), featuring the snow-white, elegant Duchess who is the pampered and beloved cat of a retired opera diva in Paris. The diva plans to leave her fortune to her cats, but her butler schemes to steal the inheritance by dumping Duchess and her three kittens in the countryside. The film won Best Children's Film at the Sant Jordi Awards in 1972 and was a German Golden Screen award winner in 1973.

Experienced dubbing artists Yip Ka-man and Jason Chan will perform live Cantonese dubbing for "Turu, the Wacky Hen", "Raggie" and "Jim Button and the Wild 13", which will also have English subtitles. Except "Boxi and the Lost Treasure", other films have Chinese and English subtitles.

Apart from the feature films, the FPO has picked 28 animations and shorts from around the world, grouping them into three programmes, which will be screened during the ICYFC in the "World Animation & Shorts" section. Numerous characters and their stories will be introduced, such as a clay pet, a brave black sheep, a clumsy crochet dinosaur, a squirrel who is also a wild conductor, a fox and a pigeon who are on the run together, a sleepless bear and a curious lynx. Professional drama educator Amy Tam will host an introduction in Cantonese during the programmes.

Tickets priced at \$70 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme details, please call 2734 2900 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=22.

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, audiences should take note of the latest service arrangements for screening venues, admission and seating to be implemented. For details, please call 2734 2900 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/ticketing.html?id=22.

