

Brigitte Lin Receives the Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award at FFFF20

The 20th Udine Far East Film Festival (FFFF20) was held earlier during 20-28 April 2018, with the Opening Ceremony held on 21 April. Over the years, FFFF has been keen on promoting Asian cinema in Europe and has elevated Udine from a small Italian city to the European epicenter of Asian cinema with an international industry event held annually. To celebrate its milestone twentieth year, FFFF had announced earlier that Brigitte LIN Ching Hsia, who is considered the goddess of the Chinese-language cinema, would be receiving the Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award.

The organizer described Brigitte LIN as a respected actress in Chinese language cinema. Although having stepped away from the glamorous industry for years, her films are still very much loved by audience and considered greatly influential. In 1973, LIN shot to fame for her stunning performance in director SUNG Tsun-Shou's "Outside the Window", and continued to charm audiences around the world through the many classic roles she played. From the early 70s up to the mid 90s, she had built a truly impressive filmography of over 100 films. Her versatility ranges over various film genres, from sentimental melodramas, wuxia titles to thrillers; The cool, blonde assassin behind sunglasses in "Chungking Express" and the androgynous martial arts monarch in "Swordsman II" were the two roles which made her known to the European audiences.

Apart from the Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award, the organizer also presented an intimate, precious retrospective of LIN's filmography at the Visionario; selected works included "Red Dust" (1990) directed by YIM Ho, "The Bride with White Hair" (1993) directed by Ronny YU, "Chungking Express" (1994) directed by WONG Kar-wai and "New Dragon Gate Inn" (1992) directed by Raymond LEE. There was also the European premiere of "Cloud of Romance" (1977), recently restored by the Taiwan Film Institute, which allowed audiences in Europe to appreciate the elegance and charm of the elusive goddess.

Brigitte LIN gave thanks to filmmakers in Taiwan and Hong Kong

Accompanying Brigitte LIN to the Opening Ceremony held in the evening of 21 April and presenting the Award to LIN was Nansun SHI, the legendary Hong Kong producer and a friend of LIN's, who had received a Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award herself in 2015. Travelled all the way to Italy to attend the Opening Ceremony with a good friend and served as the presenter of the Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award, the return to FFFF this year was of double significance for SHI.

Accepting the Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award, LIN said, "From far away, 'Chungking Express' had ignited the dreams of Sabrina Baracetti and Thomas Bertacche in Italy and led to the founding of the Udine Far East Film Festival. It means so much for me, as an actress in 'Chungking Express', to be here at FFFF's 20th anniversary to receive the prestigious Golden

Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award. It certainly means a lot for director Wong Kar-wai and FFFF co-founders Sabrina and Thomas as well. FFFF is truly the best industry event for Asian filmmakers.” She also gave special thanks to filmmakers whom she had worked with, including Taiwanese novelist CHIUNG Yao, veteran Taiwanese director SUNG Tsun-shou, YOK Teng-Heung, TSUI Hark, William CHANG and Nansun SHI.

A blend of New Wave and Fresh Wave films

This edition of FFFF showcased not only works starring Brigitte LIN, but a list of Hong Kong classics and some recent productions: “My Heart Is That Eternal Rose” (1989), starring Kenny Bee, Joey WANG and directed by Patrick TAM, a key figure in the Hong Kong New Wave cinema movement; “Throw Down” (2004), starring Aaron KWOK, Louis KOO, Cherrie YING and directed by Johnnie TO; “The Empty Hands” (2017), directed by Chapman TO and starring TO himself alongside Stephy TANG; “No. 1 Chung Ying Street” (2018), directed by Derek SHIU and starring YAU Hawk Sau; and the latest slate of Fresh Wave short films including YEH Ka-lun’s “Bright Spring Days”, HO Chung-ken’s “Fires”, and LAM Hei-chun’s “Goodbye”.