

Reviews by Richard James Havis, Edmund Lee, James Marsh, James Mottram and Ben Sin

New Releases

Code Blue: The Movie (Japanese)

Based on the television series of the same name, a team of helicopter rescue doctors confront emergencies at Narita International Airport in Japan. Directed by Masaki Nishiura. Not reviewed.

Hichki (IIA) (Hindi)

An aspiring teacher (Rani Mukerji) with Tourette's syndrome is given the opportunity to teach a class of underprivileged kids at an elite school where she attempts to inspire and bring hope to their lives. Directed by Siddharth Malhotra. ★★★★★ RJH

Napping Kid (IIA) (Cantonese)

An IT engineer at an investment bank attempts to clear his name after discovering that a blackmail message, demanding ransom money, was sent from his mobile phone. Directed by Amos Why. ★★★★★ EL

On Your Wedding Day (IIA) (Korean)

Over the course of a decade, a pair of high school lovers discover the hardships of maintaining a relationship, as both teens and mature adults. Written and directed by Lee Seok-geun. Stars Park Bo-Young and Kim Yong-kwang. Not reviewed.

Overlord (IIB & III versions)

(English, French & German)
During the second world war, a failed American mission leaves a group of soldiers battling for their lives after they crash-land in an area populated by a monsters from a Nazi experiment. Directed by Julius Avery. Stars Jovan Adepo, Wyatt Russell and John Magaro. ★★★★★ JMa

Patrick (I)

After dropping out of law school, a down-on-her-luck woman (Beattie Edmondson) unexpectedly inherits a spoiled and extremely pampered pug from her dead grandmother. Directed by Mandie Fletcher. ★★★★★ JMa

General Releases

12 Days (IIA) (French)

Raymond Depardon chronicles the legal procedure involving patients forcefully admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Lyon, France. The title of the documentary refers to the number of days patients have to see a judge, to determine if they will be released. ★★★★★ JMa

Beautiful Boy (IIB)

Based on journalist David Sheff's memoir, *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction*, this biographical



In *Hichki*, Rani Mukerji (centre) plays a teacher with Tourette's syndrome who, despite her condition, helps pupils from underprivileged backgrounds.

drama follows the struggles that his family went through during his son's meth addiction. Stars Steve Carell and Timothee Chalamet. ★★★★★ RJH

Bohemian Rhapsody (IIA)

Biographical drama following the rise of British rock band Queen, led by flamboyant frontman Freddie Mercury (Rami Malek), and culminating in the band's legendary performance at the 1985 fundraising concert Live Aid at Wembley Stadium, London. Directed by Bryan Singer. Also stars Lucy Boynton and Gwilym Lee. ★★★★★ JMa

Cafe Funiculi Funicula (I) (Japanese)

Customers frequently patronise the titular cafe, knowing full well that the time-travelling ability they are endowed with when they sip their coffee at a specific seat lasts only as long as their coffee remains warm. Based on the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Junwa Kawaguchi. Directed by Ayuko Tsukahara. ★★★★★ JMa

Crazy Rich Asians (IIA)

This drama follows a Chinese-American professor (Constance Wu) who agrees to accompany her boyfriend (Henry Golding) to his best friend's wedding in his native Singapore. Soon, she is confronted by his ultra-privileged family, relatives and disapproving mother (Michelle Yeoh). Also stars Gemma Chan and Awkwafina. ★★★★★ BS

Distinction (I) (Cantonese)

When a music teacher (Jo Koo) from a

special-needs school is offered a position at an elite institution, she must decide whether to decline the job or risk abandoning her struggling pupils. Directed by Jevons Au. ★★★★★ EL

First Man (IIA)

Damien Chazelle takes an inside look at the Apollo 11 mission in this biographical drama depicting the life of astronaut Neil Armstrong (Ryan Gosling) during the years (1961-1969) leading up to him being the first man to walk on the moon. ★★★★★ JMa

Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween (IIA)

On Halloween night, a group of friends chance upon a magical book and unleash Slappy, the doll of an evil ventriloquist, along with monsters and other ghoulish beings, upon their peaceful town. Directed by Ari Sandel. ★★★★★ RJH

Halloween (IIB)

After escaping prison, masked killer Michael Myers returns to the US town of Haddonfield, Illinois, to continue his killing spree that began decades earlier. But this time, lone survivor Laurie Strode (Jamie Lee Curtis) is older, smarter and prepared for their final showdown. ★★★★★ JMa

Hotel Soul Good (IIA) (Cantonese)

Following a near-death experience, a successful executive (Christie Chau) contemplates her existence and opens a horror hotel to "scare" people into living more fulfilling lives. Directed by Anthony Yan Pak-wing. ★★★★★ EL

Hunter Killer (IIB)

An American submarine commander (Gerard Butler) assembles a crew to rescue the kidnapped Russian president, following a coup that was masterminded by the Russian defence minister. ★★★★★ JMo

Johnny English Strikes Again (IIA)

Johnny English (Rowan Atkinson) comes out of retirement in search of a cyber criminal responsible for releasing the identity of undercover British agents. Directed by David Kerr. ★★★★★ EL

Keyboard Warriors (IIB) (Cantonese)

A team of computer experts are recruited by the police to help identify individuals who stole cash from an armoured vehicle after an accident resulted in large bundles of money being spilled onto a busy street. Directed by Sit Ho-ching. ★★★★★ EL

Kusama - Infinity (IIB)

(Japanese & English)
Documentary tracing the life and works of influential Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, from obscure performing artist to international star, and her struggles with mental illness. Directed by Heather Lenz. ★★★★★ RJH

Laplace's Witch (IIA) (Japanese)

When a string of hydrogen sulphide poisoning deaths begin to occur, geochemistry professor Aoe (Sho Sakuragi) is dispatched to the case. Soon he encounters a strange girl (Suzu Hirose), going by the name Laplace's Witch,

who offers up clues to the case while challenging his belief in the occult. Directed by Takashi Miike. Not reviewed.

The Miseducation of Cameron Post (IIB)

After being caught making out with the prom queen, a teenage girl (Chloe Grace Moretz) is sent for gay conversion therapy where she bonds with a couple of like-minded individuals while playing along with the treatment. Also stars Quinn Shephard, Sasha Lane and John Gallagher Jr. ★★★★★ JMo

One Cut of the Dead (IIB) (Japanese)

Comprising a 37-minute single take, Shinichi Ueda's experimental comedy-slasher follows the arrival of a zombie apocalypse as a film crew is shooting a zombie horror movie at an abandoned water plant. ★★★★★ JMa

Project Gutenberg (IIB) (Cantonese, English, Mandarin & Thai)

A criminal mastermind (Chow Yun-fat) blackmails a skilled artist (Aaron Kwok Fu-shing) into joining an international ring specialising in creating counterfeit banknotes. Written and directed by Felix Chong. ★★★★★ EL

The Quake (IIB) (Norwegian)

A geologist (Kristoffer Joner) and his family relocate to the Norwegian capital of Oslo, just in time to get caught in a massive earthquake, leaving them to fend against the elements in hopes of survival. Directed by John Andreas Andersen. ★★★★★ JMa

Rampant (IIB) (Korean)

Following a long imprisonment abroad, Prince Ganglim (Hyun Bin) returns home during the Joseon dynasty and must ward off an attack by man-eating monsters that possess the ability to return from the dead. Directed by Kim Sung-hoon. ★★★★★ JMa

Searching (IIA)

Told entirely through screens from smartphones, computers and surveillance footage, this thriller follows a widower (John Cho) and his desperate attempts to find his missing 16-year-old daughter by tracking her online activity. Directed by Aneesh Chaganty. ★★★★★ RJH

Scarico: Day of the Soldado (IIB) (English & Spanish)

When a hitman (Benicio Del Toro) kidnaps a drug kingpin's daughter, he finds himself targeted by both the cartels and the American government as everyone looks to get an upper hand in the war on drugs. Directed by Stefano Sollima. Also stars Josh Brolin. ★★★★★ RJH

A Star is Born (IIB)

A hard-drinking rock 'n' roll veteran on the decline, Jackson (Bradley Cooper, who also directs) discovers and falls in love with up-and-comer Ally (Lady Gaga), before she begins her quest to stardom. ★★★★★ RJH

Thirty Years of Adonis (III) (Mandarin)

Adonis (Adonis He Fei) dreams of being a movie star, but he is ultimately forced into the world of nude modelling and gay prostitution to support his sick mother. ★★★★★ EL

Venom (IIB)

While investigating the Life Foundation for its experiments in symbiotics, journalist Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) comes in contact with an alien that bonds with his body, creating an uncontrollable and dangerous alter ego with superhuman abilities. ★★★★★ JMo

When I Get Home, My Wife Always Pretends to Be Dead (IIA)

Shortly after their third anniversary, salaryman Jun (Ken Yasuda) comes home from work to find his wife (Nana Ekikura) dead in an intricately staged scenario. Not sure what to make of it, Jun looks into her past to uncover clues about her strange behaviour. Directed by Toshio Lee. ★★★★★ JMa

Art House

Hong Kong Asian Film Festival

A programme of Asian films, including the following four. Until Nov 25. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St, Yau Ma Tei, HK\$70 cinema.com.hk. Inquiries: 2388 0002

CONTACT: listings@scmp.com

Cities of Last Things

Told in reverse chronological order, this neo-noir drama gradually uncovers the truth behind a man who kills three people and himself. Directed by Ho Wi-ding. Stars Jack Kao. In Mandarin with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 10, 2pm, 4.20pm, Broadway The One

The Man from the Sea

A Japanese man washes ashore in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, and comes into contact with an amateur film crew shooting a documentary about survivors of an earthquake and tsunami. Directed by Koji Fukada. In Japanese and Indonesian with English subtitles. Nov 16, 7.50pm, Nov 21, 7.45pm, Broadway Cinematheque; Nov 20, 9.50pm, Broadway The One

Chronicle of My Mother

Harada Masato's domestic drama follows a writer who, following the death of his father, returns to his hometown to care for his dementia-afflicted mother. In the process, the couple unearth a lifetime of strained and troubled memories. Based on Yasushi Inoue's novel of the same name. In Japanese with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 16, 9.50pm, Nov 29, 7.35pm, Broadway Cinematheque; Nov 26, 7.40pm, Movie Movie Cityplaza

Still Human

Oliver Chan Siu-kuen makes his feature film directorial debut in this drama about the unlikely bond between a paralysed man (Anthony Wong Chau-sang), with no family, and the domestic helper (Crisel Consunji) caring for him. In Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 21, 7.30pm, Movie Movie Cityplaza

Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival

A selection of Jewish films, including the following one. Until Nov 11. Asia Society Hong Kong Centre, 9 Justice Rd, Admiralty, HK\$90-HK\$380 goo.gl/kznfz. Inquiries: 6017 6805

Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas

An in-depth look at the relationship that American Jews have with Christmas, in spite of the fact that seasonal classics such as *White Christmas*, *Let It Snow* and others were penned by Jews. Directed by Larry Weinstein. In English. Nov 11, 2pm

BC Sunday

Broadway Circuit presents a Sunday programme of films, including the following one. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St, Yau Ma Tei, HK\$70 cinema.com.hk. Inquiries: 2388 0002

All the Money in the World

Inspired by the real-life kidnapping of John Paul Getty III, this drama follows the efforts of his mother (Michelle Williams) and a fixer (Mark Wahlberg) to free him, after his billionaire grandfather, oil tycoon John Paul Getty (Christopher Plummer), refuses to pay the ransom. Directed by Ridley Scott. Also stars Romain Duris. In English with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 11, 9.30pm

Compiled by Barry C. Chung