

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

## New 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 drama follows the struggles his family went through during his son's meth addiction. Co-written and directed by Felix Van Groeningen. Stars Steve Carell and Timothee Chalamet. ★★★★★ RJH

**Cafe Funiculi Funicula (I) (Japanese)**  
Customers frequently patron 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. Stars Kasumi Arimura and Kentaro Ito. ★★★★★ JMa

**Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween (IIA) (Opens Oct 31)**  
On Halloween night, a group of friends chance upon a magical book and unwittingly unleash Slappy, the doll of an evil ventriloquist, along with monsters and other ghoulish beings, upon their peaceful town. Directed by Ari Sandel. Stars Jeremy Ray Taylor, Madison Iseman and Caleel Harris. ★★★★★ RJH

**Halloween (IIB)**  
After escaping prison, masked killer Michael Myers returns to the town of



Steve Carell (back) and Timothee Chalamet star in the biographical drama *Beautiful Boy*.

Haddonfield, Illinois, to complete the 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. Directed by David Gordon Green. ★★★★★ JMa

**Hunter Killer (IIB)**  
An American submarine commander (Gerard Butler) assembles a crew to rescue the kidnapped Russian president following a coup put together by his defence minister. Directed by Donovan

Marsh. Also stars Gary Oldman and Zane Holtz. ★★★★★ JMo

**Lucid Dreams (IIB) (Cantonese & Mandarin)**  
Teddy Robin takes the helm in this omnibus thriller centring on four unrelated horror stories that are loosely based on his dreams. ★★★★★ EL

**One Cut of the Dead (IIB) (Japanese)**  
Comprising a 37-minute single take, Shinichiro 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

## General Releases

**Cat Cafe (I) (Japanese)**  
Sakura cares and tends to the every need of the felines at the Mocha cat cafe in Tokyo. She also interacts with

the many customers looking for a relaxing place to escape the real world and leave their worries behind. Not reviewed.

**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). ★★★★★ BS

**Destination Wedding (IIB)**  
Despite a rocky first impression, a pair of misanthropes (Keanu Reeves and Winona Ryder) gradually begin to bond after meeting en route to the same wedding. ★★★★★ RJH

**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. Also stars Claire Foy, Jason Clarke and Kyle Chandler. ★★★★★ JMa

**Hell Fest (IIB)**  
A group of teens unknowingly cross paths with a masked serial killer when he takes over the titular travelling Halloween carnival, leaving a trail of blood and gore. Directed by Gregory Plotkin. Stars Reign Edwards and Bex Taylor-Klaus. ★★★★★ RJH

**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

**The House with a Clock in Its Walls (IIA)**  
After learning magic from his warlock uncle (Jack Black), a young orphan (Owen Vaccaro) joins him on a journey to unlock the truth behind a mysterious clock hidden in the walls of their home. Directed by Eli Roth and based on the young adult novel by John Bellairs. ★★★★★ RJH

**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

**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 Sakurai) 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.

**Loving Pablo (IIB) (English & Spanish)**  
A biopic chronicling the rise and fall of drug lord Pablo Escobar, told from the perspective of his mistress, Colombian journalist and television host Virginia Vallejo (Penelope Cruz). Directed by Fernando Leon de Aranoa. ★★★★★ RJH

**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. Directed by Desiree Akhavan. Also stars Quinn Shephard, Sasha Lane and John Gallagher Jr. ★★★★★ JMo

**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. ★★★★★ EL

**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

**A Simple Favor (IIB)**  
A dorky widow (Anna Kendrick), who video blogs for a living, looks to piece together evidence to help uncover the truth behind the disappearance of her best friend, a stylish and provocative career woman (Blake Lively) married to an author (Henry Golding). Directed by Paul Feig. ★★★★★ RJH

**Smallfoot (I) (Chinese & English versions)**  
A naive, friendly yeti tries to prove to his fellow villagers the existence of humans, aka smallfoot. ★★★★★ EL

**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

**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,

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salaryman Jun (Ken Yasuda) comes home from work to find his wife (Nana Eikura) 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. ★★★★★ JMa

## Art House

**HKIFF Cine Fan**  
Screenings of classic films, including the following four. Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai; The Grand Cinema, 2/F Elements, 1 Austin Rd West; Festival Grand Cinema, 80 Tat Chee Ave, Festival Walk; Science Museum, 2 Science Museum Rd, TST East; The Sky, Olympian City 2, 18 Hoi Ting Rd, West Kowloon; HK Film Archive, 50 Lei King Rd, Sai Wan Ho; Tai Kwun, Centre for Heritage and Arts, 10 Hollywood Rd Central, HK\$75-HK\$85 Urbtix / cinefan.com.hk. Inquiries: 2970 3300

**✓ In the Name of the Father**  
Wrongfully arrested following an IRA bombing, a petty criminal (Daniel Day-Lewis) is imprisoned and looks to clear his name. Directed by Jim Sheridan. Also stars Emma Thompson, Pete Postlethwaite and John Lynch. In English with Chinese subtitles. Oct 28, 2.30pm, Festival Grand Cinema

**✓ The Shawshank Redemption**  
A pair of prisoners serving life sentences develop a special kinship while enduring and sharing the hardships of life behind bars. In English with Chinese and English subtitles. Directed by Frank Darabont. Nov 3, 7.30pm, HK Arts Centre; Dec 16, 5pm, Tai Kwun

**Chinatown**  
Roman Polanski's noir drama centring on a private detective hired to spy on a chief engineer who winds up dead, and the deeper conspiracy and corruption beneath the surface. Stars Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway and John Huston. In English with Chinese subtitles. Nov 4, 8.30pm, HK Arts Centre; Nov 25, 5pm, Festival Grand Cinema

**✓ Old Boy**  
Park Chan-wook's classic revenge thriller centring on a man thrown into prison for 15 years, despite having no idea why. When he is finally released, he sets out on a spree of violence while looking for those responsible for his sentence. In Korean with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 23, 7.30pm, The Grand Cinema; Dec 22, 5.30pm, Festival Grand Cinema

**Movie Movie: Life is Art**  
A programme of documentaries revealing the lives and experiences of famous artists and stars. Includes the following film. AMC Pacific Place, One Pacific Place, 88 Queensway; Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St, Yau Ma Tei; Palace IFC, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St, Central; Movie Movie Cityplaza, 5/F Cityplaza, 18 Taikoo Shing Rd, Taikoo Shing; Yoho Mall I, Level 1, 9 Long Yat Rd, Yuen Long, HK\$85-HK\$95 cinema.com.hk. Inquiries: 2388 0002

**Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars**  
An in-depth look at the only musician to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame three times, plus interviews with BB King, Jimi Hendrix and George Harrison. In English with Chinese and English subtitles. Oct 28, 3.25pm, Palace IFC

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

**The Autopsy of Jane Doe**  
A father-and-son team of coroners (Brian Cox and Emile Hirsch) attempt to identify a Jane Doe, as supernatural occurrences lead to clues about her past. Directed by Andre Ovredal. In English with Chinese subtitles. Oct 28, 9.30pm

**Macbeth**  
Michael Fassbender takes the title role in this adaptation of Shakespeare's classic about a conniving wife (Marion Cotillard) who convinces her husband to murder the king and take over the throne. In English with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 4, 9.30pm

**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. In English with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 11, 9.30pm

**Pale Moon**  
Based on Mitsuyo Kakuta's novel about a personal banker (Rie Miyazawa) who slides into fraudulent behaviour after being overcome by the temptations of sex and easy money. Directed by Daihachi Yoshida. In Japanese with Chinese and English subtitles. Nov 18, 9.30pm

**Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival**  
A selection of Jewish films, including the following one. Nov 3-11. Asia Society Hong Kong Centre, 9 Justice Rd, Admiralty, HK\$90-HK\$380 goo.gl/kznfxz. Inquiries: 6017 6805

**Shelter**  
A Mossad agent develops a mutual bond with the Lebanese informant she is tasked with protecting at an Israeli safe house in Germany. Directed by Eran Riklis. In English, German, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles. Nov 3, 8pm

Compiled by Barry C. Chung