

渥太华加拿大中国电影节

# OTTAWA CANADA-CHINA FILM FESTIVAL

November 14, 21, 28, December 5 2018

Presented by



Canada-China Friendship Society®  
La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine  
Ottawa Chapter. Founded 1976. | Section d'Ottawa. Depuis 1976.

Films

**Love Education**

**I Am Not Madame Bovary**

**Tricks On The Dead**

**Mad World**

ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St, Ottawa

[www.ccfso.org](http://www.ccfso.org)

## A Note from the Film Committee

Welcome to the second annual Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival.

Our commitment to the audience remains to find and screen fascinating well-made films that explore the many sides of China's life, culture and history. These films tell deeply moving stories of life, love and events over the last 100 years.

Our Film Selection Committee expanded its search for great films by scanning dozens of international film festivals. More than 50 films were identified. From these four award winners were selected. Collectively these films won 37 awards at international film festivals and were nominated for another 68. Three films are Ottawa premieres.

The Festival opens with the drama **Love Education**. It was directed by Sylvia Chang and is a clear demonstration that talented women can have long and successful careers in Chinese cinema. As the title suggests it is all about love and how it changes over time as cultures evolve and it remains eternal.

The starting point for **I Am Not Madame Bovary** is a plot by a married couple to game the bureaucratic rules in order to get a better living arrangement. When their scheme goes wrong the heroine, played by mega star Fan Bingbing, challenges China's Kafkaesque bureaucracy for justice with comedic results.

**Tricks on the Dead** is a Canadian docu-drama by Jordan Patterson. His brilliant film reveals a hidden story of 80,000 Chinese workers who transited Canada locked in train cars en route to World War I. Their treatment & the denial of China's claims in the peace negotiations contributed to China's distrust of West.

**Mad World** was a passion project for its first time director Chun Wong and it stars Shawn Yue and Eric Tsang. The actors both agreed to waive their fees so that this low budget film could be completed. From these modest beginnings Mad World went on to be submitted by Hong Kong for the Academy Awards.

# Canada-China Film Festival Schedule

**ByTowne Cinema**

325 Rideau St, Ottawa

**Love Education - Wednesday November 14, 2018 6:40 PM:**

**I Am Not Madame Bovary - Wednesday November 21, 2018 6:45 PM**

**Tricks On the Dead - Wednesday November 28, 2018 7:00 PM**

**Mad World - Wednesday December 5, 7:00 PM**

# Love Education – Ottawa Premiere

Wednesday November 14, 2018 - 6:40 PM

120 minutes

Director: Sylvia Chang

Writer: Sylvia Chang, Xiaoying You

Starring: Sylvia Chang, Zhuangzhuang Tian, Yanshu Wu, Yueting Lang

Rating: Hong Kong IIA, Singapore PG, Taiwan GP

Mandarin with English Subtitles

This recently released film has already won 7 awards including Best Director, Best Actress and Best Screenplay. Director and lead actor Sylvia Chang is lauded equally for her acting and filmmaking. Her career spans six decades and encompasses more than 100 movies.

What is love? Who gets to define it, and should it be a force of liberation or constraint? Sylvia Chang attempts to find out in looking at the complicated, unexpectedly interconnected romantic lives of three generations of women who discover that nothing and everything has changed in the decades dividing them.

While a bereaved daughter channels her own anxieties of impending mortality into a petty and hopeless quest to validate the true love history of her parents, a daughter battles an oddly familiar problem with her musician boyfriend, and an elderly village woman is forced to realise she wasted her life waiting for the return of a man who had so carelessly abandoned her.

Mediated by a culturally specific argument over burial rites, Love Education is a meditation on the demands and obligations of love, both familial and romantic, as they inevitably change and mature across the arc of lifetimes.

Hayley Scanlon, Windows on the World

## Love Education – Ottawa Premiere Continued

Sylvia Chang (also known as Ai-Chia Chang, Ai-chia Chang, Aijia Chang, Ngai-kar Cheung, Ai Cha Shang, Aijia Zhang) was born in Taiwan in 1953.

Her six decade long career as a stage and screen actor, writer, director, and producer is particularly remarkable in the male dominated world of Asian cinema. All of the Asian actresses who started at the same time as Sylvia have long since left the world of cinema.

As a child she moved with her family from Taiwan to the United States and to Hong Kong. Exposing her to a wide range of influences from very traditional to very liberal and exposed her to racism. This toughened her up, and forced her to develop and defend her own ideas, and to face her own mistakes.

By age 23 she had won a Golden Horse Award for Best Supporting Actor. At age 28 she directed her first film (a self-proclaimed disaster). Over her career she has acted, directed or produced over 100 projects including directing projects in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the United States.

In its review of Love Education The South Morning Post stated, “Taiwanese director Chang adds to her list of nuanced emotional dramas, with this intimate story about three generations of a Chinese family and a dispute about the burial of a deceased family member. It’s a cliché ... to point out how female filmmakers tend to be more adept at depicting the sentimentality experienced by women with nuance and dignity. But the Taiwanese-born writer-director-star Sylvia Chang Ai-chia has certainly made that notion more persuasive with her range of exquisite feminine dramas, from Tempting Heart (1999) and 20:30:40 (2004) to this new film.”

# **I Am Not Madame Bovary – Ottawa Premiere**

Wednesday November 21, 2018 - 6:45 PM

128 minutes Rated 14A

Director: Xiaogang Feng

Starring: Fan Bingbing, Chengpeng Dong, Wei Fan

Mandarin with English subtitles.

I Am Not Madame Bovary had its international premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. It was screened as a special presentation and went on to win the FIPRESCI prize from the International Federation of Film Critics.

“Bovary” tells the contemporary tale of a peasant woman who feels wronged by China’s justice system in her divorce case, and stubbornly attempts multiple appeals through lower courts, with city mayors and onward to Beijing. As she doggedly pursues justice, she wreaks havoc along the ladder of petty bureaucrats and officials who are far more interested in self-advancement and toadying to their superiors, or simply seek to maintain superficial social harmony.

In her review of I Am Not Madame Bovary Shelly O’Malley observed that Director “Feng Xiaogang has chosen a distancing device for his visuals. The rural sections of the film are seen through a circular shape, cutting off the periphery of the screen. When she gets to Beijing, the circular shape vanishes, and suddenly the frame is a perfect square, representing the much larger world she enters.

The intention is to create the effect of an old Chinese painting, the ones seen in the opening of the film. This style must have required extreme rigor on the part of everyone involved to keep the action contained enough to stay inside that circle. Much of the film is stunning. These are moments in miniature, seen through a peephole. The color scheme is careful and poetic: watery greens and greys and blurring pinks in the countryside, while Beijing is all gold and red and white.”

On the festival circuit this film has won 16 awards including 2 for best film, an Audience Choice Award and the FIPRESCI prize. Fan Bingbing's portrayal of Li Xuelian earned her 4 Best Actress awards at festivals in an astonishingly unglamorous role. Feng Xiaoganga earned 3 Best Director awards.

**Director Feng Xiaoganga** was born in 1958 in Beijing, China the son of a college professor and a factory nurse. Xiaogang joined the Beijing Military Region Art Troupe as a stage designer after high school. His cinema career began as an art designer 1985. In 1987 he began writing and acting.

He is China's highest profile and most commercially successful director — three of Feng's previous films have earned China's selection for the foreign language Oscar. He is also an accomplished writer, producer and actor with over 60 TV and film credits with 39 career awards for Best Director, Best Actor and Best Film.

His cinema career started in 1987 with acting and was followed by 16 acting credits through 2018. By 1993 Feng was launched his career as a director and writer accumulating 16 and 19 credits respectively for writing and directing. In 2003 Feng produced his first film and by 2018 had accumulated 16 projects.

**Superstar Fan Bingbing** proved her acting abilities in I Am Not Madame Bovary. She was born in 1981 and has made a career as a Chinese actress, model, television producer, and pop singer. Fan rose to fame in east Asia in 1998–1999 with the TV costume drama series My Fair Princess. She has participated in many foreign-language films, such as the French film Stretch (2011) and the Hollywood superhero blockbuster X-Men: Days of Future Past (2014).

Since 2013, Fan has been listed as the highest-paid celebrity in the Forbes China Celebrity 100 list for four years in a row. She is one of the highest-paid actresses in the world and has been called a global fashion icon. Recently Fan dropped out of the public eye. She subsequently offered a public apology over tax evasion, for which the Chinese authorities fined her about US\$127.4 million).

## Tricks on the Dead – Ontario and Ottawa Premiere

Wednesday November 28, 2018 - 7:00 PM

100 min.

Directed by: Jordan Paterson

Starring: Bradley Duffy, Mackenzie Gray, Steve James, Zhang Yan

Screenwriter Jordan Paterson, Natasha Damiano

Chinese and English with English subtitles.

An award winning film documenting the forgotten story of a group of Chinese peasants who were sent to a war they didn't understand.

The First World War erupted in 1914. By 1916 Allied powers had suffered devastating casualties. As a result British, French and Chinese governments formed an agreement to send almost 140,000 Chinese laborers to the battlefields of Europe. 85,000 of these men were locked in CPR train cars and shipped in miserable conditions across Canada at a time when Canada was imposing a head tax on Chinese to prevent them from immigrating to Canada.

Using unseen archive footage, interviews, and visually rich re-enactments the film follows Zhang Yan as he searches to restore the collective memory of those in China and around the world who have largely forgotten about the 140,000 men who made this journey 100 years ago.

8 awards including: Audience Favourite Must See Award, Vancouver International Film Festival 2015, Best Documentary, Canada International Film and Television Festival 2015. Best International Production, Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival 2015

Since graduating from Simon Fraser University **Jordan Paterson** has produced a series of documentaries which earned many awards including **From C to C: Chinese Canadian Stories of Migration**.



# **Mad World, Hong Kong's Submission to Oscars Best Foreign Language Film**

Wednesday December 5, 2018 - 7:00 PM

101 minutes

Director: Chun Wong

Stars: Shawn Yue, Eric Tsang, Elaine Jin

Rated 14A

Cantonese with English subtitles.

Mad World won 7 awards on the festival circuit including the Grand Prix for best film at the Osaka Asian Film Festival, the Audience Choice Award at the Hong Kong International Film Festival and it was Hong Kong's submission for Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.

Mad World is the first full-length feature of Hong Kong director Chung Wong. It was shot in Hong Kong in two weeks with a tiny \$257,000 budget. Eric Tsang and Shawn Yue donated their time to make the project work in the tiny budget.

## **Giovanna Fulvi's review of Mad World for TIFF**

Top Hong Kong stars Shawn Yue and Eric Tsang star in this daring independent drama about a former financial analyst suffering from severe bipolar disorder, who is released from a mental health facility into the unwilling custody of his truck-driver father.

Hong Kong cinema, focused on creating box-office megahits to feed the superpower of the mainland's film industry, seldom reflects the psychology and life of real individuals — or the new sets of problems that have come with fast-paced social and economic change. In this context, Wong Chun's first feature is most welcome. Mad World is an accomplished film about an unlikely hero who struggles with mental illness, a sense of failure, and surrounding hurtful ignorance

Tung (Shawn Yue) has just been dismissed from the mental hospital where he's spent the last few years suffering from a severe form of bipolar disorder. He is not cured; his illness is one that can at best be managed. Once a successful financial analyst, Tung lost his job due to a nervous breakdown, and no one is willing to hire him back.

Tung's father (Eric Tsang) is less than happy to have him back home in his tiny single-room apartment. A truck driver who must often travel to China, he's overcome with worry whenever he has to go away, leaving Tung and his medication regime unsupervised. During these periods of solitude, Tung is either at the mercy of nosy, narrow-minded neighbours or, worse, left alone with the ghosts of his past. That past is the source of rifts and resentment between father and son, and its invisible presence may suffocate them both in this claustrophobic shared space. Soon, though, the hostile world outside the apartment presents a whole other set of difficulties.

Posing the question of how to effect change in contemporary Hong Kong, *Mad World* carries a poignant message — one ennobled by the commanding presence of high-profile Hong Kong stars Tsang and Yue, for whom this independent film of great integrity is clearly a labour of love.

### **Extracts Karen Chu (The Hollywood Reporter) Interview of Director Chung Wong**

What kind of limitations did the budget of \$257,000 and a two-week shoot pose on the filming?

The limitations mainly came from the number of scenes and the duration of filming. Due to the lack of funds, we had to give up some of the scenes and concentrated on the scenes in the subdivided flat. And also because most of the crew was hired by the day to reduce the cost, we had to reduce the number of shooting days. That affected the style [and] the execution of the film, and created a highly pressured environment for the actors. Nevertheless, these limitations lent a uniqueness to *Mad World*.

# CCFSO Film Committee

**Chair: Roy Atkinson**

**Members:** Hippolyte Mugisha, Erqin Zeng, Barbara Lynn Lewis, Stephen Chappell, Dave McNicoll, Kathy Wang, Iris Young, James Higginson and Robert Decher.

**Selection Committee Coordinator: Hippolyte Mugisha**

In its second year the Film Selection Committee's first task was to broaden and deepen its approach to identifying potential films. The members searched for Chinese made films or films about China that has won awards at international film festivals. This process yielded over 50 candidate films in 7 categories: Drama, Comedy, Documentaries, Action, Crime, Biography and Art House.

For each candidate film it was necessary to locate the company with the distribution rights for Canada and to secure access to a "screener" for CCFSO reviewers. Next the members of the committee watched the films and applied the screening criteria developed last year namely:

- Would the reviewer recommend the film to their friends or family
- Did the film shed light on life in China, or its culture or history
- Was the film well made, considering factors as the quality of the acting, cinematography, sound, sub-titles and the pacing of the film?

The result is a short list of films that the reviewers personally recommend, and each film tells and interesting and is well made.

The final selection was made taking into account the overall composition of the festival films, and novelty, (the extent to which the films had been screened previously in Ottawa). We are pleased to be able to bring you three Ottawa Premiers **Love Education, I Am Not Madame Bovary, and Tricks On The Dead.** **Mad World** has had only one short theatrical exposure in Ottawa.

# Sponsors

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- Roy Atkinson and Ginette Saint-Cyr
- Killens Reid Physiotherapy Clinic

## Supporters

- Stephen Chappell
- Robert Decher
- Erqin Zeng

## Advisors

- Bruce White, Bytowne Cinema
- Haisheng Zhao, Minister Councillor (Culture)

The CCFSO wishes to thank the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Ottawa for their significant on-going support of our film festival project.



**Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada**

*From H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*

515 St. Patrick Street, Ottawa, CANADA K1N 5H3  
Tel: (613)789-0058 Fax: (613)789-1412

**Congratulation Letter**

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018

I am pleased to hear that the 2nd Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival will be held on November 14-15, 2018. On behalf of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada, I would like to express warm congratulations to the Festival and sincere gratitude to the event organizer, Ottawa Canada China Friendship Society, for their great efforts that have made this possible.

The forthcoming Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival will provide Canadian movie fans an opportunity to experience Chinese society and life in an artistic form. I hope that from various perspectives of these films, the audience will be able to explore the colorful life of Chinese people, approach their rich inner world and better understand their unremitting efforts in the pursuit of happiness and bright future.

May I wish the 2nd Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival a complete success.

Mr. HENG Xiaojun

Chargé d'affaires

Embassy of the People's Republic of China



**Jim Watson**  
Mayor/Maire

**Office of the Mayor**  
City of Ottawa

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November 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

On behalf of Members of Ottawa City Council, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the dignitaries and honorary guests, along with the friends and members of the **Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa (CCFSO)** on the auspicious occasion of the second annual **Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival**, taking place at the Bytowne Cinema.

I am delighted to offer my moral support to the CCFSO for providing a valuable forum for cinemagoers in the National Capital Region to learn more about China, in addition to having the opportunity to view stories produced in China and films focusing on the experiences of Chinese Canadians.

The Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival will also serve to build on the momentum of the Beijing-Ottawa Sister Cities Relationship Agreement, first initiated in 1999. Since its inception, Beijing and Ottawa have successfully collaborated, in the spirit of friendship, in the spheres of the arts, education, tourism and trade.

As Head of Council, I want to acknowledge the Film Committee, sponsors and volunteers for dedicating efforts, expertise and resources to the successful presentation of the four award-winning films showcased at this year's festival.

Allow me to convey my best wishes to the organizers for a well-attended Festival and to the cinema audience for a most entertaining viewing of the film screenings presented.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson, Mayor/Maire

Le 14 novembre 2018

J'ai l'immense plaisir de souhaiter une cordiale bienvenue, au nom des membres du Conseil municipal d'Ottawa, aux dignitaires et aux invités d'honneur ainsi qu'aux amis et aux membres de la **section d'Ottawa de la Société d'amitié Canada-Chine (SACC)** à l'occasion du deuxième Festival annuel du film Canada-Chine d'Ottawa, qui se déroule au Cinéma Bytowne.

Je suis ravi d'apporter mon soutien moral à la section d'Ottawa de la SACC et à l'ambassade de la République populaire de Chine, qui fournissent un cadre précieux où les cinéphiles de la région de la capitale nationale pourront en apprendre davantage sur la Chine et voir des films produits en Chine ou portant sur l'expérience de Canadiens d'origine chinoise.

Le Festival du film Canada-Chine d'Ottawa permettra de poursuivre sur la lancée de l'entente de jumelage entre Beijing et Ottawa, conclue en 1999. Depuis, Beijing et Ottawa collaborent avec succès, dans un esprit d'amitié, dans les domaines des arts, de l'éducation, du tourisme et du commerce.

En tant que chef du Conseil, je tiens à remercier le Comité cinéma, les commanditaires et les bénévoles d'avoir consacré leurs efforts, leur savoir-faire et leurs ressources à la réussite de la présentation des quatre films primés qui seront projetés dans le cadre du festival de cette année.

Permettez-moi de souhaiter aux organisateurs un festival très couru et aux spectateurs un visionnement très divertissant des films au programme.

Meilleures salutations.

October 2018



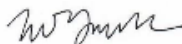
**The Honourable Yuen Pau Woo**  
Senator, British Columbia / *Sénateur,*  
*Colombie-Britannique*  
Room 310 Victoria Building  
*Pièce 310, Édifice Victoria*  
☎ 613-995-9244 | 📠 613-995-9246  
[YuenPau.Woo@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:YuenPau.Woo@sen.parl.gc.ca)

It is my pleasure to offer warmest congratulations to the CCFSO on your second annual Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival.

I note that this year's line-up of films includes some intriguing offerings, and I look forward to attending a number of the screenings. The Festival is an excellent way to introduce Canadians to the diversity, sophistication, and artistry of Chinese films. Your efforts will contribute to the strengthening of Canada-China cultural ties and improved mutual understanding. Not least, the festival will be an opportunity for Canadian audiences to enjoy some excellent films!

Best wishes to CCFSO as you grow the Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Honourable Yuen Pau Woo



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Mona Fortier*  
Member of Parliament / Députée  
Ottawa—Vanier

*As Member of Parliament for Ottawa -Vanier,  
I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the*

*Canada-China Friendship Society Ottawa*

*for organizing this year's edition of the Ottawa Canada-China Film  
Festival. The festival provides a unique and exciting way to learn more  
about Chinese culture through the medium of cinema.*

*Events like this celebrate the rich cultures and traditions that make  
Canada a showcase for multiculturalism. Please accept my best wishes for  
a most successful event.*

*Mona Fortier  
Member of Parliament  
Ottawa—Vanier*

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Room 809, Justice Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Tel.: 613-992-4766 Fax.: 613-992-6448

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Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca



October 29, 2018

I am pleased to write a letter in support of the second annual Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival. I would also like to congratulate the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa for launching this important festival and its commitment to enhancing Canadians knowledge of China's culture and its history.

Given that 2018 is the Canada China Year of Tourism, this festival will be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the cultural ties and friendship between Canada and China. In addition, it will help to foster the values of Canadian multiculturalism.

I wish all festivalgoers a truly enriching experience.

Sincerely,



Catherine McKenney.

Councillor - Somerset Ward

**The Senate of Canada**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

**K1A 0A4**



**Le Sénat du Canada**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

**K1A 0A4**

November 14, 2018

## **Greetings from Senator Victor Oh**

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival hosted by the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa (CCFSO).

Since its inception, the CCFSO has been committed to its goal of helping Canadians learn about China and understand it better. The Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival shines a spotlight on the importance of the film industry in strengthening cross-cultural communication between fellow Canadians and members of the global community. It will provide the audience with an opportunity to learn more about the rich and vibrant culture and traditions of China through the creative medium of film. Such efforts undoubtedly promote values of mutual understanding and respect, which we as Canadians, hold so near and dear.

I would like to commend the CCFSO for their ongoing efforts in fostering cross-cultural communications and people-to-people ties between Canada and China. I would also like to thank all organizers, sponsors and volunteers who contributed to making this event a success.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable festival.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Victor Oh  
Senator - Ontario



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# Canada-China Friendship Society® La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine

Ottawa Chapter. Founded 1976. | Section d'Ottawa. Depuis 1976.

The CCFSO was founded 42 years ago with the goal of helping Canadians learn about China and understand it better. It is an independent member financed group of more than 250 people with an interest in China.

Our programmes and activities include:

- Monthly Speaker Events from September to June (free for members);
- Canada-China Film Festival;
- Chinese New Year Banquet;
- Book Club;
- Opportunities to be part of delegations to China;
- Receiving/hosting delegations from China;
- Members only receptions;
- CCFSO Blogs

## Annual Membership

- Regular membership: \$25
- Family membership (two people): \$40
- Student membership (full-time, registered): \$15

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