

## New film season celebrates The Original Ass Kickers



Anita Mui in *Executioners*, part of the new season *The Original Ass Kickers* at HOME

*For immediate release*

Images and video can be downloaded here: <http://bit.ly/2lWnFGh>

A NEW season of films at HOME will celebrate the original female action heroes – the women who brought feisty femininity to the screen long before Hollywood rediscovered the star power of Wonder Woman or Captain Marvel.

From Sunday, 20 October to Monday, 18 November, *The Original Ass Kickers: Hong Kong Cinema's Female Action Heroes from Shaw Brothers and Beyond* will celebrate four decades of Hong Kong cinema's female action heroes including Michelle Yeoh, Maggie Cheung and Cheng Pei-Pei.

Starting in the 1960s with the Shaw Brothers films *Come Drink With Me* and *Golden Swallow*, the season will continue through the 1970s with *The 14 Amazons*, into the 1980s and 90s with *My Young Auntie*, *The Heroic Trio* and *Executioners*.

Andy Willis, Senior Visiting Curator: Film and Professor of Film Studies at University of Salford, said: "HOME's selection of 'Original Ass Kickers' are the film stars who are the role models for today's global female action heroes. For these women, the parts of demure courtesans, shy adolescents or wallflowers were just not enough.

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They were more than happy to punch and kick their way into new roles, and their formidable acting, fighting and stunt skills ensured that they have become legends of East Asian cinema."

In *Come Drink With Me* and its follow-up *Golden Swallow*, Cheng Pei-Pei stars as martial arts prodigy Golden Swallow who first seeks to rescue her brother from bandits, and then fights to prove her innocence after being framed for a series of bloodthirsty killings. In the epic *The 14 Amazons*, matriarch Mu Kuei-ying sets out with her female generals and relations to avenge the death of her husband. In the comic film *My Young Auntie* Lau Kar Leung stars as Cheng Tai-nun whose polite exterior conceals a deadly fighting skill. In *The Heroic Trio*, starring Michelle Yeoh, Anita Mui and Maggie Cheung must stop an evil mastermind stealing children to create a super race to take over the world, while the three are reunited in *Executioners* where they must once again rescue the world following a devastating nuclear attack.

The season is curated by Andy Willis, Senior Visiting Curator: Film and Professor of Film Studies at University of Salford and is part of HOME's 2019 celebration of women in global cinema, which also includes live recordings of the *Girls on Film* podcast, a retrospective of the work of Euzhan Palcy, the first black woman to direct a Hollywood studio picture and a *Not Just Bollywood* celebration of female creatives in Indian film.

### **Listings information**

#### **Come Drink with Me (Da zui xia)**

Sun 20 Oct, 18:00

Dir King Hu, starring Cheng Pei-Pei, Yueh Hua, Yang Chih-Ching

A hit across the world and today seen as one of the best martial arts films of all time, *Come Drink with Me* wonderfully showcases the talents of the youthful Cheng Pei Pei. As Golden Swallow she sets out to rescue her brother who has been kidnapped by bandits in this landmark period drama. Directed by King Hu, *Come Drink with Me* would show the way forward for martial arts films establishing the vital role of fighting women within the genre.

#### **Golden Swallow (Jin yan zi)**

Wed 23 Oct, 20:40

Dir Chang Cheh, starring Cheng Pei-Pei, Jimmy Wang Yu, Lo Lieh

Golden Swallow returns, this time directed by kung fu film maestro Chang Cheh, in a story that sees her having to prove her innocence after being framed for a series of bloodthirsty killings. As if to match her energy and skills, for this further adventure Cheng Pei Pei is joined by Shaw Brothers stalwarts Jimmy Wang Yu as Silver Roc and Lo Lieh as Golden Whip who both have romantic feelings for Golden Swallow – another reason, if one were needed, for a spectacular duel.

#### **The 14 Amazons (Shi si nu ying hao)**

Thu 24 Oct, 18:00

Dir Cheng Kang, starring Ivy Ling Po, Lisa Lu, Lily Ho, Yueh Hua

Epic in scale, this Shaw Brothers sword-fighting film showcases a number of the studio's top female actors in leading roles. After General Yang and many of his



male followers are ambushed and killed, his widow leads those left behind to seek revenge.

Having made her name in hugely popular films of Chinese Operas, Ivy Ling Po who plays the general's widow was already a major star when she came to appear in *The 14 Amazons*. Her co-star, playing his son, Lily Ho was a major new talent within the Hong Kong film industry of the period. Together they made up the main selling points of this sumptuous film.

For their work on the film Cheng Kang won Best Director and Lisa Wu Best Supporting Actress at the 1973 Golden Horse awards, while Lily Ho was given the award for Outstanding Female Lead Performance at the 1973 Asian Film festival in Tokyo.

### **My Young Auntie (Zhang bei)**

Mon 28 Oct, 18:00

Dir Lau Kar Leung, starring Lau Kar Leung, Kara Hui, Gordon Liu

Produced by Mona Fong and directed by the legendary Lau Kar-leung, this comedic martial arts film set lead actor Kara Hui on her road to Hong Kong film stardom.

In order to prevent the estate of a dying older man falling into the hands of his evil younger brother he marries a young woman, Cheng Tai-nun. Once the old man dies Tai-nun has to ensure that the deeds to his land remain in the right hands. On the surface traditional, polite and demur, Tai-nun's enemies underestimate her at their peril as she is also a highly kung fu fighters.

### **The Heroic Trio (Dung fong sam hap)**

Fri 15 Nov, 18:20

Dir Johnnie To, starring Michelle Yeoh, Anita Mui, Maggie Cheung

An evil mastermind is stealing children with a view to developing a super-race who will become leaders of the world. Initially on opposite sides, the heroic trio of Wonder Woman (not that one), Invisible Woman and Thief Catcher must join forces to save the world. This fantastical, comic book style film is a great showcase for three of Hong Kong cinema's action women, a trio of original ass-kickers if ever there was one.

### **Executioners (Yin doi hou hap zyun)**

Mon 18 Nov, 18:20

Dir Johnnie To, starring Michelle Yeoh, Anita Mui, Maggie Cheung

Set some years after the first film, Executioners takes place after a nuclear attack has devastated the world. The heroic trio of Wonder Woman, Thief Catcher and Invisible Woman must once again join forces to defeat an evil villain who wreaks havoc through his control of the vital water supply. Once again, Johnnie To shows himself to be a deft handler of the fantastical elements of this ground-breaking film.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Images and video can be downloaded here: <http://bit.ly/2lWnEGh>



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**HOME** is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in 2015, HOME has welcomed over two million visitors to its five cinemas, two theatres, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME's five screens showcase the best new independent film releases alongside a unique programme of film seasons, festivals, and special events. HOME's bold and diverse programming has screened 626 films from 57 countries in the past year, and its robust audience numbers consistently make HOME one of the UK's top performing independent cinemas for new releases.

This year, HOME is presenting the *Celebrating Women in Global Cinema* season, a year-long programme of films and special events highlighting and celebrating women in film from across the world. The season is co-curated by HOME's Head of Film **Rachel Hayward** alongside **Andy Willis**, Senior Visiting Curator: Film and Professor of Film Studies at University of Salford.

The Original Ass Kickers: *Hong Kong Cinema's Female Action Heroes from Shaw Brothers and Beyond* is supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office London.

A popular choice for established and emerging filmmakers keen to participate in Q&A events with engaged audiences, HOME has welcomed the following filmmakers and more since opening: Clio Barnard, Gurinder Chadha, Felix Chong, Paddy Considine, Armando Iannucci, Ken Loach, Alice Lowe, Rungano Nyoni, Lynne Ramsay, Nicolas Winding Refn, Whit Stillman, and Ben Wheatley.

Overseen by Creative Director for Film and Culture Jason Wood, HOME also produces a specially curated, original programme of film seasons and special events and is committed to supporting UK film talent and introducing emerging filmmakers to a wide audience.

The patrons of HOME are filmmakers Danny Boyle and Asif Kapadia, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay MBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE.  
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