



5th Annual **US-ASEAN
FILM FESTIVAL**

September 12-October 12, 2008

Meyer Auditorium at the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Gallery

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



The Washington Post



www.usaseancreativeproject.org

Naomi Wulansari, 2008

United by Contrasts: Southeast Asian Cinema Today

From a village devastated by the 2004 tsunami to the gleaming skyscrapers of Singapore, from rural Vietnam to chaotic Manila, the films in the fifth US-ASEAN Film Festival emphasize the diversity the region as expressed by its filmmakers.

The US-ASEAN Film Festival is presented by the GRACE Heritage Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution.

Gone Shopping

Friday, September 12, 7 PM

Wee Li Lin's satirical modern day fairytale takes place over the course of three days, during which three characters' stories intersect in a Singapore mall, providing a wry, sometimes funny, sometimes poignant commentary on the modern world's favorite sport: shopping. Sponsored by the **Embassy of the Republic of Singapore**. (*Singapore, 2007, 100 min., Mandarin, English, and Tamil with English subtitles*)

Preceded by **The Anniversaries**. Sponsored by the **Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia** (*Ariani Darmawan, Indonesia, 2006, 12 min., Bahasa Indonesia with English subtitles*)

Slingshot

Sunday, September 14, 2 PM

From its shocking opening scene of a police raid on a squatters' community to its irony-drenched climax at a political rally, Brillante Mendoza's aptly-titled film is an adrenalin-fueled sprint through Manila's underworld and an inventive piece of digital filmmaking. Intended for mature audiences. Sponsored by the **Embassy of the Philippines**. (*Philippines, 2007, 86 min., Tagalog with English subtitles*)

Invisible City

Sunday, September 14, 4 PM

Documentary filmmaker Tan Pin Pin looks beneath Singapore's image as a shining, modern metropolis in this engaging exploration of the city's (sometimes literally) buried history. Sponsored by the **Embassy of the Republic of Singapore**. (*Singapore, 2007, 60 min.*)

Wonderful Town

Friday, September 19, 7 PM

In Aditya Assarat's haunting film, a Bangkok architect, sent to a town devastated by the 2004 tsunami to supervise construction of a new beach resort, falls in love with the young woman who manages the hotel in which he is the sole guest. Intended for mature audiences. Sponsored by the **Royal Thai Embassy**. (*Thailand, 2007, 92 min., Thai with English subtitles*)

Preceded by **POOL** (*Christopher Chong, Canada/Malaysia, 2007, 13 min., Bahasa Indonesia and Acehnese with English subtitles*)

The Short Films of Apichatpong Weerasethekul

Sunday, September 21, 2 PM

The Freer presents a selection of short films by the Thai director of such acclaimed features as *Syndromes and a Century*, *Tropical Malady*, and *Blissfully Yours*, who Dennis Lim of the Village Voice hails as "world cinema's premier maker of mysterious objects." Sponsored by the **Royal Thai Embassy**. Visit www.usaseancreativeproject.org for full list of films and descriptions.

Good Morning, Luang Prabang

Friday, September 26, 7 PM

Co-directed by Anousone Sirisakda and Sakchai Deenan, this film – the first feature made in Laos in over three decades – tells the story of a Laotian-Australian photographer who, on assignment in Laos, connects with his cultural roots while falling in love with the beautiful tour guide who shows him around. (*Laos/Thailand, 99 min., Laotian with English subtitles*)

Chants of Lotus

Sunday, September 28, 2 PM

This four-part omnibus film brings into sharp relief the social situations of contemporary women living in modern-day Indonesia. Directors: Nia Dinata, Upi Avianto, Fatima Rony, Lasja F. Susatyo. Intended for mature audiences. Sponsored by the **Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia**, co-presented by United States-Indonesian Society (USINDO). (*Indonesia, 2007, 102 min., Bahasa Indonesia, Javanese, and Sundanese with English subtitles*)

In Person: Fatimah Rony, one of the directors of Chants of Lotus (Chant from an Island segment)

Flower in the Pocket

Friday, October 3, 7 PM

Winner of awards at the Pusan and Rotterdam film festivals, Liew Seng Tat's debut feature is the story of two endearing but troublesome young boys and their workaholic single dad. (*Malaysia, 2007, 97 min., Malay, Mandarin, Cantonese, and English with English subtitles*)

The White Silk Dress

Sunday, October 12, 2 PM

In Lu'u Huynh's film, a peasant woman tries to keep her family together through a dozen years of war and oppression during the waning years of the French occupation of Vietnam. Sponsored by the **Embassy of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States of America**. (*Vietnam, 2006, 136 min., Vietnamese with English subtitles*)



Tickets for all screenings can be obtained free at the Meyer Auditorium 1 hour before showing.