

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International film stars descend on Marina Bay Sands

SGIFF kicks off with appearances by John Woo, Zhang Ziyi and Juliette Binoche at Marina Bay Sands

Singapore (10 December 2014) – Marina Bay Sands is rolling out the red carpet to welcome the glitterati of the Asian film industry as it plays host to the 25th Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF). As presenting sponsor and venue host of the largest and longest-running film event in Singapore, the integrated resort is hosting international filmmakers and stars, including Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi, French actress Juliette Binoche, Chinese actor-singer Tong Dawei, renowned Hong Kong film director John Woo as well as many other celebrities from France, Germany, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand over the 11-day festival.



*(From left) Executive Director of Singapore International Film Festival Yuni Hadi with The Crossing cast and director John Woo, Zhang Ziyi, Tong Dawei, Woo's daughter Angeles and George Tanasjevich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marina Bay Sands at a press conference held at ArtScience Museum
Credit: Marina Bay Sands*

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The Festival kicked off on 4 December with a press conference for John Woo's latest film *The Crossing*, an epic love and war story spanning half a century of modern Chinese history starring Zhang Ziyi. Held at ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, the event was attended by Woo and his actress-daughter Angeles; Zhang as well as Chinese actor-singer Tong Dawei, who plays an army signaller in the movie. Renowned director Woo has been making movies for over 40 years, including *A Better Tomorrow* and *The Killer* in the 1980s, as well as a series of box office hits such as *Broken Arrow*, *Face/Off*, and *Mission: Impossible II*.



After having filmed at various iconic locations across Marina Bay Sands over several visits in the past, Zhang Ziyi returns to Marina Bay Sands to promote her latest film The Crossing.

On 5 December, John Woo and Zhang Ziyi were joined by legendary French actress Juliette Binoche for the SGIFF Fundraising Dinner hosted by Marina Bay Sands at celebrity chef restaurant CUT. The dinner was attended by prominent individuals of the film industry such as local filmmaker Eric Khoo, as well as socialites Rachel Kum, Leah Selakovic and Ginny and Richard Wiluan.

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Zhang Ziyi at the SGIFF Fundraising Dinner held at CUT



Juliette Binoche at the SGIFF Fundraising Dinner at CUT

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Director John Woo poses for the camera with his family at the SGIFF Fundraising Dinner held at CUT

George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marina Bay Sands, said, “Marina Bay Sands is honoured to be the presenting sponsor and venue host for this prestigious festival that celebrates the growing achievements of the region’s vibrant film industry. Our distinctive property has also inspired film and documentary producers from around the world to cast their creative eye on Singapore - we will continue to lend our support to this important community.”

Silver Screen Awards and Film Premieres

The Film Festival will culminate with the Silver Screen Awards this Saturday, 13 December at the MasterCard Theatres. Marina Bay Sands will be welcoming the film fraternity from around the world including Cheng Pei Pei who will be in Singapore to confer the tribute to the late Sir Run Run Shaw, who founded Shaw Brothers Studio and TVB, at the Silver Screen Awards. The Hong Kong actress was recently nominated for the British Independent Film Awards (BIFA) Best Actress honours for her role in *Litling*. German actress Natassja Kinski and French star Marine Vacth will also be gracing the star-studded awards ceremony.

This week, Marina Bay Sands will also host two film premieres directed by the region’s most celebrated filmmakers - Yuthlert Sippapak from Thailand and Lucky Kuswandi from Indonesia. Thai film *Chiang Khan Story* plays homage to a bygone era of classic Thai cinema, while the closing film for SGIFF, titled *In The Absence of The Sun*, tells a story of three women searching for their place in a metropolis that never sleeps. Both film screenings will be attended by the filmmakers and cast.

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Mike Wiluan, Chairman of SGIFF said: "Having international and regional stars participate in the film festival will enable the filmmaking community as well as filmgoers to further expand their conversations on films and the art of filmmaking. The city will be transformed with all the buzz and vibrancy over the festival period!"

SGIFF continues through to 14 December, focusing on ground-breaking Asian cinema and discovering new filmmaking talents from Southeast Asia. The Festival is complemented by the newly rebranded Singapore Media Festival (SMF) which pulls together the fourth ScreenSingapore, the 15th annual Asian Television Forum and Market (ATF) and the 19th Asian Television Awards - all held at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre this week.

For details of the 25th Singapore International Film Festival, visit <http://sgiff.com/>.

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com.

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