Press release

Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Centre－Taiwan Festival

Five Social Innovators

Listening to their stories and learning about the Taiwan that you know little about.

Plurality of perspectives starts from here.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s Memorial House in Macau invites you to listen to untold stories of Taiwan in April! The second cohort of Taiwan Festival brings about a series of activities featuring the best scenery on the Island, demonstrating its diverse lifestyles as well as stories of its carefree young people. You will be “listening to their stories and learning about the Taiwan that you know little about”.

Taiwan Festival, co-organized by Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Bureau of Macao Affairs) and Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Centre in Hong Kong with the theme Untold Stories of the Treasure Island, will be held at Macau’s Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s Memorial House for ten days between 8 and 17 April. It encompasses exhibitions, talks, workshops, and two open-air concerts. Youthful Deliberations－Mini Film Festival in Taiwan, co-organized with the film association Ying E Chi and bearing the themes Love and Courage as well as Youthful Memoirs, will explore the ageless topics about teaching, learning and the process of growing-up. A total of 14 shows will be shown on 14 (Thursday), 16 (Saturday) and 17 (Sunday) April at Cinematheque•Passion with free admission.

Director of Macau’s Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Lu Chang-Shui states that with benevolent Taiwanese being applauded as being the Island’s best scenery, five young dreamers and doers under 35 have been invited to tell their stories at Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s Memorial House, introducing to friends from Macau the Taiwan the friends know little about. Following last year’s Taiwan Festival which turns the Memorial House into a library of magazines, this year paper-cutting artist Yang Shih-Yi has tailor-made artworks especially for Macau. Inspired by concepts of the Island, Yang has designed work of art which links Taiwan and Macau together, with Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s Memorial House as the exhibition hall. We invite friends from Macau to embrace the ocean and the Island with us!

According to Director of Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Centre Lu Chien-Ying, the statement “benevolent Taiwanese are the Island’s best scenery” invites others to ask, “Who creates what scenery”? This year’s Taiwan Week — Untold Stories of the Treasure Island thus invites five artists and social innovators, namely Yang Shih-Yi, Hsu Fang-Yun, Wu Hsin-Tse, Kao Yao-Wei, and Tsai Sheng-Da to demonstrate the sceneries they have created. Their common positive traits are the ways “they think differently from others” and their courage to withstand failure. This contributes to the diverse values in Taiwan’s cultural scene, which is often described in Chinese societies as Taiwan’s “sense of humanity”. “Humanity is not something old-fashioned or belonging to the foregone generations. In these young people, we witness humanity in present tense,” says Lu.

The five social innovators are: Yang Shih-Yi, an award-winning documentary director who tells stories via paper-cutting; Wu Hsin-Tse, a musician who brings sitar to the world; Hsu Fang-Yun who left her well-paid career in a New York gallery and in Sotheby’s Hong Kong to return to Taiwan, leaving footsteps on the Island to deepen her understanding of her homeland; Kao Yao-Wei who repositions Jeng Shing Street in Tainan to become the talk of the town; Tsai Sheng-Da, the travel champion behind OBL which revitalizes Taiwan’s tourist cold spots. Life becomes increasingly interesting with stories of the five social innovators, thus demonstrating that “here and now, we no longer need big names or heroes; small is beautiful, and our smiles are the driver behind changes”.

Artist Yang Shih-Yi, the documentary director who started paper-cutting after a trip to the Mainland, has been invited to the press conference of Taiwan Festival. To perfect the artwork this year, he has visited various locations in Macau. Based on the creative concept of the Island, he longs to share the emotive experience he has at Hac Sa Village and the top of Farol da Guia. A number of documentaries will be shown, among them is Yang’s Reading with Love about love and reading. It promotes reading among children in the rural areas, thus giving children the courage to change the future through love and companions.

Wu Hsin-Tse, the Kavalan song-writer in Taiwan, has aspired to “listen to all sounds on earth” since childhood. He is now a professional sitarist who has been to India and Southeast Asia numerous times and learned to integrate and recreate world music as well as folk songs. He is the man behind Siyuland Taiwan’s first sitarist band, which has participated in concerts of Taiwan’s pop singers including Kulilay Amit and Jolin Tsai. In 2006, the Heartbeat of Asia was released as the world’s first sitarist music CD by Chinese people. The talk and concert will be held at 7.30pm on 9 April at the courtyard of Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s Memorial House.

The second week of Taiwan Festival features Youthful Deliberations －Mini Film Festival in Taiwan co-organized with Ying E Chi at Cinematheque•Passion. With the themes Love and Courage as well as Youthful Memoirs, five long films as well as six short films will be shown with free admission. Short films, which are rarely shown in public, include Father's Finger, Reading with Love, as well as Collections from Chimei Museum which is about collections at Tainan’s Chimei Museum. Longer works include: A Time in Quichi, Jump Ashin!, Winds of September, Baseball Boys, They Are Flying and other pieces shortlisted or awarded at international film festivals.

The Opening of Taiwan Festival will be held at 6.30pm on 8 April at Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s Memorial House, with paper-cutting artist Yang Shih-Yi as guest. All are welcome. At 7.30pm on 9 April, Wu Hsin-Tse will perform From the Pacific to the Indian Ocean ─ A Journey with the Humming Sounds of Sitar. At 5.30pm on 10 April, Tsai Sheng-Da and novel singer Tulbus Mangququ will perform with voice and instruments at the Completing the Island Jigsaw talk-sing concert, elaborating on profound and down-to-earth travels and helping others to learn about another facet of the Treasure Island. Tulbus Mangququ, an aboriginal from Kavalan in the tribe of Bahwan in Hualien, is the lead singer of Siva9 band.

Interested parties are welcome to pre-register online to get tickets. For details about the activities and online registration, please visit website: [taiwanfestmo.tw](http://taiwanfestmo.tw/), or call: 853-62890000.

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