



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Voleine Amilcar 415.978.2700 ext. 116; vamilcar@ybca.org

Shayna Yasuhara 415.321.1329 ext. 312; syasuhara@ybca.org

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Announces:

'Bugs' and Mainland Noir: Chinese Crime Films (February 1-25)



Free and Easy (2017); Courtesy the distributor.

SAN FRANCISCO – (December 10, 2017) Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is thrilled to introduce ***Mainland Noir: Chinese Crime Films***, a sampling of hard-hitting fugitive films, little seen outside of the festival circuit, which, taken together, signal the appearance of a Mainland school of noir.

We ring in Chinese New Year 2018 (the Year of the Dog) with this wickedly exciting series of new crime films from Mainland China, where crime depicted on screen is usually an admission of discontent in the people's paradise. Recently, however, a new generation of up-and-coming auteurs have independently been revamping the tropes of the Chinese genre film to address the country's violence. These films portray drifting killers, frustrated police, and lethal beauties, all

enmeshed in a web of vice and desire.

Mainland Noir is part of the Creative China Festival, curated by Meng Xie, supported by Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation.



Black Coal, Thin Ice

Thursday, Feb 1, 2018 7:30pm

Sunday, Feb 4, 2018 2pm

Regular Admission: \$10 / Students, Seniors, Teachers: \$9 / YBCA Members: \$8 / All

Access: Free

YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission Street

[Tickets](#) | [Trailer](#)

Winner of the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival, this edgy, neon-soaked mystery begins with the discovery of a severed hand in a coal factory. Cop Zhang (Liao Fan) follows the case, but five years later, when he's drinking heavily and working as a security guard, the body parts are still showing up. This sumptuous nocturnal noir has drawn comparison to David Fincher's *Zodiac*, and is a landmark among Chinese crime films. (Directed by Diao Yi'nan, 2014, 108 min, digital)

Free and Easy

Thursday, Feb 8, 2018 7:30pm

Sunday, Feb 11, 2018 2pm

Regular Admission: \$10 / Students, Seniors, Teachers: \$9 / YBCA Members: \$8 / All

Access: Free

YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission Street

[Tickets](#) | [Trailer](#)

Winner of the Special Jury Award for Cinematic Vision, Sundance Film Festival, *Free and Easy* is an absurdist farce in which crime is the new normal. Under a gray sky in a remote corner of northern China, a stranger arrives in town bearing magical soap—but smelling it will cost you. Nearby, a pair of bored cops try cracking a seemingly simple case. Or not. And forget religious solace; the only monk around is not what he seems. (Directed by Geng Jun, 2017, 97 min, digital)



The Dead End

Sunday, Feb 11, 2018 4:15pm

Sunday, Feb 25, 2018 4:15pm

Regular Admission: \$10 / Students, Seniors, Teachers: \$9 / YBCA Members: \$8 / All

Access: Free

YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission Street

[Tickets](#)

Based on a novel by Xu Yigua, this nail-biting morality play focuses on three men haunted by shared guilt over their role in an unsolved crime. When Deng's new boss revives the cold case, they find they have more to worry about than their consciences. It's an acute study of men under impossible pressure, with Dostoevskian undertones. (Directed by Cao Baoping, 2015, 139 min, digital)



The Coffin in the Mountain

Thursday, Feb 15, 2018 7:30pm

Sunday, Feb 18, 2018 2pm

Regular Admission: \$10 / Students, Seniors, Teachers: \$9 / YBCA Members: \$8 / All

Access: Free

YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission Street

[Tickets](#) | [Trailer](#)

In this unconventional and darkly comic depiction of the claustrophobia of provincial life, a burned body is discovered in a mountain village and the search is on to discover how it got there. This debut feature from Xin Yukun uses a shifting timeline, multiple perspectives, and a large cast of idiosyncratic personalities to deepen the puzzle's mystery. (Directed by Xin Yukun, 2014, 119 min, digital)



Lethal Hostage

Thursday, Feb 22, 2018 7:30pm

Sunday, Feb 25, 2018 2pm

Regular Admission: \$10 / Students, Seniors, Teachers: \$9 / YBCA Members: \$8 / All

Access: Free

YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission Street

[Tickets](#) | [Trailer](#)

A whiplash succession of double and triple crosses, set to an offbeat soundtrack by trip-hop artist Chen Weilun, this ingenious and meticulously crafted film takes place in the corrupt, crumbling town of Mengxiu where China meets Burma. At the center of the story are a woman (May Wang) and a drug dealer (Sun Honglei) who becomes her husband after first being her kidnapper. (Directed by Cheng Er, 2012, 97 min, digital)



BUGS

Friday, February 2, 7:30pm

Saturday, February 3, 2pm

Sunday, February 4, 4:15pm

Regular Admission: \$10 / Students, Seniors, Teachers: \$9 / YBCA Members: \$8 / All

Access: Free

YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission Street

[Tickets](#)

With global food shortages on the horizon, chefs, environmentalists and food scientists are turning toward an unexpected source of protein: insects. This thoughtful new documentary follows a cast of charming and brave food adventurers as they travel around the world to explore the vast and growing world of insect cuisine. Everything from revered termite queens and dessert-delicacy honey ants to venomous giant hornets and long-horned grasshoppers are on the menu in this beautifully shot film, which goes beyond the gross-out to raise unexpected and important questions about the future of our food culture. (2017, 74 min, digital)

A portion of ticket proceeds will go to local animal welfare organizations and shelters.

[Watch the trailer](#) | [Hi-Res Images](#)

