



University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

**Affective Media and Intimate Geography:
Queer Chinese Representations on Transnational Screens
Film Screenings and Conversations with Filmmakers**

Organised by

Centre for Contemporary East Asian Cultural Studies, the University of Nottingham

In collaboration with

Nottingham Lakeside Arts

Time: 6 and 7 February 2019

Place: The Djanogly Theatre, Nottingham Lakeside Arts

What is queer? How are Chinese queer identities and experiences represented on transnational screens? How do contemporary queer filmmakers negotiate national belonging, transnational migration, diasporic experience and everyday life? What is the role of affect in mediating queer experiences?

This two 0.5-day event features screenings of four films on Chinese queer identities, in tandem with public conversations and Q&As with the directors of these films. These screenings and conversations will shed light on critical issues including sexuality, identity, transnationalism, 'pink economy', and queer everyday life in China, the UK and Europe. These events will be attended by the filmmakers, all of whom are currently based in the UK and Europe.

This event is part of the Lakeside Arts' Chinese New Year programme and the University of Nottingham's LGBT History Month programme. This is a free event that is open to staff, students and the public.

Programme

3:00-5:00 pm, 6 February 2019

The Fantastic Queer Shanghai:

***Extravaganza* film screening and Director Matthew Baren in Conversation**

Feel the shade, live the fantasy. A new documentary about the Shanghai drag scene.

July, 2017, Shanghai. Drag queen Miss Jade has brought together 12 of the city's drag performers for a one-night show. They are the fiercest kings and queens in town. *Extravaganza* takes you behind the scenes of one of China's most dynamic drag scenes.

Matthew Baren makes films, collaborating on narrative and documentary projects. As an independent filmmaker, he has worked in UK, Hong Kong and China, and has produced films in English and Chinese. He directed the feature film *Exquisite Corpse* and the documentary *Extravaganza* and is an Associate Producer on the documentary *The Six*. He is an independent programmer and film festivals professional, working with Sheffield Doc/Fest and Hong Kong Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. In 2015, he launched ShanghaiPRIDE Film Festival as an internationally recognised film season and was festival director for two years. In 2015, he co-founded CINEMQ, an underground queer cinema collective that promotes broader awareness of queer film in China. Since 2017, he has been Editor-in-chief of CINEMQ zine, a bilingual publication on East Asian queer screen culture. CINEMQ is recognised regionally for its innovative approach to agitating for queer Asian visibility.

6:00-8:00 pm, 6 February 2019

From Nanning with Love:

***Be A Woman* film screening and Director Fan Popo in Conversation**

Every night, the “Only Love” bar in Nanning puts on a glamorous transvestite show. This documentary follows the four drag queens over a span of three years to depict a touching and realistic perspective beyond flashy costumes, glamorous accessories, dazzling stage sets, and sensual dancing.

Fan Popo is gay film maker, writer and activist. Born in 1985, he graduated from the Beijing Film Academy. He published *Happy Together: Complete Record of a Hundred Queer Films* (Beifang Wenyi Press, 2007). He received the third prize in the LGBT Research Paper Prize of the Chi-Heng Foundation, the second prize in the sina.com's prize for online video and the Prism Prize of the 22nd Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. He directs the China Queer Film Festival Tour, which has travelled over

20 major cities in China since 2008. He participated in international exchanges in Taipei, Copenhagen, Los Angeles and other places.

2:00-3:30 pm, 7 February 2019

Welcome to Queer Britain:

***Yvo and Chrissy* film screening and Director He Xiaopei in Conversation**

Yvo and Chrissy explores the alternative lives chosen by two English people, who between them gave up an inheritance of £1m, several properties and a phallus. Yvo rejected her inheritance to become a poet, writer, performer and diver who lives off the sea. Chrissy relinquished a settled life and phallus, and became a transgender traveller, film maker and musician, living in the mountains. Their life stories provoke many questions: Does money bring misery as well as happiness? What does gender-affirming surgery liberate and what does it suppress? Do homosexual identities liberate or immobilise desires?

The film takes a journey through their witty, extreme, gloomy and also humorous stories, which inspire thinking on how social norms and movements interplay with identities, humanities and well-being. This film is compelling viewing for anyone interested in non-mainstream approaches to money, gender, and sexual identity, and the search for more authentic ways of living.

He Xiaopei is executive director of the Pink Space Sexuality Research Centre in Beijing and a film director. Her films include *The Lucky One*, which follows an HIV positive woman with advanced cancer re-telling her story of struggle with poverty and a judging society, and *Our marriage: When Lesbians Marry Gay Men* an exploration of the lives of four lesbians who decided to marry gay men in order to secretly pursue their relationships with their girlfriends and at the same time fulfil their social obligation to get married.

4:00-6:00 pm, 7 February 2019

Queer Affect in the Diaspora:

***Soundless Wind Chime* and Director Kit Hung in Conversation**

Soundless Wind Chime is a 2009 independent film directed by Kit Hung, starring Lu Yu Lai and Bernhard Bulling. It was a 2009 Nominee for the Berlin International Film Festival's Teddy Award.

Soundless Wind Chime centres around a new immigrant to Hong Kong from China, Ricky (Lu Yu Lai), who works as a delivery boy while living with his prostitute aunt (Wella Zhang). He is pickpocketed by a Swiss thief, Pascal (Bernhard Bulling) who is in an abusive relationship with his con artist boyfriend (Hannes Lindenblatt). Deciding to leave him, Pascal has a chance encounter with Ricky and the two begin

a romantic relationship. The couple struggles through good times and bad, forcing them to determine if their relationship is based on love or dependence on one another. Several years later, Ricky searches Switzerland for signs of Pascal, eventually encountering Ueli (also played by Bulling), a timid antique store owner who looks the same as Pascal, but who has a vastly different personality. As Ricky and Ueli's relationship deepens, the truth of Pascal and Ricky's relationship is unraveled as the film progresses through glimpses of the present and the past.

Kit Hung is an independent filmmaker from Hong Kong. His films have won several international awards. He is most notable for his film *Soundless Wind Chime* (2009), which has won several awards, and was distributed in Germany, Hong Kong, North America, France and the United Kingdom.

Also participating in panel discussions:

Dr. Jamie J. Zhao is a Global Queer Media scholar and Lecturer of Communication Studies in the School of Film and TV Arts at XJTLU. Her research explores a wide array of topics on gender and sexuality in East Asian entertainment and fandom. Her academic writings can be found in a number of academic anthologies and journals, such as *Feminist Media Studies*, *Transformative Works and Cultures*, *MCLC*, *Journal of Oriental Studies*, *Celebrity Studies*, and *Journal of Fandom Studies*. She is also the coeditor of and contributor to the first English-language anthology on Chinese queer fandom studies, *Boys' Love, Cosplay, and Androgynous Idols: Queer Fan Cultures in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan* (HKUP, 2017). Currently, in addition to guest-editing two special journal issues (for *Continuum* and *Feminist Media Studies*) on Chinese-speaking queer media cultures, she is working on two monograph manuscripts, tentatively titled *Queer Occidentalism in Chinese Cyber Fandom* and *A Queer Sensationalism of Post-2010 Chinese Formatted TV*. Her next anthology project *Chinese Queer TV in a Digital Age* will be launched in 2019.

Dr Hongwei Bao is assistant professor in media studies at the University of Nottingham, UK, where he also co-directs the Centre for Contemporary East Asian Cultural Studies (CEACS). His research primarily focuses on queer media and culture in contemporary China. He is the author of *Queer Comrades: Gay Identity and Tongzhi Activism in Postsocialist China* (NIAS Press, 2018) and co-editor of *Queer/Tongzhi China: Perspectives on Research, Activism and Media Cultures* (NIAS Press, 2015). He has also published articles in *Cultural Studies*, *Culture Unbound: Journal of Current Cultural Research*, *Global Media and China*, *Health, Culture and Society*, *Interventions: A Journal for Postcolonial Studies*, *Queer Paradigms*, and *The JOMEC Journal: Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies*.

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