

For immediate release

**World Premiere of 'Shanghai Saga – other skies, other lands' at the  
55th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (Apr 30- May 5, 2009)**

**Hong Kong, 28 April 2009:** 'Shanghai Saga – other skies, other lands', the only Hong Kong film selected to compete at the 55<sup>th</sup> International Short Film Festival Oberhausen 2009, will be one of 52 productions vying for a 7500 euro prize. The short film festival is one of the most important short film institutions in the world and has been a catalyst and a showcase for contemporary developments and a discoverer of new trends and talent. This year, 5700 films from over 90 countries were submitted to enter into 4 competitions.

'Shanghai Saga' is about Shanghai today from the perspective of two very different women. Linda, a cultural theorist and a drifting traveler, observes from a far, life in Shanghai through her meeting of Shanghainese in Hong Kong. Gina, an economist and art advocate who divides her time between Shanghai and Hong Kong, observes from up-close and as a new and temporary resident in the city of Shanghai. Together, they reveal facets of Shanghai that differs from how the rest of the world knows it, that is, as the designated financial centre of one of the world's emerging superpower.

The film opens with Linda's camera zooming in from her 50th floor hotel room in Shanghai, seeking for Gina's house and seeking for the disappearing "nongtang" or the residential alleys of Shanghai. Reading from Wang Anyi's novel the *Everlasting Regrets*, "The sensual experience of Shanghai's nongtang comes from the most ordinary settings of the everyday..." As an experimental auto-ethnography, the film uses diverse visual sources to narrate the separate journeys and experiences of the two film makers.

'Shanghai Saga' is a project under the banner of Experimenta, a non-profit organization offering a multi-disciplinary platform and meeting point for young, unknown and emerging artists, curators and writers to converge, share, discuss and show their works. Founded by the filmmakers, Linda Lai and Gina Wong, Experimenta aims to provide young curators and artists funds, advice and a physical space to experiment with their ideas.

- End -

## **About the 55<sup>th</sup> International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (April 30 – May 5, 2009) Germany**

The International Short Film Festival Oberhausen is one of the most important short film institutions in the world and has been a catalyst and a showcase for contemporary developments and a discoverer of new trends and talent. This year, 5700 films from over 90 countries were submitted to enter into 4 competitions of which 52 productions are short listed to compete in the International Competition.

In past years, the Festival had discovered and first presented to an international audience films by artists like Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Christian Boltanski or Pipilotti Rist. It is a place where film and art meet, where art curators can talk to filmmakers, where both film festivals and galleries find interesting new work for their programmes. Oberhausen stands for intensive discussions and sold-out theatres and plenty of opportunities to make contacts. The four competitions, featuring some 140 new films and videos from all around the world, attract television programme editors as well as curators, festival representatives and journalists. Films vie for some 40,000 euros in prize money. The main award of the festival is the Grand Prize, which includes a grant of 7,500 euros in the International Competition and a 5,000-euro prize awaits the winner of the German Competition.

"In recent years we have noted increasing numbers of visitors from galleries, museums and art fairs who are curious to find out what kind of artistic developments are taking place outside of the art market", festival director Lars Henrik Gass. 2006

"This acclaimed short-film festival dates back to 1954, but it took on particular relevance in 1962, when Alexander Kluge, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Wim Wenders, Werner Herzog and 22 others initiated what would become the New German Cinema with their polemical 'Oberhausen Manifesto'. "*Stuart Comer*,

### **About the Film Makers**

#### Linda Chiu-han LAI

Linda is an inter-disciplinary artist, writer and curator for contemporary and media art. She received her Ph.D. in Cinema Studies (NYU) and is currently Assistant Professor at the City University of Hong Kong's School of Creative Media. Her experimental video works have been screened in Oberhausen, Paris, Barcelona, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei, Kaohsiung and Hong Kong. She is founder and Artistic Director of the Writing Machine Collective, Hong Kong, a group experimenting with programming and generative art and poetry; she is also a board member of Para/Site Art Space, where she had curated a few research-based exhibitions.

#### Gina See-yuen WONG

Gina received her master's degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Hong Kong and her bachelor's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science in the United Kingdom.

Gina initiated Hong Kong's first independent curatorial training programme with Para/Site Art Space which had helped to transform the art space from an artist run space to a more curatorial focused and professionally managed space. Gina's main artistic interest is on feminist economics and feminist art. She lives and works in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

an EXPERIMENTA project 緊急制工作室

a work by Linda C.H. Lai and Gina S.Y. Wong 黎肖嫻、黃思源作品

Hong Kong 2009

Length: 32 minutes

For press inquiries, please contact

Tel: Ann Liu

Email: [liubapopova@hotmail.com](mailto:liubapopova@hotmail.com)

+852 9661 0680