

ETOILES & TOILES D'ASIE

14th Asian Film Festival

4 / 9 November 2008 – LYON, FRANCE

PRESS RELEASE

Korean film star Choi Min-sik in Lyon for the 14th Asian Film Festival

From 4 to 9 November, cinemas throughout Lyon will welcome the 14th edition of the annual Asian Film and Culture Festival. This year's highlights include a tribute to Choi Min-sik, the Festival's guest of honour, and a focus on Bollywood, India's dream factory.

For the fourteenth year running, Lyon will become in November the meeting point for all enthusiasts of Asian culture.

The Festival will showcase over 60 feature and short films coming from 10 different countries. Most of them will be in competition for a prize awarded either by the public, by the media or by a professional jury.

In addition to the screenings, the public will be invited to take a trip to Asia through numerous exhibitions (photography, painting, film posters,...), initiations to Asian arts and crafts (cooking, massage, calligraphy,...), and dancing or musical performances.

The hero of *Old Boy* in the spotlight

Lyon will play host to world renowned actor Choi Min-sik, the unforgettable performer of a Korean businessman locked in a hotel room for 15 years without knowing his captor's motives in Park Chan-wook's *Old boy* (Cannes Grand Prix 2004). Choi Min-sik will be in Lyon from 7 to 9 November to present five of his greatest films : *Crying Fist*, *Failan*, *Chi-hwa-seon*, *Our twisted hero* and *Old Boy*.

A tribute will also be paid to Indiastory, the only independent film distributor in Korea, with the screening of *Written*, *Hello Stranger*, *If you were me : Anima Vision 2*, and of 10 short films.

World premiere for *Mumbai Meri Jaan*

The 14th Lyon Asian Film Festival will also celebrate India, the biggest film producer in the world, with a selection of 13 films coming directly from "Bollywood" (contraction of Bombay + Hollywood).

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Farah Khan's *Om shanti om*, the film of the year in India, will be the highlight of the opening gala. Festival-goers will also have the privilege of discovering Nishikant Kamat's *Mumbai Meri Jaan*, which depicts the aftermath of the July 2006 Mumbai train bombings.

On this occasion, the Asiexpo association will launch the third volume of its Asian Connection collection: « The Indian Cinema ».

Finally, for the fans of Japanese manga and culture, the Festival will be followed by the 10th Japan Touch Convention on 22 and 23 November at the Centre Culturel in Villeurbanne, with its stands, screenings and special events.

For further information : www.asiexpo.com

Press relations and accreditations :

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About Asiexpo :

Asiexpo is a Lyon-based association that aims to promote Asian cultures in their diversity, through various events and activities : cinema evenings, language courses, initiations to Indian dancing... The association is the organizer, since 1995, of the Lyon Asian Film and Culture Festival.