FANS of contemporary Chinese cinema will have plenty to look forward to at the inaugural Singapore Chinese Film Festival (SCFF). The 10-day event will run from April 26 to May 5 and feature as many films – all premiers – from Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China directors, a handful of whom will drop by to engage local movie makers in public dialogue and to attend post-screening Q&A sessions.

The festival is a collaboration between the Singapore Film Society and SIM University’s UniSIM Centre for Chinese Studies. Talks will be held at The Arts House’s Living Room and screenings will take place at Cathay Orchid Cineleisure and The Arts House’s Screening Room.

Kicking things off on opening night will be 10+10, an omnibus of 20 short films made by a host of popular and upcoming Taiwanese directors, such as Hou Hsiao Hsien (A City of Sadness), Sylvia Chang (20 30 40) and Arvin Chen (Au Revoir Taipei). The ensemble cast includes the likes of Shu Qi, Kwai Lun Mei and Leon Dai.

Among the visiting filmmakers are Chinese directors Wang Jing and Hao Jie. Wang Jing won critical praise for his bleak drama Feng Shui which will be screened; Hao will present his sexually frank black comedies Single Man and The Love Songs of Tiedan. The latter stars his wife Ge Xia, who will accompany him to the festival and take questions about her role in the film.

Unlike a typical film festival, SCFF’s selection is not just limited to arthouse fare. Also in its line-up are accessible, youth-oriented Taiwanese movies, such as the hit coming-of-age flick Jump Ashin starring heart-throb Eddie Peng.

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Kenneth Tan, who chairs the Singapore Film Society, said: “Singapore has had quite a number of country-themed film events in which some superb Chinese films have been screened, but this festival is the first of its kind to bring together such a representative cross-section of many works across genres, generations and boundaries.”

He added: “The Chinese Film Festival will serve to underline the indigenous roots of the Chinese language and culture for the next generation of Singaporeans and raise awareness of the cultural diversities among the different Chinese communities.”

For more info, ticketing details, screening schedule and synopsis of the films, visit www.sfs.org.sg/scff2013 or www.facebook.com/singaporefilmsociety.