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Filmfest DC at Home presents U.S. Premiere of We Have Boots, new film on Hong Kong’s struggle for democracy

WASHINGTON, DC (June 1, 2020) - The Washington, DC International Film Festival will conclude its popular Filmfest DC At Home online presentations with the U.S. premiere of veteran director Evans Chan’s essential new film, We Have Boots, about the tenacious democratic aspirations of this semi-autonomous Chinese city. In 2014, the campaign for universal suffrage and human rights known as the Umbrella Movement astonished the world, and in 2019 conflicts drew two million people into the streets. Now, in 2020, the struggle for freedom in Hong Kong is again in the headlines.

We Have Boots starts on Friday, June 29 and runs through Thursday July 3 on the Filmfest DC website (filmfestdc.org). Viewing is offered free-of-charge. We Have Boots is a selection in the Justice Matters section of the postponed 2020 Filmfest DC.

“We each day now the tension around Hong Kong grows exponentially. This creative documentary, with its harrowing street footage and affecting portraits of the movements’ determined, articulate, and funny intellectual leaders and combatants, paints a compelling description of the underpinnings of the current situation in Hong Kong. We felt we just had to bring it to our audience now,” said Filmfest DC Founder and Director, Tony Gittens. A recorded conversation with director Evans Chan and others will also be available.

We Have Boots covers the Umbrella Movement of 2014 and the resurfacing of Occupy and mass protests in 2019. It features Occupy leaders Benny Tai and Chan Kin-man; legislator Shiu Ka-chun; artist Kacey Wong; and young activists, such as Agnes Chow, Tommy Cheung, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Alex Chow; Ray Wong, Hong Kong’s first political refugee now residing in Germany, as well as masked militant protestors. The film depicts their personal reflections, and struggles waged, said Time Magazine, “on the frontlines of a global battle for freedom.”
About the filmmaker
Evans Yiu Shing Chan (www.evanschan.com) is a New York and Hong Kong-based critic, librettist and an independent filmmaker of more than a dozen fiction and documentary films, which have been screened at the Berlin, London, Moscow, Vancouver, AFI-Docs, and Taiwan Golden Horse film festivals, among others. His directorial debut To Liv(e) (1991) was listed by Time Out as one of the 100 Greatest Hong Kong Films. He was the librettist for the opera, Datong: The Chinese Utopia, which is based on his Datong: The Great Society, named Movie of the Year by Southern Metropolitan Daily in 2011. A critical anthology about his work, Postcolonialism, Diaspora, and Alternative Histories: The Cinema of Evans Chan was published by the HKU Press in 2015. We Have Boots and Umbrella Road are his latest films about Hong Kong's democratic movement and ongoing protests. Both films were preceded by his acclaimed documentary, Raise the Umbrellas (www.raisetheumbrellas.com), which explores the 79-day Occupy/Umbrella Revolution of 2014. We Have Boots was premiered at the 2020 Rotterdam International Film Festival.

Chan's latest films also include Love and Death in Montmartre, which was premiered at the 2019 Hamburg International Queer Film Festival as a Best Film nominee.

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