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Film restoration laboratory opens in Hong Kong



By Silvia Wong

Mon, 30 March 2015, 10:00 AM (HKT)

Facilities News

Italy's film restoration laboratory [L'Immagine Ritrovata](#) is set to open a new facility in Hong Kong, its first in Asia, for the restoration and conservation of Asian film heritage. [Bede CHENG 鄭子宏](#) (pictured) will head the new office from April 11.

With an investment of €500,000 (US\$551,000), [L'Immagine Ritrovata Asia](#) will be equipped with state-of-the-art machinery for services such as film repair, washing and scanning.

"There's always a risk if you send a print overseas, plus the additional cost such as insurance. But now, scanning can be done in Hong Kong. The picture and the sound can be digitised locally; only the cleanup – the digital restoration work – is done in Italy," said L'Immagine Ritrovata's Bologna-based director [Davide POZZI](#) at [Hong Kong FilMart 香港國際影視展](#).

Through a new partnership, L'Immagine Ritrovata Asia will undertake colour correction at [One Cool Film Production Co Ltd 天下一電影製作有限公司](#)'s post production facilities. Both companies are located at [Milkyway Image \(HK\) Ltd 銀河映像（香港）有限公司](#)'s studio in Kwun Tung.

Established in 1992, L'Immagine Ritrovata made its first Asian restoration in 2008 when the [Hong Kong Film Archive 香港電影資料館](#) sent in the lost Chinese classic [Confucius 孔夫子 \(1938\)](#). Since then, the business for Asia has grown significantly.

Its Asian clients now include [Chinese Taipei Film Archive 國家電影資料館](#), [Film Development Council of the Philippines \(FDCP\)](#), National Museum of Singapore as well as Hong Kong companies such as [Fortune Star Entertainment \(HK\) Ltd 星空傳媒發行製作有限公司](#), [Orange](#)

[Sky Golden Harvest Entertainment Co Ltd \(OSGH\) 橙天嘉禾娛樂](#) and [We Distribution Ltd.](#)

The restored films are usually premiered at key international festivals. Last year, [King HU 胡金銓](#)'s [Dragon Gate Inn 龍門客棧 \(1967\)](#) premiered in 4K at Cannes; [JIANG Wen 姜文](#)'s [In the Heat of the Sun 陽光燦爛的日子 \(1995\)](#) and [Peter CHAN 陳可辛](#)'s [Comrades, Almost a Love Story 甜蜜蜜 \(1996\)](#) both premiered at the Venice festival in 2013.

Newly restored films — which are expected to screen at major international film events in the coming year — include Hu's [A Touch of Zen 俠女 \(1970\)](#) and [John WOO 吳宇森](#)'s [A Better Tomorrow 英雄本色 \(1986\)](#).

Last year, L'Immagine Ritrovata received the prestigious Focal Award for the best archive restoration/preservation title for the restoration of Philippine director [Lino BROCKA](#)'s [Manila in the Claws of Neon Maynila... Sa mga kuko ng liwanag \(1975\)](#), after already receiving the Focal Award for the preservation film laboratory of the year in 2013.

Cheng previously worked as programme assistant at the Hong Kong Film Archive (2000-2006) and as programme manager at the [Hong Kong International Film Festival 香港國際電影節](#) (2007-2013). Since Dec 2013, he has been Senior Program Manager at [The Metroplex 星影匯](#) cinema in Hong Kong; his last day there will be 10 Apr 2015.

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