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## Trivisa

Frank Hui, Jevons Au, Vicky Wong

**Producer** Johnnie To, Yau Nai-hoi. **Production company** Milkyway Image (Kowloon, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China). **Directed by** Frank Hui, Jevons Au, Vicky Wong. **Screenplay** Loong Man Hong, Thomas Ng, Mak Tin-shu. **Director of photography** Zhang Ying, Ray Cheung, Rex Chan. **Editor** Allen Leung, David Richardson. **Production design** Jean Tsoi. **Costumes** Sukie Yip.

**With** Lam Ka-tung (Kwai Ching-hung), Richie Jen (Yip Kwok-foon), Jordan Chan (Cheuk Tze-keung), Tommy Wong Kwong-leung (The Fence), Yueh Hua (Ho Yu-kei), Stephen Au (Inspector Wu), Lam Suet (Boss Fong), Vincent Wan Yeung-ming (Old Dog), Philip Keung (Fai), Ng Chi-hung (Ding).

DCP, colour. 97 min. Cantonese, Mandarin.

**Premiere** 12 February 2016, Berlinale Forum

Hong Kong, summer 1997: while preparations are underway for the hand-over of the British Crown Colony to China, the underworld finds that it too must adapt to profound changes. With the opening of the border to China, new codes and mores make their way into the world of the triads – and those who don't adjust their business models have already lost.

A genre film from Hong Kong that chooses to set its story during those years of turmoil is tantamount to a double swan song. For these political changes also effectively spelled the end of an independent Hong Kong cinema that was admired across Asia. One of the few directors who has continued to defend and develop the genre is Johnnie To. By producing *Trivisa*, To is flying the flag for three up-and-coming directors who tell the stories of three legendary gangsters of the period. This is not an anthology film, but rather an overlapping story of men who become victims of their own legends. As chance brings them all together one day in the same restaurant on the Chinese side of the border, rumours swirl that the three are planning a joint coup. In elegant fashion, hype and hubris lead to their downfall.

*Christoph Terhechte*

## Grown up

It took years to go from idea to film. It feels like I've grown up with the characters in the film, and that they are somehow a reflection of my life during those years. And now I'm going to say goodbye to the characters and introduce them to the audience. No matter what, the film has become a very important note in my life. It gives me a chance to know and face myself. It's a precious life experience.

Frank Hui

## Without bloodshed

This was a tough and unforgettable creative journey. It took almost five years from coming up with the idea to completing my contribution to this film. Thanks to all my companions, especially our producer, Yau Nai-hoi, for his support and advice. I believe I could not have finished it by myself without their encouragement. I always believed that the character of Yip was the product of an era. This 'King of Thieves' is a media construct. The real Yip Kai-foon is an archetypal character and not really that violent. How else could he have carried out armed robberies without bloodshed? He didn't even kill any hostages during his escape from jail. Could there have been any 'King of Thieves' without the reforms, the policy of opening up in China, the developments of the 1990s, or the economic prosperity of Hong Kong?

Jevons Au

## Back down to earth

As you can imagine, following in the footsteps of Johnnie To and Yau Nai-hoi is never an easy task. *Triviša* is a unique film, and not only because there are three new directors directing it, or because the three screenplays function both on their own as well as together. Each of us three had his own vision and aesthetic style. Yet *Triviša* functions as a coherent film.

Before the handover to China in 1997, armed robberies were a daily occurrence in Hong Kong. There are countless films that present the 'Three Kings of Thieves' as heroes. More than ten years later, we chose a new perspective in order to reveal the protagonists' inner worlds and problems. We relentlessly pursued our goal of bringing them back down to earth so they could confront their own desires.

My archetypal character is a well-known thief. In order to find the right angle for my screenplay, I spent almost four months doing extensive research into the legendary life of this man. We finally decided on using absurdity as a central element of this section. Calling this film a miracle is not an exaggeration. I hope the audience can feel the sincerity at the heart of it.

Vicky Wong

## Trepidation

In fear and trepidation, I, as a first-time producer, had to guide three first-time directors in a five-year creative journey with meagre resources. The whole procedure was as gruelling as it was fun, and I have learnt a great deal. My special thanks go to a team of very supportive actors.

Yau Nai-hoi



Frank Hui was born in Hong Kong in 1980. He graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a degree in Film and Television Directing in 2005. Following a series of short films, *Triviša* is Frank Hui's first full-length feature film.

## Films

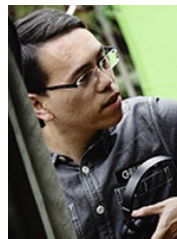
2003: *Out of Focus* (4 min.), *The Men Inside the Door* (16 min.). 2004: *Break: The Strike* (14 min.). 2005: *The Uniform* (37 min.). 2006: *Wasted* (21 min.). 2016: *Triviša*.



Jevons Au, aka Au Man-kit, was born in Hong Kong in 1981. He graduated with a degree in Directing from the School of Film/TV at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2004. In 2008, he participated in the Berlinale Talent Campus. After that, he began working as a screenwriter at Milkyway Image in Hong Kong. *Triviša* is his second feature-length film.

## Films

2003: *Hung* (12 min.). 2004: *Ji cheng che/Taxi* (20 min.). 2007: *Merry X'mas* (24 min.). 2015: *Ten Years* (104 min., co-directed by: Zune Kwok, Wong Fei-peng, Chow Kwun-wai, Ng Ka-leung). 2016: *Triviša*.



Vicky Wong, aka Wong Wai-kit, was born in Hong Kong in 1979. He graduated from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Hong Kong Shue Yan University in 2002. He then completed studies at the London Film Academy in 2006. *Triviša* is his first feature-length film.

## Films

2005: *Wish* (10 min.). 2007: *Valediction* (5 min.). 2008: *Variable* (7 min.). 2010: *The Decisive Moment* (36 min.). 2016: *Triviša*.