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Arranged by  
**KØBENHAVNS INTERNATIONALE TEATER**  
in co-operation with  
**MANDEN MED CAMERAET**  
as part of Images of Asia in Copenhagen.

Co-commissioned and co-produced by the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Singapore Arts Festival. Premiered in the 2003 Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Travel for Hong Kong entourage is sponsored by the Home Affairs Bureau (Arts Development Fund), Hong Kong SAR.

Travel for Singapore entourage is sponsored by the National Arts Council, Singapore.

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# Little Toys

Chinese Film Classic with Live Music by  
Mark Chan and musicians

Pakhus 11 at 21.00  
5. & 6. september  
Departure  
from Nyhavn  
at 20.30



## Little Toys: Chinese Film Classic with Live Music by Mark Chan and musicians

Co-commissioned and co-produced by the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Singapore Arts Festival.  
Premiered in the 2003 Hong Kong Arts Festival.

### Little Toys (1933)

Copy of Film is provided by China Film Archive

Director	Sun Yu
Cinematography	Zhou Ke
Production Company	Lianhua Film Company

### Cast

Sister Ye	Ruan Lingyu
Zhu'er	Li Lili
Mr Yuan	Yuan Congmei
Ah Yong	Luo Peng
Lao Ye	Liu Jiqun
Mantis	Han Langen

### Music

Composer / Music Director / Vocals / Keyboards / Wind Instruments	Mark Chan
Project Music Assistant / Scorist / Piano	Belinda Foo
Erhu	Wong On-yuen *
Cello	Leslie Tan
Erhu	Sunny Wong Sun-tat **
Pipa	Yu Jia **
Guanzi / Suona	Guo Yazhi *
Percussion	Margie Tong
Production Manager	Jeremiah Choy
Sound Engineer	Joey Chan
Tour Manager	Linda Yip

\* Musicians of Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

\*\* Musicians of Singapore Chinese Orchestra

Duration of film: 1 hr. 50 min.

## LITTLE TOYS, Singapore & Hong Kong

### Film

Shanghai in the 1930s was China's most cosmopolitan city, and home to a group of enthusiastic and talented filmmakers. Sun Yu was one of them and his works have become classics of Chinese cinema.

Sun Yu's Little Toys was an anti-Japanese imperialism movie. He aimed to arouse patriotic feelings among viewers through the experiences, joys and pains of Sister Ye. Against a background of historical events like World War 1, the Manchurian Incident (18 September 1931) and the Shanghai Crisis (28 January 1932), he shows how a vibrant city can finally crumble into madness under incessant attacks of war and imperialism. Ruan Lingyu gave a lively interpretation of her character. Apart from its main theme, the film reflected the sadness and complex political background of the period.

### Synopsis

Sister Ye, the belle of the village, is a innovative toymaker living with her husband and children in Peach Leaves Village, Jiangnan Province. Mr Yuan, a rich young man from the city, makes advances at Sister Ye, but is instead encouraged by her to study abroad, so as to better contribute to the declining toy industry of China.

Before long, China's economy begins to be eroded by the Western powers and the simple life Sister Ye and her family have been leading is destroyed. Sister Ye's family faces one calamity after another. Her husband dies and her young son is kidnapped. Civil war descends upon the village and she is left with no choice but to leave her home for Shanghai.

Mr Yuan returns 10 years later to establish a toy factory while Sister Ye is still eking out a meager living making toys with her now grown daughter, Zhu'er. When things are turning for the better, the Japanese invasion strikes an even more severe to mother and daughter. Zhu'er is killed in a bombing raid, leaving a very distraught and bereaved Sister Ye.

One year later, the Lunar New Year approaches. Sister Ye is seen selling her handmade toys on the streets of Shanghai. A chance meeting with her kidnapped son (unbeknown to her), left her pinning for her lost child. The sound of firecrackers brought back memories of the wars and Sister Ye succumbed to the madness in her mind.