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For Immediate Release

### **Take Two: Cathay Donates Digital Master Copies of Malay and Chinese Classic Films to the Asian Film Archive**

Cathay Organisation is taking another giant step in preserving Singapore's film and cinema heritage by donating the digital master copies of the company's Malay and Chinese classic films to the Asian Film Archive. As a major player of Singapore's Golden Age of cinema, this donation by the Cathay Organisation is a concerted effort to preserve a vital slice of Singapore's film history spanning a twenty-year period of the 1950s to the 1970s.

The 40 Malay films produced by Cathay-Keris Film Productions included in this donation feature works by legendary directors of their time such as Hussein Haniff (*Hang Jebat*) and B.N Rao (*Laila Majnun*) and starring stars like Latifah Omar, Siput Sarawak and M. Amin. The master copies of these films serve to complement the earlier donation in September 2007 of Cathay's film print copies of its Malay classic films to the Asian Film Archive.

Preservation of its films is not a new initiative by Cathay Organisation as Cathay has donated the film prints of its Chinese classic films to the Hong Kong Film Archive in 2004. By entrusting its digital master copies of over 120 Chinese classic film titles to the Asian Film Archive for long-term preservation, Cathay is further ensuring that these Chinese films such as *Mambo Girl* and *Sister Hedy* will be available for the enjoyment, appreciation, and research of future generations of film scholars and enthusiasts.

The Asian Film Archive will oversee the archival preservation and cataloguing of these films. The digital masters of the films will be migrated in phases to a more commercially accessible format while the master copies will be preserved. The films will be stored in the secure and climate-controlled vaults of the National Archives of Singapore, archiving partner of the Asian Film Archive.

The Asian Film Archive and Cathay Organisation have a variety of plans for this collection of films. For the general public, access to the films will be made available in stages via the Asian Film Archive's Reference Collection at the library@esplanade. On a wider scale, there are plans to organize an academic conference for film and cultural studies scholars to discuss and analyze the place of these films in the wider film and historical context. Additionally, a publication on the Malay classic films featuring research papers, interviews, and other historical nuggets on the films is in the pipeline. In conjunction with these ideas, a traveling exhibition about the films will be curated, which could potentially travel to both local and regional educational and film related institutions. Scholars and members of academia interested in participating and contributing to the conference and book publication can contact the Asian Film Archive.

Suhaimi Rafdi, Chief Executive Officer of Cathay Organisation, says, "Cathay is happy to once again partner Asian Film Archive in preserving our classic titles, which make up an integral part of the Cathay heritage and the Asian cinematic history. We are convinced

that Asian Film Archive's expertise in preserving and maintaining the films, and our efforts in ensuring these titles are made more accessible to the public, will further extend the longevity of these classics and allow the charm of these films to linger on in viewers' memories for many years to come."

Dr Kenneth Paul Tan, Chair of the Asian Film Archive, says, "The Asian Film Archive is very pleased and honoured to be able to help preserve the digital masters of Cathay Organisation's Malay and Chinese classic films. As part of a cosmopolitan industry that developed talented directors and actors, these films are not only a window to an exciting part of Singapore's history, they also provide a wealth of cinematic experience for future generations. The Archive hopes that this donation by Cathay Organisation will create a heightened awareness of the importance and relevance of archival preservation."

### **Cathay Organisation**

A pioneer in movie entertainment since 1935, Cathay Organisation's core business includes cinemas in both Singapore and Malaysia, film acquisition, distribution and production. The company has since diversified into property management services, retail malls, restaurant, museum gallery, a unique brand of hotel, advertising and event management services. The company is committed to providing products and services that consistently meet the highest quality standards.

### **Asian Film Archive**

The Asian Film Archive is a non-governmental organisation founded to preserve the rich film heritage of Singapore and Asian Cinema, to encourage scholarly research on film, and to promote a wider critical appreciation of this art form. As an important nexus, it brings together the various segments of the Asian film community in order to open and enrich new intellectual, educational and creative spaces.

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<Please refer to the attached Annexes for the lists of movie titles donated.>

## **Annex 1**

### **Cathay-Keris Films Pte Ltd Malay Classics**

1. Badang
2. Bawang Merah Barang Putih
3. Bunga Tanjong
4. Che Mamat Parang Tumpol
5. Cheloreng Cheloreng
6. Chuchu Datuk Merah
7. Gul Bakawali
8. Hang Jebat
9. Harimau Jadian
10. Hati Batu
11. Jalak Lenteng
12. Jula Juli Bintang Tiga
13. Korban Fitnah
14. Laila Majnun
15. Lanchang Kuning
16. Masok Angin Keluar Asap
17. Mat Magic
18. Noor Islam
19. Panglima Besi
20. Raden Mas
21. Rasa Sayang Eh
22. Satay
23. Selendang Delima
24. Semangat Ular
25. Serangan Orang Minak (Oily Man St)
26. Siti Zubaidah
27. Sri Mersing
28. Sultan Mahmood Mangkat Di-julang
29. Sumpah Pontianak
30. Sumpitan Rachun
31. Tajul Ashikin
32. Tun Fatimah
33. Tunang Pak Dukun
34. Mata Shaitan
35. Gado Gado
36. Gila Talak

## **Annex 2**

### **Cathay Films Pte Ltd Chinese Classics**

1. A Debt of Blood
2. A Fine Romance
3. A Pearl in Command
4. A Resort Called Hell
5. Affection
6. Air Hostess
7. An Affair to Remember
8. Bachelors Beware
9. Because of Her
10. Between Tears & Laughter
11. Bitter Romance
12. Blues in the Dream
13. Boat Girl
14. Captive
15. Cinderella & Her Angels
16. Corpses at Large
17. Cosmopolitan Fantasy
18. Crossed Swords (Chapter 1)
19. Crossed Swords (Chapter 2)
20. Crusade Against Daddy
21. Darling Stay at Home
22. Death Trap
23. Desperate Seven
24. Devotion
25. Diary of Monita
26. Dreams Come True
27. Eight for the Border
28. Escort Over Tiger Hills
29. Fairy, Ghost, Vixen
30. False Alarm
31. Father Takes a Bride
32. For Better For Worse
33. Forever Young
34. Forget Me Not
35. From the Highway
36. Her Tender Age
37. Her Tender Heart
38. Her Vengeance
39. Here Come the Wolves
40. How Love is Tested
41. Iron Bones
42. Isle of Gold
43. It's Always Spring
44. June Bride
45. Ladies First
46. Lady in the Moon

47. Lily of the Valley
48. Little Lotus
49. Lucky Strike
50. Mad About Music
51. Make it Mine
52. Mambo Girl
53. Mission to Die
54. No Time for Love
55. Our Dream Car
56. Our Sister Hedy
57. Red Plum Pavilion
58. Romance of the Forbidden City
59. Sister Long Legs
60. Song Without Words
61. Spring Song
62. Story of Three Loves – Part 1
63. Story of Three Loves – Part 2
64. Sun, Moon & Star (Ch 1)
65. Sun, Moon & Star (Ch 2)
66. The Beggar's Daughter
67. The Devil's Skin
68. The Greatest Civil War on Earth
69. The Greatest Love Affair on Earth
70. The Greatest Wedding on Earth
71. The Haunted
72. The Homemaker
73. The Lark
74. The Longest Night
75. The Lost Spring
76. The Magic Fan
77. The Spirits
78. The Story of Ching Hsein-Lien
79. The Wild Wild Rose
80. To Kill a Rover
81. Wife of a Romantic Scholar
82. Woman in Danger