

The Girl Without Hands highlights women's independence

By Helen Pan, Intern Hu Xinyi & Li Yifan

The long-anticipated animated drama film, *The Girl Without Hands*, opened the 14th Panorama of French Cinema at the Wuhan Lumiere Pavilions on June 9. Sébastien Laudenbach, the director, writer, animator, and editor of the film, attended the opening ceremony and shared stories behind the film with the audience.

Adapted from the fairy tale of the same name by the Brothers Grimm, the 73-minute film depicts how a girl, protected by her purity yet deprived of her hands, conquers her fear and repels the devil. Laudenbach revealed that he was drawn to the original story back in 2001, as it had appealing modern elements. Due to a shortage of financial support, the project took many years to get off the ground. It took a total of a year and a half to complete the hand-drawn pictures, and a completely new version of the heroine, whose strong independent character finally defeats the devil singlehandedly.

What was particularly impressive about the film was



Director Laudenbach (second from left) interacting with the audience

Photo by Helen Pan

the minimalist style which reminded the audience of Chinese ink paintings. It is composed of broad brushstrokes and characters depicted with incomplete lines that border on being abstract. Laudenbach said that he was influenced by the 19th-century French artists whose paintings featured an impressionistic style. He added that the

incomplete figures symbolize everyone's imperfections, just as the girl's hands symbolized her independence and pursuit of a happy life.

The Girl Without Hands is among the nine top French films selected for this year's Panorama in Wuhan. This film event is part of the Croisements Festival and will conclude on June 18.

11th Music Day to sweep across Wuhan

By Helen Pan

The annual music celebration Music Day is coming soon! Also known as the Sino-French Music Festival, the event will host seven bands from France and China, bringing three fantastic concerts covering music styles such as psychedelic pop, funk, electro, rock, and jazz.

This year also marks the 11th edition of the music festival in Wuhan. The first concert will be held in Caidian on June 18, the second at the Wuhan Plaza in Hankou on June 23, and the third at the

Hankou Riverside Park on June 24. The three concerts are open-air and free to visitors.

Two rising bands from France are invited to perform this year, including Colors in the Street, renowned for its fresh British vibe, and Las Aves which features an avant-garde music style. Representing Chinese bands, Jungle Mico Project, a top band that has captured the attention of international media for its spectacular live electronic music, will also join in the music event.

Of all the bands coming

for Music Day, undoubtedly the most unique one is Guitarkestra in Wuhan, led by musician Lone Kent. It is composed of 40 local guitarists of various ages and is truly a typical example of the music exchange and communication between China and France. This all-guitar band will give two performances during the concerts on June 23 and 24, taking audiences on an exciting musical trip covering post-rock, new-age, and contemporary music. Music Day is also a significant part of the Croisements Festival.

Artworks from Wuhan's sister cities



Visitors appreciating the works of Japanese painter Shii Nakajima

Photo by Zhou Chao

On June 3, the Wuhan International Sister Cities Artwork Exhibition was inaugurated at the Qintai Art Gallery. It displays nearly 150 pieces of artwork ranging from paintings to sculptures, created by local artists as well as artists from Wuhan's sister cities including those in Oita of Japan, Manchester of the U.K., and Arnhem of the Netherlands.

The show offers locals an opportunity to learn about the distinctive cultures of different countries through the appreciation of these brilliant exhibits and also to witness the cultural exchanges between Wuhan and its international sister cities.

The exhibition will last until August 20.

Carnival at Blue Light International Music Festival

By Wang Juan

Beginning June 16, the 2017 Wuhan Blue Light (*languang*) City Square International Music Festival will be held at Hall D of the Wuhan Salon Chinese Culture Expo Center. The festival includes a half-year-long Russian heavy metal music performance season and exotic food carnivals.

The Wuhan Blue Light International Music Festival is part of the 2017 China-Russia Media Exchange Year. Spanning from June 16 to December 31, 2017, it will feature wonderful performances brought by artists from the countries along the "One Belt, One Road" Initiative corridor and the China-Russia Ten-thousand-li Tea Road. The groups scheduled to perform include the Russian heavy metal pacesetter Bollee, the powerful European heavy metal band Tenside (Germany), the Asian representative black metal band IMPIETY (Singapore), the hardcore band ANNALYNN (Thailand), the progressive death metal band Fragarak (India), and the Chinese pioneer heavy metal band Tangchao.