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**Professor Liu Haibo**

Film and TV expert at Shanghai University



A highlight of the film is its courtroom scenes. — Photos / Ti Gong

Hong Kong, set by Stephen Chow's 2004 comedy "Kung Fu Hustle," was finally broken.

Last year, Hong Kong cinema began showing new signs of vitality with the release of several popular films, including the sci-fi film "Warriors of Future" and the family comedy "Table for Six." Still, neither crossed the HK\$100 million mark.

Professor Liu Haibo, a film and TV expert at Shanghai University, said "A Guilty Conscience" marks a new threshold in Hong Kong cinema.

"The film's depiction of the judicial system in Hong Kong is fresh to mainland audiences," Liu said. "But its theme of pursuing judicial justice has universality. It truly provides a novel perspective of courtroom confrontation."

The film was funded in part by the



Hong Kong government's Film Production Financing program. Efforts to promote the region's movie industry are also aided by China policies that make it easier for Hong Kong cinema to tap into the mainland market.

Films benefiting from closer cooperation include Stephen Chow's "The Mermaid" and Hark Tsui's "The Taking of Tiger Mountain." Tsui and Dante Lam also teamed up with mainland filmmaker Chen Kaige to co-direct the epic war film "The Battle at Lake Changjin," the highest-grossing film in Chinese cinematic history.

In 2019, China's development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area included strengthening ties in cinematic screenwriting, casting and production.

Tenky Tin, actor, producer and spokesman for the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers, told the Yangcheng Evening News that he has seen growing and diverse collaboration between Hong Kong and mainland film industries.

"Films produced in the Greater Bay Area don't need to be blockbusters," he said. "Instead, we can make moderate, small-budget movies that reflect regional culture and lifestyles. The Chinese mainland has a large and flourishing film market, and it will continue to attract teamwork from filmmakers in Hong Kong."



A poster for "A Better Tomorrow." In its peak time, a number of talented Hong Kong filmmakers and actors emerged with time-honored productions.



The film marks the directing debut of Ng Wai-lun, a veteran Hong Kong scriptwriter.

