

# osage

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## PRESS RELEASE

To Arts and Features Editors

For Immediate Release

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## HKACT! Act 5 KOWLOON FOREST

A Virtual Reality Film

by Alexey Marfin

World Premiere @ Osage Hong Kong



## About the VR Film Kowloon Forest

### SYNOPSIS

A journey through the private lives of five strangers in Hong Kong. A VR film about finding intimacy in a city of density.

### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Kowloon Forest is a unique VR film which brings audiences into the extremely personal spaces of its protagonists. In contrast to VR films that place us in huge environments, this is a new sensation of being extremely close to people during moments of intimacy.

The story is drawn from my own experiences; from living in the infamous Chungking Mansions when I first came to Hong Kong, to doing laundry on the rooftops of Sham Shui Po. The film's cast is equally grounded: Toonyun, who plays a performer, is a Hong Kong musician; Sara, who plays a Filipina maid, is born in Hong Kong as the daughter of a Filipina domestic helper; Raghuram, who plays a Hong Kong-Indian astrologer, is a spiritual teacher from South India; and Ming, who plays a Chinese businessman, worked in finance in China. We hope to immerse audiences in these unique moments of Hong Kong and to create new cinematic experiences of intimacy.

VR poster: [alexeymarfin.com/media/kowloonforestpromo/](http://alexeymarfin.com/media/kowloonforestpromo/)

### Director's Bio

Alexey Marfin is a film director interested in life in contemporary cities. He is currently based between Los Angeles and Hong Kong.

Born in Leningrad in the USSR, Alexey emigrated to the UK in the 1990s. He studied at the Architectural Association in London, where he became interested in designing worlds for film. He began his filmmaking career as a visual effects artist at the Sundance-award-winning studio Factory Fifteen, before directing his own films.

Alexey's films have screened worldwide – at the Academy-Award-Qualifying L.A. Shorts Film Festival, Brooklyn Film Festival, BiFan, Berlin Interfilm, and many more. He has been featured in VICE, Motherboard, The Creators Project, and other press.

Alexey has also taught and lectured internationally – including MIT, Harvard, Princeton, UCLA, the Royal College of Art, and City University of Hong Kong. He co-founded the Fiction & Entertainment Masters program at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles, which works with collaborators from Framestore, Sundance, Netflix, and more.

[alexeymarfin.com/](http://alexeymarfin.com/)



## Film Images



## About osage art foundation

Osage Art Foundation was established in 2005 with three main goals – fostering Creative Communities, promoting Cultural Co-operation and building Creative Capacity.

Osage Art Foundation is now well known and recognised by the local community and internationally as having initiated many pioneering projects.

Osage Art Foundation is concerned with developing deeper discourse in and around the arts and the wider community. We aim to foster intellectual curiosity and compassionate understanding through creative art projects for a better society.

Osage Art Foundation's programs are distinguished by their focus on cultural exchange, educational outreach and the building of knowledge.

[www.oaf.cc](http://www.oaf.cc)

## About **HKACT!** A PLATFORM FOR ART, CULTURE, AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

In 2015 the Osage Art Foundation began developing HKACT!, a major platform for the promotion of Art Culture and Technological Innovation in Hong Kong.

HKACT! celebrates art and ideas by bringing together visionary thinkers and innovators to help chart the future of a better society through a series of ground-breaking, cutting edge, innovative, technological art and cultural projects.

HKACT! aims to:

- \* Articulate a Vision for the Future.
- \* Brand Hong Kong as the Place where the Future is Found.
- \* Promote Hong Kong as a Center for Art Culture and Technological Innovation.
- \* Fuel the Growth of the Creative and Cultural Industries.
- \* Drive the Future of Design and Technology through Art.
- \* Be a Catalyst for Thought Leadership.
- \* Boost Cultural Tourism.
- \* Explore Alternative Education Methodology.

[www.hkact.hk](http://www.hkact.hk)

## Fact Sheet

<b>Title</b>	Kowloon Forest
<b>Running Time</b>	8 min
<b>Year</b>	2018
<b>Language</b>	Cantonese, Tagalog, Korean
<b>Opening Reception</b>	5 July 2019 18:00 – 20:00
<b>Exhibition continues</b>	6 – 28 July 2019
<b>Time</b>	Mon – Sat 10:30 – 18:30 Sun 14:30 – 18:30 (Closed on public holidays)
<b>Venue</b>	Osage Gallery 4/F, 20 Hing Yip St, Kwun Tong

## Credits

<b>Presenter</b>	Osage Art Foundation
<b>Writer / Director</b>	Alexey Marfin
<b>Starring</b>	Toonyun Ming Lo Angie Kim Sara Beatriz Meredith Ainah Lágrimas Raghuram Shetty
<b>Co-writers</b>	Toonyun Paul Krist
<b>Producer</b>	Paul Krist
<b>Production Design</b>	Vivian Xin Zhen
<b>Cinematography</b>	Nate Nguyen-Le
<b>Additional Cinematography</b>	Jerry Lam Tim Wei
<b>Makeup Artist</b>	Stephanie G-M
<b>Script Consultants</b>	Charmaine Chan Vivian Xin Zhen Fiona Ng
<b>Consultants</b>	Insoo Hwang Aman Sheth Kiran Nayak
<b>Special Thanks</b>	Greg Feingold Jake Falk Ruby Ng Carmen Cheng To Chun Man Leung Lai Chong To Shing Yau
<b>Equipment Sponsor</b>	Zotac Technology Limited