

**The Opposite House presents**  
**Short Stays: A collection of short films by Local Film makers**

(Beijing, May 2010)- With a vision to support the growing contemporary Chinese art scene, The Opposite House commissioned a short film collection project as an extension of their commitment to support emerging local artists in every medium, from sculptures to music and now, film. "Short Stays" is a unique project that has given a platform to independent film artists in Beijing to explore the concept and space of the House.

In collaboration with independent producers and film makers Zhang Xianmin and Samantha Culp, the idea is inspired by the use of the hotel's space. From the new wave classic "Last Year at Marienbad" to the sleek "Lost in Translation," hotels have always been great cinematic spaces. The closed door of a hotel room naturally evokes themes of mystery, memory, desire, escape, and curiosity.

"The closed door of a hotel room naturally evokes themes of mystery, memory, desire, escape, and curiosity. In this project, we wanted to peek through the keyholes into this borderline space, through the eyes of three fiercely original filmmakers," says Samantha Culp, co-producer of "Short Stays."

The short films by three award-winning young Chinese filmmakers—Liu Jiayin, Peng Lei and Zhao Ye—all based in Beijing but with festival creed from around the world, create a conversation around the nature of the hotel's space and explore modern urban story telling in the framework of a type of creative experiment unprecedented in China. "Short Stays" also invited two up-and-coming photographers, Madi Ju and Lin Zhi Peng (aka 223) to document the filming process for the limited-edition DVD and booklet, adding another offbeat perspective to the project.

All three films - "A Room with a Cat" by Peng Lei, "Excuse Me" by Zhao Ye, "607" by Liu Jiayin - highlight the hotel's symbiotic relationship with the worlds of art and design, and its bespoke approach to travel, architecture and guest experience. The three cutting-edge Chinese filmmakers have taken The Opposite House as their starting point to write and direct a short film (7-15 minutes in length) set there, each with their own distinct sensibility.

From Peng's pop-infused "A Room with a Cat" with its beautiful girl waiting for an unknown visitor, to Zhao's subtly science fiction "Excuse Me" to Liu's signature practice of filming her parents performing symbolic actions, all show a range of bold visions inspired by the space fit for daydreaming in the heart of Beijing.

On the commissioned project, Anthony Ross, General Manager of The Opposite House, shares, "Continuing our support for the contemporary art scene, we've given these talented young film makers a platform and open brief to interpret our space—giving them full creative reign over what the House means to them and stories captured in the transient space of hotel rooms."



*Zhao Ye's "Excuse Me"*



*Liu Jiaying's "607"*



*Peng Lei's "Room with a Cat"*

### **About Swire Hotels**

Swire Hotels has been created to manage intriguing urban hotels in Hong Kong, Mainland China and the United Kingdom, providing a luxury experience for travellers who seek individuality, style and personalised service.

The Opposite House, Beijing, opened in 2008 and was followed by The Upper House, above Pacific Place, Hong Kong, in October 2009. Swire Hotels opened a 345-room lifestyle business hotel called EAST in Hong Kong's Island East, on 25 January 2010.

In the United Kingdom, Swire Hotels is developing a collection of stylish boutique hotels in interesting English towns and cities, with the first hotel in the collection to be launched in 2010.

### **About The Opposite House**

The Opposite House is located in Sanlitun Village—a vibrant new open-plan shopping, dining and entertainment destination developed by Swire Properties. The hotel's 99 guest studios, including 9 spacious suites and a penthouse duplex with a 240sqm roof terrace. More than half of all the studios are over 70 sqm and all are strikingly simple with natural wooden floors and subtle touches of Chinese décor.

For further information or high resolution images please contact:

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