



NEWS RELEASE

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TAIWAN MOVIE PIRATE ARRESTED CAMCORDING *THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT*

***MPA and Industry Training and Reward Programs Pay Off
When Theater Employee Halts Pirate Theft***

Hong Kong – On August 15, following a call from an employee of the Taoyuan Venice Theater in Taoyuan, a suburb of Taipei, Taoyuan County Police officers, accompanied by Motion Picture Association (MPA) Taiwan representatives, arrested a 23-year-old man attempting to illegally camcord *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* with his mobile phone.

The officers seized the phone and a memory card found by MPA representatives to contain the first four minutes of the film. An additional memory card was also seized. The man was charged with violating Taiwan's Copyright Act and could be subject to imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to NT\$750,000 (US\$23,860).

A second illegal camcording of *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* was interdicted on August 20 at the Taoyuan Venice Theater when cinema staff caught a 21-year-old man in the act of recording the movie on his mobile phone. The man was not charged because his phone failed after he was confronted and the recording was erased.

As part of an anti-camcording program the MPA has instituted in Taiwan, the Taoyuan Venice Theater employee who spotted the illegal camcording will receive a monetary reward for his vigilance and quick action in alerting police to the pirate's activities.

On May 3, Taoyuan Venice Theater employees caught another would-be movie pirate illegally camcording *Mission: Impossible III* during its first day of theatrical exhibition in Taiwan. The 35-year-old suspect in that case was arrested and is being prosecuted. Three cinema employees received rewards in that case.

"We applaud the vigilance of the theater personnel who stopped this camcord pirate from stealing the newly released *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift*," said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific, MPA. "Theater employee training programs and a quick response from law enforcement helped protect not only the filmmakers' business, but also the business of the theatrical exhibitors and home video distributors, the business of

the Taoyuan Venice Theater itself, and ultimately, the jobs and livelihoods of everyone who works in the film industry.”

Pirate camcording is particularly damaging because it typically occurs at the very start of the distribution cycle, affecting the economic opportunities for the film throughout the rest of its existence. Films typically are camcordered in the first few days of their release, then distributed in digital form worldwide on peer-to-peer file-sharing networks and other online outlets. Optical disc-replication labs use the pirated films to create illegal DVDs and other optical discs, then sell the physical copies to bootleg dealers around the world.

The MPA’s Taiwan anti-camcording program, instituted in 2004, rewards theater employees who identify patrons illegally camcording a movie. Employees may be eligible for a reward for identifying a person operating a video camera or other recording device to copy a movie in a theatre, for immediately notifying the police, for stopping the camcording, and for filing a police report of the incident.

Since May 2003, Taiwanese authorities have prosecuted four pirates caught in the act of illegally camcording movies in theaters. Three pirates received jail sentences, ranging from 20 days to three months, and one case is pending.

Piracy in Asia

In 2005, the MPA’s operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 34,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting more than 10,500 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 34 million illegal optical discs, 55 factory optical disc production lines and 3,362 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 8,000 legal actions.

About the MPA: *The Motion Picture Association (MPA) represents the interests of major motion picture companies in the global marketplace. On behalf of its Member Companies, the MPA conducts investigations around the world, assists with the criminal and civil litigation generated by such cases, and conducts education outreach programs to teach movie fans around the world about the harmful effects of piracy. The MPA directs its worldwide anti-piracy operations from its headquarters based in Encino, California and has regional offices located in Brussels (Europe, Middle East and Africa), São Paulo (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Singapore (Asia-Pacific). The MPA’s anti-piracy activities have helped to transform entire markets from pirate to legitimate, benefiting video distributors, retailers, and foreign and local filmmakers alike. The MPA Member Companies include: Buena Vista International, Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc.*

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