



(From left) Hong Kong actor Michael Ning, Chinese actress Jessie Li, Taiwanese actress Elaine Jin and Hong Kong actor Aaron Kwok pose after winning the Best Supporting Actor and New Performer, the Best Actress, the Best Supporting actress and Best Actor awards for their movie 'Port of Call' during the Hong Kong Film Awards in Hong Kong. — AP photos



Hong Kong actor Aaron Kwok poses after winning the Best Actor award for his movie 'Port of Call'.



Hong Kong director Raman Hui, left, holds up his trophy after receiving the Best New Director award for his movie 'Monster Hunt' from Hong Kong actor Andy Lau, right.



Hong Kong producer Andrew Choi, foreground, raises the trophy after winning the Best Film award for his movie 'Ten Years'.



Hong Kong movie producer Andrew Choi, fourth left, and director Ng Ka-leung, third left, pose with members of the cast and crew after winning the Best Film award for their movie 'Ten Years'.

## Chinese media ignore win of film about Hong Kong's future

Mainland Chinese media ignored a film festival award by yesterday in a massive leak of documents, some of which reveal hidden offshore assets. Bollywood legend Jackie Chan, simply known as the "Big B" in India, was appointed director of at least four shipping companies registered in offshore tax havens and set up 23 years ago. The authorized capital of these companies ranged from just \$5,000 to \$50,000 but they traded in ships worth millions of dollars, according to the Indian Express newspaper.

by "Ten Years," with at least one entertainment site omitting it from its list of winners. Online site Tencent, which often broadcasts film ceremonies, put up videos of other winners accepting awards.

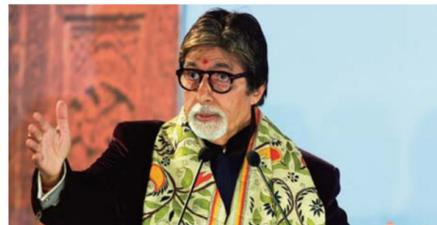
Made on a shoestring budget, "Ten Years" became a surprise hit with Hong Kong audiences for its dystopian view of the former British colony in 2025. In one story, "Dialect," a taxi driver struggles with a Mandarin proficiency requirement, reflecting

nervousness among Cantonese-speaking residents about the influx of mainlanders. Another segment has a woman who sets herself on fire in support of independence for Hong Kong - a once-unthinkable cause now advocated by a number of groups. "What this award represents is so much bigger than the film. This award means that there's still hope for Hong Kong," said executive producer Andrew Choi.

"Port of Call" was still a big winner, sweeping the acting categories and earning best screenplay and cinematography awards. Michael Ning was named best supporting actor and best new performer, to take two trophies alongside co-stars best actor Aaron Kwok, best actress Jessie Li and best supporting actress Elaine Jin. Hong Kong director Tsui Hark won best director for his 3D adventure film "The Taking of Tiger Mountain." — AP



File photo shows Hong Kong actor Jackie Chan during a press conference at a cinema hall in Bucharest. — AFP



File photo shows Indian Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan speaking during the start of the 21st Kolkata International Film Festival in Kolkata. — AFP

## Film stars in spotlight after Panama Papers leak

The media adviser of the former Miss World winner has rejected the documents as "totally untrue and false". As with many of Fonseca's clients, there is no evidence that the Bollywood A-listers used their companies for improper purposes and having an offshore entity is not illegal. But the documents, naming more than 500 Indians including real estate tycoons in Fonseca's list of offshore companies, foundations and trusts, come at a sensitive time in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has vowed to crack down on the "menace" of so-called black money-vast sums stashed abroad to keep them secret from Indian tax authorities. Hong Kong film star Jackie Chan has also been revealed to have at least six companies represented by Fonseca's firm, though he too may have used the companies legitimately for business purposes rather than for tax avoidance. The stash of records was obtained from an anonymous source by German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung and shared with media worldwide. The documents, from around 214,000 offshore entities, cover almost 40 years. — AFP

The Express is among more than 100 media groups which have investigated a massive leak of 11.5 million documents from Mossack Fonseca, a Panama-based law firm with offices in 35 countries. Bachchan, who has long since resigned from the companies and has not commented on the documents, is not the only member of his famous family named in the leaks. His daughter-in-law, actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, was also director and shareholder of an offshore company, along with members of her family, before it was thought to have been wound up in 2008, according to the newspaper.

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## Favreau gives 'Jungle Book' a girl-power makeover

One of the best-loved animated films of all-time, "The Jungle Book" boasted iconic songs and a cast that ensured it would be revered as a milestone in Hollywood history. But for all its virtues, Disney's 1967 version of Rudyard Kipling's tale of an orphan raised by wolves lacked the one thing you'd be sure to find in the jungle—the female of the species. "I thought it was a little gender biased. I have two daughters, and the world is different now," says Jon Favreau, who directs the big budget live-action remake which hits US theaters on April 15. The veteran director set about putting things right by bringing on board Tinseltown A-lister and regular collaborator Scarlett Johansson to give villainous, and very male, snake Kaa the feminine touch.

"The hardest part of the movie was trying to get Bill Murray on the phone for the first time," said Favreau, who cast the 65-year-old comic actor in the role of Baloo the bear. "I sent letters, I sent artwork. I'd done it on other movies, I'd reached out to him before, and never heard from him. So when I got the call back from him, that's when my whole world lit up."

"I liked the character of this mother figure who is welcoming and also menacing. I thought that there was something interesting psychologically about that," Favreau told AFP. The 49-year-old, who directed the "Iron Man" and "Avengers" movies, also hired Oscar-winning Lupita Nyong'o to upgrade the role of she-wolf Raksha, who has a bit-part in the 1967 film. The 3D remake of the "The Jungle Book" employs photorealistic CGI in perhaps the most visually stunning yet of Disney's growing stable of animation-to-live action remakes, which includes box office smashes "Maleficent," "Cinderella" and "Alice in Wonderland." It stars American newcomer Neel Sethi, 12, as "Mowgli," the man-cub forced to abandon his jungle home for a journey of self-discovery, guided by stern panther Bagheera and free-spirited bear Baloo.

While "The Jungle Book" was the only animation for which Walt Disney hired well-known voice actors, Favreau describes himself as the kind of director who draws inspiration from an all-star cast. "When I cast Robert Downey Jr, all of a sudden 'Iron Man' became very clear to me," he told AFP. "In this case, when Bill Murray came in as Baloo my blood pressure dropped. I knew that I had a great opportunity here to make a wonderful film."

Favreau plucked the youngster from around 2,000 children who auditioned to play Mowgli. Sethi, whose scenes sprinting through the forest and swinging from vines required the athleticism of a gymnast, was studying for his black belt in Tae Kwon Do at the time. "I'd never thought about acting before. I was in a dance class and the teacher heard about the role and said 'I'd be really good for it,'" Sethi told AFP. "So I auditioned. I went to LA and two weeks later we started filming." The young debutant and his female co-stars are joined by a glittering male cast featuring Ben Kingsley, Christopher Walken, Idris Elba and Bill Murray, who is famously selective about the roles he takes.

### Dreaming of Mowgli

Born two months before Disney's death in 1966, Favreau found fame early in his career as the writer and star of 1996 cult comedy "Swingers." His memories of the impresario's last movie are sketchy, but he remembers dreaming of Mowgli driving in his parents' Toyota in downtown Manhattan. "I also remember it being scary to me. I remember the snake hypnotizing the boy felt very scary. I look at it now and it seems silly," he told AFP. Award-winning composer John Debney, whose father Louis was used by Walt Disney in the mid-1930s, provides a score reminiscent of the 1967 film but, unlike the original, the new version is not a musical.

There are snippets of the classic songs from the 1967 film, such as "Bare Necessities" and "I Wanna Be Like You," but fans will have to wait for the closing credits for a full-on sing along. Favreau said he reined in the musical numbers because he felt a more flamboyant approach would have undermined the sense of danger in his film, which is much more adult in tone than the original. "You want to make a movie that's appealing to all audiences, and around the world, and I think the original was more of a children's movie," he told AFP. "Although people remember it fondly, if we had done a live action version of it, I think it would have felt a little redundant." — AFP



One Direction star Zayn Malik is finding renewed success in his own right, with his solo debut album opening at number one in both the United States and Britain. — AFP

## Zayn tops charts in post-One Direction debut

One Direction star Zayn Malik is finding renewed success in his own right, with his solo debut album opening at number one in both the United States and Britain. The 23-year-old, who now simply calls himself Zayn, has gone racier as a solo artist with a sexual image that would have been out of the question for his former boy band. His album 'Mind of Mine,' sold 157,000 copies or the equivalent in downloads or streaming in its first week in the United States, Nielsen Music said late Sunday.

Zayn becomes the first British male solo artist to debut at number one on the benchmark US Billboard chart with his first album. George Michael went to number one in 1988 with 'Faith,' his blockbuster solo debut after disbanding the pop duo Wham!, but he did not do so in his first week. 'Mind of Mine' also debuted at number one in Britain, where Zayn edged out fellow hometown star Adele on the Official Albums Chart released Friday. Zayn released 'Mind of Mine' on March 25, the anniversary of his abrupt and at time acrimonious departure from One Direction amid a global tour.—AFP



A screen grab from the 1967 film 'The Jungle Book' - a version of Rudyard Kipling's famous tale. — AFP