

**For immediate release**

**HAF PICKS 28 IN-DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, RUNS ONLINE FOR THE THIRD YEAR**



**Hong Kong, 18 January 2022** – The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum has shortlisted 28 in-development projects for its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition (HAF20), which will run online for the third consecutive year from 14 to 16 March in conjunction with the 26<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong FILMART.

The projects, selected from 222 submissions from 38 countries and regions, include eight from Hong Kong, 12 debut features, as well as projects from such renowned filmmakers and producers as HUANG Ji, Jun LI, MARIKO Tetsuya, Ida PANAHANDEH, LIM Lung Yin, TSANG Tsui-shan, Michael J. WERNER, Fruit CHAN, Nonzee NIMIBUTR, YANG Chao, DING Yui-shan, and Jane ZHENG.

“Unfortunately, we won't have the opportunity to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting our usual in-person event due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions,” **HKIFF Industry Director Jacob WONG** said. “Nevertheless, based on experience gained from the last two years, we will strive to improve our online booking and meeting system to make it a breeze for all participants.”

Some of the selected HAF20's in-development projects (IDP) are as follows:

**Hong Kong spotlight**

HAF20 spotlights eight Hong Kong in-development projects, the most in recent years. They include *I Might Write About Us*, a personal LGBTQ+ drama by **Jun LI** (*Drifting*, winner of Best Adapted

Screenplay at Golden Horse Awards 2021); *High Noon*, a drama about a cop who unearths the brutal past behind a recent robbery, directed by award-winning film editor **WONG Hoi** and produced by **Michael J. WERNER**; and *Smashing Frank*, a dark comedy about four millennials who rob the rich, by **Trevor CHOI**, director of a local popular YouTube channel 16:9, with **Fruit CHAN** attached as producer.

### **New talent showcase**

In line with its continuing support for new talent, HAF20 presents 12 debut in-development projects, many by young filmmakers who have cut their teeth by making short films. Among them, **DUONG Dieu Linh** (*A Trip To Heaven*, winner at Locarno 2020), follows a middle-aged Vietnamese housewife who voodooes her husband back into love in *Don't Cry, Butterfly*; In *Summer Breeze*, **HO Yuk-fai** (*Eternal Sunshine*, winner of Best Director at Hong Kong's Fresh Wave 2020), creates a eulogy to Hong Kong's young generation through the bittersweet lives of three graduates; **Moxie PENG** (one of the six directors of "Disney Launchpad: Shorts Incubator" programme) tracks the bleak reality of a family of four in social drama *Tender Is The Night*, which **Jane ZHENG** of *The Farewell* fame produces.

Both **WU Lang's** *Absence* and **ZHANG Yudi's** *The Midsummer's Voice* are based on short films of the same name, which competed in Cannes and Palm Springs International ShortFest, respectively.

### **Award-winning filmmakers**

Several award-winning directors are bringing their latest projects to HAF20. **MARIKO Tetsuya** (*Destruction Babies*, winner of Best Emerging Director at Locarno 2016) examines what a father will do to get his son back in *Missing*. **Ida PANAHANDEH** (*Nahid*, winner of a promising future prize at Cannes' Un Certain Regard 2015) focuses on a gypsy woman temporarily released from prison who is suddenly revered as a saint in *Passion*.

Meanwhile, **XU Zhenhao** (*Give Me A Ride*, Firebird Award for Best Director of Young Cinema Competition at HKIFF43) describes an encounter between a man who accrues huge debts and a bar girl, both of whom are lost in the whirlpool of money and desire in *The Millionth Lipstick*, produced by **YANG Chao**. **Jill LI** (*Lost Course*, Best Documentary winner at Golden Horse Awards 2020) makes her narrative feature debut in *The Returning Tide*, which explores the world of two elderly men as they embark on a final journey to their hometown in Chaozhou.

### **Impact of COVID-19**

The pandemic has found its way into everyday life, bringing filmmakers new experiences and inspirations. Some of HAF20's IDP projects are conceived and set in the unique pandemic world,

including *A Woman Builds* by **HUANG Ji** (*Egg and Stone*, winner of Rotterdam Tiger Award 2012), which sees a woman return to her hometown to build a house when the pandemic keeps her husband and her daughter from travelling home; and *Chifan* by **TSANG Tsui-shan** (*Big Blue Lake*, winner of Best New Director at Hong Kong Film Awards 2012), which follows a Belgium-born Chinese woman who is rendered an outsider in the eyes of the locals in Antwerp when the pandemic strikes.

Some filmmakers turn to magical realism amid the pandemic, blurring the line between fantasy and reality in their stories. Projects which carry time travel or supernatural elements include *Insectum*, by **Bhaskar HAZARIKA** (*The River of Fables*, winner at Indian National Film Award 2016), which focuses on an Indian young man who descends into an insect-like state; **Colleen KWOK's** *The Stars The Sun The Moon* sees two primary schoolmates travel 20 years into the future where one of them has died, and the first-ever Thai-Muslim horror *The Cursed Land* directed by **Panu AREE** and **Kong RITHDEE** and produced by **Nonzee NIMIBUTR**.

Meanwhile, *Malice*, by **LIM Lung-Ying** (*Ohong Village*, winner of Cipputi Award at Torino 2019), follows three men onboard a boat searching for the almost extinct giant swordfish, and **HUANG Ningwei's** *Not Found* is a road movie in which a struggling writer meets three characters from his unfinished script.

#### **Guest Accreditation for HAF20:**

HAF20 guest registration is now open to investors, festival programmers and other industry professionals through <https://Industry.hkiff.org.hk/guest-registration>. Once accredited, all guests can schedule one-on-one meetings with filmmakers to discuss their projects.

Please refer to the **Appendix** for details on all shortlisted in-development projects. For more up-to-date information about HAF20, please visit our official website at <https://Industry.hkiff.org.hk> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hkiffindustry/>.

#### **To download information:**

<https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/@HAF20>

- END -

**For media enquiry, please contact:**

**VT Comms**

Alice Au Yeung

Tel: +852 2787 0706/+852 9887 9387

Email: [alice@vtcomms.com](mailto:alice@vtcomms.com)

**HKIFF Industry**

Lizzie Zhang

Tel: +852 2102 7359/+852-5545 3639

Email: [lizzie\\_zhang@hkiff.org.hk](mailto:lizzie_zhang@hkiff.org.hk)

### **About Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)**

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is widely recognised as Asia's premier film financing platform. HAF brings Asian filmmakers with upcoming film projects to Hong Kong for co-production ventures with top film financiers, producers, bankers, funding bodies, sales agents, distributors, and buyers. Around 30 in-development projects (IDP) and ten work-in-progress projects (WIP) are selected annually to participate in the three-day event attended by more than 1,000 filmmakers and financiers from over 35 countries and regions. HAF has the added advantage of being held in conjunction with Hong Kong FILMART, Asia's largest film market, attracting over 8,000 professionals.

HAF enhances the prospects of the participating projects through close collaborations with international organisations such as iQIYI (Mainland China), Fox International Productions (Greater China), Cinemart (the Netherlands), Asian Project Market (South Korea), Golden Horse Film Project Promotion (Taiwan), MIA (Italy) and more. Cash and in-kind awards to the value of around US\$250,000 are made with support from Create Hong Kong and Film Development Fund, among others.

### **About Hong Kong International Film Festival Industry Office (HKIFF Industry)**

To promote and support the film industry development more effectively, The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society restructured its industry services and set up Hong Kong International Film Festival Industry Office (HKIFF Industry) in 2021. From polishing up projects with a better appeal (HAF Film Lab) to getting them off the ground and finding post-production assistance (Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)), to exposing the projects in major international platforms (HAF Goes to Cannes), and on to planning the career of finished films (HKIFF Collection), HKIFF Industry offers independent filmmakers comprehensive services and windows to the world.

### **About The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS)**

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to discovering and promoting creativity in film's art and culture. It organises the annual Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF). Another highlight is the Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival (SummerIFF) held every August. In 2013, HKIFF introduced the repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme to enrich and deepen Hong Kong moviegoers' experience through a monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective, and thematic showcases. In 2021, HKIFFS restructured its film industry services and set up HKIFF Industry to promote and support non-mainstream film industry development through co-production and festival strategies and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: [www.hkiff.org.hk](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

## Appendix: Full list of the HAF20 in-development (IDP) projects

\* First narrative feature projects

^ Winner of script consultation service awards at HAF Film Lab in 2021

<b>1. A Woman Builds 水釘鄉</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b> HUANG Ji 黃驥 OTSUKA Ryuji 大塚龍治 Yellow-Green Pi Co., Ltd. 龍驥映畫（北京）文化有限公司
<b>2. *Absence 雪雲</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b> WU Lang 鄔浪 DUN He 頓河 Shanghai Turan Movie Co., Ltd. 上海突燃影業有限公司
<b>3. *Bada</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>South Korea 南韓</b> CHOI Ji-un 崔誌恩 YANG Yun-ho 梁允豪 Puruen Gonpangii
<b>4. Chifan 屋內人</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Hong Kong 香港</b> TSANG Tsui-shan 曾翠珊 Teresa KWONG 鄺珮詩 River Vision Company Limited 河上風光有限公司
<b>5. Cubs</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Indonesia 印尼</b> Riri RIZA Mira LESMANA Miles Films
<b>6. *Don't Cry, Butterfly</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Vietnam 越南</b> DUONG Dieu Linh TAN Si En 陳思恩, TRAN Thi Bich Ngoc Momo Film Co. 陌陌工作室
<b>7. Hanging Sun 懸日下的漣漪</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Taiwan 台灣   Hong Kong 香港</b> SHIH Li 施立 Julia CHU 朱嘉懿, Jade LEE 李良玉 Million Star Entertainment Inc. 華星娛樂股份有限公司, Golden Gate Productions Limited 金門製作有限公司

<b>8. *High Noon 烈日當空</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Hong Kong 香港</b> WONG Hoi 黃海 Michael J. WERNER 溫煦宇, NGAI Tat-sum 魏達深 S&S Production Company
<b>9. ^I Might Write About Us 眾生相</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Hong Kong 香港   Taiwan 台灣</b> Jun LI 李駿碩 Peter YAM 任硯聰, Stefano CENTINI 陳璽文 Good Sin Production 上善工作社, Volos Films Co., Ltd. 飛望影像有限公司
<b>10. Insectum</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>India 印度</b> Bhaskar HAZARIKA Shyam BORA Metanormal Motion Pictures
<b>11. *Ma Bufan's Family 馬不凡一家</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b> CAO Yang 曹煬 ZHANG Yu 張宇 Deep Focus Pictures Culture Communication Co., Ltd. 深定格文化傳媒無錫有限公司
<b>12. Malice 惡潮</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Taiwan 台灣</b> LIM Lungyin 林龍吟 Ivy SHEN Yu-Hua 沈俞樺, KUEK Shee Heng 郭斯恒 TYDAL Productions 大島影像製作股份有限公司
<b>13. *^Maybe Today, If Not Today, Maybe Tomorrow            每一天，陽光和雨和風</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Malaysia 馬來西亞</b> LIM Han Loong 林漢龍 TAN Chui Mui 陳翠梅, YEAP Swee Leong 葉瑞良 Da Huang Pictures 大荒電影製作公司
<b>14. Mind Load Waves 海風又起</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b> SONG Chuan 宋川 CHEN Hong 陳宏 Dot Art Creation Studio 轉過去藝術創作工作室, Shanghai Crescent Productions 上海新桂文化
<b>15. Missing</b> Director 導演： Producer 監製： Production Company 製作公司：	<b>Japan 日本</b> MARIKO Tetsuya 真利子哲也 Eisei SHU 朱永菁 ROJI Inc.

<b>16. *Not Found 采風</b>	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b>
Director 導演：	HUANG Ningwei 黃寧蔚
Producer 監製：	LIU Jiayin 劉伽茵
Production Company 製作公司：	Changsha Bu Che Nuan Tan Film & Culture Co. 長沙布扯暖彈影視文化有限公司
<b>17. Passion</b>	<b>Iran 伊朗</b>
Director 導演：	Ida PANAHANDAH 艾達潘納漢德
Producer 監製：	Ruth Yoshie LINTON 貴絵, Arsalan AMIRI
Production Company 製作公司：	Evar Film Studio
<b>18. *Smashing Frank 搗破法蘭克</b>	<b>Hong Kong 香港</b>
Director 導演：	Trevor CHOI 蔡康凝
Producer 監製：	Fruit CHAN 陳果
Production Company 製作公司：	16 by 9 Limited 拾陸比玖有限公司
<b>19. *Summer Breeze 夏夜晚風</b>	<b>Hong Kong 香港</b>
Director 導演：	HO Yuk-fai 何旭輝
Producer 監製：	Amy CHIN Siu-wai 錢小蕙
Production Company 製作公司：	MEH MONO CO.
<b>20. *Tender Is The Night 溫柔的是夜色</b>	<b>Mainland China 中國內地   USA 美國</b>
Director 導演：	Moxie PENG 彭陌颺
Producer 監製：	Jane ZHENG 鄭菁
Production Company 製作公司：	Seesaw Productions 蹺蹺板（北京）文化發展有限公司
<b>21. The Cursed Land</b>	<b>Thailand 泰國</b>
Director 導演：	Panu AREE, Kong RITHDEE
Producer 監製：	Nonzee NIMIBUTR 朗斯尼美畢達
Production Company 製作公司：	Cinemasia Co., Ltd.
<b>22. *The Midsummer's Voice 倒倉</b>	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b>
Director 導演：	ZHANG Yudi 張裕笛
Producer 監製：	MEI Qiaochu 梅翹楚, WANG Luka 王鹿卡
Production Company 製作公司：	Beijing MaxTimes Cultural Development Co., Ltd. 北京麥特文化發展有限公司

<b>23. The Millionth Lipstick</b> 一百萬支口紅	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b>
Director 導演：	XU Zhenhao 許振昊
Producer 監製：	YANG Chao 楊超, YANG Jing 楊競
Production Company 製作公司：	Beijing Trend Cultural Investment Co., Ltd. 北京傳燈文化投資有限公司
<b>24. The Partner</b>	<b>India 印度</b>
Director 導演：	Nithin LUKOSE
Producer 監製：	Raj RACHAKONDA, Anurag KASHYAP
Production Company 製作公司：	Studio 99 Films, Alif Talkies Productions
<b>25. The Returning Tide 洄潮</b>	<b>Hong Kong 香港</b>
Director 導演：	Jill LI 李哲昕
Producer 監製：	DING Yuin-shan 丁雲山, Joyce YANG 喬奕思
Production Company 製作公司：	Glory Pearl Ltd.
<b>26. *^The Stars The Sun The Moon</b> 星星太陽月亮	<b>Hong Kong 香港</b>
Director 導演：	Colleen KWOK Tung-shuen 郭童旋
Producer 監製：	Stephen LAM 林炳坤, Sandy YIP 葉慧珊
Production Company 製作公司：	Production Avenue Ltd.
<b>27. Travellers</b>	<b>India 印度   France 法國</b>
Director 導演：	Pierre FILMON
Producer 監製：	Sonal SEHGAL, Pierre FILMON
Production Company 製作公司：	Sonal Sehgal Films, Almano Films
<b>28. Watergrass 水草</b>	<b>Mainland China 中國內地</b>
Director 導演：	QI Rui 漆銳
Producer 監製：	QI Rui 漆銳
Production Company 製作公司：	Beijing BigFish Cine Co., Ltd. 北京大魚映像影視文化傳播有限公司