

For immediate release

**HAF INTRODUCES NEW TAIPEI FILM COMMISSION AWARD,
WELCOMES BACK WOUTER BARENDRECHT AWARD**

Hong Kong, 4 March 2022 – A new award presented by the Taipei Film Commission and the return of the Wouter Barendrecht Award are among the 14 cash and in-kind prizes to be handed out at the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum's 20th anniversary edition (HAF20).

The Taipei Film Commission Award aims to encourage and support projects which are set up as co-productions with creative talents and/or enterprises in Taipei. "Since our establishment, we aim to attract international co-productions, film talents, and investment capital to Taipei. We are delighted with our partnership with HAF. Seeing all the promising film projects, we are looking forward to encouraging more productions in Taipei and cultivating new talents in the film industry," said Jennifer JAO, Vice Chairman and Director of Taipei Film Commission.

HAF is glad to welcome the **Wouter Barendrecht Award** back this year after a two-year gap. In honour of the late Wouter BARENDRECHT, founder of Fortissimo Films and one of the founders of HAF, the Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation created this award to support directors who are under the age of 35 and with no more than three feature films to their credits.

In the early 2010s, *River Road* by LI Ruijun and *The Seen And The Unseen* by Kamila ANDINI were one of the earliest recipients of the Wouter Barendrecht Award at HAF. Both of their latest films - LI's *Return To Dust* and Kamila's *Before, Now & Then* - recently premiered in the Berlinale Competition, with the latter winning the Silver Bear award for best supporting performance.

White Light Studio is another prize sponsor for HAF this year. The Bangkok-based post production house has offered in-kind services to such HAF projects as *A New Old Play* by QIU Jiongjiong and *Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash* by Edwin, which won the special jury prize and the top Golden Leopard prize respectively, both in Locarno last year.

HAF started to collaborate with the **Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF)** of South Korea's Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival from 2011, followed by Italy's **Udine Far East Film Festival** in 2019. Such collaborations aim to strengthen the connections between the industries of the respective markets.

This year marks the sixth edition of the “**HAF Goes to Cannes**” program, which is jointly organized with Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes. Rima DAS’s *Village Rockstars*, Ray YEUNG’s *Suk Suk* and Oliver CHAN’s *Still Human* are among the previous work-in-progress projects selected for market screenings at the Marché du Film.

HAF has announced earlier the selection of 28 in-development projects and 15 work-in-progress projects, which will be presented online during HAF20 from 14-16 March alongside the 26th Hong Kong FILMART. The 14 cash and in-kind awards will be announced online on 16 March.

HAF20 Awards Presentation Ceremony

Date: 16 March 2022 (Wednesday)

Time: 17:00 – 19:00 (Hong Kong Time)

All accredited **FILMART** and **HAF guests** are welcome to attend the online awards ceremony through this link: www.hktdc.com/hkfilmart.

Please refer to the **Appendix** for a full list of the HAF20 awards and sponsors.

Guest Accreditation for HAF20

Guest registration for HAF20 will be closed on 6 March 2022 23:59 (GMT+8). Investors, festival programmers and other industry professionals are welcomed to register through <https://industry.hkiff.org.hk/guest-registration>. Accredited guests will receive a complimentary code for registration and schedule one-on-one online meetings with HAF filmmakers to discuss their projects. Full details on all shortlisted HAF20 projects, please visit <https://industry.hkiff.org.hk/haf/introduction>.

For more up-to-date information about HAF, 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>

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About Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is 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, annually attracting over 8,000 industry attendees.

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. It also gives out cash and in-kind awards to the value of around US\$250,000 with support from Create Hong Kong and Film Development Fund, among others.

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

Hong Kong International Film Festival Society set up an Industry Office (HKIFF Industry) in 2021 to promote and support industry development more effectively. By helping filmmakers to polish their projects for a better appeal (HAF Film Lab), match-making them with investors and finding post-production assistance (Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum), giving their projects exposure in international platforms (HAF Goes to Cannes), and advising them on distribution and festival-placement matters (HKIFF Collection), HKIFF Industry targets to offer independent filmmakers more 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

Appendix: Full list of HAF 20 awards

IDP Award

Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund and HAF

Two cash awards of each valued HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,800 each)

- Two cash awards will be given to two selected IDP projects, one from Hong Kong and one from outside Hong Kong. The winners will be selected by the Project Review Committee based on originality and creativity.

WIP Award

Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund and HAF

One cash award valued HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,800)

- All WIP projects are eligible for this award. One project will be selected by the Project Review Committee based on originality and creativity.

Taipei Film Commission Award

Presented by Taipei Culture Foundation - Taipei Film Commission

One cash award of US\$10,000 (approx. HK\$78,000)

- All IDP projects are eligible for this award. The winner will be selected by Taipei Culture Foundation - Taipei Film Commission. This award aims to encourage and support projects which are set up as co-productions with creative talents and/or enterprises in Taipei.

Wouter Barendrecht Award

Presented by the Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation, Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Film Development Fund

One cash award of HK\$50,000 (approx. US\$6,400)

- In honour of the late Wouter Barendrecht, the renowned film producer and one of the founders of HAF, this award will go to a project with a director who is under the age of 35 and has not made more than three feature films. The winner will be selected by the Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation.

Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) Award

Presented by Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, South Korea

One in-kind award, selected project to participate in NAFF 2022

- One IDP project will be selected by the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival to participate in NAFF 2022.

Udine Focus Asia Award

Presented by Udine Far East Film Festival, Italy

One in-kind award, selected project to participate in Focus Asia 2022

- The objective of the award is to encourage and facilitate coproduction between Asia and Europe. One IDP project will be invited by the Udine Far East Film Festival to participate in Focus Asia 2022.

White Light Post-Production Award

Presented by White Light Studio, Thailand

Two in-kind awards of each valued US\$15,000 (approx. HK\$117,300 each)

- The award is designed to promote cinematic innovation and promising Asian directors. Two in-kind awards will be presented to two selected projects, one IDP project and one WIP project. The winners will be offered post-production services by White Light Studio in Bangkok, Thailand.

HAF Goes to Cannes Program

Presented by HAF and Marché du Film

- HAF, together with Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes, presents market screening opportunities for no more than five WIP projects at Cannes Film Festival in 2022. This program aims to connect filmmakers with potential sales agents, distributors and film festivals.