

For Immediate Release

**HAF24 ADDS 12 WIP PROJECTS
FEATURING STARS AND ACCLAIMED FILMMAKERS**



Hong Kong, 5 February 2026 – The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) today announced the second batch of shortlisted projects for the 24th edition of the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF24), highlighting 12 work-in-progress titles.

These projects, mostly in post-production and all with budgets of up to US\$2.2 million, include seven debut features. They will be presented at HAF24 from 17 to 19 March at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, as an integral part of the HKIFF Industry Project Market, alongside the 30th Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART).

The lineup features top actors, including Nick Cheung Ka-fai, Chung Suet-ying, Dian Sastrowardoyo, Christine Hakim, and Reza Rahadian, as well as esteemed producers Mabel Cheung Yuen-ting, Gita Fara, and Meiske Taurisia. Emerging directors presenting their first feature include Arvin Belarmino, Shu Hui, and Chahat Mansingka.

Alongside the earlier announcement of 17 shortlisted In-Development projects, HKIFFS will complete the HAF24 lineup by unveiling selected animation and genre projects next week.

HIGHLIGHTS OF HAF24'S WIP PROJECTS:

HAVE LOVE, WILL TRAVEL

Nick Cheung Ka-fai and Chung Suet-ying star in the comedy drama ***Good Trip***: a film production assistant takes her ailing father on an unplanned journey to fulfil his last wishes. Mabel Cheung Yuen-ting (*Echoes of the Rainbow*, 2010 Berlinale Generation's Crystal Bear winner) produces for Norris Wong Yee-lam (*My Prince Edward*, 2020 HK Film Awards' Best New Director) and Wong Hoi.

Set within a Chinese Indonesian family, the drama *Jani Be Good* follows a 13-year-old girl caught between her controlling mother and her runaway sister. Meiske Taurisia (*Sleep No More*, 2026 Berlinale Specials) produces for Ariani Darmawan.

MY MOTHER by Eddie Cahyono (*Siti*, winner of Indonesia's Citra Award for Best Film in 2015) explores the emotional depths of a desperate mother (portrayed by Christine Hakim) who longs to reunite with her daughter, currently on death row in Saudi Arabia for killing a would-be abuser.

Will You Still Be My Friend by Lu Po-Shun (*Wild Tides*, winner of the Taipei Film Awards Best Director award in 2017) is narrated from the viewpoint of a 13-year-old village boy who shares a secret bond with his best friend from Singapore, but tensions between their families threaten to tear them apart.

BACK TO LIFE

A Ghost in the Market by Chin Chia-Hua (*Trouble Girl*, 2024 Golden Horse Awards winner) was developed through the HAF Film Lab in 2023 before moving to HAF's in-development projects section the following year. It is a supernatural drama about a housewife who is beaten to death by her abusive gambler husband, but returns to resume her daily chores in her decaying body.

Ken Yang's directing debut, **A Vampire, Probably**, is a horror fantasy about a bloodthirsty teenager who, upon being released from prison for murder, starts anew by learning body reconstruction at a funeral home under a mysterious professor.

PUNK, AND OTHER STRUGGLES

Farewell My Blue Bird by Zhang Tao (*Last Laugh*, 2017 ACID Cannes) explores China's younger rural generation through the story of a woman who leaves her mountain village to make a living in the city when her construction worker husband returns after an accident.

Ria by Arvin Belarmino (*Agapito*, 2025 Cannes Short Film Competition) portrays the struggles of a hotel housekeeper as she leads her punk community in standing against violence and displacement while caring for her ailing foster mother.

Reza Rahadian and Dian Sastrowardoyo star in **The Sea Speaks His Name (Laut Bercerita)**, a political drama about a student activist whose disappearance in the turbulent 1990s leaves behind a family torn between hope, memory, and an unending search for truth. Gita Fara (*Pangku (On Your Lap)*, 2025 Busan winner) produces for Yosep Anggi Noen (*24 Hours with Gaspar*, 2023 Busan).

THE LABOURER'S MURMURS

Set in Kolkata's fading Chinatown, Chahat Mansingka's **Like a Feather in the Wind** is an intimate reflection on life, focusing on a lonely woman who begins to see her late husband after her adult children have left home, leading her to accept the empty nest quietly.

Anjali Patil stars in ***Selvi***, directed by sound engineer-turned-director Sailesh Rathnakumar. The film depicts the endurance and strength of a migrant home care nurse, whose long hours of work blur the line between care and exhaustion.

A Thousand Stars in the Galactic Night, directed by former editor Shu Hui (*Walking with Her Into the Night*, 2023 Cannes Critics' Week Short Film Competition), is a sci-fi suspense film about an odd-job labourer who uncovers the hidden secrets of her life following her boyfriend's disappearance; Huang Yao and Bate'er Liu star.

WIP OPEN PITCH

Date: 17 March 2026 (Tue)

Time: 13:20 – 16:00 (Hong Kong Time)

Venue: Starlight Theatre, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

All shortlisted WIP projects will take part in the pitch session at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 17 March 2026. The WIP teams will have the chance to take centre stage and present their projects, including a 10-minute first look, to a key industry audience seeking original content.

We invite distributors, producers, investors, festival programmers, and representatives of funding bodies with an HKIFF Industry Project Market or FILMART accreditation to join.

For further details on all the shortlisted WIP projects, please refer to the **Appendix**.

GUEST AND MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Investors, festival organisers, industry professionals, and media can now register at <https://industry.hkiff.org.hk/guest-media-registration>. Once accredited, all guests will be able to request one-on-one meetings with filmmakers. Media representatives will have access to all official events.

To stay updated on the latest news and details about the HKIFF Industry Project Market, please visit

<https://industry.hkiff.org.hk> (our official website)

<https://www.facebook.com/hkiffindustry> (our Facebook page)

<https://www.instagram.com/hkiffindustry> (our Instagram page)

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About HKIFF Industry Project Market:

The HKIFF Industry Project Market serves as the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society's flagship industry platform. It aims to support filmmakers by facilitating project funding, co-production collaborations, and networking opportunities, advancing outstanding cinematic projects from development to the international stage.

Website: <https://industry.hkiff.org.hk/>

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited

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 restructures 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).

Website: www.hkiff.org.hk

Appendix: Full list of the 24th HAF-WIP Projects

* First narrative feature projects

^ Previous HAF Film Lab projects

Previous HAF IDP projects

W1. ***Farewell My Blue Bird***, Mainland China

Director: Zhang Tao

Producer: Tong Siyu

Production Company: Nanjing Sanmulin Film & Culture Media Co., Ltd.

W2. ^#***A Ghost in the Market***, Taiwan

Director: Chin Chia-Hua

Producer: Eva Wang

Production Company: Geppetto Film Studio

W3. ***Good Trip***, Hong Kong

Directors: Norris Wong Yee-lam, Wong Hoi

Producer: Mabel Cheung Yuen-ting

Production Company: Tango For Four Production Limited

W4. ****Jani Be Good***, Indonesia

Director: Ariani Darmawan

Producer: Meiske Taurisia

Production Company: Palari Films

W5. ****Like a Feather in the Wind***, India

Director: Chahat Mansingka

Producers: Sanjay Mansingka, Chahat Mansingka

Production Company: Rama Talkies

W6. ***MY MOTHER***, Indonesia, Japan, Hong Kong

Director: Eddie Cahyono

Producers: Tika Bravani, Isabelle Glachant

Production Companies: ANP Talenta Media, KNOCKONWOOD Inc., Chinese Shadows

W7. ****Ria***, The Philippines, Norway, The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia

Director: Arvin Belarmino

Producers: Kristine De Leon, Aleberg Ang

Production Companies: WAF Studios, Daluyong Studios

W8. ***The Sea Speaks His Name (Laut Bercerita)***, Indonesia

Director: Yosep Anggi Noen

Producers: Gita Fara, Budi Setyarso, Leila S. Chudori

Production Companies: Pal8 Pictures

W9. ****Selvi***, India

Director: Sainesh Rathnakumar

Producer: Anjali Pati

Production Company: Anahat Films

W10. ****A Thousand Stars in the Galactic Night***, Mainland China

Director: Shu Hui

Producers: Wang Hongwei, Lyu Hang

Production Company: Chengdu Qianxing Film and Culture Limited Co.

W11. ****A Vampire, Probably***, Taiwan

Director: Ken Yang

Producer: Lin Ming-Chih

Production Company: Ying Hong Pictures Co., Ltd.

W12. ****Will You Still Be My Friend***, Taiwan, Singapore

Director: Lu Po-Shun

Producer: Su Yu-Hao

Production Companies: InLight Film Studio, Verdant Peak Films