

For immediate release

## HAF19 Announces 17 Award Winners

**Hong Kong, 17 March 2021** – The three-day 19th edition of Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF19) successfully concluded today with the announcement of 17 cash and in-kind awards with a combined value of HK\$1,200,000 (approximately US\$157,000) to outstanding projects.

Returning to its regular March slot concurrent with the Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART), HAF19 was staged online for the second year running as the battle against the global COVID-19 pandemic continues. HAF19 showcased a total of 48 projects this year, including 20 works-in-progress, from 24 countries and regions.

Despite the challenging circumstances, HAF19 attracted 7% more registered participants than its first virtual edition last year and an astounding increase of over 80% in the number of online meetings arranged for industry professionals to discuss potential business opportunities with the participating filmmakers.

“Learning from last year’s experience, our team has worked hard to come up with a more efficient and user-friendly online platform, and I am encouraged to see the market’s enthusiastic response,” HAF director Jacob WONG said.

“Although it remains another challenging year, it does not stop the creativity of our filmmakers and the market’s demand for quality projects. With the selection this year, we have affirmed HAF’s position as a cutting-edge film financing platform to promote the art of film in the region.”

Among the 17 awarded projects, there are six women directors and seven women producers. The award results are as follows:

### **1. HAF Fiction Awards** (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

The *HAF Fiction Awards* offer cash prizes to one Hong Kong HAF fiction project and one non-Hong Kong HAF fiction project. ***Her Lullaby*** (Hong Kong) and ***The Catch*** (India) receive HK\$100,000 each.

### **2. HAF Documentary Awards** (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

The *HAF Documentary Awards* aim to promote the development of documentary filmmaking. ***The Way We AD*** (Hong Kong) and ***I Come From Ikotun*** (France, Hong Kong) receive a cash prize of HK\$100,000

each for their feasibility, appeal, and social relevance.

**3. WIP Fiction Award** (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

All WIP fiction projects are eligible for the *WIP Fiction Award*, and ***Stonewalling*** (China) receives a cash prize of HK\$78,000 for its originality and creativity.

**4. WIP Documentary Award** (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

All WIP documentary projects are eligible for the *WIP Documentary Award*, which encourages and promotes documentary filmmaking. This year's winning project is ***No Winter Holidays*** (Nepal, South Korea), which receives a cash prize of HK\$78,000.

**5. Heaven Pictures Young Director Award** (Presented by Heaven Pictures (HK) Culture & Media Co., Ltd.)

The Award aims to encourage young Hong Kong directors to create local-themed projects with unique personal style. The recipient of this year's *Heaven Pictures Young Director Award* is ***Winter Chants*** (Hong Kong), which receives a cash prize of HK\$150,000 (approximately US\$19,350).

**6. Cinerent Award** (Presented by Cinerent Beijing Ltd.)

Set out to support and encourage high-quality HAF projects to be shot in Mainland China, the *Cinerent Award* goes to ***Donna, Donna*** (China), which receives an in-kind award of RMB150,000.

**7. Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) Award** (Presented by Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival)

This year's Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award goes to ***108 Days*** (Indonesia), allowing it to participate in the Network of Asian Fantastic Films 2021 in Bucheon.

**8. Udine Focus Asia Award** (Presented by the Udine Far East Film Festival)

Designed to encourage and facilitate film co-production between Asia and Europe, the Udine Focus Asia Award goes to ***Getting Nowhere*** (China). This in-kind award is worth 7,000 euros (approximately HK\$62,000), comprising of a round-trip air ticket and hotel accommodation for the director and hotel accommodation for the producer to participate in its project market.

**9. White Light Post-Production Awards** (Presented by White Light Studio)

The *White Light Post-Production Awards* offer in-kind awards, valued at US\$15,000 each, to one HAF project and one WIP project in recognition of their cinematic innovation. The award-winners will receive post-production services from White Light Studio in Bangkok, Thailand. This year, the awards

go to *Splash* (China) from HAF and *The Return of Agaar* (China) from WIP.

**10. HAF Goes to Cannes** (Presented by HAF and Marché du Film)

In collaboration with Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes, the *HAF Goes to Cannes* Program presents filmmakers opportunities to look for sales agents, distributors and film festival exposure. The five selected projects are *A Light Never Goes Out*, *Red Horse In The Summer Sky*, *Stonewalling*, *No Winter Holidays* and *Saving One Who Was Dead*.

Please refer to the **Appendix** for a complete list of all the HAF19 award recipients.

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

HAF is considered one of the region's most recognised film financing platforms which, since its inception in 2000, annually brings Asian filmmakers to Hong Kong for co-production ventures with financiers, producers, bankers, distributors and buyers. In 2020, HAF18 attracted more than 350 filmmakers and industry professionals from 40 countries and regions to participate in the three-day online event which featured 32 HAF Projects and 22 WIP Projects. HAF has the added advantage of being held in conjunction with Hong Kong Filmart, Asia's largest film market which regularly attracts over 8,000 professionals.

Over the years, HAF has partnered with many regional and international organisations to provide participants with a range of opportunities. Past and current partners include iQIYI (China), Fox International Productions (Greater China) (US), Cinemart (the Netherlands), Asian Project Market (South Korea), Golden Horse Film Project Promotion (Taiwan), and MIA (Italy). With the support of, among others, the Hong Kong SAR Government's Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Film Development Fund, HAF has made cash and in-kind awards available to participating filmmakers each year. Notable past HAF participants include China's JIA Zhangke, JIANG Wen, LU Chuan and NING Hao; Hong Kong's Peter CHAN, Stanley KWAN, Ann HUI, Fruit CHAN and PANG Ho-cheung; Taiwan's TSAI Ming-Liang, WEI Te-Sheng, CHUNG Mong-Hong and Leon DAI; Japan's KORE-EDA Hirokazu, KUROSAWA Kiyoshi, KAWASE Naomi and IWAI Shunji; South Korea's PARK Chan-Wook, KIM Jee-Woon, BONG Joon-Ho and IM Sang-Soo; as well as Thailand's Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL, Ekachai UEKRONGTHAM, Nonzee NIMIBUTR and Pen-ek RATANARUANG.

### **About 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 the art and culture of film. Annually, HKIFFS organises the flagship Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) in March and April, and the Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival (Summer IFF) every August. In 2013, HKIFFS launched the repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme to enrich and deepen Hong Kong filmgoers' experience through a year-round bi-monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases. In 2017, HKIFFS set up the Film Industry Services Office (FIS) to promote non-mainstream cinema through co-production and support emerging filmmakers with consultancy on festival strategies and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: <http://www.hkiff.org.hk/>

## Appendix: The 19th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Award List

### 1. HAF Fiction Award (Hong Kong Project)

<b>Her Lullaby</b>	<b>Hong Kong</b>
Director: Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen	
Producer: Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen	
Production Company: No Ceiling Film Production Limited	

### 2. HAF Fiction Award (Non-Hong Kong Project)

<b>The Catch</b>	<b>India</b>
Director: Rishi CHANDNA	
Producer: Dina DATTANI	
Production Company: Furaha Pictures Limited	

### 3. HAF Documentary Award (Hong Kong Project)

<b>The Way We AD</b>	<b>Hong Kong</b>
Director: Bud-ming	
Producer: Teresa KWONG	
Production Company: Ideas Un Limited	

### 4. HAF Documentary Award (Non-Hong Kong Project)

<b>I Come from Ikotun</b>	<b>France, Hong Kong</b>
Director: WANG Bing	
Producer: Isabelle GLACHANT	
Production Company: Chinese Shadows, Wil Productions	

### 5. WIP Fiction Award

<b>Stonewalling</b>	<b>China</b>
Director: HUANG Ji, OTSUKA Ryuji	
Producer: OTSUKA Ryuji	
Production Company: Yellow-Green Pi Co., Ltd.	

## 6. WIP Documentary Award

**No Winter Holidays**

**Nepal, South Korea**

Director: Rajan KATHET, Sunir PANDEY

Producer: Rajan KATHET, Sunir PANDEY, Gary KAM Byung-seok

Production Company: Salpa Films Pvt. Ltd., Mirror & Story

## 7. Heaven Pictures Young Director Award

**Winter Chants**

**Hong Kong**

Director: TSANG Tsui-shan

Producer: Teresa KWONG, Ken HUI

Production Company: River Vision Company Limited

## 8. Cinerent Award

**Donna, Donna**

**China**

Director: QI Rui

Producer: ZHU Dan

Production Company: Beijing BigFish Cine Co., Ltd.

## 9. Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) Award

**108 Days**

**Indonesia**

Director: Lucky KUSWANDI

Producer: Muhammad ZAIDY, Meiske TAURISIA

Production Company: Palari Films

## 10. Udine Focus Asia Award

**Getting Nowhere**

**China**

Director: YANG Mingming

Producer: YANG Jing

Production Company: Beijing Trend Cultural Investment Co., Ltd.

## 11. White Light Post-Production Award (HAF Project)

**Splash**

**China**

Director: CAI Chengjie

Producer: CAI Chengjie

Production Company: Seshizi (Beijing) Motion Pictures

## 12. White Light Post-Production Award (WIP Project)

### **The Return of Agaar**

**China**

Director: YANG Bo

Producer: XU Xiaofei

Production Company: Hainan Mind Image Film Productions

## 13. "HAF Goes to Cannes" Shortlisted Projects

### **(i) A Light Never Goes Out**

**Hong Kong**

Director: Anastasia TSANG

Producer: Saville CHAN

Production Company: A Light Never Goes Out Ltd.

### **(ii) Red Horse in the Summer Sky**

**Taiwan**

Director: CHANG Tso-Chi

Producer: KAO Wen-Hung

Production Company: SimpleView Production Co., Ltd.

### **(iii) Stonewalling**

**China**

Director: HUANG Ji, OTSUKA Ryuji

Producer: OTSUKA Ryuji

Production Company: Yellow-Green Pi Co., Ltd.

### **(iv) No Winter Holidays**

**Nepal, South Korea**

Director: Rajan KATHET, Sunir PANDEY

Producer: Rajan KATHET, Sunir PANDEY, Gary KAM Byung-seok

Production Company: Salpa Films Pvt. Ltd., Mirror & Story

### **(v) Saving One Who Was Dead**

**The Czech Republic, The Slovak Republic**

Director: Václav KADRŇKA

Producer: Václav KADRŇKA

Production Company: Sirius Films