

For immediate release

**HAF20 ANNOUNCES 14 AWARD WINNERS,
HONOURS FIVE DEBUTANTS**

Hong Kong, 16 March 2022 – Five debuting filmmakers from across Asia are among the winners as the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum successfully concluded its 20th edition today with the announcement of 14 cash and in-kind award recipients.

Joining the highly-promising Duong Dieu Linh, Huang Ningwei, Colleen Kwok Tung-Shuen, Lau Kok Rui, and Wang Di on the virtual winners' podium are the more seasoned filmmakers such as Panu Aree, Rajesh S. Jala, Jun Li, Kong Rithee, Riri Riza, Matan Yair, and Yang Heng.

This year's HAF was staged as an online event from 14 to 16 March in conjunction with FILMART Online for the third consecutive year, showcasing 43 projects, including 15 works-in-progress. There were also 11 Hong Kong projects, with 21 filmmakers presenting their debut feature projects.

HAF20 facilitated more than **900** private meetings between the project teams and participating industry professionals, including international co-production and financing partners, distributors, and festival programmers— almost doubling the meetings since HAF first went virtual in 2020.

Hong Kong International Film Festival Society executive director Albert Lee said that the overwhelming support from the filmmaking community and sponsors was gratifying, despite challenges amid the COVID pandemic.

Mr Lee acknowledged the invaluable support of **Create Hong Kong**, the **Film Development Fund**, the **Hong Kong Trade Development Council**, and all participating HAF20 filmmakers and sponsors.

"Your continuous involvement is crucial in motivating us to press on regardless," he said.

The HAF20 award winners are: -

- IDP Award for a Hong Kong project: **The Stars The Sun The Moon** by Colleen Kwok Tung-Shuen
- IDP Award for a non-Hong Kong project: **Not Found** (Mainland China) by Huang Ningwei
- WIP Award: **Silent Ghosts** (Hong Kong) by Yang Heng
- Taipei Film Commission Award: **I Might Write About Us** (Hong Kong/Taiwan) by Jun Li
- Wouter Barendrecht Award: **Don't Cry, Butterfly** (Vietnam) by Duong Dieu Linh

- Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) Award: **The Cursed Land** (Thailand) by Panu Aree and Kong Ritthdee
- Udine Focus Asia Award: **Don't Cry, Butterfly** (Vietnam) by Duong Dieu Linh
- White Light Post-Production Award for an IDP project: **Cubs** (Indonesia) by Riri Riza
- White Light Post-Production Award for a WIP project: **A Room Of His Own** (Israel/Italy) by Matan Yair
- HAF Goes to Cannes Program:
 - A Room of His Own** (Israel/Italy) by Matan Yair
 - Silent Ghosts** (Hong Kong) by Yang Heng
 - The Spark** (India) by Rajesh S. Jala
 - The Sunny Side of the Street** (Hong Kong) by Lau Kok Rui
 - The Vessel's Isle** (Mainland China) by Wang Di

Please refer to the **Appendix** for details of the awards and the HAF20 winning projects.

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For full details on all shortlisted HAF20 projects, please visit

<https://industry.hkiff.org.hk/haf/introduction>.

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: The 20th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Award List

1 IDP Award for a Hong Kong project - HK\$100,000 (cash)

Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF for originality and creativity

Selected by HAF Project Review Committee

Winner: **The Stars The Sun The Moon** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Colleen Kwok Tung-Shuen

Produced by: Stephen Lam, Sandy Yip

2 IDP Award for a non-Hong Kong project - HK\$100,000 (cash)

Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF for originality and creativity

Selected by HAF Project Review Committee

Winner: **Not Found** (Mainland China)

Directed by: Huang Ningwei

Produced by: Liu Jiayin

3 WIP Award - HK\$100,000 (cash)

Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF for originality and creativity

Selected by HAF Project Review Committee

Winner: **Silent Ghosts** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Yang Heng

Produced by: Yan Ni

4 Taipei Film Commission Award - US\$10,000 (cash)

Presented by the Taipei Film Commission to encourage and support projects which are set up as co-productions with talents or enterprises from Taipei

Selected by Taipei Film Commission

Winner: **I Might Write About Us** (Hong Kong, Taiwan)

Directed by: Jun Li

Produced by: Peter Yam, Stefano Centini

5 Wouter Barendrecht Award - HK\$50,000 (cash)

The award honours the late Wouter Barendrecht, the renowned film producer and one of the founders of HAF, is presented by the Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation, Create Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Film Development Fund to a project by a director who is under 35

and who has not made more than three feature films
Selected by the Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation

Winner: **Don't Cry, Butterfly** (Vietnam)

Directed by: Duong Dieu Linh

Produced by: Tan Si En, Tran Thi Bich Ngoc

6 **Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) Award (to an IDP project)**

Presented by the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, the winner of this in-kind award will be invited to participate in NAFF 2022

Selected by Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival

Winner: **The Cursed Land** (Thailand)

Directed by: Panu Aree, Kong Rithee

Produced by: Nonzee Nimibutr

7 **Udine Focus Asia Award (to an IDP project)**

Presented by the Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy, to encourage and facilitate co-productions between Asia and Europe, the winner of this in-kind award will be invited to participate in Focus Asia 2022

Selected by Far East Film Festival

Winner: **Don't Cry, Butterfly** (Vietnam)

Directed by: Duong Dieu Linh

Produced by: Tan Si En, Tran Thi Bich Ngoc

8 **White Light Post-Production Award to an IDP project (in-kind)**

Presented by White Light Studio in Bangkok, Thailand, to promote cinematic innovation and support promising Asian filmmakers, the winner of this in-kind award will receive post-production services valued at US\$15,000

Selected by White Light Studio, Thailand

Winner: **Cubs** (Indonesia)

Directed by: Riri Riza

Produced by: Mira Lesmana

9 **White Light Post-Production Award to a WIP project (in-kind)**

Presented by White Light Studio in Bangkok, Thailand, to promote cinematic innovation and support promising Asian filmmakers, the winner of this in-kind award will receive post-production services valued at US\$15,000

Selected by White Light Studio, Thailand

Winner: **A Room of His Own** (Israel, Italy)

Directed by: Matan Yair
Produced by: Maya Fischer

10 **HAF Goes To Cannes Program**

Presented by HAF and Marché du Film, this program offers market screening opportunities for up to five WIP projects to attend this year's Cannes Film Festival to connect with sales agent, distributors, and film festival delegates

Selected by HAF

Winner: **A Room of His Own** (Israel, Italy)

Directed by: Matan Yair
Produced by: Maya Fischer

Winner: **Silent Ghosts** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Yang Heng
Produced by: Yan Ni

Winner: **The Spark** (India)

Directed by: Rajesh S. Jala
Produced by: Rajesh S. Jala, Prayas Deepti

Winner: **The Sunny Side of the Street** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Lau Kok Rui
Produced by: Vinod Sekhar, Winnie Tsang, Soi Cheang, Peter Yam

Winner: **The Vessel's Isle** (Mainland China)

Directed by: Wang Di
Produced by: Xu Ruijing