

**For immediate release**

## SASHA CHUK WINS BIG AT HAF21



**15 March 2023 (Hong Kong)** – Young Hong Kong filmmaker Sasha Chuk emerges as the biggest winner as the three-day 21<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF21) successfully concluded today with the announcement of the recipients of 20 cash and in-kind awards worth more than US\$170,000.

Chuk received an unprecedented four awards – the Heaven Pictures Young Director Award, the CCG Grand Award, the mm2 Award, and the WIP Award – for her Stanley Kwan-produced *Fly Me to the Moon*. The work-in-progress is also one of the five projects selected for this year's HAF Goes To Cannes initiative.

Taiwan's Lien Chien-Hung and Mainland China's Guan Tian also excelled at HAF21, each taking home three awards for *Salli* and *The Poison Cat*, respectively.

Returning to its regular March dates with the Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART), HAF21 was the first physical, in-person event since 2019 after three consecutive online editions. The event attracted 30% more accredited participants than the last edition. It facilitated over thousand private meetings between the project teams and participating industry professionals, including international co-production and financing partners, distributors, and festival programmers, representing an increase of 9% from last year.

Speaking after today's HAF21 awards presentation ceremony, the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Chairman, Dr Wilfred Wong, said he was gratified and encouraged by the overwhelming support from the filmmaking community and sponsors.

"I want to congratulate all the winners and acknowledge Create Hong Kong, Film Development Fund, Trade Development Council, and all the participating filmmakers," Dr Wong said. "They have all been brilliant."

The three-day HAF21 featured 43 projects, including 15 works-in-progress, shortlisted from 350 submissions. There were also 10 Hong Kong projects and 22 involving a first-time director, the most in recent years.

The HAF21 award winners are: -

- IDP Award for a Hong Kong project: ***The Marriage Drive*** (Hong Kong) by **Lawrence Kan**
- IDP Award for a non-Hong Kong project: ***Non-fiction Stories*** (Mainland China) by **Zhao Jin**
- WIP Award for a Hong Kong project: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong) by **Sasha Chuk**
- WIP Award for a non-Hong Kong project: ***Salli*** (Taiwan, France) by **Lien Chien-Hung**
- CCG Grand Award: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong) by **Sasha Chuk**
- Heaven Pictures Young Director Award: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong) by **Sasha Chuk**
- mm2 Award: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong) by **Sasha Chuk**
- TAICCA Award: ***Skin Coat*** (Singapore) by **Tan Wei Keong**
- Taipei Film Commission Award: ***Racing Storm*** (Taiwan) by **Lin Yu-Hsien**  
***Skin Coat*** (Singapore) by **Tan Wei Keong**
- White Light Post Post-Production Award for an IDP project:  
***The Poison Cat*** (Mainland China) by **Guan Tian**
- White Light Post Post-Production Award for a WIP project:  
***Salli*** (Taiwan, France) by **Lien Chien-Hung**
- ARRI Award: ***The Mermaid's Tale*** by **Norris Wong**
- Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) Award: ***The Poison Cat*** (Mainland China) by **Guan Tian**
- Udine Focus Asia Award: ***The Poison Cat*** (Mainland China) by **Guan Tian**
- HAF Goes to Cannes Program:  
***Brief History of a Family*** (Mainland China) by **Lin Jianjie**  
***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong) by **Sasha Chuk**  
***Hani*** (Hong Kong) by **Hou Dasheng**  
***Salli*** (Taiwan, France) by **Lien Chien-Hung**  
***Who Were We?*** (Japan) by **Tomina Tetsuya**

Please refer to the **Appendix** for details of the awards and the HAF21 winning projects.

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For full details on all shortlisted HAF21 projects, please visit

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

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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 advantage of being held 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), Cinemart (the Netherlands), Asian Project Market (South Korea), Golden Horse Film Project Promotion (Taiwan), MIA (Italy) and more. Cash and in-kind awards 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. HKIFF Industry offers independent filmmakers comprehensive services and windows to the world: from polishing up projects for a better appeal (HAF Film Lab), finding post-production assistance (Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum), exposing the projects to major international platforms (HAF Goes to Cannes), to planning the career of finished films (HKIFF Collection).

### **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 art and culture. It organises the 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, festival strategies, and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

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

**Appendix: The 21<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Award Winners**

**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 Marriage Drive*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Lawrence Kan

Produced by: Cora Yim

**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: ***Non-fiction Stories*** (Mainland China)

Directed by: Zhao Jin

Produced by: Nai An, Tong Wenqun, Dia Wang Yunzhi

**3 WIP 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: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Sasha Chuk

Produced by: Stanley Kwan

**4 WIP 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: ***Salli*** (Taiwan, France)

Directed by: Lien Chien-Hung

Produced by: Lee Lieh, Dennis Wu, Amanda Tseng Man-Yin, Uilin Ong

**5 CCG Grand Award - HK\$200,000 (cash)**

Presented by the Chinachem Group to recognise a Hong Kong project with the most potential

Selected by Chinachem Group

Winner: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Sasha Chuk

Produced by: Stanley Kwan

6 **Heaven Pictures Young Director Award - HK\$150,000 (cash)**

Presented by Hong Kong Pictures Heaven Culture & Media Company Limited to encourage young Hong Kong directors to create local-themed projects with uniquely personal style

Selected by Hong Kong Pictures Heaven Culture & Media Company Limited

Winner: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Sasha Chuk

Produced by: Stanley Kwan

7 **mm2 Award - HK\$100,000 (cash)**

Presented by mm2 Hong Kong to encourage and support Chinese-language film projects that exhibit good commercial and artistic quality

Selected by mm2 Hong Kong

Winner: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Sasha Chuk

Produced by: Stanley Kwan

8 **TAICCA Award - US\$10,000 (cash)**

Presented by Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA) to encourage and support creative content in Asia, and will be given to the project that we found to have the most potential to work/co-produce with Taiwan

Selected by Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA)

Winner: ***Skin Coat*** (Singapore)

Directed by: Tan Wei Keong

Produced by: Anthony Chen, Teoh Yi Peng

9 **Taipei Film Commission Award - HK\$15,000 (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: ***Racing Storm*** (Taiwan)

Directed by: Lin Yu-Hsien

Produced by: Roger Huang, Lorraine Ho

Winner: ***Skin Coat*** (Singapore)

Directed by: Tan Wei Keong

Produced by: Anthony Chen, Teoh Yi Peng

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

Presented by Thailand's White Light Studio and 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

Winner: ***The Poison Cat*** (Mainland China)

Directed by: Guan Tian

Produced by: Yang Chao, Vivian Bao, Ding Ningyuan

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

Presented by Thailand's White Light Studio 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

Winner: ***Salli*** (Taiwan, France)

Directed by: Lien Chien-Hung

Produced by: Lee Lieh, Dennis Wu, Amanda Tseng Man-Yin, Uilin Ong

12 **ARRI Award to an IDP project (in-kind)**

Presented by ARRI Hong Kong, and aims to sponsor professional equipment for young talents of this industry to create more valuable films. ARRI Hong Kong will provide an in-kind prize that is worth US\$15,000 in market equipment rental service value

Selected by ARRI Hong Kong

Winner: ***The Mermaid's Tale*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Norris Wong

Produced by: Gene Yao, Albert Yao, Lynn Lin, Berton Hsu

13 **Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) Award to an IDP project (in-kind)**

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

Selected by Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival

Winner: ***The Poison Cat*** (Mainland China)

Directed by: Guan Tian

Produced by: Yang Chao, Vivian Bao, Ding Ningyuan

14 **Udine Focus Asia Award to an IDP project (in-kind)**

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: ***The Poison Cat*** (Mainland China)

Directed by: Guan Tian

Produced by: Yang Chao, Vivian Bao, Ding Ningyuan

15 **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 agents, distributors, and film festival delegates

Selected by HAF

Winner: ***Brief History of a Family*** (Mainland China)

Directed by: Lin Jianjie

Produced by: Lou Ying, Wang Yiwen, Zheng Yue

Winner: ***Fly Me to the Moon*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Sasha Chuk

Produced by: Stanley Kwan

Winner: ***Hani*** (Hong Kong)

Directed by: Hou Dasheng

Produced by: Wang Hongwei

Winner: ***Salli*** (Taiwan, France)

Directed by: Lien Chien-Hung

Produced by: Lee Lieh, Dennis Wu, Amanda Tseng Man-Yin, Uilin Ong

Winner: ***Who Were We?*** (Japan)

Directed by: Tomina Tetsuya

Produced by: Hatanaka Mina