

For immediate release

HAF FILM LAB CONCLUDES AND NAMES WINNERS



Hong Kong, 1 September 2023 – The 6th edition of the HAF Film Lab successfully concluded today by announcing the winners of its three Script Services Awards.

The awards for two of the winning projects, **SINK CITY** and **THE PLAYWRIGHT'S STORIES** are sponsored by Create Hong Kong, while General Dream Studio from mainland China sponsored an award for **FLOATING CLOUD, LONE CRANE**.

Handpicked from HAF Film Lab's eight featured projects this year, renowned industry veterans Chan Hing-kai, Yang Chao, and Yeh Ju-feng will provide valuable script consultation services to the emerging filmmakers behind **Yeung Leung-chuen**, **Hou Dasheng**, and **Emetjan Memet**, respectively, from now until March 2024.

Additionally, the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum will automatically shortlist these projects for its 22nd edition (HAF22), which will take place from 11 to 13 March 2024, alongside the 28th Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART).

Participating for the first time as an award sponsor this year, General Dream Studio's Vice President, He Bin, is on hand to choose one of the winning projects with Yeh Ju-feng.

"We aim to encourage young filmmakers to explore and pioneer new forms of expression rooted in Chinese-language culture," Mr He said.

The winning projects will also benefit from another HAF Film Lab's new partnership. Led by DZOFILM in collaboration with Aputure, RED Digital Cinema, and One Cool Hang Wan Rental, The D Project will provide each recipient of the three Script Services Awards professional equipment support, including cameras, lenses, and lighting, valued at RMB50,000.

DZOFILM's Asia & Pacific Marketing Director, Maggie Chen, said this initiative aims to facilitate the production of scripts and expedite bringing visual creations to the audience.

The 6th HAF Film Lab's three award winners are:

1. *Floating Cloud, Lone Crane*

Director: Emetjan Memet

Producer: Derek Zhang

Scriptwriter: Emetjan Memet

He Bin on his selection: The story is skillfully and sincerely written, with a natural flow that leaves a deep impression. It possesses the qualities of romanticism and a simple sense of humour, consistent with the director's previous short film works. We have high expectations for the combination and outcome of these creative qualities.

Yeh Ju-Feng on her selection:

The story has a clear purpose, using an epic poem as a metaphor and a magical fairy tale colour as its core. It seamlessly weaves in elements of everyday life, painting a unique portrayal of love.

2. *Sink City*

Director: Hou Dasheng

Producer: Wang Hongwei, Li Zhaoyu

Scriptwriter: Hou Dasheng

Yang Chao on his selection: It is a new variation of a harsh youth story set in a county town. Shielded by the blossoming love that transcends social classes during the rehearsal process of Cao Yu's *Thunderstorm*, they face the formidable challenges of the college entrance examination in the depths of the universe.

3. *The Playwright's Stories*

Director: Yeung Leung-chuen

Producer: Chu Yun-Ting, Chen Tang-Ling

Scriptwriter: Yeung Leung-chuen

Chan Hing-kai on his selection: On the surface, it appears subtle, but structurally, it is pretty ambitious. It can be interpreted in two ways when viewed in sequential or reverse order. The protagonist combines observations of ordinary life with personal creativity, imbuing the story with meaningful symbols.

Please refer to the **Appendix** for a complete list of the 6th HAF Film Lab's shortlisted projects.

Meanwhile, HAF22 will be open for submissions of in-development fictional projects from 4 September to 31 October and in-progress fictional projects from 1 November to 15 December. Those interested can obtain more details at <https://industry.hkiff.org.hk/>.

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About HAF Film Lab

In 2018, HKIFF Society launched HAF Film Lab, an innovative training program for aspiring filmmakers in Hong Kong and the Chinese-language film industry. This comprehensive program focuses on nurturing talent in film production's creative and business aspects. It offers various lectures, personalised one-on-one consultations, and mentorship opportunities. Since its inception, HAF Film Lab has witnessed several remarkable success stories that have gained international recognition.

Two projects that originated from HAF Film Lab have emerged as notable successes within the HKIFF Industry's ecosystem: Ca Jie's BORROWED TIME and Lau Kok-rui's THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET. Both filmmakers participated in HAF Film Lab in 2019 and received awards for script consultation services. HAF subsequently invited them to present their projects in the In-development Projects (IDP) and Work-in-progress Projects (WIP) sections in 2020 and 2022. This year's Busan International Film Festival selected BORROWED TIME for its New Currents section. At

the same time, Lau Kok-rui's THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET received recognition for Best Actor, Best Original Screenplay, and Best New Director at the Golden Horse Awards.

Zhenglu Xinyuan's debut feature film, THE CLOUD IN HER ROOM, also received the prestigious Tiger Award at the 49th International Film Festival Rotterdam, highlighting the program's commitment to supporting emerging filmmakers.

The 6th edition of the HAF Film Lab, held from 28 August to 1 September, received over 150 submissions from nine countries and regions.

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Appendix

01. **Floating Cloud, Lone Crane 閒雲野鶴 | Mainland China 中國內地**
DIRECTOR 導演：Emetjan Memet 艾麥提·麥麥提
PRODUCER 監製/製片：Derek Zhang 張蒲中天
SCRIPTWRITER 編劇：Emetjan Memet 艾麥提·麥麥提

02. **Under the hill 柵欄內外 | Mainland China 中國內地, France 法國**
DIRECTOR 導演：Yu Miao 于淼
PRODUCER 監製/製片：Shu Ye 舒葉
SCRIPTWRITER 編劇：Yu Miao 于淼

03. **Wake Me Up 離開前，叫醒我 | Mainland China 中國內地**
DIRECTOR 導演：Yu Haiyang 于海洋
PRODUCER 監製/製片：Dun He 頓河
SCRIPTWRITER 編劇：Yu Haiyang 于海洋

04. **Sink City 好雷雨壞雷雨 | Canada 加拿大, Hong Kong 香港**
DIRECTOR 導演：Hou Dasheng 侯大勝
PRODUCERS 監製/製片：Wang Hongwei 王宏偉, Li Zhaoyu 李召玉
SCRIPTWRITER 編劇：Hou Dasheng 侯大勝

05. **A Ghost in the Market 市場裡的女鬼 | Taiwan 台灣**
DIRECTOR 導演：Chin Chia-Hua 靳家驊
PRODUCER 監製/製片：Eva Wang 王小茵
SCRIPTWRITER 編劇：Chin Chia-Hua 靳家驊

06. **Altarage 捉伊人 | Hong Kong 香港**
DIRECTOR 導演：Mandrew Kwan Man-hin 關文軒
PRODUCER 監製/製片：Ding Yuin-shan 丁雲山
SCRIPTWRITERS 編劇：Mandrew Kwan Man-hin 關文軒, Chung Chu-fung 鍾柱鋒

07. **Return to Malaya 重返馬來亞 | Malaysia 馬來西亞, Hong Kong 香港**
DIRECTOR 導演：Yoeng Kuok Hong 楊國鴻
PRODUCERS 監製/製片：Lau Kok Rui 劉國瑞
SCRIPTWRITER 編劇：Yoeng Kuok Hong 楊國鴻

08. **The Playwright's Stories** 劇作家故事集 | **Hong Kong** 香港, **Taiwan** 台灣

DIRECTOR 導演：Yeung Leung-chuen 楊兩全

PRODUCERS 監製/製片：Chu Yun-Ting 朱芸廷, Chen Tang-Ling 陳瑋玲

SCRIPTWRITER 編劇：Yeung Leung-chuen 楊兩全