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### HAF Film Lab Picks Three Winners



**Hong Kong, 28 August 2022** – The 5<sup>th</sup> HAF Film Lab draws to a successful conclusion today with **Frankie Lee, Yeung Leung-chuen** and **Tang Peiyan** taking home its three awards.

Selected from a field of 12 shortlisted in-development projects, script mentors Mabel Cheung, Yang Chao, and Lu Fei-I will provide consultation to these emerging filmmakers for **Kapok**, **The Only Way Out**, and **A Better Tomorrow**, respectively.

Additionally, these projects will automatically enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF21), scheduled from 13 to 15 March 2023, in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART).

HAF21 has begun accepting submissions for in-development fictional projects until 31 October. It will accept submissions for in-progress fictional projects between 1 November and 16 December.

Organised by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society's Industry Office, HAF Film Lab targets to support young Chinese language filmmakers in the region by offering a series of open lectures, training programmes, and one-on-one consultation sessions. The initiative's fifth edition,

held online over five days from 24 to 28 August, received over 150 submissions from 14 countries and regions.

This year, HAF Film Lab's open lectures covered project creation, production and budgeting, editing, cinematography, art direction, colourisation and international co-production by a host of industry veterans, including Tsai Ming-Liang, Nai An, Yeh Ju-Feng, Yu Lik-wai Liu Qing, Mary Stephen, Isabelle Glachant, Mary Gu, Felix Tsang, Jaco Wong, Wang Jing, and Julien Ezanno. The one-on-one consultation sessions were specific to each shortlisted project's production plan and screenplay.

"We hope to broaden the industry know-how of all participating filmmakers through HAF Film Lab and to help polish their projects so that they could have a better appeal," HKIFFS Industry Office Director Jacob Wong explained.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> HAF Film Lab's three award winners are:**

1. ***Kapok*** (Hong Kong)

Director: Frankie Lee

Producer: Fruit Chan

Scriptwriter: Frankie Lee, Delon Siu

Mabel Cheung on her selection: "A story about a woman who is overwhelmed by work and familial duties, decides to return to her hometown and finds her original aspiration. This is exactly the hope of Hongkongers nowadays. As a person who has struggled to survive in the city, I could help the director find a peaceful paradise together".

2. ***The Only Way Out*** (Hong Kong)

Director: Yeung Leung-chuen

Producer: Jun Li

Scriptwriter: Yeung Leung-chuen

Lu Fei-l for his selection: "A story of courage, healing and redemption. Also, a story about people who are in search of a way out".

3. ***A Better Tomorrow*** (Mainland China)

Director: Tang Peiyan

Producer: Anthony Chen

Scriptwriter: Tang Peiyan

Yang Chao on his selection: "The director writes an authentic piece of a group of believable characters. He avoids all the formulaic drama in teen films that we usually see. The adversity faced by the characters is well presented, culminating in the growth of the characters".

Please refer to the **Appendix** for a complete list of the 5<sup>th</sup> HAF Film Lab's shortlisted projects.

To download information:

<https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/@HAFFilmLab2022>

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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. It brings Asian filmmakers with upcoming film projects to Hong Kong for co-production ventures with 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 industry professionals from over 35 countries and regions. HAF also has the advantage of being held in conjunction with the Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (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). 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.

HAF has built a solid reputation for unearthing many notable projects. Recent alumni such as Ananta Thitanat's **Scala**, Gao Linyang's **To Love Again**, Lav Diaz's **When The Waves Are Gone**, Huang Ji's **Stonewalling**, have excelled in film festivals across the globe, including Berlin, Rotterdam, Venice, Toronto and New York.

### **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 on 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 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 (Summer IFF), held every August. In 2013, HKIFF introduced the repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme to enrich and deepen Hong Kong moviegoers' experience through a regular programme of contemporary, retrospective, and thematic showcases.

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

APPENDIX

1. **The Abandoned Life | Mainland China**  
DIRECTOR: CHEN Yun  
PRODUCER: WANG Jing  
SCRIPTWRITER: CHEN Yun
  
2. **Ah Ji | Hong Kong**  
DIRECTOR: Leo ZHU  
PRODUCER: HO Ting-wai  
SCRIPTWRITER: Leo ZHU
  
3. **A Better Tomorrow | Mainland China**  
DIRECTOR: TANG Peiyan  
PRODUCER: Anthony CHEN  
SCRIPTWRITER: TANG Peiyan
  
4. **Carnival at Sea | Hong Kong**  
DIRECTOR: Diana DAI  
PRODUCER: Frankie LEE  
SCRIPTWRITER: Diana DAI
  
5. **Cloud of the Unknown | Hong Kong, France**  
DIRECTOR: GAO Yuan  
PRODUCER: Isabelle GLACHANT  
SCRIPTWRITER: GAO Yuan, Anita L. PAN
  
6. **Hugo in the Pigpen | Taiwan**  
DIRECTOR: SHEN Sheng-Ting  
PRODUCER: LIANG Mei-Jou, LAI Zhen-Lin  
SCRIPTWRITER: SHIH Jing-Ting
  
7. **Kapok | Hong Kong**  
DIRECTOR: Frankie LEE  
PRODUCER: Fruit CHAN  
SCRIPTWRITER: Frankie LEE, Delon SIU
  
8. **The Only Way Out | Hong Kong**  
DIRECTOR: YEUNG Leung-chuen  
PRODUCER: Jun LI  
SCRIPTWRITER: YEUNG Leung-chuen
  
9. **Simple Story | Hong Kong**  
DIRECTOR: YUNG Tsz-hong  
PRODUCER: YUNG Tsz-hong  
SCRIPTWRITER: LU Yi, YUNG Tsz-hong

10. **Stair Away | Hong Kong**  
DIRECTOR: SP FAN  
PRODUCER: Teddy Robin  
SCRIPTWRITER: SP FAN
  
11. **A Story Untold | Mainland China**  
DIRECTOR: Story CHEN  
PRODUCER: Belle LAU, LI Xiaoyuan  
SCRIPTWRITER: Story CHEN
  
12. **The Walking Bird | Mainland China**  
DIRECTOR: ZHANG Hanyi  
PRODUCER: MA Xiaotian  
SCRIPTWRITER: ZHANG Hanyi