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HKIFF INDUSTRY ADDS 15 HAF WIP PROJECTS TO ITS EXPANDED PROJECT MARKET



Hong Kong, 1 February 2024 – The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) completes the bumper line-up of the newly expanded HKIFF Industry Project Market by adding 15 works-in-progress to the 22nd Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF).

Earlier, HKIFFS announced 26 HAF in-development projects and six projects for the inaugural HKIFF Industry - CAA China Genre Initiative. The 47-project HKIFF Industry Project Market will run from 11 to 13 March 2024 alongside the 28th Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART).

The 15 shortlisted WIP projects include works by such notable filmmakers as Chang Tso-Chi, Lav Diaz, Mark Gill, Midi Z, Tan Chui Mui, and Yang Chao and feature a host of prominent and emerging actors, including Asano Tadanobu, Ikematsu Sosuke, Joseph Chang, Ariel Lin, Lo Chun Yip, Nai An, Hedwig Tam, Wang Hongwei, and Neo Yau.

The highlights include: -

Unveiling Life's Tapestry

Stories told from children's perspectives tend to stand out and tug the heartstrings.

- ***The Land is Our Navel***, directed by Zhang Zhongchen (*The White Cow*) and produced by Midi Z (director of *Nina Wu*), embarks on the surreal journey of a six-year-old girl who travels with a mysterious boy ghost and discovers her village's tragic past.

- Through the viewpoint of a 10-year-old boy and spanning four seasons, *The Wind is Unstoppable* by Huo Meng (*Crossing the Border - Zhaoguan*) examines an extended family who lived in a small town just before the massive rural-urban migration started in the early 1990s.

Family dramas unfold the peaks and valleys of life, exploring many layers of relationships.

- *Deep Quiet Room* by Shen Ko-Shang (documentary *LOVE Talk*) centres on a devastated man who unravels the painful truth of his pregnant wife's family that leads to her suicide. The cast includes Ariel Lin and Joseph Chang.
- *Heirloom* marks the first animated feature of director Upamanyu Bhattacharyya (co-director of award-winning animated short *Wade*). This period family drama is set in Ahmedabad and is about a couple who run a handloom business and encounter a magical tapestry that immortalises their family history.
- *Intimate Encounter* by Chang Tso-Chi (*Thanatos, Drunk*) follows a young man who goes back to live with his grandfather during the COVID-19 pandemic, but his life is falling apart faster than he can cope.
- *Elapse* by Zhang Hanyi (*Life After Life*, winner of HKIFF Firebird Award) is about a woman who returns home to re-establish a new family order through bird hunting. This project previously attended both the HAF Film Lab and HAF IDP programmes.

Being a new mother is one of the most challenging jobs, while extreme parenthood can be daunting.

- *Montages of a Modern Motherhood*, the second feature by Oliver Chan (*Still Human*), is about a new mother suffering from baby blues who needs an immediate way out at all costs. Hedwig Tam and Lo Chun Yip head the cast.
- Quentin Hsu's feature debut, *Admission*, centres on a couple determined to find the snitch who sabotages their six-year-old child's admission to an elite school.

Love Transcends All Boundaries

Love comes in all shapes and forms and is not always sweet.

- Starring Asano Tadanobu, *Ravens* by Mark Gill (*England is Mine*) offers an intimate insight into the tumultuous relationship between iconic Japanese photographer Fukase Masahisa and his muse, Wanibe Yoko.
- *Yongle Palace*, directed by Nan Xin (*Go Photo Shooting*) and produced by Yang Chao (director of *Crosscurrent*), is an oddball comedy about a man who reluctantly helps his childhood friend-cum-creditor date an internet celebrity.

People isolated and marginalised by society try to blend into the "normal" world.

- Zhang Zhongyu's feature debut, *Green Persimmon*, is a bleak drama about a former inmate and an emotionally broken woman who find solace in each other before reality hits.
- Jiang Xiaoxuan's feature debut, *To Kill a Mongolian Horse*, produced by Tan Chui Mui (director of *Barbarian Invasion*), is inspired by the true story of a herdsman whose dual life as a horseback performer runs parallel to the disintegration of the traditional way of life.

- ***The Way We Talk*** by Adam Wong (*The Way We Dance*) revolves around three deaf young people who strive to unlock life's potential while embracing the sound of silence. Neo Yau stars.

Established Director and Producer Join the Shortlist

- ***Kawalan*** by Lav Diaz (*The Woman Who Left*, Venice's Golden Lion winner) is a human drama about a local community that struggles to move to the deep jungle to avoid the invading Japanese during World War II.
- ***Diamonds in the Sand***, the narrative feature debut by documentary filmmaker Janus Victoria, follows an ageing Japanese salaryman as he travels to Manila to escape dying alone and unnoticed. Lorna Tee (*Mrs K*) and Dan Villegas (*Fan Girl*) produce this Philippines-Japan-Malaysia co-production.

Open Pitch Session

All shortlisted WIP projects will participate in an open pitch session at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 11 and 12 March 2024. Representatives of each project will present their projects and showcase footage of their works in progress. All HKIFF Industry Project Market and FILMART badge holders are welcome to participate.

Part 1:

Date: 11 March 2024 (Monday)

Time: 14:00 - 16:00 (Hong Kong Time)

Venue: **Moonlight Theatre, Hall 1**

Part 2:

Date: 12 March 2024 (Monday)

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 (Hong Kong Time)

Venue: **Moonlight Theatre, Hall 1**

Please refer to the **Appendix** for details on all shortlisted projects.

Some notable recent HAF WIP projects

2024

- ***Brief History of a Family*** by Lin Jianjie had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival's World Cinema Dramatic Competition, followed by the European premiere in Berlin International Film Festival's Panorama section.
- ***Sleep With Your Eyes Open*** by Nele Wohlatz will compete in the Encounters section of the Berlin International Film Festival.
- ***Borrowed Time*** by Cai Jie will compete in the Bright Future section of the Rotterdam International Film Festival.

2023

- ***A Journey in Spring*** by Wang Ping-Wen and Peng Tzu-Hui won the Silver Shell for Best Director at the San Sebastian Film Festival.

- **Guras** by Saurav Rai won the jury prize in the Proxima Competition at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.
- **Stonewalling** by Huang Ji and Ryuji Otsuka won Best Film and Best Film Editing at the 60th Taipei Golden Horse Awards.
- **Fly Me to the Moon** by Sasha Chuk won Best New Performer at the 60th Taipei Golden Horse Awards.
- The Busan International Film Festival showcased eight HAF projects, including **Solids by the Seashore** by Patiparn Boontarig, winner of the New Currents Award; **Salli** by Lien Chien-Hung; and **The Spark** by Rajesh S. Jala.
- **Who Were We?** by Tomina Tetsuya had its world premiere at the main competition of the Tokyo International Film Festival.

Guest and Media Accreditation

Guest registration is now open to investors, festival programmers, and other industry professionals through <https://Industry.hkiff.org.hk/guest-registration>. Once accredited, all guests can schedule one-on-one meetings with filmmakers to discuss their projects.

Media registration details can be found here:
<https://www.hkiff.org.hk/accreditation/media>.

For more up-to-date information about the HKIFF Industry Project Market, please visit our official website at <https://industry.hkiff.org.hk> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hkiffindustry>.

To download information:
<https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/@HKIFFIndustryProjectMarket>

About Hong Kong International Film Festival Industry Office (HKIFF Industry)

The Industry Office (HKIFF Industry) was set up in 2021 to coordinate the HKIFF Society's film industry activities. It offers a comprehensive range of services to the filmmaking community, including the HAF Film Lab (a boot camp for young filmmakers), (Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)) for in-development (IDP) and work-in-progress (WIP) projects (co-production market), HAF Goes to Cannes (screening opportunity), and HKIFF Collection (consultative support for festival strategies, sales, and distribution). HKIFF Industry also engages in co-production of both fiction and non-fiction films with third parties.

The HKIFF Industry - CAA China Genre Initiative is the most recent project market endeavour initiated by the Industry Office.

Official website: <https://industry.hkiff.org.hk>

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 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 (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 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: Full list of the HAF22 work-in-progress (WIP) projects

* First feature project

^ HAF In-Development Project

HAF Film Lab project

W1. * **Admission**, Mainland China

Director: Quentin Hsu Kun-Hua

Producers: Hsu Hsiao-Ming, Ruby Chen, Lin Chi-An

Production Company: Coolie Films

W2. **Deep Quiet Room**, Taiwan, Italy, Poland

Director: Shen Ko-Shang

Producers: Arthur Chu, Sylvia Shih Yea-Chun, Partick Mao Huang

Production Companies: Wind Rises Entertainment, Oxygen Films, Flash Forward Entertainment

W3. **Diamonds in the Sand**, The Philippines, Japan, Malaysia

Director: Janus Victoria

Producers: Lorna Tee, Dan Villegas

Production Companies: Paperheart, Project 8 Projects

W4. ^# **Elapse**, Mainland China

Director: Zhang Hanyi

Producer: Ma Xiaotian

Production Company: Rare Pictures

W5. * **Green Persimmon**, Mainland China

Director: Zhang Zhongyu

Producers: Lu Xiaowei, Su Zitong, Sun Yu

Production Company: Qingdao Little Teenager Culture Media Co., Ltd.

W6. * **Heirloom**, India

Director: Upamanyu Bhattacharyya

Producers: Arya A Menon, Shubham Karna

Production Company: Odd & Even Pictures

W7. **Intimate Encounter**, Taiwan

Director: Chang Tso-Chi

Producer: Kao Wen-Horng

Production Company: Chang Tso Chi Film Studio Co., Ltd.

W8. **Kawalan**, The Philippines

Director: Lav Diaz

Producer: Hazel Orencio

Production Company: sine olivia pilipinas

W9. **The Land is Our Navel**, Mainland China

Director: Zhang Zhongchen

Producers: Midi Z, Chen Kunyang, Xie Haochi

Production Company: Beijing San Yue Culture Media Co., Ltd.

W10. ^ *Montages of a Modern Motherhood*, Hong Kong
Director: Oliver Chan Siu-kuen
Producers: Oliver Chan Siu-kuen, Lung Kwok-yiu
Production Company: No Ceiling Film Production Limited

W11. *Ravens*, France, Japan, Spain, Belgium
Director: Mark Gill
Producers: Orian Williams, Cyril Cadars, Kawamura Hideki, Ishii Fukasawa Megumi
Production Companies: Vestapol, Ark Entertainment, Minded Factory

W12. * *To Kill a Mongolian Horse*, Mainland China
Director: Jiang Xiaoxuan
Producers: Tan Chui Mui, Mo Zhulin
Production Company: Manda Jiang Productions

W13. *The Way We Talk*, Hong Kong
Director: Adam Wong Sau-ping
Producers: Jacqueline Liu, Ho Hong
Production Company: One Cool Workshop Limited

W14. *The Wind is Unstoppable*, Mainland China
Director: Huo Meng
Producer: Zhang Fan
Production Company: Floating Light (Foshan) Film and Culture Co., Ltd.

W15. *Yongle Palace*, Mainland China, Hong Kong
Director: Nan Xin
Producers: Yang Chao, Yang Jing, Liu Yuting
Production Company: Macao International Film and Television Festival Industry Culture Co., Ltd.

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