

The 12th HAF reveals an eclectic line-up Adds documentary award

Hong Kong, 27 January 2014 – The 12th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) which will be held from 24 to 26 March, 2014 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, today unveiled its 29 outstanding film projects, including four in the HAF/Fox Award category. The projects were selected out of 300 submissions from 11 different countries and regions, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

As one of the most unique and well-established film-financing platforms in Asia, the HAF continues its role of connecting Asia filmmakers with upcoming film projects with internationally prominent film financiers, producers, bankers, distributors, buyers, and funders for co-production ventures.

Hong Kong film talents to be featured at the 12th HAF

The 25 HAF selections include five Hong Kong projects from established and up-and-coming filmmakers. They include high profile Hong Kong talent: comedian **LAM Tze-chung**, with his new thriller project *Game* (LAM's project *King of Shrimp Roe Noodle* was selected by the HAF in 2013); and actress-turned-director **Carrie NG**. Winner of Golden Horse Film Festival Awards Best Actress, NG will make her directorial debut *Angel Whispers*.

Other Hong Kong projects include cinematographer/director **Jason KWAN** whose project *A Nail Clipper Romance* is produced by acclaimed director PANG Ho-cheung; **Philip YUNG** whose project *The Sea* is produced by CHOW Keung. The selection is rounded out by *I Miss You When I See You* from filmmaker **Simon CHUNG** and independent producer Jacqueline LIU.

The 12th HAF has also attracted multiple award-winning names from other Asian countries and regions. Filipino winner of Best Director at the 62nd Cannes International Film Festival, **Brillante MENDOZA**, revisits the HAF this year with two projects in different categories. *The Embroiderer* is a feature film about undying love while the provocatively-titled *Gay Messiah* is a documentary questioning religion and belief. **Jun Robles LANA** also from the Philippines returns to the HAF this year with his project *Our Father* after winning the HAF Award in 2013 for *Barber's Tales* which was completed last year and is currently on the international festival circuit.

Other projects include Taiwanese director **LIN Yu-Hsien**, widely recognised for his box office success *Jump! Ashin*, with love story *Follow You*; **Dechen RODER** from Bhutan (Special Mention at the 17th ifva Hong Kong Awards 2012) with *The Honeygiver among the Dogs*. Two familiar faces include 2013 Hong Kong International Film Festival Special Mention Prize winner **Lina YANG** and **SHENG Zhimin**, award winner of HAF 2010, with *Forgive Me* and *The Trial* respectively.

The HAF continues with the documentary section introduced in 2012. This year projects range from individual achievement to universal topics including social exploitation, and the problems arising from economic development and political conflict. **Sherman ONG** and **Brigitte SIGMUNDSTAD** explore origin and migration with *Lucy and I*. **Fazila AMIRI** introduces her character-driven documentary *Hip Hop Kabul* that tells the struggle and the dream of Afghanistan's first female rapper. AMIRI is the first Afghanistan filmmaker in HAF.

Berlinale award winning documentary filmmaker **Rakesh SHARMA**'s new project *Malegaon: Tales from the Terror Trail* explores minority identity politics. Documenting the story of four individuals on a coal mine in Inner Mongolia, **ZHAO Liang**'s project *Dust* is currently in pre-production with WONG Kar-wai's production company Jet Tone Films Limited.

Commenting on this year's project selections, Tim KWOK, veteran producer and member of the 2014 HAF Project Reading Committee, said, "It's been an extremely competitive batch of submissions this year with 'passion' being the optimum word. The HAF is really proud of the selection this year, as it represents some of the best and young voices internationally to emerge from a new generation of filmmakers."

This year, HAF will introduce the Fushan Documentary Award. Supported by Fushan Features, an ambitious film production and investing company that focuses on documentaries across Hong Kong, China and other Asia regions, this award aims to support and promote the development of feature-length documentaries. The winner will receive a cash award of HK\$100,000 and will be offered a development contract with Fushan Features. All documentary projects selected for HAF will be eligible for this new award. QIN Qing, CEO & Executive Producer of Fushan Features Limited Company, commented, "Currently in Asia, particularly in mainland China, HAF provides expert guidance to wanting to enter the film industry. It also provides a strong support to the aspiring talents to enhance the status of Chinese and Asian movies. We are confident that our collaboration with HAF for the award will help encourage documentary filmmakers."

Four exceptional feature film finalists compete for the much coveted HAF/Fox Award

Established in 2012, the HAF/Fox Chinese Film Development Award is a collaboration between Fox International Productions (Greater China) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum. The Award aims to nurture promising scripts, and provide support in developing them into feature films with regional appeal. It celebrates its third edition this year with four exciting finalists.

The four feature film projects are *Sisters Snake*, a fantasy from Singapore television drama and film director **ONG Meng**; *Game of Suspects*, a psychological suspense thriller from young Hong Kong director **Ben LEE Cheuk-pan**; *The Solitary Pier*, an animation based on director **Jack SHIH**'s memories of his grandfather; and *Love is Speaking*, a feature inspired by an online news by **SHU Haolun**.

Carrie Wong, Head of Production and Development at Fox International Productions (Greater China), a unit of 20th Century Fox Film said “The level of creativity in this year's submissions is truly impressive; and once again demonstrates the vibrancy and diversity of the creative force in the Asian film industry. We are excited to have the opportunity to present a new wave of talented filmmakers and their creative work at the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF). We believe that HAF is without doubt the ideal platform for Fox International Productions to discover new creative work from across the region.” The winner of the Award will receive a cash prize of HK\$100,000 and a Development Contract with Fox. Other finalists may also be offered a first look agreement.

The HAF has been actively working with experienced and young film talents through promoting their works and helping them connect with production partners. Many of the HAF projects have been successfully completed and gained widespread recognition through various international film festivals and awards. Arvin CHEN's *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?* (HAF 2012 project) was selected in the Panorama Section of Berlin Film Festival 2013; Flora LAU's *Bends* (HAF 2011 project) was selected in the Un Certain Regard section of Cannes Film Festival 2013; CHUNG Mong-Hong's *Soul* (HAF 2011 project) brought home four major awards from the 2013 Taipei Film Festival and was selected in the Vanguard section of Toronto International Film Festival 2013; and last but not least is actress/director Charlie YOUNG's *Christmas Rose* (HAF 2009 project) that successfully made it onto the big screen in 2013.

Film financiers, investors and participants can register and schedule appointments with all film projects at <http://www.haf.org.hk/guestregistration>. A complete list of the selected projects for the 12th HAF is in Appendix 1. Finalists for the 2014 HAF/Fox Chinese Film Development Award are listed in Appendix 2. For more information about HAF, please visit HAF's official website at <http://www.haf.org.hk/>.

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For media interested in 12th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum, please visit:

http://society.hkiff.org.hk/en/press_accreditation_media.php. *Registration deadline: 7 March 2014.*

1. 30 Days of Ginger 癡狂 30 天

Singapore

Director : TEO Eng Tiong

Producer : LIM Jen Nee

Production Company : Pilgrim Pictures Pte. Ltd.

2. Angel Whispers 花街柳巷

Hong Kong

Director : Carrie NG, Shirley YUNG

Producer : Carrie NG, Shirley YUNG, CHAN Pang-chun

Production Company : Sundream Motion Pictures Limited

3. Dance of Death

Japan

Director : KITAGAWA Hitoshi

Producer : YUKAWA Akiko

Production Company : and music ltd.

4. Dead, End

India

Director : Dev BENEGAL

Producer : Dev BENEGAL, Satish KAUSHIK

Production Company : August Entertainment / The Satish Kaushik Entertainment

5. Devil and Dust 被水催眠

China

Director : LI Xiaofeng

Producer : SHEN Yang, JIA Lisha

Production Company : Loyalty & Royalty Cultural Transmission Limited

6. Dust 塵

China

Director : ZHAO Liang

Producer : PANG Yee-wah, Sylvie BLUM

Production Company : Jet Tone Films Limited

7. The Embroiderer

The Philippines

Director : Brillante MENDOZA

Producer : Teeda PASCUAL

Production Company : Center Stage Productions (CSP)

8. Five Star Billionaire 五星豪門

Malaysia / China

Director : Bernard CHAULY

Producer : Lina TAN, LEE Mee Fung

Production Company : Red Films

9. Follow You 藏地白皮書

China

Director : LIN Yu-Hsien

Producer : Stanley KWAN

Production Company : Phoenix Legend Films Co., Ltd. (China)

10. Forgive Me 原諒我

China

Director : Lina YANG

Producer : LIAO Ching-Sung, Lina YANG

Production Company : Sodium Ltd.

11. Game 鬥獸棋

Hong Kong

Director : LAM Tze-chung

Producer : OR Wing-shuen, Ken HUI Chi-kin

Production Company : One Tree Films Limited

12. Gay Messiah

The Philippines

Director : Brillante MENDOZA

Producer : Larry CASTILLO

Production Company : Center Stage Productions (CSP)

13. Hip Hop Kabul

Afghanistan

Director : Fazila AMIRI

Producer : Paul LEE

Production Company : Kabuli Camera

14. The Honeygiver among the Dogs

Bhutan

Director : Dechen RODER

Producer : Dechen RODER

Production Company : Dakinny Productions

15. I Miss You When I See You 看見你便想念你

Hong Kong

Director : Simon CHUNG

Producer : Jacqueline LIU

Production Company : Playhouse Limited

16. Instant Love 方便麵愛情

China

Director : YANG Jin

Producer : ZHANG Jun

Production Company : HI Film

17. Lucy and I

Singapore

Director : Sherman ONG, Birgitte SIGMUNDSTAD

Producer : Sherman ONG, Birgitte SIGMUNDSTAD

Production Company : Studio Shermano

18. Malegaon: Tales from the Terror Trail

India

Director : Rakesh SHARMA

Producer : Rakesh SHARMA

19. A Nail Clipper Romance 指甲刀人魔

Hong Kong

Director : Jason KWAN

Producer : PANG Ho-cheung, Subi LIANG

Production Company : Making Film Productions Limited

20. Our Father

The Philippines

Director : Jun Robles LANA

Producer : Ferdinand LAPUZ, Perci INTALAN

Production Company: Octobertrain Films

21. Private Eyes 私家偵探

Taiwan

Director : CHANG Jung-Chi

Producer : CHEN Hung-Yuan, PANG Yee-wah

Production Company : Double Edge Entertainment (DEE)

22. The Sea 海

Hong Kong

Director : Philip YUNG

Producer : CHOW Keung

Production Company : Xstream Pictures

23. So Be It

Thailand

Director : Kongdej JATURANRASMEE

Producer : Kongdej JATURANRASMEE, Soros SUKHUM, Auttapon NA BANGXANG

Production Company : Song Sound Production /TrueVisions

24. The Trial 審判

China

Director : SHENG Zhimin

Producer : YANG Dong

Production Company : Shenglai TV And Film Culture Company

25. The Wedding Terminator 婚禮無間道

Malaysia / China / Hong Kong

Director : Stanley LAW

Producer : Jess TEONG

Production Company : Three Production Sdn. Bhd.

Appendix 2: The 3rd Annual HAF/Fox Chinese Film Development Award

1. Game of Suspects 雞 - 一場嫌疑遊戲

Hong Kong

Director : Ben LEE Cheuk-pan

Producer : Flora GOH

Production Company : Scout Pictures Limited

2. Love is Speaking 愛情在說話

China

Director : SHU Haolun

Producer : LE Bei

Production Company : Hours Film

3. Sisters Snake 蛇家姐妹

Singapore / U.S.A.

Director: Meng ONG

Produce: Meng ONG, KUROIWA Hisami

Production Company: Media Space Inc.

4. The Solitary Pier 寂寞碼頭

Taiwan

Director: Jack SHIH

Produce: DAI Hsin-Ping

Production Company: Red Alien Studio

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is widely recognised as the most important film financing platform in Asia. The HAF brings Asian filmmakers with upcoming film projects to Hong Kong for co-production ventures with top film financiers, producers, bankers, distributors and buyers. Attracting more than 1,000 filmmakers and financiers from at least 35 countries and regions, around 25 to 30 projects are selected annually to participate in the three-day event.

Past participants include China's JIA Jiangke, JIANG Wen and NING Hao; Hong Kong's Peter CHAN, Stanley KWAN, Ann HUI, Fruit CHAN and PANG Ho-cheung; Taiwan's TSAI Ming-Liang, WEI Te-Sheng and Leon DAI; Japan's KORE-EDA Hirokazu, KUROSAWA Kiyoshi and IWAI Shunji; South Korea's PARK Chan-wook, KIM Jee-woon, BONG Joon-ho and IM Sang-soo; as well as Thailand's Ekachai UEKRONGTHAM, Nonzee NIMIBUTR and Pen-ek RATANARUANG.

About the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS)

Uniting the World through Film

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to the discovery and promotion of creativity in the art and culture of film.

Through its year-round programmes, the mission of the Society is to strengthen global appreciation of Asian and Chinese film culture and to promote inspiring films from around the world, enriching the cultural life of Hong Kong.

Committed to the development of a vibrant film culture in Hong Kong and Asia, the Society organises three annual flagship events in March and April: the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), the Asian Film Awards (AFA) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF).

Passionately believing in the power of films to unite cultures and generations, the HKIFFS is devoted to giving thousands of film lovers around the region direct access to the world's most inspired films all year round.

About 20th Century Fox Film

One of the world's largest producers and distributors of motion pictures, 20th Century Fox Film produces, acquires and distributes motion pictures throughout the world. These motion pictures are produced or acquired by the following units of 20th Century Fox Film: Twentieth Century Fox, Fox 2000 Pictures, Fox Searchlight Pictures, Fox International Productions, Twentieth Century Fox Animation and Blue Sky Studios.

For media registration for the 12th HAF, please visit

http://society.hkiff.org.hk/en/press_accreditation_media.php online registration ends on 7 March 2014.

For media enquiry, please contact :

FleishmanHillard Hong Kong

Victoria Guo

Tel : +852-2111-3556

E-mail : victoria.guo@fleishman.com

FleishmanHillard Hong Kong

Ivan Kwok

Tel : +852-2560-0662

E-mail : ivan.kwok@fleishman.com

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited

Sarah Yiu

Tel : +852-2102-7362

E-mail : sarah_yiu@hkiff.org.hk