

For Immediate Release

The 12th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Successfully Completed and Announced Seven Awards

26 March 2014, Wednesday – Officiated by **Mr Jerry LIU**, Head of Create Hong Kong, the 12th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum came to the end today with the 12th HAF Awards Presentation Ceremony, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. A total of seven awards from six categories were presented to participating filmmakers, including: **HAF Awards, HAF/Fox Film Development Award, HAF Script Development Fund, Fushan Documentary Award, Wouter Barendrecht Award, and Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award.**

The HAF awards winners were selected from 29 film projects from 11 countries and regions across Asia, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

Commenting on this year's forum, Mr Jerry LIU said, "For the 12th consecutive year, we gather here to connect with and celebrate some of the most talented filmmakers and their projects from around Asia. And once again, we continue to see the vibrant and diversified Asia film industry and its great potential for promising growth through the eventful three days."

The 12th HAF remains as one of the most important film financing platforms in Asia while expanding its impact and leverage its influence on more film genres. Adding to existing film awards is the brand new **Fushan Documentary Award**, which was established in partnership with and supported by Fushan Features. All documentaries selected by the HAF were automatically nominated for this award, and in the end, film project *Dust* from China was crowned the winner. The film project is directed by **ZHAO Liang**, and produced by **PANG Yee-wah** and **Sylvie BLUM**.

Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum, **HAF Awards (Hong Kong Project) and (non-Hong Kong Project)** went to film projects *Angel Whispers* from Hong Kong and *Private Eyes* from Taiwan respectively. *Angel Whispers* is directed by **Carrie NG** and **Shirley YUNG** and produced by **Carrie NG, Shirley YUNG** and **CHAN Pang-chun**. *Private Eyes* is directed by **CHANG Jung-Chi** and produced by **CHEN Hung-Yuan** and **PANG Yee-wah**. Each of the winning projects was granted with a cash award of HK\$150, 000 for their originality and creativity.

2014 marks the 3rd year of the **HAF/Fox Chinese Film Development Award**, which was established in partnership with Fox International Productions (Greater China). The award, which aims to nurture script development, has become a platform for talented writers and directors to pursue their career in the film industry. Film project *Love is Speaking* from China, directed by **SHU Haolun** and produced by **LE Bei**, was crowned this year's winner of the HK\$100,000 cash award, and received a Development Contract with Fox.

Presented by Emperor Motion Pictures and the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, the **HAF Script Development Fund** entered into its 4th anniversary as an initiative driven by Ms. Sylvia CHANG, the former Vice Chairman of The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited, to encourage quality Chinese-language scripts. Selected by the reading committee, film project *The Solitary Pier* from Taiwan was honoured the winner. The project is directed by **Jack SHIH** and produced by **DAI Hsin-Ping**.

This year's **Wouter Barendrecht Award**, presented by Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation, Create Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Film Development Fund, went to *Hip Hop Kabul* from Afghanistan, directed by **Fazila AMIRI** and produced by **Paul LEE**. The award is established to reward a project with a director under the age of 35 and has not made more than three feature films.

The winner list rounded off with **Network of Asian Fantastic Film Award**, which went to *Dead, End* from India. The film project is directed by **Dev BENEGAL** and produced by **Dev BENEGAL** and **Satish KAUSHIK**. The winner of this award will be invited to participate in the Network of Asian Fantastic Films 2014 with travel package as an in-kind award.

Dr. Wilfred Wong, Chairman of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, praised the high quality and diversity of all 29 selected film projects and recognized the 12th HAF as a productive and fruitful event, "I would like to thank all filmmakers, financiers, festival delegates, sales agents and distributors for their participation that continues to make HAF a success and helps to further strengthen Hong Kong's position as a cinema hub in the region. My gratitude also goes to all our partners, advisors, and reading committee members who provide HAF filmmakers an opportunity to make their projects come to life."

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Appendix: The complete list of HAF awards winners

HAF Awards presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF). *Award value: Two cash awards of HK\$300,000 (approx. US\$38,460)*

HAF Awards (Hong Kong Project)

Angel Whispers 花街柳巷

Hong Kong

Directors: Carrie NG, Shirley YUNG

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

Production Company: Sundream Motion Pictures Limited

HAF Awards (non-Hong Kong Project)

Private Eyes 私家偵探

Taiwan

Director: CHANG Jung-Chi

Producers: CHEN Hung-Yuan, PANG Yee-wah

Production Company: Double Edge Entertainment (DEE)

HAF/Fox Chinese Film Development Award presented by Fox International Productions (Greater China) (Fox). *Award value: One cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,820) and a Development Contract with Fox*

Love is Speaking 愛情在說話

China

Director: SHU Haolun

Producer: LE Bei

Production Company: Hours Film

HAF Script Development Fund presented by Emperor Motion Pictures and the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited. *Award value: One cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,820)*

The Solitary Pier 寂寞碼頭

Taiwan

Director: Jack SHIH

Producer: DAI Hsin-Ping

Production Company : Red Alien Studio

Fushan Documentary Award presented by Fushan Features. *Award value: One cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,820) and a Development Contract with Fushan Features*

Dust 塵

China

Director: ZHAO Liang

Producer: PANG Yee-wah, Sylvie BLUM

Production Company: Jet Tone Films Limited

Wouter Barendrecht Award presented by Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation, Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Film Development Fund. *Award value: One cash award of HK\$50,000 (approx. US\$6,410)*

Hip Hop Kabul

Afghanistan

Director: Fazila AMIRI

Producer: Paul LEE

Production Company: Kabuli Camera

Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award presented by Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival. *Award value: One in-kind award of US\$2,700 (approx. HK\$21,000)*

Dead, End

India

Director: Dev BENEGAL

Producer: Dev BENEGAL, Satish KAUSHIK

Production Company: August Entertainment / The Satish Kaushik Entertainment

About The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is widely recognized 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.

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