

For Immediate Release

The 15th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Project Announcement Rising of Female Filmmakers Power in Social Reality Storytelling

Hong Kong, 18 January 2017 – The 15th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) today unveiled its lineup of 25 outstanding film projects to be presented from 13 to 15 March 2017. The projects were selected out of over 350 submissions from 14 different countries and regions, including Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan.

This year's selections include projects by young directors developing their first feature films, with an unprecedented increase in the number of women filmmakers. Most of the films are family-driven projects that touch on contemporary social issues, while others explore topics such as non-traditional families, marriages in upheaval, and the complexities of parent-child relationships. Shortlisted projects this year also include two genres not usually seen at HAF: science fiction and gothic thriller.

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

Five Hong Kong Projects to Be Presented

This year, the shortlisted projects include five from Hong Kong: veteran filmmaker **Derek CHIU Sung-kee's** *No.1 Chung Ying Street*, a drama that examines the 1967 riots in Hong Kong; **Sunny CHAN's** *Man on the Dragon*, a comedy-drama about five middle-age men who compete in a dragon boat championship to regain the braveness and passion of lives; *Impossible Split*, from **TOM Chung-sing**, which tells the inspiring story of bowling athlete WU Siu-hong, who achieved world championship status despite being haunted by a fatal disease. The film is produced by award-winning director **Adam WONG**, whose films *The Way We Dance* and *She Remembers, He Forgets* both received critical acclaim, and whose project *Trains in the Night* was presented at last year's HAF.

The Goddess, from **Sobel CHAN Ka-lok**, pays homage to classic 1930s Chinese films and focuses on the issues of Hong Kong's public-education system, the lives of Mainland immigrants and conflicts between mother and daughter. **CHAN's** *League of HK Movie Heroes* was selected as one of the five finalists of the HAF/FOX Chinese Film Development Award at

the 11th HAF in 2013. Completing the lineup of Hong Kong projects is *Forget You, Still Love You?*, about a couple whose troubled marriage finds focus again after a husband is diagnosed with a devastating illness, from co-directors **Kenneth LAI Siu-Kwan** and **Paul SZE Pak-Lam**, both of whom participated in last year's HAF with the thriller *Hypnotize the Jury*.

Speaking on behalf of HAF, **Mr. Jacob WONG**, Curator of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and Director of the HAF commented, "We are thrilled to receive HAF submissions worldwide with extremely high quality, offering distinct perspectives on a diversity of vibrant topics. The review process is, as expected, arduous yet exhilarating, and we are very proud of the dedication and persistence of our creative film talents."

Women Directors Shining at the 15th HAF

Nearly half of the 25 selections consist of projects from female directors, including *Femme Fatale*, a dark comedy about two women whose parallel lives touch and collide, the first feature from Japanese documentary filmmaker **MIYAKE Kyoko**; and *Made in Bangladesh*, the first-ever HAF project from Bangladesh, about garment workers' rights, from **Rubaiyat HOSSAIN**.

Other projects include *Pawns With No Return*, a touching story about fate bringing together an old man and a young boy, from **CHEN Yi-Jung** of Taiwan; *I AM A BANANA!*, an East-meets-West cross-cultural romantic comedy, from **Honey B SINGH**; and *Rainbow Mountain*, the second feature from **Degenia Yun** of China, a drama about two Mongolian women from different generations whose lives cross paths throughout time and history. **Degenia's** critically acclaimed first feature, *A Simple Goodbye*, was presented at the 13th HAF and awarded The Spirit of Asia Award in Tokyo International Film Festival 2015.

Two more documentaries from women directors include *The Grassland of Narangerel*, which examines environmental challenges in Inner Mongolia, from **YING Weiwei** of China; and the Israeli-German co-production *Leftover Women*, from co-directors **Shosh SHLAM** and **Hilla MEDALIA**.

Exploring Family Dynamics and Science Fiction Genres

Family dynamics come into focus for several projects this year, including *Ten Thousand Happiness* from Chinese director Johnny MA, in which the sudden divorce of grandfather from an elite family in China sets off a chain of reaction, forcing each member to evaluate their own relationships with love and happiness; Indian filmmaker **Shashwati TALUKDAR's** *The New Wife*, a Himalayan gothic thriller tale about a young bride's discovery of the secrets harboured by her respectable new family.

The Asadas, the third feature from **NAKANO Ryota** of Japan, a drama with humor based on an original story inspired by the photographer Masashi Asada; and *Chantou*, Australian director **Grant SCICLUNA**'s gay-family drama about a couple who discover that their adopted Cambodian daughter is a victim of human trafficking.

Other projects include *Restore Point* from **Robert HLOZ**, a science-fiction murder mystery set in the future. It is the first sole Czech-Republic project feature to be presented at HAF. Also, an as-yet-untitled project commissioned by the Nara International Film Festival in Japan from director **Ida PANAHANDEH** and Japanese producer **KAWASE Naomi**, will be a free modern adaptation of a work by Shakespeare.

The HAF/FOX Project Award Presented to *Drifting Lives*

Sharing the same vision to encourage quality Chinese-language projects, HAF is pleased to continue its collaboration with FOX International Productions (FIP) and FOX Networks Group (FNG) Asia to present the "HAF/FOX Project Award" to suspense murder-mystery. *Drifting Lives*, from first-time director **Danlly LI** of China. The project will receive a cash award of US\$10,000 (approx. HK\$78,000) and a Development Contract with FOX. The award has established since 2012 to develop Chinese feature films with regional appeal, through providing support and nurture for promising scripts.

Ms. Cora YIM, SVP, Head of Chinese Entertainment and Territory Head of Hong Kong, FOX Networks Group Asia said, "With the support of HAF, we have the privilege to work with up-and-coming creative talent and being introduced to a new generation of emerging talent. We are absolutely thrilled to identify the potential cinematic storytellers who offer unique perspectives of Chinese-language cinema." As one of the judges, **Ms. Xian LI**, Director of Production, Creative Development and Global Production of FOX International Productions also said that Asian cinema, especially Chinese-language cinema is one of the most significant markets for FOX. "We look forward to working with more talented filmmakers in this region to create exciting high-quality films."

Extending Awards and New Partnerships

The 15th HAF will present a total of ten awards, amounting to HK\$1,372,000 (approx. US\$176,700) in cash and value in-kind. HAF is also proud to announce our new sponsor, mm2 Asia Limited to present an award to encourage and support Chinese-language film projects with a cash prize of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,900).

"mm2 excavates stories in various Chinese speaking territories, turns them into movies with both artistic and commercial sense," **Mr. Melvin ANG**, Chairman of mm2 Asia Limited said.

“Through collaborating with HAF, the leading film platform in Asia, we are able to meet and support new pioneers in the Asian film industry.”

HAF is also delighted to extend collaboration with iQIYI for the third year with an award to encourage and support young film talents from Chinese-speaking territories. One cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,900) will be presented to an outstanding Chinese-language feature film project with commercial qualities. Other award sponsors include Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, China Film Foundation -- Wutianming Fund For Young Talents, G2D Co. Ltd., Paris Coproduction Village, White Light Studio and Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation.

Work in Progress Laboratory

In addition, HAF creates the “Work in Progress Laboratory” as a significant new initiative to help directors and producers securing post-production funds through meetings with distribution agents and film festival programmers. Representatives from shortlisted projects will be invited to present their work at HAF. The WIP Lab will assist interested industry professionals to set up individual meetings with them to obtain further collaboration details. The shortlisted projects will be announced later in February.

Media and Guest Accreditation for HAF

Journalists worldwide are cordially invited to join this premier film financing platform in Asia. Media accreditation will be opened for online application at http://society.hkiff.org.hk/en/press_accreditation_media.php from 23 January 2017 to 5 March 2017. Successful applicants will be given access to HAF, in addition to joining our official networking events, screenings, seminars or other special activities.

Film financiers, investors and participants can register and schedule appointments with filmmakers of the shortlisted projects at <http://www.haf.org.hk/guest.php> before 5 March 2017.

A complete list of the selected projects for the 15th HAF and HAF/FOX Project Award can be found in **Appendix 1**. For more information about HAF, please visit the official website at <http://www.haf.org.hk/> and HAF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hafhiffs/>.

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

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

HAF has partnered with international organisations to provide a range of opportunities to participants. Previous partners include iQIYI (China), Fox International Productions (Greater China) (US), Cinemart (the Netherlands), Asian Project Market (South Korea), Golden Horse Film Project Promotion (Taiwan), New Cinema Network (Italy) and others. Cash and in-kind awards to the value of around US\$150,000 are made with support from Create Hong Kong and Film Development Fund among others.

Past participants include China's JIA Jiangke, JIANG Wen, LU Chuan 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, CHUNG Mong-Hong and Leon DAI; Japan's KORE-EDA Hirokazu, KUROSAWA Kiyoshi, KAWASE Naomi and IWAI Shunji; South Korea's PARK Chan-wook, KIM Jee-woon, BONG Joon-ho and IM Sang-soo; as well as Thailand's Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL, 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.

Committed to the development of a vibrant film culture in Hong Kong and Asia, the Society organises two annual flagship events in March and April: “Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF)” and “Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF).” “HKIFF Cine Fan”, a monthly screening programme features a variety of curated contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases was also launched in April 2013.

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. 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 FOX International Productions

Fox International Productions (FIP) builds upon 20th Century Fox's industry-leading international motion picture activities and upon parent company 21st Century Fox's unparalleled global media reach by aligning all the company's international film productions under one banner. FIP also complements Fox's worldwide film releases with films sourced through partnerships with international producers, filmmakers, financiers, and strategic production & distribution agreements.

About FOX Networks Group

FOX Networks Group (FNG) is 21st Century FOX's international multi-media business. We develop, produce and distribute 300+ wholly- and majority-owned entertainment, sports, factual and movie channels in 45 languages across Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. FNG's core channel brands include FOX, FOX Sports, FOX Life, FOX+ and National Geographic Channel. FNG's movie channels include FOX Movies, FOX Movies Premium and SCM (formerly Star Chinese Movies). Our non-linear brands include FOX Play, FOX Play+ and Nat Geo Play. These networks and their related mobile, non-linear and high- definition extensions, reach over 1.825 billion cumulative households worldwide. In addition, FNG owns and operates two production studios and produces thousands of local programming hours for its wholly owned channels and third parties.

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附件一 Appendix 1

第十五屆香港亞洲電影投資會入選電影計劃名單

The 15th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Shortlisted Projects

1. The Asadas 淺田家

Japan 日本

Director 導演：NAKANO Ryota 中野量太
Producer 監製：OGAWA Shinji 小川真司
Production Company 製作公司：Bridgehead Inc.

2. Chantou

Australia 澳洲

Director 導演：Grant SCICLUNA
Producer 監製：Jannine BARNES
Production Company 製作公司：Happening Films Pty. Ltd.

3. Femme Fatale

Japan 日本

Director 導演：MIYAKE Kyoko 三宅響子
Producer 監製：Guillaume DE SEILLE
Production Company 製作公司：Arizona Productions

4. Forget You, Still Love You? 忘記你，還是愛你？

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：Paul SZE Pak-lam 施柏林, Kenneth LAI Siu-kwan 黎兆鈞
Producer 監製：TIN Kai-man 田啟文, LAU Wing-tai 劉永泰
Production Company 製作公司：Vow Production Limited

5. The Goddess 神女

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：Sobel CHAN Ka-lok 陳家樂
Producer 監製：Sobel CHAN Ka-lok 陳家樂
Production Company 製作公司：Union Luck Culture Media Limited 聯發文化傳媒有限公司

6. The Grassland of Narangerel 娜仁的草原

China 中國

Director 導演：YING Weiwei 英未未
Producer 監製：ZHOU Hongbo 周洪波
Production Company 製作公司：Yunqiang Pictures 贊牆影視（上海）有限公司

7. I AM A BANANA!

Singapore 新加坡, Canada 加拿大

Director 導演：Honey B SINGH
Producer 監製：Mona SINGH
Production Company 製作公司：Honeylove Films

8. I'mPerfect

The Philippines 菲律賓

Director 導演：Sigrid Andrea BERNARDO

Producer 監製：Alembert ANG 蔡怡銘

Production Company 製作公司：VYAC Productions, Ekweytor MC

9. Impossible Split 由齡開始

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：TOM Chung-sing 湯仲星

Producer 監製：Adam WONG 黃修平

Production Company 製作公司：Picturethat Limited

10. La Luna

Singapore 新加坡

Director 導演：M. Raihan HALIM

Producer 監製：Asra AMAN

Production Company 製作公司：Papahan Films Pte. Ltd.

11. Leftover Women

Israel 以色列, Germany 德國

Director 導演：Shosh SHLAM, Hilla MEDALIA

Producer 監製：Hilla MEDALIA, Shosh SHLAM, Jürgen KLEINIG

Production Company 製作公司：Medalia Productions, Shlam Productions, Celluloid Fabrik

12. A Life Lost and Found (working title)

India 印度

Director 導演：Prateek SRIVASTAVA

Producer 監製：Nitin UPADHYAYA

Production Company 製作公司：ODDBALL Motion Pictures

13. Made In Bangladesh

Bangladesh 孟加拉

Director 導演：Rubaiyat HOSSAIN

Producer 監製：Rubaiyat HOSSAIN, François D'ARTEMARE

Production Company 製作公司：Khona Talkies, Les Films de l'Après-Midi

14. Man on the Dragon 萬水千山縱橫

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：Sunny CHAN 陳詠燊

Producer 監製：Joe MA 馬偉豪, Jacqueline LIU 廖婉虹

Production Company 製作公司：One Cool Film Production Limited 天下一電影製作有限公司

15. NARAtive Film 2017-2018 (Title: work-in-progress)

Japan 日本

Director 導演：Ida PANAHANDEH

Producer 監製：KAWASE Naomi 河瀨直美

Production Company 製作公司：Nara International Film Festival Organizing Committee
奈良國際映畫祭

16. The New Wife

India 印度

Director 導演：Shashwati TALUKDAR 夏雪莉

Producer 監製：Anjali PANJABI

Production Company 製作公司：Four Nine and a Half Pictures, Inc., Marvi Films

17. No.1 Chung Ying Street 中英街一號

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：Derek CHIU Sung-kee 趙崇基

Producer 監製：Derek CHIU Sung-kee 趙崇基

Production Company 製作公司：Boundary Film Production Limited 界石電影製作有限公司

18. The Patient 病人

China 中國

Director 導演：YANG Long 楊龍

Producer 監製：ZHOU Jia 周佳

Production Company 製作公司：Shenzhen Surprise Movie Co., Ltd. 深圳市驚喜電影有限公司

19. Pawns with No Return 勝利的五十塊

Taiwan 台灣

Director 導演：CHEN Yi-Jung 陳怡蓉

Producer 監製：LIN Jing-Jie 林靖傑

Production Company 製作公司：Hana Studio de Création Audiovisuelle Indépendant
花開映像有限公司

20. Rainbow Mountain 生生不息

China 中國

Director 導演：Degena Yun 德格娜

Producer 監製：ZHANG Yang 張揚

Production Company 製作公司：Beijing Mailisi Film & Culture Co., Ltd.
北京麥麗絲影視文化責任有限公司

21. Restore Point

Czech Republic 捷克

Director 導演：Robert HLOZ

Producer 監製：Jan KALLISTA

Production Company 製作公司：Film Kolektiv

22. Rocks of Hua Lamphong 鑽逃南歸華藍蓬

Singapore 新加坡

Director 導演：JD CHUA 蔡京篤

Producer 監製：Juan FOO 符祥鈞

Production Company 製作公司：Taipan Films Pte. Ltd. 大班影業有限公司

23. Ten Thousand Happiness 萬事幸福

China 中國, Canada 加拿大

Director 導演：Johnny MA 馬楠

Producer 監製：WANG Jing 王婧, WU Xianjian 鄔憲健

Production Company 製作公司：Image X Productions 上海俊睿文化傳播有限公司

24. Upside Down

Malaysia 馬來西亞

Director 導演：TANAKA Yasu 田中靖彥

Producer 監製：TANAKA Bea

Production Company 製作公司：42nd Pictures Sdn. Bhd.

「HAF/FOX電影項目大獎」得主

HAF/FOX Project Award Winner

1. Drifting Lives 三千片雪

China 中國

Director 導演：Danlly LI 李聃鸞

Producer 監製：Ray CHAN 陳偉斌

Production Company 製作公司：Kozmo Production Company Limited 北京大千潤彩文化發展有限公司,
YNTV Motion Magic Digital Studios Co., Ltd. 雲視幻維數碼影視有限公司