

For Immediate Release

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Announces Shortlisted Projects for Operation Greenlight and Work-in-Progress Lab

“Hong Kong Goes to Cannes” Screening Opportunities for Promising Projects

Hong Kong, 14 February 2017 – The 15th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) today unveiled the shortlisted projects of **Operation Greenlight** and **Work-in-Progress Lab (WIP Lab)**, two initiatives that connect filmmakers with a wide range of potential co-production and funding partners across the world. The two events will take place from 13 to 15 March 2017 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of HAF.

Operation Greenlight aims to foster talented Hong Kong directors looking to make their debut feature film, while **WIP Lab** is a new initiative to help filmmakers secure post-production funds, sales agents and film festival support. HAF also proudly presents its collaboration with **Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes** to present the “**Hong Kong Goes to Cannes**” program, offering unprecedented screening opportunities and global exposure at the Cannes festival market for five promising film projects primarily from **WIP Lab** that are searching for potential sales agents and film festivals.

Three Attractive Hong Kong Projects Shortlisted in WIP Lab

While the existing HAF platform is intended for film projects in pre-production or development stages seeking co-production funding, **WIP Lab** will serve projects that are in the later stages of production. Shortlisted projects are required to have completed or nearly completed shooting or production and are looking for post-production partners, sales agents and buyers.

The 8 shortlisted **WIP Lab** projects include three attractive submissions from Hong Kong: *The White Girl*, a tropical noir fairytale about three outcasts - an artist, a street kid and a girl who is allergic to the sun. **Christopher DOYLE**, the legendary cinematographer and **Jenny SUEN**, a filmmaker, artist and writer, are co-directors, starring renowned actors including Joe ODAGIRI, Angela YUEN, Michael NING and Tina LIU. *I Miss You When I See You* from **Simon CHUNG**, which explores what it means to be gay in Hong Kong through the stories of two characters who wrestle with their outsider status in vastly different ways. This project was selected in HAF 2014. **CHUNG**'s first full-length feature film, *Innocent* (2005) premiered at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. The documentary *I've Got the Blues*, from **Angie CHEN**, examines the interaction between the veteran filmmaker and her subject, the Hong Kong artist, musician and art director WONG Yan-kwai. A clash of egos, moments of humility, discourse on art, love and betrayal, in all their complexity burst to the surface in this heartfelt expression of Hong Kong life. **CHEN**'s *Darling Life* (2008) was nominated as Best Documentary in the Taiwan Golden Horse Awards while *One Tree Three Lives* (2012) has won the Film Merit Award at the 19th Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards.

Other shortlisted projects include: *End of Summer*, a family drama set against the backdrop of the 1998 World Cup, from director **ZHOU Quan** and co-produced by **Terence CHANG, Jacqueline LIU** and **Yuyu YANG**. This is **ZHOU's** feature debut which won the HAF Award 2015. *The Third Wife*, a Vietnamese production by **NGUYEN Phuong Anh**, illustrates a newly married girl fighting to find her own place among the rural household full of strangers. The project has won the HAF Award 2016. The Taiwan-Japan production *Omotenashi* directed by **Jay CHERN**, starring TANAKA Rena and WANG Po-chieh, tells a story of refurbishing an ancient onsen hotel while the characters find the missing parts in themselves during the process.

India's *Village Rockstars* from **Rima DAS**, demonstrates an Indian girl grown up in deprivation learns to manage her life within hostile surroundings and weaving dreams of owning a guitar. Her debut film *Antardrishti* was selected for the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film festival 2016. The Israeli suspense-drama *Echoes* by co-directors **Assaf SNIR** and **Amikam KOVNER**, shows a skeptical man kept listening to his wife's recorded conversation with her lover after her death. **KOVNER's** debut feature film *Haven* was premiered at the Moscow Film Festival 2014.

HAF Proudly Presents the “Hong Kong Goes to Cannes” Program

In addition to meetings with potential partners and investors during HAF, **WIP Lab** shortlisted projects are also entitled to compete for three remarkable awards: the **Wanda WIP Lab Award** presented by **Wanda Media Co. Ltd.**, offering a cash prize of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,900) to encourage the development of outstanding cinema; the **G2D Post-Production Award** and the **White Light Post-Production Award**, each offering in-kind post-production services worth US\$15,000 respectively (approx. HK\$117,000 each).

In a new and exciting development, HAF is proud to announce its collaboration with **Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes** to present the “**Hong Kong Goes to Cannes**” program, offering valuable screening opportunities for five promising film projects that are looking for potential sales agents and film festivals. Projects selected in **WIP Lab** will be primarily considered. This new initiative will help open the door for outstanding Asian filmmakers to enter the international film community.

Speaking on behalf of HAF, **Mr. Jacob WONG**, Curator of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and Director of the HAF commented, “The shortlisted film projects in Work-in-Progress Laboratory represent outstanding works from both established filmmakers in Asia-Pacific and the next generation of talents right here in Hong Kong. We are very excited to collaborate with **Marché du Film** to highlight these independent productions and serve as the forum for innovative, thoughtful and compelling cinema.”

Operation Greenlight Continues to Nurture Young Talents

Operation Greenlight aims to connect the next generation of Hong Kong filmmakers with industry professionals and potential investors worldwide to realize their dreams. Seven film projects have been identified from the 3rd **First Feature Film Initiative** co-organised by Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Film Development Council. These seven aspiring filmmakers will present their debut projects to leading industry representatives during a specially tailored pitch session at HAF. To facilitate these emerging directors to perfect their pitching skills, HAF will also organize two training workshops led by renowned local film professionals.

Shortlisted projects of **Operation Greenlight** include *Immense Punishment*, to be directed by renowned TV actor **WONG He** and produced by veteran filmmaker **CHEUNG Tung-cho**, a drama about how a hospice nurse deals with the lifetime burden of her critically ill mother. *Tai Hum Village*, to be directed by **WONG Yee-mei** and produced by **Derek CHIU**, illustrates a family rebuilding their estranged relationship while facing the dismantle of their village home and community. *Talent Project*, to be directed by **SamAndy CHEUNG** and produced by **TIN Kai-man**, is a comedy about a celebrity couple's dream of having superior offsprings being shattered when finding out that their yet-to-be born baby suffers from Down's Syndrome. *Natural Born Scholar* will be directed by **Boris FAN** and produced by **Mabel CHEUNG**, using the story of a missing little girl to mirror tiger moms as objects of ridicule. **HO Ching-yi's** *Just Run*, shows a traffic accident and a marathon race linking back the alienated mother and her middle-aged son once again. This film will be produced by experienced filmmaker **CHAN Hing-kai** and long-time cinematographer and director **O Sing-pui**.

Apart from family-driven stories, we also have romances. *imxft*, to be co-directed by **Joe NGAI**, **Bobby SHO** and produced by **Shirley YUNG**, is the love story of Chun and Yee who are drifted apart for 15 years because of differences in ideals and dreams. Their story also manifests the development of social media and networking. Completing the line-up is *Forget You, Still Love You?* from co-directors **Kenneth LAI Siu-Kwan** and **Paul SZE Pak-Lam**. It is about a couple whose troubled marriage finds focus again when the husband is diagnosed with Alzheimer Disease. Both LAI and SZE participated in last year's HAF with the thriller *Hypnotize the Jury*. The producers are TIN Kai-man and LAU Wing-tai.

Operation Greenlight is a collaborative initiative of Create Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Film Development Council (FDC), the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) and Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF). FDC Secretary-General **Mr. Wellington FUNG** added, "**Operation Greenlight** offers rising filmmakers with excellent opportunities to showcase their brilliant projects to influential members of the film industry, which is essential in fostering the development of Hong Kong cinema."

Work-in-Progress Lab Open Pitch

Date: 14 March 2017 (Tuesday)

Time : 11:00am – 4:00pm

Venue : Screening Room (N206, N207), Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Operation Greenlight

Date: 15 March 2017 (Wednesday)

Time: 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Venue: Moonlight Theatre, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

**Note: HAF badge holders, FILMART visitors and Press are welcomed to join both events.*

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 until 5 March 2017 at http://society.hkiff.org.hk/en/press_accreditation_media.php. 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 **WIP Lab** can be found in **Appendix 1** and **Operation Greenlight** can be found in **Appendix 2**. For further project details, please explore:

WIP Lab : <http://www.haf.org.hk/wip2017>

Operation Greenlight : <https://www.haf.org.hk/operationgreenlight>

Photos download :

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tborhkjq6m1yt6/AAB1NnMzn3i_OqsZHtTikHQLa?dl=0

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/hafhkiffs/>.

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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.

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Appendix 1

The 15th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Work-in-Progress Lab Shortlisted Projects

A. Echoes

Israel

Director : Amikam KOVNER, Assaf SNIR
Producer : Yoni PARAN, Keren MICHAEL
Production Company : Dori Media Paran

B. End Of Summer

China

Director : ZHOU Quan
Producer : Terence CHANG, Jacqueline W. LIU, YANG Yuyu
Production Company : Each Other Film

C. I Miss You When I See You

Hong Kong

Director : Simon CHUNG
Producer : Sophia SHEK, Simon CHUNG
Production Company : Heart Productions

D. I've Got The Blues

Hong Kong

Director : Angie CHEN
Producer : Angie CHEN, Pamela LAY
Production Company : Scorpio Films Company

E. Omotenashi

Taiwan, Japan

Director : Jay CHERN
Producer : Jay CHERN, KITAGAWA Junichi
Production Company : Epic Entertainment Co., Ltd., Shochiku Studio Co., Ltd.

F. The Third Wife

Vietnam

Director : NGUYEN Phuong Anh
Producer : TRAN thi Bich Ngoc
Production Company : An Nam Productions, Three Colour Productions

G. Village Rockstars

India

Director : Rima DAS
Producer : Rima DAS
Production Company : Flying River Films

H. The White Girl

Hong Kong

Director : Christopher DOYLE, Jenny SUEN
Producer : Ken HUI, Jenny SUEN, Leonard TEE
Production Company : Pica Pica Media Limited

Appendix 2

The 3rd Operation Greenlight Shortlisted Projects

1. Forget You, Still Love You?

Hong Kong

Director : Kenneth LAI Siu-kwan, Paul SZE Pak-lam
Producer : TIN Kai-man, LAU Wing-tai

2. Immense Punishment

Hong Kong

Director : WONG He
Producer : CHEUNG Tung-cho

3. Imxft

Hong Kong

Director : Joe NGAI, Bobby SHO
Producer : Shirley YUNG

4. Just Run

Hong Kong

Director : HO Ching-yi
Producer : CHAN Hing-kai, O Sing-pui

5. Natural Born Scholar

Hong Kong

Director : Boris FAN
Producer : Mabel CHEUNG

6. Tai Hum Village

Hong Kong

Director : WONG Yee-mei
Producer : Derek CHIU

7. Talent Project

Hong Kong

Director : SamAndy CHEUNG
Producer : TIN Kai-man