

For Immediate Release

**The 16th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum announces new projects
Three new countries to be represented for the first time this year**

Hong Kong, 17 January 2018 – The 16th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) today announced its lineup of 25 film projects to be presented from 19 to 21 March 2018 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The projects were selected out of more than 360 submissions from 41 countries and regions, including Australia, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Kazakhstan, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States of America and Vietnam.

HAF is one of the most prominent film-financing platforms in Asia and provides a forum to connect filmmakers and their new projects with internationally established film financiers, producers, bankers, distributors, buyers and funders for potential co-production ventures. The successful shortlisted projects come from a richly diverse field of filmmakers – young and established alike – seeking partners and funding. This year’s selections also include projects from three countries that will be represented for the first time at HAF: Cambodia, Mongolia and Russia.

“As we welcome projects from all over Asia and other parts of the world, we are particularly pleased to see filmmakers from three countries new to the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum find a showcase for their works,” said **Jacob WONG**, Curator of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and Director of the HAF. “In reviewing hundreds of submissions, it was encouraging to see a talented group of directors seeking to tell their stories in the universal language of film.”

Five Hong Kong projects to be presented

Five projects from Hong Kong are among this year’s short list: *Deadline*, a suspense-drama about a group of seven secondary-school students facing exam pressures and issuing a suicide pact, from director **Kiwi CHOW**. CHOW’s first feature film, *A Complicated Story* (2013), which was presented by the powerhouse team of producers **Johnnie TO** and **Bill KONG**, was selected for the 37th Hong Kong International Film Festival. CHOW also directed the “Self-immolator” segment of *Ten Years* (2015), which won Best Film at the 35th Hong Kong Film Awards.

Director **CHAN Ying-wai**’s coming-of-age drama *I Promised* follows a teenage boy as he experiences desires and responsibilities, sweetness and cruelty in the aftermath of a tragic event; **YUEN Han-yan**’s documentary *Love in the Valley of Daughters* explores the love story and cultural differences between a city woman and a man from a matriarchal society in China’s Yunnan Province; film-industry veteran **O Sing-pui**’s romantic comedy-drama *Sex is Guilt* looks at death and sex, and asks which of the two is the greatest fear? The comedy *While You Were Working* from director **LEUNG Ming-kai** looks at a retired

Hong Kong singer and her American neighbor who help a Filipino worker prepare for a singing competition.

Three countries to be represented at HAF for the first time

HAF is proud to announce four film projects from Cambodia, Mongolia and Russia – three countries that will be represented at the event for the first time. From Cambodia, **Jake WACHTEL**'s suspense-drama *In the Next Life* follows a young teenage girl living in Phnom Penh's slums who investigates a boy's past-life visions and uncovers a sinister conspiracy of literal, scientific reincarnation. In *Twist of Fate*, director **Baasanjargal Orgodol** of Mongolia seeks to genuinely portray the "true reality" of nomadic Mongols in his drama about a woman who marries twin brothers, and whose unconventional life leads to conflict and death.

Two projects from Russia look at love, marriage and betrayal. Set in Kyrgyzstan, *Far Frontiers* from director **Maxim DASHKIN** explores the complicated relationship between faith and fidelity in his drama about the wife of a military commander who begins an affair with another officer. Tajikistan-born filmmaker **Nigina SAYFULLAEVA**'s *Revnost* examines the motivations of a woman who suspects her husband of having an affair and exacts revenge by entering sexual relationships with other men.

New projects from award-winning filmmakers and three Indonesian directors

Among this year's short list are five established and award-winning directors presenting their latest projects. In mainland Chinese filmmaker **Emily TANG**'s *A Man Used to Stay at My Room*, a young disabled woman seeking to break away from a loveless marriage finds fame as a poet. TANG's *Perfect Life* (2008) won the Tigers & Dragons Award at the Vancouver International Film Festival and the Golden Digital Award at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. Mainland director **LIU Jian**'s third animated feature, following *Piercing* (2010) and *Have a Nice Day* (2017), is *Art College*, a bitter-sweet look at youth, love and school life of two art students in the 1990s.

The Big Picture, the new project from **E J-yong** – the critically acclaimed South Korean director of *Bacchus Lady* (2016), *Actresses* (2009) and *Scandal* (2003) – follows a lawyer facing a mid-life crisis and who accidentally kills a man and steals his identity to realize his failed dream to become a photographer. *Naive Melody* from Taiwan-based director **Arvin CHEN**, whose feature debut *Au Revoir Taipei* (2010) won the Asian Film Award at the Berlin Film Festival, is about an introverted young man who visits a brothel to lose his virginity, but instead falls into a complicated relationship with the brothel's much older mama-san. In *A Mountain Splits*, Japanese director **TOMINA Tetsuya** explores the conflict and dilemma between "the visible" and "the invisible," which live in the same world yet are unable to intersect.

A trio of projects from Indonesia include *Tale of the Land* from **Loeloe HENDRA**, about indigenous populations facing threats to their way of life; *Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash*, from **Edwin**, which takes aim at a society ruled by machismo and patriarchy; and **Eddie CAHYONO**'s *IMAH*, which follows a fisherman searching for his wife's killer.

Awards and special prizes

The 16th HAF is proud to present a number of awards and cash prizes from several returning sponsors, including mm2 Asia Limited, which will be back for a second year after its inaugural prize in 2017. The award seeks to encourage and support Chinese-language film projects with a cash prize of HK\$100,000.

Other returning award sponsors include the Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation; China Film Foundation – Wutianming Fund For Young Talents; White Light Studio; G2D Co. Ltd.; and the Network of Asian Fantastic Films (NAFF) of the BiFan Industry Gathering. Additional award sponsors will be announced soon.

Work in Progress Laboratory

In addition, the HAF-sponsored “Work in Progress Laboratory” is an initiative to help directors and producers obtain 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 in February.

Guest and media accreditation for HAF

Investors, financiers and other film-industry guests are now able to register for HAF at <https://www.haf.org.hk/guest.php> and schedule individual meetings with filmmakers to discuss their projects. Guests will be given access to HAF, in addition to joining our official networking events, screenings, seminars or other activities.

Registration for the event among members of the media will begin on 22 January, with further details here: <http://www.hkiff.org.hk/>

A complete list of the selected projects for the 16th HAF can be found in **Appendix 1**. For more information about HAF, please visit the official website at <http://www.haf.org.hk/> and the HAF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hafhkiffs/>.

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About 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. 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 the added advantage of being held in conjunction with Hong Kong Filmart, Asia's largest film market which attracts over 8,000 professionals.

HAF has partnered with international organisations to provide a range of opportunities to participants. 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

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

The Society is committed to making world cinema accessible and affordable to the public. It organizes the annual flagship the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and the Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) in March and April. Another annual highlight is the Summer International Film Festival (SummerIFF) held every August. The repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme was launched in April 2013 with the aim to enrich and deepen the experience of Hong Kong moviegoers through a monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases.

Through its annual programmes, the Society promotes international appreciation of Asian, Hong Kong and Chinese film culture; introduces world cinema to Hong Kong audiences; and continues to underline Hong Kong's key position in the international film community.

HKIFFS's dedication to quality and intelligent programming, its devotion to the discovery of new areas of filmmaking in Asia and China, its exceptional work for Hong Kong cinema, seminars and acclaimed publications, gives it a unique and respected international reputation that helps promote Hong Kong cinema at home and abroad.

Appendix 1 附件一

The 16th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Shortlisted Projects

第十六屆香港亞洲電影投資會入選電影計劃名單

1. Art College 上大學

China 中國

Director 導演：LIU Jian 劉健

Producer 監製：YANG Cheng 楊城

Production Company 製作公司：Nezha Bros. Pictures 北京哪吒兄弟影業, Lightriver Culture & Media 映川文化傳媒

2. The Big Picture

South Korea 南韓

Director 導演：E J-yong 李在容

Producer 監製：Jason CHAE 蔡熙承, BAE Ja-hee 裴子嬉 (Associate Producer 副監製)

Production Company 製作公司：Mirovision

3. Deadline 自殺通告

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：Kiwi CHOW 周冠威

Producer 監製：Jacqueline LIU 廖婉虹, Kiwi CHOW 周冠威

Production Company 製作公司：Photon Films (HK) Limited 光籽電影有限公司

4. A Family with Troubles 難念的經

China 中國

Director 導演：YAN Xiaolin 閔嘯林

Producer 監製：YANG Cheng 楊城

Production Company 製作公司：Nezha Bros. Pictures 北京哪吒兄弟影業, Lightriver Culture & Media 映川文化傳媒

5. Far Frontiers

Russia 俄羅斯

Director 導演：Maxim DASHKIN

Producer 監製：Anna von DZIEMBOWSKA, Denis KOVALEVSKIY, Ilann GIRARD (Co-producer 聯合監製)

Production Company 製作公司：Victoria Films

6. I Promised 逆風少年

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：CHAN Ying-wai 陳英尉

Producer 監製：Jessinta LIU Fung-ping 廖鳳平

Production Company 製作公司：At Odds Workshop 頓點之工作室

7. IMAH (working title)	Indonesia 印尼, France 法國
Director 導演 : Eddie CAHYONO	
Producer 監製 : Ifa ISFANSYAH, Isabelle GLACHANT	
Production Company 製作公司 : Fourcolours Films, Shasha & Co Production	
8. In the Next Life	Cambodia 柬埔寨
Director 導演 : Jake WACHTEL	
Producer 監製 : Valerie STEINBERG	
Production Company 製作公司 : Valerie Steinberg Productions	
9. Let Me Rest in Peace	Japan 日本
Director 導演 : YAMANAKA Yoko 山中瑤子	
Producer 監製 : MIZOGUCHI Moeko 溝口萌子	
Production Company 製作公司 : PIA Film Festival	
10. Love in the Valley of Daughters 出走瀘沽湖	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演 : YUEN Han-yan 阮行恩	
Producer 監製 : Eric POON 潘達培, Ruby YANG 楊紫燁, YUEN Han-yan 阮行恩	
Production Company 製作公司 : Singing Cicada	
11. A Man Used to Stay at My Room 一個男人在我的房間裡待過	China 中國
Director 導演 : Emily TANG 唐曉白	
Producer 監製 : WU Jueren 吳覺人, LI Liangwen 李亮文	
Production Company 製作公司 : Beijing Yshow Film & TV Production Co., Ltd. 北京永旭良辰文化發展有限公司, Shanghai Raging Fire Film & TV Culture Co., Ltd. 上海烈火影視文化有限公司	
12. A Mountain Splits	Japan 日本
Director 導演 : TOMINA Tetsuya 富名哲也	
Producer 監製 : HATANAKA Mina 畠中美奈	
Production Company 製作公司 : TETSUYA to MINA Film	
13. Naive Melody 買一送一	Taiwan 台灣
Director 導演 : Arvin CHEN 陳駿霖	
Producer 監製 : Aileen LI 李耀華	
Production Company 製作公司 : Filmagic Pictures 奇幻娛樂國際股份有限公司	

14. On High Ice

South Korea 南韓, Israel 以色列

Director 導演 : Gary KAM Byung-seok 甘秉錫

Producer 監製 : Naama PYRITZ

Production Company 製作公司 : Ingenue Production

15. Ordinary People 普通情事

Taiwan 台灣, China 中國

Director 導演 : HUANG Xi 黃熙

Producer 監製 : HOU Hsiao-Hsien 侯孝賢

Production Company 製作公司 : 3H Productions 三三電影製作有限公司, Luminous Pictures 北京光景映畫電影有限公司

16. Revnost

Russia 俄羅斯, France 法國

Director 導演 : Nigina SAYFULLAEVA

Producer 監製 : Pavel ODYNIN, Guillaume DE SEILLE

Production Company 製作公司 : Droog Drooga, Arizona Productions

17. Saving One Who was Dead

Czech Republic 捷克

Director 導演 : Václav KADRNKA

Producer 監製 : Václav KADRNKA

Production Company 製作公司 : Sirius Films s.r.o.

18. Seven Days and Nights 七天七夜

China 中國

Director 導演 : YAO Tian 堯天

Producer 監製 : ZHANG Yang 張楊, ZHAO Jin 趙晉, CAO Liuying 曹柳鶯

Production Company 製作公司 : PARALLAX FILMS 視幻文化傳播(北京)有限公司

19. Sex is Guilt 成人禮

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演 : O Sing-pui 柯星沛

Producer 監製 : O Sing-pui 柯星沛

Production Company 製作公司 : Zero Image Production House 零影像製作室

20. The Shepherdess and the Seven Songs

India 印度

Director 導演 : Pushpendra SINGH

Producer 監製 : Sanjay GULATI, Ajit Singh RATHORE

Production Company 製作公司 : Crawling Angel Films

21. Stonewalling 石門

China 中國

Director 導演：HUANG Ji 黃驥

Producer 監製：OTSUKA Ryuji 大塚龍治

Production Company 製作公司：Yellow-Green Pi 龍驥映畫北京文化有限公司

22. Tale of the Land

Indonesia 印尼

Director 導演：Loeloe HENDRA

Producer 監製：Siska RAHARJA

Production Company 製作公司：Elora Production

23. Twist of Fate

Mongolia 蒙古

Director 導演：Baasanjargal Orgodol

Producer 監製：Usukhbayar Batsaikhan

Production Company 製作公司：Wild Vision

24. Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash

Indonesia 印尼

Director 導演：Edwin

Producer 監製：Meiske TAURISIA, Muhammad ZAIDY, Lorna TEE 鄭碧雪

Production Company 製作公司：Palari Films

25. While You Were Working 三個女人一個邨

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：LEUNG Ming-kai 梁銘佳

Producer 監製：Teresa KWONG 鄭珮詩, Kate REILLY, CHUN Siu-chun 秦小珍

Production Company 製作公司：JABES Most Company Limited 捷報事務所有限公司