

For immediate release

HAF UNVEILS 22 WORK-IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS

23 June 2020 (Hong Kong) – The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) today announces 22 feature projects shortlisted for the Work-in-Progress Programme (WIP), comprising of ten fictions and 12 documentaries from territories including Hong Kong, China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines.

The WIP initiative, to run exclusively online this year in parallel with the main HAF programme, will take place from 26 to 28 August in conjunction with FILMART Online, the virtual platform of the 24th Hong Kong International Film & TV Market. HAF, WIP and FILMART were all postponed from March this year following the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HAF will announce details of the online arrangement for both HAF and WIP as soon as practicable.

Now in its fourth edition, WIP is designed to provide a platform for later-stage projects seeking completion funding, post-production partners, distributors and sales agents, film festival supports, and other industry services. The production on all shortlisted projects this year are completed, or near completion.

Some of the programme highlights are as follow.

FICTION FEATURES: PROJECTS FROM CHINA TAKE THE LEAD

A quartet of feature films from China looks at contemporary issues with new twists. **ZHOU Ziyang**, one of the most promising directors to emerge from China in recent years, describes himself as “grieved” over the immense harm brought onto people through rapid economic development and money-oriented values. He examines those themes in his second feature, **Wuhai**, about a married man facing financial difficulties. Documentary filmmaker **QIU Jiongjiong**’s first fiction feature, *The Neo-New Adventures*, is based on his family history, telling the life of the 20th century’s top clown actor of southern Sichuan and his underworld journey to the Ghost City after death.

Summer Blur, the first feature of **HAN Shuai**, is a coming-of-age story about a 13-year-old girl who begins to realise what it is like to be a woman in modern society. **NIU Xiaoyu** explores

the emotions that bind people together in *Virgin Blue*, a story about a girl trapped in her grandmother's memories, which intertwine with fragments of her past.

Jun LI, a Best New Director nominee for his debut feature *Tracey* (2018), brings his new drama, *Drifting*, which looks at the lives of homeless people in Hong Kong forced to continuous relocation for survival. Indian-born director **Prasun CHATTERJEE**'s *Two Friends (Dostojee)* is the story of friendship between a pair of eight-year-old boys belonging to two warring religious communities.

Adolfo ALIX Jr. draws inspiration from Dante's Divine Comedy for *The Double*, a suspense drama in which the Philippine director says he "tries to make sense of my take in the cycle of violence and retribution based on my interviews with a real hitman."

DOCUMENTARIES FOCUS ON CULTURE AND SOCIETY

FAN Jian's *Born to Be Second* scrutinises the parent-child relationship, arguably the foundation of the Chinese society. After the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, thousands of families lost their only child and were allowed to try to conceive another to fill the void created by the tragic event. The film follows two families as they arrive at critical junctures in their lives, challenging how they have been living for the past ten years. *Another Brick on the Wall*, by director **ZHANG Nan**, provides an intimate look into the intertwining stories of three characters, along with other co-workers, related to the two-year restoration project of the Panjiakou-Great Wall.

In China, people often avoid talking about death because it is a taboo and "inauspicious." In *Being Mortal*, however, **LUO Shuai** recounts the stories of hospice care volunteers, who ponder life and death while they care for their patients.

HA LE Diem's *Children of the Mist*, set in North Vietnam, looks at a Hmong girl as she walks the thin line between childhood and becoming an adult. In *Kith and Kin*, director **Waraluck HIRANSRETTAWAT** observes the breakdown of a Chinese-Thai family over the relocation of their ancestral grave in a darkly-comedic documentary set during the recent political turmoil of his native Thailand.

Please refer to the **Appendix** for a complete list of the 22 shortlisted WIP projects.

GUEST ACCREDITATION

Online guest registration through www.haf.org.hk/guest.php is now open until 17 August. Once accredited, guests will be able to schedule online meetings with HAF and WIP filmmakers.

For more information about HAF and WIP, please visit the official website at www.haf.org.hk and the HAF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/hafhkiffs.

For media enquiry, please contact:

Strategic Public Relations Group (SPRG)

Ms Ezena TANG

Phone: +852 2114 4993

E-mail: haf.media@sprg.com.hk

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society

Mr Matthew POON

Phone: +852 2102 7375

E-mail: matthew_poon@hkiff.org.hk

About Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is one of the region's most recognised film financing platforms. Since its inception in 2000, HAF annually brings Asian filmmakers to Hong Kong for co-production ventures with financiers, producers, bankers, distributors and buyers. In 2019, HAF17 attracted more than 1,000 filmmakers and industry professionals from 40 countries and regions to participate in the three-day event which featured 23 HAF Projects and 19 WIP Projects. HAF has the added advantage of being held in conjunction with Hong Kong FILMART, Asia's largest film market which regularly attracts over 8,000 professionals.

Over the years, HAF has partnered with many regional and international organisations to provide a range of opportunities to participants. Past and current partners include iQIYI (China), Fox International Productions (Greater China) (US), Cinemart (the Netherlands), Asian Project Market (South Korea), Golden Horse Film Project Promotion (Taiwan), and MIA (Italy). With the support of, among others, the Hong Kong SAR Government's Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Film Development Fund, HAF has made cash and in-kind awards available to participating filmmakers each year. Notable past HAF participants include China's JIA Zhangke, 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.

Official website: www.haf.org.hk

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

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. It organises 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 Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival (SummerIFF) held every August. The repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme was launched in April 2013 to enrich and deepen the experience of Hong Kong moviegoers through a monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases. Film Industry Services Office (FIS) was also set up in 2017 to promote the development of non-mainstream film industry through co-production and providing support on festival strategies and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: www.hkiff.org.hk

Appendix

Full list of WIP Projects

A. Another Brick on the Wall 築城紀	China 中國
Director 導演：	ZHANG Nan 張楠
Producer 監製：	CHUNG Wai-kit 鍾偉傑, QI Yu 祁鬱
Production Company 製作公司：	Arrow Factory 箭廠視頻, Tencent Pictures 騰訊影業, Pango Pictures 北京磐古日星文化傳播有限公司
B. Being Mortal 走在生命邊緣	China 中國
Director 導演：	LUO Shuai 羅率
Producer 監製：	LUO Shuai 羅率
Production Company 製作公司：	Guangzhou Zhitianxiao Culture Co., Ltd. 廣州知天曉文化有限公司
C. The Borderlands	India 印度
Director 導演：	Samarth MAHAJAN
Producer 監製：	Sunil DOSHI, Ashay GANGWAR
Production Company 製作公司：	All Things Small
D. Born to Be Second 愛過	China 中國
Director 導演：	FAN Jian 范儉
Producer 監製：	Richard LIANG 梁為超, S. Leo CHIANG 江松長
Production Company 製作公司：	FAN Film Studio 有范製作
E. Children of the Mist	Vietnam 越南
Director 導演：	HA LE Diem
Producer 監製：	Swann DUBUS
Production Company 製作公司：	Varan Vietnam Co., Ltd.
F. Dear Immigrants: What Was Your First Meal? 致移民者：你在香港的第一頓飯，是如何？	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演：	WONG Fei-pang 黃飛鵬
Producer 監製：	Diana CHEUNG 張丹妮
Production Company 製作公司：	Tonikaku Pictures Limited 兔角影像有限公司

G. I, Poppy	India 印度
Director 導演 :	Vivek CHAUDHARY
Producer 監製 :	Vivek CHAUDHARY
Production Company 製作公司 :	Unek Films
H. In Between Worlds 工筆放肆	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演 :	CHAN Ying-wai 陳英尉
Producer 監製 :	LI Man-chi 李敏芝
Production Company 製作公司 :	At Odds Workshop 頓點之工作室
I. Kith and Kin	Thailand 泰國
Director 導演 :	Waraluck HIRANSRETTAWAT
Producer 監製 :	Pailin WEDEL
Production Company 製作公司 :	2050 Productions Co., Ltd.
J. Last Days at Sea 海邊最後的夏天	The Philippines 菲律賓
Director 導演 :	Venice ATIENZA
Producer 監製 :	Venice ATIENZA, WU Fan 吳璠
Production Company 製作公司 :	Svemirko Film Productions 宇宙子電影製作公司
K. Leap of Faith 少女與馬	China 中國
Director 導演 :	YANG Lina 楊荔鈞
Producer 監製 :	LIAO Ching-Sung 廖慶松
Production Company 製作公司 :	Moon Bear Culture Creative Studio 上海小熊月亮文化創意工作室
L. Olympic Halftime 奧運中場	The Czech Republic 捷克 Greece 希臘 The Slovak Republic 斯洛伐克
Director 導演 :	Haruna HONCOOP 洪春菜
Producer 監製 :	Vít JANEČEK
Production Company 製作公司 :	D1film
M. The Double	The Philippines 菲律賓
Director 導演 :	Adolfo ALIX Jr.
Producer 監製 :	Adolfo ALIX Jr., Kim JONES, Jericho ROSALES
Production Company 製作公司 :	Inventory Films, Noble Wolf ABAJ Film Productions

N.	Drifting 濁水漂流	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演：	Jun LI 李駿碩	
Producer 監製：	Mani MAN 文佩卿, Flora TANG 鄧楓茵	
Production Company 製作公司：	mm2 Entertainment Hong Kong Limited	
O.	The Neo-New Adventures 椒麻堂會	China 中國
Director 導演：	QIU Jiongjiong 邱炯炯	
Producer 監製：	QIU Jiongjiong 邱炯炯	
Production Company 製作公司：	Heaven Pictures Hong Kong Culture & Media Co., Ltd., Uluka Productions	
P.	Ningdu 寧都	Hong Kong 香港 The Netherlands 荷蘭 USA 美國
Director 導演：	LEI Lei 雷磊	
Producer 監製：	LEI Lei 雷磊, Isabelle GLACHANT	
Production Company 製作公司：	Chinese Shadows	
Q.	Summer Blur 漢南夏日	China 中國
Director 導演：	HAN Shuai 韓帥	
Producer 監製：	HUANG Xufeng 黃旭峰, LIANG Ying 梁穎	
Production Company 製作公司：	Factory Gate Films 工廠大門影業	
R.	Two Friends (Dostojee)	India 印度
Director 導演：	Prasun CHATTERJEE	
Producer 監製：	Ivy SHEN Yu-Hua 沈俞樺, Prasun CHATTERJEE, Soumya MUKHOPADHYAY, Prosenjit Ranjan NATH	
Production Company 製作公司：	Kathak Talkies	
S.	Virgin Blue 不要再見啊，魚花塘	China 中國
Director 導演：	NIU Xiaoyu 牛小雨	
Producer 監製：	WANG Zijian 王子劍, NIU Yuan 牛元	
Production Company 製作公司：	Blackfin Production 黑鰭（北京）文化傳媒有限公 司, Big Fish Films (Anhui) Co., Ltd. 安徽大魚塘影業有 限公司	

T.	We Are Living Things 孤星人	Italy 意大利 USA 美國
Director 導演：	Antonio TIBALDI	
Producer 監製：	HE Fan 何帆	
Production Company 製作公司：	EnMaze Pictures Inc. 驚迷影視	
U.	White Building	Cambodia 柬埔寨 France 法國
Director 導演：	Kavich NEANG	
Producer 監製：	Davy CHOU 周戴維, Marine ARRIGHI de CASANOVA	
Production Company 製作公司：	Anti-Archive, Apsara Films	
V.	Wuhai 烏海	China 中國
Director 導演：	ZHOU Ziyang 周子陽	
Producer 監製：	WANG Luna 王魯娜, QIAN Yini 錢藝妮	
Production Company 製作公司：	Beijing Juben Production Company 北京聚本文化傳媒有限公司, Ziyang Film 上海子陽文化傳媒工作室	