

For Immediate Release

Operation Greenlight Announces Seven Projects, Goes Virtual

HONG KONG, 17 August 2020 - Operation Greenlight today unveils seven projects by emerging Hong Kong filmmakers, all target to realising their artistic visions.

The initiative, organised by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society for Create Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Film Development Council, features a bespoke open pitching session to connect young filmmakers with industry professionals and potential investors. Now in its 6th edition, Operation Greenlight will take place online on 27 August as part of this year's Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) programme in conjunction with FILMART Online, the virtual edition of the 24th Hong Kong International Film & TV Market.

According to Mr Gary MAK, Secretary-General of the Film Development Council (FDC), the global COVID-19 pandemic had presented the organisers of this year's Operation Greenlight, initially scheduled for March, with an unexpected challenge.

"However, we remain fully committed to showcasing local filmmakers' story-telling which helps to illuminate us from a uniquely Hong Kong perspective," Mr MAK said. "It is more important than ever for us to continue to support creativity and nurture their careers during this difficult time."

The seven shortlisted projects all took part in the most recent edition of the First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) organised by Create Hong Kong and FDC. Leading up to Operation Greenlight, the young filmmakers have received advice from industry veterans on how to fine-tune and improve their presentations.

The online pitching session will target film industry professionals taking part in virtual HAF and FILMART events this year, including sales agents, distributors, producers, financiers, and film festival programmers. Participants may also arrange private meetings with the filmmakers through the Operation Greenlight team.

This year's shortlisted Operation Greenlight projects:

The Sunny Side of the Street: Hong Kong-based Malaysian writer-director **LAU Kok-rui**'s first feature project looks at the tragic lives of fathers and sons crisscrossed under dire conditions. A Hong Kong taxi driver takes a young refugee under his wing after he accidentally runs over the boy's father, killing him. The driver's son, a police officer, helps his father by tampering with witness reports. However, the officer further complicates matters by implicating the young refugee in another death he causes accidentally. **Peter YAM Yin-cheung** is producing the HK\$7.8 million (approx. US\$1 million) project.

Parental Guide: Co-directors **Charis CHU Yeuk-hei** and **Ben LIU Ho-chi** spin a modern allegory about newlyweds preparing to take a government-mandated exam to obtain a "parenting licence". Couples who fail the test are fined and prohibited from sending their children to prestigious schools. CHU and

LIU ask: “Would this hypothetical... exam motivate people to become better parents?” The HK\$8 million (approx. US\$1.025 million) project is produced by celebrated director **Alex LAW**, whose *Echoes of the Rainbow* (2010) won a Crystal Bear for Best Film in the Generation Kplus at the 60th Berlin International Film Festival.

Knockout: A drama about struggles and sacrifices from director **Kurt CHIANG Chung-yu** which looks at the lives of two Hong Kong boxers. One, a middle-aged man, flees to Taiwan after an accident in the ring. The other – who was caught because he had taken the law into his own hands – emerges from 20 years of imprisonment to find a society steeped in violence and injustice. CHIANG says their lives “remind us of what Hong Kong has been through and make us reflect: Is destruction necessary for creation? Is violence necessary for peace?” **Titus HO** and **LEE Cheuk-pan** produce the HK\$10 million (approx. US\$1.3 million) project.

Disconnected: The debut directorial feature from **Isabella LAM**, which, in her words, “tells the story of a single parent repairing the connection with his daughter and restoring peace in the family”. Hong Kong filmmaker **CHEANG Pou-soi**, director of the blockbuster *Monkey King* trilogy (2014, 2016 and 2018), who has shifted his attention to working with aspiring directors in recent years, serves as producer of this HK\$6 million (approx. US\$770,000) project.

Do You Remember Me?: Legendary Hong Kong singer-actor Leslie Cheung, who died in 2003, serves as the inspiration for director **Tony WONG Man-kit**’s drama of three love stories intertwined by a tragic traffic accident. The iconic star, who remains hugely popular 17 years after his death, embodies Hong Kong’s Golden Era, WONG says. “Even though he has left this world, his works and legacy will live on forever.” **Kingman CHO**, whose credits include *Port of Call* (2015), the closing film of the 39th Hong Kong International Film festival, is the producer of the HK\$13.8 million (approx. US\$1.8 million) project.

No One World: “Who is the real me?” wonders **Yellow WONG Chi-yeung** in his debut feature. He explores the answer to that question in a comedy about three slackers who pool their funds to buy lottery tickets. They hit the jackpot but lose the winning ticket, leading to a circle of suspicion. “We tend to reveal different layers of ourselves as we interact with different people to give and get respect,” WONG says. When that happens, lying will serve as a mean to survive as “it is difficult for us to feel whole again.” Renowned director/cinematographer **O Sing-pui** will produce the HK\$6 million (approx. US\$770,000) project.

Live on Without Me: The directorial debut of **WAN Kar-wuen** tells how a single Hong Kong mother keeps her secret romance with an indie musician from Taiwan away from the watchful eye of her young daughter. WAN describes her HK\$6 million (approx. US\$770,000) project as a story about love and life. “It is also my own story to a certain extent,” she adds. “Many of us have loved and been loved deeply and thoroughly. Time passes, but hearts never forget.” Multiple award-winning Taiwanese actress-director-screenwriter **Sylvia CHANG** produces.

Operation Greenlight - Hong Kong Young Filmmakers Pitch Session

Date: 27 August 2020 (Thursday)
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (Hong Kong Time)
Venue: www.hktdc.com/hkfilmart

Admissions Information:

Accredited FILMART and HAF guests are welcome to attend this virtual event. However, we regret that there will be no admission for visitors aged under 18.

For more information about Operation Greenlight, please visit:

<https://www.haf.org.hk/operationgreenlight.php>

To schedule a meeting with a project in Operation Greenlight, or if you have other inquiries, please contact:

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Guest Accreditation for HAF

Online guest registration through www.haf.org.hk/guest.php is now open. 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.

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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 repertoire 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 附件

Seven Shortlisted Projects for Operation Greenlight 2020

2020 年度「綠燈行動」七部入選電影計劃

1. The Sunny Side of the Street 白日青春

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演： LAU Kok-rui 劉國瑞
Producer 監製： Peter YAM Yin-cheung 任硯聰

Logline: A Hong Kong taxi driver takes a refugee boy on the road to escape pursuit by his officer son.
故事簡介：一個香港的士司機，為協助難民男孩偷渡，展開公路逃亡，躲避警察兒子的追捕。

2. Parental Guide 家長指引

Hong Kong 香港

Directors 導演： Charis CHU Yeuk-hei 朱耀希, Ben LIU Ho-chi 廖浩智
Producer 監製： Alex LAW 羅啟銳

Logline: A young newlywed couple strives to pass the strenuous Parenting Exam as they deal with conflicts in their marriage and their childhood traumas.
故事簡介：一對意外懷孕的年輕新婚夫婦為了通過險阻重重的生育考試，必須克服二人之間的分歧及兩代間的矛盾。

3. Knockout 強拳

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演： Kurt CHIANG Chung-yu 蔣仲宇
Producers 監製： Titus HO 何永霖, LEE Cheuk-pan 李卓斌

Logline: What things in life are worth dying for? What should I do with my clenched fists? Should I throw a knockout punch to put an end to hate and injustice?
故事簡介：一拳的力量可摧毀什麼？為了證明什麼，可捨命不悔？拳頭的盡頭，不是敵，不是我，而是我對生命奉獻的熱情。狂拳無憾，一拳一生。

4. Disconnected 少女失聯事件

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演： Isabella LAM 林樂騫
Producer 監製： CHEANG Pou-soi 鄭保瑞

Logline: One night, a desperate father runs into his missing daughter's close friend, the only person who might help him piece together the truth about his daughter's disappearance.
故事簡介：少女失聯，並非意外。父親苦尋不獲，惟某夜巧遇女兒結伴失聯的中學同性密友，逐步拼湊零散的真相。

5. Do You Remember Me? 由零開始

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演： Tony WONG Man-kit 黃文傑
Producer 監製： Kingman CHO 曹敬文

Logline: Three interlocking, tragic love stories related to Leslie Cheung are tied together by a car crash.
It would have been great if only Leslie were still around.

故事簡介：三段圍繞張國榮的愛情故事，卻因一場車禍串連各人苦澀的命運。這些日子該很好，倘若哥哥你尚在場。

6. No One World 庸人自擾

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演： Yellow WONG Chi-yeung 黃智揚
Producer 監製： O Sing-pui 柯星沛

Logline: After losing a winning lottery ticket, three men go to a hypnotist to try to recover lost memories.
At the same time, a mysterious journey has just begun.

故事簡介：三個好朋友遺失頭獎彩票，孤注一擲找來催眠師，嘗試從記憶中尋找失蹤的彩票，並踏上檢視人生的旅程.....

7. Live On Without Me 她遇她

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演： WAN Kar-wuen 溫家媛
Producer 監製： Sylvia CHANG 張艾嘉

Logline: Single mother Tiff relives her past while reading her daughter's confession.

故事簡介：女兒童童的一封告白信勾起單親媽媽Tiff 的無限回憶。