

For Immediate Release

## FIRST ONLINE HAF WRAPS WITH AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

**31 August 2020 (Hong Kong)** – The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) concludes its first-ever virtual edition today by announcing ten winners who receive cash and in-kind awards worth more than HK\$1,000,000.

This year's HAF, its 18<sup>th</sup> edition, was held over three days from 26 to 28 August in conjunction with Filmart Online. Initially scheduled for March, the event had to move its dates following the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and switched to an online platform.

HAF is one of the leading film-financing platforms in the Asia-Pacific region. This year's edition showcased a record 54 projects, including 22 works-in-progress and another 32 in various stages of development or pre-production. Investors, financiers, producers, distributors and buyers from around the world took part in the event and conducted online video meetings with filmmakers organised by HAF.

HAF Director Jacob WONG said the COVID-19 pandemic had presented an unprecedented challenge this year and his team had worked long hours for months to ensure that an online version of HAF18 could take place successfully. "But it is vital that we continue to support and encourage filmmakers to tell their stories if we hope to understand the world we live in," Mr WONG said.

Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, Cinerent Beijing, White Light Studio, Udine Far East Film Festival, and HAF are the sponsors of this year's awards, including two new cash prizes: the *HAF Documentary Awards*, which aims to encourage and promote the development of documentary projects, and the *WIP Fiction Award*, which focuses on originality and creativity.

Highlights of the award-winning projects are as follows:

### 1. HAF Fiction Awards (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

The *HAF Fiction Awards* offer cash prizes to one Hong Kong HAF fiction project and one non-Hong Kong HAF fiction project. ***Another World*** (Hong Kong) and ***Stranger Eyes*** (Singapore) each receive HK\$100,000.

**2. HAF Documentary Awards** (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

The *HAF Documentary Awards* aim to promote the development of documentary filmmaking. ***Shimshon, Hasidic in Asia*** (Hong Kong, Isarel) and ***Waiting for Winter*** (Bangladesh) receive a cash prize of HK\$100,000 each for their feasibility, appeal, and social relevance.

**3. WIP Fiction Award** (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

All WIP fiction projects are eligible for the newly-introduced *WIP Fiction Award*, and ***White Building*** (Cambodia, France) becomes its first recipient of HK\$78,000 for originality and creativity.

**4. WIP Documentary Award** (Presented by Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Development Fund, and HAF)

All WIP documentary projects were eligible for the *WIP Documentary Award* which targets to encourage and promote documentary filmmaking. For HAF18, it goes to ***I, Poppy*** (India) which receives a cash prize of HK\$78,000.

**5. Cinerent Award** (Presented by Cinerent Beijing Ltd.)

Set out to support and encourage high-quality HAF projects to be shot in Mainland China, HAF18's *Cinerent Award* goes to ***Song of Spring*** (China) which receives an in-kind award of RMB150,000.

**6. Udine Focus Asia Award** (Presented by the Udine Far East Film Festival)

Designed to encourage and facilitate film co-production between Asia and Europe, the Udine Focus Asia Award goes to ***The River Knows Our Names*** (Vietnam). Earlier on, the project has participated in Focus Asia 2020 on invitation from the Far East Film Festival.

**7. White Light Post-Production Awards** (Presented by White Light Studio)

The *White Light Post-Production Awards* offer in-kind awards, valued at US\$15,000 each, to one HAF project and one WIP project in recognition of their cinematic innovation. The award-winners will receive post-production services from White Light Studio in Bangkok, Thailand. This year, the awards go to ***Happy Journey and Last Will*** (China) from HAF, and ***The Neo-New Adventures*** (China) from WIP.

Please refer to **Appendix 1** for a complete list of all the HAF18 award recipients.

For further details, please check out:

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

WIP: <https://www.haf.org.hk/wip.php>

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

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 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](http://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](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

## Appendix 1: The 18<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Award List

### 1. HAF Fiction Award (Hong Kong Project)

#### Another World

Hong Kong

Director : NG Kai-chung  
Producer : Polly YEUNG  
Production Company : Point Five Creations

### 2. HAF Fiction Award (Non-Hong Kong Project)

#### Stranger Eyes

Singapore

Director : YEO Siew Hua  
Producer : Fran BORGIA, Dan KOH  
Production Company : Akanga Film Asia

### 3. HAF Documentary Award (Hong Kong Project)

#### Shimshon, Hasidic in Asia

Hong Kong, Israel

Director : Sadie GRANBERG  
Producer : Shmuel JUNGER  
Production Company : Pop-up Film Limited

### 4. HAF Documentary Award (Non-Hong Kong Project)

#### Waiting for Winter

Bangladesh

Director : Farid AHMAD  
Producer : Salma SONIA  
Production Company : Noyakar Productions

### 5. WIP Fiction Award

#### White Building

Cambodia, France

Director : Kavich NEANG  
Producer : Davy CHOU, Marine ARRIGHI de CASANOVA  
Production Company : Anti-Archive, Apsara Films

### 6. WIP Documentary Award

#### I, Poppy

India

Director : Vivek CHAUDHARY  
Producer : Vivek CHAUDHARY  
Production Company : Unek Films

## 7. Cinerent Award

<b>Song of Spring</b>	<b>China</b>
Director : YANG Lina Producer : LIAO Ching-Sung Production Company : Moon Bear Culture Creative Studio	

## 8. Udine Focus Asia Award

<b>The River Knows Our Names</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>
Director : Mai Huyen CHI Producer : Bui Tran Thanh PHONG Production Company : K'Noy Films	

## 9. White Light Post-Production Award (HAF Project)

<b>Happy Journey and Last Will</b>	<b>China</b>
Director : DAI Xiaolu Producer : HE Bin Production Company : Ngorongoro Pictures (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	

## 10. White Light Post-Production Award (WIP Project)

<b>The Neo-New Adventures</b>	<b>China</b>
Director : QIU Jiongjiong Producer : QIU Jiongjiong, DING Ningyuan Production Company : Heaven Pictures Hong Kong Culture & Media Co., Ltd., Uluka Productions	

## “HAF Goes to Cannes” Shortlisted Projects

<b>(i) The Borderlands</b>	<b>India</b>
Director : Samarth MAHAJAN Producer : Sunil DOSHI, Ashay GANGWAR Production Company : All Things Small	

<b>(ii) Born to Be Second</b>	<b>China</b>
Director : FAN Jian Producer : Richard LIANG, S. Leo CHIANG Production Company : FAN Film Studio	

<b>(iii) Dear Immigrants: How Was Your First Meal?</b>	<b>Hong Kong</b>
Director : WONG Fei-pang Producer : Diana CHEUNG Production Company : Tonikaku Pictures Limited	

**(iv) Olympic Halftime**

**Czech Republic, Greece, Slovak Republic**

Director : Haruna HONCOOP  
Producer : Vít JANEČEK  
Production Company : D1film

**(v) Ningdu**

**Hong Kong, The Netherlands, USA**

Director : LEI Lei  
Producer : Isabelle GLACHANT, LEI Lei  
Production Company : Chinese Shadows