

The 23rd ifva Awards Presentation Ceremony

Presented by the Hong Kong Art Centre, fully supported by Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the 23rd ifva Award Presentation Ceremony was held at the Hong Kong Arts Centre Cinema on 17 March 2018. While results for Media Art Category was announced earlier at the opening ceremony of “Cinema 2.0: Dark Mirrors” on 6 March, the 17 awards for Open Category, Youth Category, Animation Category and Asian New Force Category were all announced on 17 March. Honourable guests attending the event included Adam Wong (HKFA Best New Director), Tom Lin (Golden Horse Award-winning director/ scriptwriter), Lo Che-ying (veteran animator and animation critic), Chan Hing-kai (well-known writer, scriptwriter and director), Anthony Fung (Professor at CUHK School of Journalism and Communication), Adrian Chow (independent music producer; Council Member of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Chairman of its Music Group) and many more.

To allow more audiences to witness the ceremony, a live broadcasting of the ceremony was available online via ifva Facebook Fan-page.

Director Adam Wong has joined the ifva Awards jury panel for 9 consecutive years. Speaking as a juror for the Youth Category, he believed that ifva in recent years have received works of pretty high standards, however lacking works that are more advanced, breaking conventions and “bold”. On the other hand, he is now more attracted to Hollywood films with themes and styles that he did not find so interesting in the past. He felt that popular culture such as films can be very influential to the society in countries and locations that cherish freedom of creation. Although sometimes these creative works could as well be superficial and shallow, they are valuable as they were created with free will and audiences can also appreciate or criticize them freely. He advised that creators and young people should actively study and learn from films of different genres and styles, strive hard with persistence to make the best of freedom of creation which we still get to enjoy.

First-time ifva juror Anthony Fung agreed with director Adam Wong’s view about cherishing freedom of creation. He was very impressed by the exceptional quality of the works by secondary school students. He said, despite whether they would win an award or not, the finalists should still be proud of themselves for coming that far. Taiwanese director and scriptwriter Tom Lin also shared his views before he announced the winner of “Special Mention” in the Asia New Force Category. Lin believed that young creators of every era would be able to find their voice and its power. He did not believe in “Quality of each generation is worse than the last.” He encouraged young people to be daring to make a voice.

Veteran animator Lo Che-ying believed that the theme is the most important element of a production regardless of whether it is a feature film, a documentary or an animation. What the creator has chosen to express or review in his work is likely to make or break the production. Animations are undoubtedly the type of productions that works best with the most out-of-the-box themes. However, if an outstanding storyboard is formed and

enhanced with matching artwork and colour tones, animations can also portray some serious, realistic and touching topics.

Adrian Chow was an ifva juror for several editions for the Youth Category and this was the first time he has joined the panel for the Open Category. He revealed he used to focus more on the makers' techniques, potential and how well the works are conveying the spirit of independent filmmaking. While works in the Open Category are of very high quality and neck-to-neck with one another, this time he focused more on whether the works can reflect the environment and condition of independent filmmaking in Hong Kong.

The 23rd ifva Festival does not end with the ifva Awards Presentation Ceremony. Other upcoming events include "So Far, So Close: Screening and Sharing by Tom Lin", "NEW ACTION EXPRESS Short Film Highlight" and "CINEMA 2.0: Dark Mirrors" cum The 23rd ifva Awards – Media Art Category Finalist Exhibition.

List of winners at the 23rd ifva Awards Winners:

Open Category

Gold Award	"Even Ants Strive For Survival" – Ren Xia
Silver Award	"Piled Cloud" – Wong Cheuk-man
Special Mention	"Call Me Mrs Chan" – Chan Hau-chun, Chui Chi-yin "Monkey Business" – Wong Hoi-yin, Suen Hui-hung, Wong Chung-yun, Wong Ka-man, Chan Hoi-yu

Youth Category

Gold Award	"Mon" – Tiffany Ng
Silver Award	"RED" – Yiu King-hei
Special Mention	"Hokkien Dialect" O Lam-lam "An Exam Result Decides My Fate?" – Tsang Kin-wong "The Number You Have Tried to Reach is Now Busy" – Lam Cheuk-him

Animation Category

Gold Award	"Losing Sight of a Longed Place" – Wong Tsz-ying, Shek Ka-chun, Wong Chun-long / Hong Kong
Silver Award	"Museum" – Lee Pak-yea Aggie / Hong Kong
Special Mention	"Stories About Him" – Yang Yung-shiuan / Taiwan
Excellence Award	"Passing Rain" – Yeung Hey-chiu / Hong Kong

Asian New Force Category

Gold Award	"Tshweesh" – Feyrouz Serhal (Lebanon)
Silver Award	"One More Experiment" – Sergey Vlasov (Russia)
Special Mention	"Death of the Sound Man" – Sorayos Prapapan (Thailand) "Gray Umbrella" – Mohammad Poustindouz (Iran)

Media Art Category

Gold Award "hardworking circuit #1.3" – Wong Chun-hoi / Hong Kong

Silver Award "Apart and/or Together" – Teppei Yamada / Japan

Special Mention "Undermine" – Wong Chi-chuen / Hong Kong

Excellence Award "Victoria East" – Law Yuk-mui / Hong Kong