

Hong Kong's "Love in the Valley of Daughters", "Still Human" Credited at HAF 2018

The 16th Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) has come to an amazing close on 21st March. A total of 11 awards were presented this year to film projects with great potential to allow talented, promising filmmakers to realize their visions.

HAF is a leading international event in the Asian film market. The three-day event attracted leading film financiers, producers, distributors and industry people across the world, connecting them with talented filmmakers through business meetings and various pitching sessions and networking events in hope of bringing forth collaboration opportunities. Work-in-Progress Lab (WIP Lab) is again organized this year to facilitate projects already in production to secure post-production funds, sales agents and film festival support through. HAF is again in collaboration with Marché du Film of Festival de Cannes this year to present "HAF Goes to Cannes", a programme which will offer screening opportunities and global exposure at the Cannes festival market in May for filmmakers and film projects seeking potential distribution partners and festival screenings. "Still Human" and "Love in the Valley of Daughters", a feature film and a documentary respectively from Hong Kong, won several awards at HAF 2018 and nicely displayed the creativity and vibrancy by emerging Hong Kong filmmakers.

Throughout the years, HAF has been actively promoting the development of Asian film productions and helped elevating many HAF projects to global success. Not only are there talented new directors, veteran filmmakers and artistes are also making directorial debut and bringing surprises. Shortlisted projects touch on controversial topics such as gender, family, suicides to study social injustice in society. The 11 awards presented this year amounted to approximately HKD 1,400,000 (approx. USD 180,000) in cash and value in-kind, providing the opportunities for outstanding projects to actually get produced.

HAF Awards (Presented by CreateHK, Hong Kong Film Development Fund and the Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum):

Two HAF Awards are presented each year, one to a project from Hong Kong and one to a project from outside of Hong Kong. The Project Reading Committee will select the winning projects based on their originality and creativity. "Love in the Valley of Daughters" (*Hong Kong*) and "Saving One Who was Dead" (*Czech Republic*) are the winners this year and were each awarded a cash price of HKD 150,000 (approx.. USD 19,200).

mm2 Award (Presented by mm2 Asia Limited):

"Still Human" (*Hong Kong*) was honoured with the mm2 Award which aims to encourage Chinese-language film projects that exhibit good commercial and artistic quality. The project received a cash award of HKD 100,000 (approx. USD 12,800).

Wanda WIP Lab Award (Presented by Wanda Pictures):

All WIP Lab Projects are eligible to compete for the Wanda WIP Lab Award with winner selected by the representatives of Wanda Pictures. The cash award of HKD 100,000 (approx. USD 12,800) was awarded to “From Black and White to Shades of Grey” (*China*) to support its post-production.

Wouter Barendrecht Award (Presented by Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation, CreateHK and Hong Kong Film Development Fund):

Dedicated to the memory of the late Wouter Barendrecht, the renowned film producer and one of the founders of HAF, the Wouter Barendrecht Award went to “Let Me Rest in Peace” (*Japan*) with a cash award of HKD 50,000 (approx. USD 6,400). The Award recognizes a project by a director aged under 35 and has made no more than three feature films.

Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award (Presented by Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival):

The Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award was given to “IMAH (working title)” (*Indonesia, France*) with an invitation and sponsored hospitality of value USD 2,700 (approx. HKD 21,000) for the project to participate in Network of Asian Fantastic Films 2018 project market.

Wutianming Post-Production Award (Presented by China Film Foundation-Wutianming Fund for Young Talents):

The Wutianming Post-Production Award aims to encourage and support young film talents. “Stonewalling” (*China*) was offered an in-kind award of RMB 300,000 (approx. HKD 365,000) by Shanghai Leading Digital Post as post-production support for the project.

White Light Post-Production Award (Presented by White Light Studio):

White Light Studio is designed to promote cinematic innovation and encourage promising Asian directors. The two in-kind awards went to HAF project “Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash” (*Indonesia*) and WIP Lab project “Mosaic Portrait” (*China*). Each project is offered post-production services valued at USD 15,000 (approx. HKD 117,300) at White Light Studio in Bangkok, Thailand.

G2D Post Production Award (Presented by G2D):

G2D sponsors two in-kind awards, one selected from HAF and the other selected from WIP Lab. Winning projects “The Big Picture” (*South Korea*) from HAF and “AGANAI – The Atonement” (*Japan*) from WIP Lab will each be sponsored USD 15,000 (approx. HKD 117,300) towards a post-production package for a film including its foley, sound design, dialogue editing, background sound design and sound-mixing.

HAF Goes to Cannes (Presented by Nicefilm):

“HAF Goes to Cannes” presents opportunities for filmmakers seeking sales agents, distributors and film festivals organizers to collaborate with. Beijing Nicefilm Technology Co. Ltd., a TV and film production company in China, will provide a traveling subsidy amounted HKD 100,000 to the 5 projects selected for “HAF Goes to Cannes”, which include “The Man Who Surprised Everyone”

(Russia, France, Estonia), "The Pencil" (Russia), "Sister" (Bulgaria), "The Sorcerer" (Panama) and "Still Human" (Hong Kong).

Mr. Jacob WONG, Curator of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and Director of the HAF said, "Thanks to the support from the fellow filmmakers and partners across the world, the 16th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum was a great success. Many shortlisted and award-winning projects were highly anticipating. Looking ahead, HAF will be well prepared for new challenges, and even more actively engaged and involved in promoting the development of film art in Hong Kong and across Asia. We will continue to seek out and provide new opportunities for filmmakers in the region and strive to provide sufficient resources and unprecedented opportunities for the next generation talented filmmakers to grow and shine in the international film market."