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National Youth Film Awards 2019 Winners On A Search For Identity

24 emerging youth filmmakers honoured for their creativity and finesse

SINGAPORE, 31 AUGUST 2019 – The [National Youth Film Awards \(NYFA\)](#), jointly organised by *SCAPE and the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) today announced the 2019 line-up of winners in a ceremony held at *SCAPE’s The Ground Theatre. The award-winning films all had in common a search for identity, an exploration that encompassed both personal and national identity.

This year, 38 nominees were shortlisted from the 446 submissions received by a judging panel that included industry stalwarts such as famed Malaysian actress-turned-director Sharifah Amani, and new jury member Looi Wan Ping, Cinematographer, who also worked as Associate Producer on feature film “Revenge Of The Pontianak”, now showing in theatres. A total of 15 winning films were then selected across the Media Student and Open Youth categories.

“Each year, our winners never fail to impress with their deft use of film techniques to tell compelling stories, most of which revolved around finding and accepting ourselves.” says Goh Kok Wee, Executive Director at *SCAPE. “NYFA hopes it will continue to be *the* stage for these young, emerging filmmakers to tell their stories of today’s youth.”

Media Student Winners

With continued participation of students from across institutes of higher learning in Singapore, NYFA is widely acknowledged as a distinguished platform that recognises the raw talent of media students and helps launch their film aspirations.

Li Kayue, an NTU undergraduate, was awarded Best Live Action for “Foul Ball”, a film that powerfully depicts the value of resilience, showcasing this year’s theme the enduring spirit of youth.

LASALLE College of the Arts also took home huge winnings with Best Documentary going to Mei Fong Lin, for “Pigeonhole”, a documentary centred around the intersecting lives of two seniors citizens. LASALLE also clinched the Best Sound Design with horror film “Farah”, in which a tragedy that divides the family leads to terrifying consequences, and Best Art Direction with animation “To Be Apart” that follows the humourous exploits of a pigeon as he attempts to find a home with a flock of mynahs.



Best Animation was awarded to “Balance” by NTU undergraduate Raymond Limantara Sutisna for its use of masterful animation techniques that elevated its modest storyline.

Outstanding Open Youth Talent Shines Through

NYFA’s continuous commitment towards supporting and recognising young filmmaking talent beyond schools is demonstrated through its second run of the Open Youth category. Four short films stood out, as they reflect Singapore’s young film practitioners’ commitment towards challenging themselves on all aspects of filmmaking and consistently honing their craft.

Kris Ong’s “You Idiot” emerged as the biggest Open Youth winner of the night, with Best Editing, Best Cinematography and Best Original Music. Best Live Action and Best Director were awarded to Leon Cheo for his film “SIN-SFO”, while “Trespass: Stories from Singapore’s Thieves Market”, took home the Best Documentary and Best Sound Design awards. Returning NYFA participant Jerrold Chong scored Best Animation and Best Art Direction with ambitious sci-fi animation “Automatonomy”, making him NYFA’s Best Animation winner for two years running.

Earning a Special Mention and Best Screenplay in the Open Youth category is Alvin Lee’s “A Time for Us”, with their all-rounded excellence in art direction, cinematography and screenplay,

The list of Media Student winners may be found in Appendix A, with Open Youth winners in Appendix B, and Best Actor and Actress awards in Appendix C.

A slate of past winning films is now available for viewing on HOOQ, a video on-demand streaming service. Many of these carefully curated films were made by first-time filmmakers from Temasek Poly, Ngee Ann Poly, LASALLE, and NTU. A list of these films and their schedule can be found in Appendix D.

***SCAPE Mentorship Pilot**

As part of *SCAPE’s commitment to nurture youth talents, NYFA will be launching a mentorship pilot to offer past participants and interested youths an opportunity to learn and hone their craft with the industry’s veteran filmmakers. Experienced filmmakers such as Boris Boo, M. Raihan Halim, Juan Foo, Nicole Midori Woodford, Yahssir M., Jeremy Chua, and Andrew Ngin are among the filmmaker-mentors set to nurture and guide these youths in producing their next short film.

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About National Youth Film Awards

Since its inception in 2015, NYFA has been cultivating a community of likeminded media enthusiasts and is the connecting point for youths to network and collaborate. Through NYFA, some of our alumni have been commissioned for various video campaigns by corporate and industry partners such as Adobe, PAVE and SONY.

Together with industry partners, veterans, and institutes of higher learning, the NYFA programme is designed to spark deeper conversations amongst likeminded individuals and hone their crafts in filmmaking. NYFA supports artistic works from both aspiring and professional filmmakers and is committed to nurture the aspiration, vision, and creative spirit of these youths.

About Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF)

Founded in 1987, the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) is the largest and longest running film event in Singapore. It has become an iconic event in the local arts calendar that is widely attended by international film critics; and known for its dynamic programming and focus on ground-breaking Asian cinema for Singapore and the region. Committed to nurturing and championing local and regional talent, its competition component, the Silver Screen Awards, brings together emerging filmmakers from Asia and Southeast Asia while paying tribute to acclaimed cinema legends.

With its mentorship programmes, masterclasses and dialogues with attending filmmakers, the Festival also serves as a catalyst for igniting public interest, artistic dialogue, and cultural exchanges in the art of filmmaking. The SGIFF is organized by the Singapore International Film Festival Ltd, a non-profit organization with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status.

For more information, please visit www.sgiff.com. Follow us on Instagram @SGIFFest and on Facebook @sginternationalfilmfestival.

About *SCAPE

*SCAPE Co. Ltd is a non-profit organization with its mission and vision rooted in support of youth, talent and leadership development and exists to serve and support youths to live their dreams and realize their full potentials. It offers a holistic



network of programmes, communities, partners and facilities for youths to explore, create and strive.

About NYC

NYC believes in a world where young people are respected and heard, and have the ability to influence and make a difference to the world. Together with their partners, they develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

APPENDIX A: List of Winning Films – Media Student Category

MEDIA STUDENT CATEGORY				
FILM	INSTITUTE	SYNOPSIS	AWARD(S) WON:	NAME(S) OF WINNER(S):
<p><i>Foul Ball</i></p> <p>Directed by: Kayue Li</p> <p>Produced by: Nelía Phoon</p>	<p>Nanyang Technological University</p>	<p>A determined boy attempts numerous rounds of base-running at a baseball pitch, striving for his desired timing.</p> <p>Despite his progressive improvement, different obstacles came his way - the weather, an injury, and his fatigue. Finally, his watch malfunctions and he was left in a hopeless disposition, where the purpose of his pursuit was questioned.</p> <p>He takes a moment to ponder and soak in his circumstance. Floating beyond control, he can only let go and let nature take its course.</p>	<p>Best Live Action</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>Pigeonhole</i></p> <p>Directed by: Mei Fong Lim</p> <p>Produced by: Chiam Shu Yun</p>	<p>LASALLE College of the Arts</p>	<p>Mdm Chua and Ah Hong live together in a one-room rental flat. Despite getting along well initially, their relationship turns sour when Mdm Chua confronted Ah Hong one night as she assumed that Ah Hong has meddled with the television. As the pair becomes more open about the issues they have with each other behind the other's back, Ah Hong eventually finds another flat to move into with the help of a cleaner, leaving Mdm Chua alone in the end.</p>	<p>Best Documentary</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p><i>Balance</i></p> <p>Directed by: Raymond Limantara</p> <p>Produced by: Nanyang Technological University, School of Arts, Design and Media</p>	<p>Nanyang Technological University</p>	<p>Balance is a 2D animated short film about a boy and a girl fighting for painting space. Both refusing to give in until the mess they create goes out of control. They then realise the only way out is to work together and strive for coexistence.</p>	<p>Best Animation</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>Progress</i></p> <p>Directed by: Alistair Quak</p> <p>Produced by: Tan Jia Min</p>	<p>Nanyang Technological University</p>	<p>Far into the future, in a dystopic, totalitarian state, we follow a regular day in the life of Sergeant Major Lam, as he oversees his troops on a mission to take down a rebel building. However, as the film unravels he is forced to come to terms with himself, as we explore the true extents of his relationship between work life and family...</p> <p>Oh and also, a heck of a lot of intense violent action.</p>	<p>Special Mention</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>Adam</i></p> <p>Directed by: Junxian Shoki Lin</p> <p>Produced by: Wan Murni</p>	<p>Nanyang Technological University</p>	<p>Tired of his turbulent family life and caught between identities, Adam seeks out an alternative arrangement in hopes of finding his place.</p>	<p>Best Director Best Screenplay</p> <p>Best Cinematography</p>	<p>Junxian Shoki Lin</p> <p>Ibrahim Zubir</p>



<p><i>Bodhi 菩提</i></p> <p>Directed by: Png Zhen Yu</p> <p>Produced by: Liu Zhang Teng</p>	<p>Nanyang Technological University</p>	<p>The film follows a single mum, Li Ping, who is affected by her Son, Jun Hao's decision to ordain as a monk. When reality kicks in the day before her son's ordination, Li Ping's fear for loneliness becomes prominent as her son prepares to embark on a new journey as a monastic. She begins to cast doubts on her faith and struggles to choose between her faith and her only son.</p>	<p>Best Original Music</p>	<p>Sulwyn Lok</p>
<p><i>Farah</i></p> <p>Directed by: Pavithran Nathan</p> <p>Produced by: Fong Sue May</p>	<p>LASALLE College of the Arts</p>	<p>A semi-retired seamstress attempts to mend the relationship with her daughter when strange phenomena starts to occur in her house.</p>	<p>Best Sound Design</p>	<p>Muhammad Syamim Ameen</p>
<p><i>Live is Live</i></p> <p>Directed by: Keziah Wei</p> <p>Produced by: Foo Jia Lin</p>	<p>Nanyang Technological University</p>	<p>Life is Live follows the journey of a live-streaming celebrity in China, Danny, whose life is built on today's digital entertainment culture of instantaneous user-generated content. We dive deeper into his relationship with his fan, uncovering the impact of technological advancements on human interactions in this new age.</p>	<p>Best Editing</p>	<p>Keziah Wei & Matilda Chia</p>
<p><i>To Be Apart</i></p> <p>Directed by: Jamie Goh</p>	<p>LASALLE College of the Arts</p>	<p>A pigeon tries to fit in with a community of Mynahs.</p>	<p>Best Art Direction</p>	<p>Zhen Ying Jie</p>



Produced by: Goh Ying Qi Jamie Jeraldine Ong Zhen Jing Jie				
Nanyang Technological University			Best Overall School	

APPENDIX B: List of Winning Films – Open Youth

OPEN YOUTH CATEGORY			
FILM	SYNOPSIS	AWARD(S) WON:	NAME(S) OF WINNER(S):
<p><i>SIN-SFO</i></p> <p>Directed by: Leon Cheo</p> <p>Produced by: Leon Cheo Bill Gardner</p>	<p>As they drive to San Francisco, married couple Angie and Danny debate a decision which will change their lives forever.</p>	<p>Best Live Action</p> <p>Best Director</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Leon Cheo</p>
<p><i>Trespass: Stories from Singapore's Thieves Market</i></p> <p>Directed and Produced by: Ong Kah Jing</p>	<p>In 2017, the infamous Sungei Road Thieves Market, which predates the founding of Singapore by over 30 years, was forced to close and make way for the future. Its impending closure ignited dialogues about the value of heritage, heart for the disenfranchised, and sentimentality for history.</p> <p>In documenting its final days, this documentary also serves as a one-of-a-kind time capsule for future generations to experience the sun-baked streets of the Thieves Market, its characters and items galore.</p>	<p>Best Documentary</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>Automatonomy</i></p> <p>Directed by: Jerrold Chong</p>	<p>In a dystopian sci-fi society amidst social unrest between Humans and Automatons, an orphan rescues an injured girl from the rumble of violence. As they hide out together in a bunker-like room, their burgeoning friendship gets</p>	<p>Best Animation</p> <p>Best Art Direction</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Yanyun Chen</p>



<p>Produced by: Andre Quek</p>	<p>tested as external forces threaten to fracture how one sees the Other.</p>		
<p>萍水相逢 A Time For Us</p> <p>Directed by: Alvin Lee</p> <p>Produced by: Han Xue</p>	<p>A pregnant woman from the countryside travels to Beijing to purchase a Beijing Hukou (Residency Permit) for her unborn child through the black market. There, she was arranged into a sham marriage with a man who can't express himself vocally.</p>	<p>Special Mention</p> <p>Best Screenplay</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>You Idiot</p> <p>Directed and Produced by: Kris Ong</p>	<p>'You Idiot' follows Darren and Matt, two Singaporean teenagers at a crossroads of their life. On a night spent wandering around the city-state, the pair write a song about what is to come in their happy-go-lucky world. 'You Idiot' is an observation of a gentle and playful friendship between two young men, set against the backdrop of a relentlessly developing country that demands more from them than they can give.</p>	<p>Best Editing</p> <p>Best Cinematography</p> <p>Best Original Music</p>	<p>Malcolm Chen</p> <p>Lincoln Yeo</p> <p>Darren Cheng & Adam Jared Lee</p>



APPENDIX C – List of Best Actor and Actress Awards

Award	Film Title and Director	Winner
Best Actor	<i>Adam</i> by Junxian Shoki Lin	Ayden Liow Jiaxian
Best Actress	<i>A Spectacular Sight</i> by Rifyal Giffari	Yuslina Binte Muhamad Yusof

APPENDIX D – List of NYFA winning films on HOOQ

Currently streaming on HOOQ

- November (2015)
- Osmosis of Dad & The Love For Bubble T (2015)
- 0:00 (2016)
- Blast (2016)
- 有刺客 You Ci Ke (2016)
- Part & Parcel (2016)
- Galanthus (2017)
- Baozha! (2017)
- The Conservation Conversation (2017)
- I Wanna Be Where You Are (2018)
- Red Bean Soup (2018)
- Big Top Dreams (2018)

Upcoming NYFA-winning films on HOOQ

- Little Maud (2015)
- Chasing Tomorrow (2015)
- Princess (2015)
- 外界 Graduation (2015)
- Coldsteam (2016)
- Don't Die Without Me (2016)
- Soul 37 (2016)
- A Day's Reunion 圓 (2017)
- WARD 77 (2017)
- Kalli (2018)
- Breakdown (2018)
- Buying Back Grace (2018)
- CA\$H (2018)
- Sylvia (2018)