

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***SCAPE and Cartoons Underground Team Up to Celebrate Animation Internationally with Five-day 360° Interactive, Immersive, Online Festival Experience**

- *Donation-funded showcase for animated movies from Singapore, ASEAN and beyond available exclusively only for five days.*
- *Amazing line up of the best of 17 films, National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) animation showcase, animation workshop lab and Q&A sessions with the directors.*

Singapore, 2 December 2020 - *SCAPE Co. Ltd, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting youths, announced that it is the official programme partner of Cartoons Underground, Singapore's very own, and Southeast Asia's largest, festival of animation. The event has ditched traditional venues for a special online interactive 360° festival environment with a real Singaporean Heartland vibe.

It has been created by CG lead Enrique Caballero and independent illustrator, Lee Xin Li (Pok Pok & Away). Festival goers will be able to explore a virtual world filled with films, behind the scenes footage, Q&A with directors and an artist market supporting Singaporean small businesses all hosted on the website, www.cartoonsunderground.com.

The festival, which expands this year from a single evening to run across five days from Wednesday 9th to Sunday 13th December, will feature 150 minutes of animated short films as well as Q&A sessions with the directors and a conversation between Hollywood director, Kyle Balda (Director of the Minions & Despicable Me 2 & 3) and prolific award-winning short film director, Patrick Smith (Director of MTV Daria, Oscar Member).

This year, 17 works were selected from 1,321 entries submitted from 88 different countries. Films from Europe and America will make its premier this year. In the spotlight are three programmes of shorts from Singapore, and another from across Asia, as well as CU's established international programme. The Singapore programme will highlight the work of Singapore's up and coming young animators and this year will be the first that Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts has taken part with the entry 'Watermelon Please' by Lim Jia Ying.

Among the local films competing against international directors for the Golden Durian Awards for Best Animation, Best SG Student Animation, Audience Choice and Special Mention awards are 'foto time' by Renne Chua and 'It grows on you' by Mok Yui Peng, both of which use simple and effective stories to tap into people's common experiences. Another hot entry is 'Women in Rage' from two of the Singapore's most celebrated young fine artists, Chen Yanyun and Sara Chong.

"As a youth-centric organisation, *SCAPE is proud to be a programme partner of Cartoons Underground," said Shawn Wong, Deputy Executive Director of *SCAPE Co. Ltd. "This festival provides opportunities for our young animators to showcase their animation internationally as well as encourages creative potential of our youths to drive progress, despite the pandemic. It is also a platform for youths to get inspired by other international films and to kick start their career in the animation industry. *SCAPE will continue to support our young animation filmmakers as they sharpen their skills to reach their full potential."

With new graduates being particularly hard hit by Covid-19, Cartoons Underground is bringing the focus back home to support Singapore's future stars of animation with a partnership with *SCAPE and LASALLE University. The festival has included an extra film programme spotlighting the best of National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) animation, as well as a two day animation workshop (Animated Visions: Story Development Lab) where shortlisted teams will get a masterclass in storyboarding and pitching with award-winning local directors, Jerrold Chong (FindingPictures), Zhuang Brothers and American award-winning director, Sean Buckelew.

"It's part of the ethos of the festival to give back to the community that helped create it," said Cartoons Underground co-founder Vicky Chen. "Animation is an important part of Singapore's future. It creates good jobs, contributes to the economy and it lets us tell our stories to the world."

"The Virtual World and recreation of Singapore's HDB suburbs is something unique and will give people the chance to go on a treasure map hunt to discover art and animation Easter eggs! All the content will be available for the five days of the festival, just donate what you can. Then next year we can all get together in person and put the pandemic behind us with even more awesome cartoons!"

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ABOUT THE EVENT

www.cartoonsunderground.com

Cartoons Underground is Southeast Asia's leading showcase for new animation talent and Singapore's first and largest independent animation festival. Founded in 2012 by Patrick Smith and Vicky Chen, this year's festival features award-winning animation shorts by independent directors from Singapore and across Asia, Europe and N. America. The community driven festival first started as a kick-starter and has now grown to a community of over 1000 members both within the animation scene and beyond.

***SCAPE | Programme Partner of Cartoons Underground**

*SCAPE Co. Ltd is a non-profit organisation with its mission and vision rooted in support of youth, talent and leadership development. The organisation aims to facilitate youth-oriented programmes and support within various communities of youth interest in Singapore. The youth of today will be inspired and empowered to **DREAM IT AND LIVE IT at *SCAPE!**

*SCAPE exists to serve and support youths to live their dreams and realise their full potentials. As the integrated talent and resource hub for young people in Singapore, *SCAPE offers a holistic network of programmes, communities, partners and facilities for youths to explore, create and strive. No dream is too small, no dream is too big. *SCAPE wants youths to be inspired to come forward and share their interests, share their dreams. Through guidance and facilitation, *SCAPE wants to see their dreams turn into ideas, and ideas into reality. Living their dreams should no longer be a dream at *SCAPE.



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Lasalle College of The Arts, Puttnam School of Film and Animation | Education Partner

LASALLE College of the Arts Animation programme provides you with the necessary skills, knowledge, and learning opportunities for the conceptualisation, development, and production of animated short films. The programme is designed to provide an interdisciplinary learning environment that exceeds the art/technology divide and surpasses the limitations of mere technical skill sets. It provides you with a learning environment and experience to develop as well-rounded artists, equipped with specialised animation and broad-based creative skills.

The Programme is first and foremost concerned with the acquisition and application of knowledge through reflective artistic practice, and with the creation, development, and the constant evaluation and dialogue to develop successful ideas suitable for the production of animated movies.

Ultimately, it is the aim of the Programme to produce the future Leaders in Animation for the Creative Industries, equipped with the capability to be creative content decision makers, and the ability to create IP.

Mischief Makers | Production Consultant

Mischief Makers is a Singapore based collective of talented like-minded individuals who love pushing creative boundaries to help others realise breathtaking environments to have fun in. Drawing on decades of experience the team uses an intoxicating mix of art direction, custom stage design, lighting, visual mapping, lasers and live performance to craft remarkable festival, party and installation productions. Mischief Makers have long been active fans of the local scene and its core philosophy is to grow and promote home grown talent and to mix with the best from around the world.