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**INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING DIRECTORS TAKE NATIONAL  
YOUTH FILM AWARDS' (NYFA) YOUTHS UNDER THEIR WINGS**

- The new programme, organised by \*SCAPE, will see renowned filmmakers mentoring NYFA alumni members to produce short films amidst Covid-19

**SINGAPORE, 21 JANUARY 2021** – The National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) is celebrating National Mentoring Month this January with the introduction of its mentorship initiative - the Film Facilitation Fund programme. Organised by \*SCAPE, a non-profit organisation, and conceptualised by Huang Junxiang, NYFA 2020's Youth Inspiration Award winner, the programme will see five internationally renowned filmmakers mentoring five past year NYFA winners.

The mentors include Mike Wiluan, co-producer of 2019's hit Hollywood film *Crazy Rich Asians* and director of action film *Buffalo Boys* (2018), as well as Daniel Jeannette, the animation director of 2006 film *Happy Feet*. Each mentor-mentee pair will receive a budget of \$10,000 to produce a short film in a specific genre - action, drama, horror, animation, and comedy - that will be screened exclusively at the annual NYFA Conference come April 2021.

**A programme to nurture the next generation of filmmakers**

The film industry has been one of the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. As Singapore's only platform that is catered to youth filmmakers, NYFA remains that pillar of support for aspiring filmmakers to pursue their passion despite trying times.

Working closely with NYFA Youth Inspiration Award winner, Junxiang – producer of films such as Tan Bee Thiam's *Tiong Bahru Social Club* (2020), Mike Wiluan's *Buffalo Boys* (2018), and Eric Khoo's *Ramen Teh* (2018) – the Film Facilitation

Fund programme aims to connect youth filmmakers with industry veterans in a bid to foster their professional development through the sharing of real world experiences.

“The Film Facilitation Fund programme is an excellent initiative to groom the next generation of filmmaking talents, and I am delighted to be a part of it,” said Mike Wiluan. “2020 was a difficult year for the film industry, particularly for the young ones. It is encouraging to know that platforms such as NYFA continue to provide the needed guidance and resources, to enable youths to turn their dreams into reality.”

### **A line-up worthy of an Oscar**

Joining Mike Wiluan and Daniel Jeanette as mentors are:

- Amanda Nell Eu, director of award-winning short films which have screened in international festivals including Venice, Locarno and Clermont-Ferrand
- Jeremy Chua, Singaporean film producer who has co-produced international feature films by K. Rajagopal, Lav Diaz, Raya Martin and Ying Liang that have premiered in competition at Cannes Critics' Week, Berlinale and Locarno
- Sorayos Prapapan, director of award-winning short films which have screened in international festivals including Venice, Locarno and Clermont-Ferrand

Over the next three-months, mentees will discover new approaches to filmmaking over one-on-one meetings with their mentors. The mentors will guide the filmmakers from scripting to completion, imparting insights from their years of experience in the given genre.

Additional quotes from mentors can be found in Annex A.



The bios of the mentors and mentees can be found in Annex B and Annex C.

“To commemorate NYFA’s 7th anniversary this year, we are excited to introduce the Film Facilitation Fund programme to our youth filmmakers,” said Ivy Lim, Executive Director of \*SCAPE. “It is with great joy and satisfaction to kickstart an extension programme that will help our young filmmakers hone their skills and prepare them for the future.”

In the coming month, NYFA will also be calling for submissions the 7th edition of NYFA.

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**For media enquiries, please contact:**

ADK Connect for \*SCAPE

Rachelle Tan / Debbie Song

9011 0055 / 8360 9705

[scapepr@adk.com.sg](mailto:scapepr@adk.com.sg)

## About \*SCAPE

\*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.

 [enquiries@scape.sg](mailto:enquiries@scape.sg)  [scape.sg](http://scape.sg)       [@scapesg](https://www.instagram.com/scapesg) [#scapesg](https://www.facebook.com/scapesg)

## About National Youth Film Awards

Since its inception in 2015, the National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) serves as a community that connects youths with an interest in filmmaking. It aims to be the launching pad for emerging filmmakers into the industry. Through NYFA, our alumni have gone on to earn further accolades on other regional and international film awards & festivals, some of whom have also been commissioned for various video campaigns by corporate and industry partners. Beyond an award platform, NYFA is committed to nurture the aspiration, vision, and creative spirit of our youths.

Together with industry partners and institutes of higher learning, the NYFA programme is designed to spark deeper conversations amongst like-minded individuals and supports artistic works from both aspiring and professional filmmakers. To date, NYFA has supported more than 3,000 youths, and received over 1,800 short films across the Student and Open Youth categories.

**Annex A: Quote Sheet**

*I am happy to share all my experiences to those who seek to learn and develop their craft. It is especially pleasing when young people who are new to the industry seek out those more experienced and openly share their desires and dreams.*

*Most importantly is the humble understanding that no one gets anywhere fast in this business. The craft takes years and the journey has its ups and downs. I am encouraged to see the next generation of today not shy away from hard work and pushing the creative boundaries.*

- Mike Wiluan

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*I hope that filmmakers don't feel that a genre particularly limits you in terms of storytelling, and it can in fact do the opposite sometimes.*

*Also to be open to new ideas and ways of storytelling that you maybe are not particularly used to or feel comfortable with.*

- Amanda Nell Eu

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*The film industry is a very fertile ground for amazing narrative opportunities. While growing into this world – from school and through years of experience in the industry – it is obvious that the knowledge required to improve at what we do is a shared experience that lasts an entire career.*

*The improvements that we make as artists and filmmakers are not just based on personal abilities, but mostly are the result of hundreds of varied interactions with other members of the film community. Learning by doing, and the influence of senior peers that have been through these paths before, is the best way to expand a film vocabulary and strengthen the tools and skill sets.*

*Being able to share that knowledge with young filmmakers is a wonderful way to pay it forward, by giving back what has been received over the years. To share that knowledge to empower someone else to do better than you did is the best reward!*

- Daniel Jeannette

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*I am a firm believer that we need to support the new and upcoming filmmakers.*

*My approach as a mentor is to support the mentee's decisions; to support the mentee's content and hope the audience will remember this film as long as they can.*

- Sorayos Prapapan

*I feel that collaboration with my mentee on this programme has actually allowed me to reflect on my own practices and processes.*

*It reminds me about how spontaneity and being pushed off a cliff by someone unexpected is rare in filmmaking today. In many ways, I also learnt from my mentees, especially when I observe how they make decisions after I share my feedback.*

*I think young people nowadays are very supportive of each other. We have a desire to form communities and support each other upwards rather than build walls and ladders to compete. The spirit of this programme really has the idea of openness to talk and work collectively, which is why I am grateful to be invited.*

- Jeremy Chua

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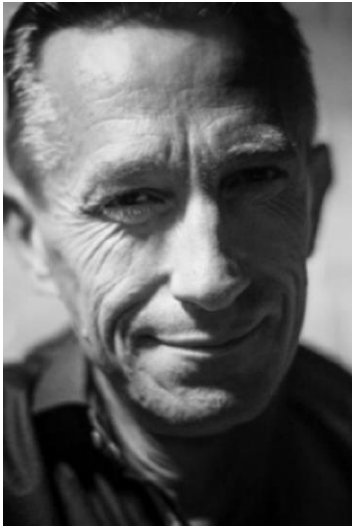

*We're a small country in Singapore and many filmmakers have worked hard to carve a career for themselves. I hope this programme can help youth filmmakers learn and understand the steps others have taken, to broaden their creative perspectives.*

*Ideally, with time, this will create a more diverse and sustainable filmmaking landscape in Singapore because we need more genre filmmakers.*

- Huang Junxiang


**Annex B: Mentors' Bios**

Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="204 860 379 891">Mike Wiluan</p>	<p data-bbox="587 353 1382 506">Mike Wiluan is the Chief Executive of Infinite Studios (Formerly Infinite Frameworks), a multi award winning media company well known for its production of films, television, visual effects and animation.</p> <p data-bbox="587 555 1382 913">With over 17 credits as a producer, some notable shows Mike has produced include <i>Sing to the Dawn (2008)</i> - South East Asia's first English animated feature, <i>My Magic (2008)</i>, <i>Be With Me (2005)</i> - both directed by Eric Khoo and were featured at the Cannes Film Festival, <i>881 (2007)</i> by Royston Tan - one of Singapore's highest grossing films of all time, and award-winning film <i>Crazy Rich Asians (2019)</i> - which was nominated for 2 Golden Globe Awards.</p> <p data-bbox="587 969 1382 1160">Having moved on to directing, writing, and showrunning, Mike released his directorial debut, a western-action film, <i>Buffalo Boys (2018)</i>, which was nominated for Palm Springs International Film Festival. He most recently created a series for HBO Asia titled <i>Grisse (2018)</i>.</p>
 <p data-bbox="204 1451 440 1482">Amanda Nell Eu</p>	<p data-bbox="587 1178 1382 1536">Amanda Nell Eu is a filmmaker based in the UK and Malaysia. Her short film <i>It's Easier to Raise Cattle (2017)</i> premiered in competition in the Venice Film Festival and continued to travel and win awards in many other festivals, including the Special Jury Mention in the International Short Film Festival Clermont Ferrand and was nominated for awards at festivals with the likes of Singapore International Film Festival and Regensburg Short Film Week.</p> <p data-bbox="587 1592 1382 1865">Amanda is an alumni of Berlinale Talents Campus and Locarno Filmmakers Academy. She is developing her first feature film <i>Tiger Stripes</i>, set in Malaysia. In her work, she likes to explore the female body and identity within the context of South East Asia. She is also drawn to Horror, naming the genre her first love for cinema. Some of her other works include <i>Pasak (2012)</i> and <i>Seesaw (2015)</i>.</p>



Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="205 862 454 891">Daniel Jeannette</p>	<p data-bbox="584 297 1388 533">Daniel Jeannette is an LA based Animation Director and Visual Effects Supervisor, known for his work on the Academy Award-winning animated film Happy Feet (2006), which won Best Animation Film at the Oscars. He also supervised the Visual Effects and Animation for well-known Spike Jonze film Where the Wild Things Are (2009).</p> <p data-bbox="584 580 1388 775">Having worked with top directors like Spike Jonze and Oscar award-winner George Miller, Daniel has been nominated for several awards with the likes of BAFTA, Gold Derby, OFTA and the Saturn Award at the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy &amp; Horror Films.</p> <p data-bbox="584 822 1388 1144">Experienced in Hollywood level visual effects and top-notch movie character animation, Daniel has been in the industry for 35 years with films with the likes of The Hunger Games (2012), Where the Wild Things Are (2009), Happy Feet (2006), The Mummy Returns (2001), The Mummy (1999), The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997), 101 Dalmatians (1996), Dragon Heart (1996), Jumanji (1995) and Casper (1995).</p>
 <p data-bbox="205 1668 470 1697">Sorayos Prapapan</p>	<p data-bbox="584 1153 1388 1388">Sorayos Prapapan is an independent filmmaker, sound technician and foley artist based in Bangkok. After completing his studies at the Film and Photography Thammasat University Thailand, he started working as a production assistant for the Palme D'or-winning film Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives (2010).</p> <p data-bbox="584 1435 1388 1798">He has directed many short films with the likes of Prelude of the Moving Zoo (2020), which made its world premiere at IFFR 2020, Death of a Sound Man (2017), Fat Boy Never Slim (2016), Auntie Ma'am Never Has Never Had a Passport (2014), Boonrerm (2013) and Noumena Scene (2013). His short films have won awards in his home country and were shown at many international film festivals including Rotterdam, Winterthur, Fribourg and Venice.</p> <p data-bbox="584 1845 1388 1957">In 2015, he received the prestigious Hubert Bals Script Development Fund for his feature debut, Arnold is a Model Student.</p>





Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="204 862 400 898">Jeremy Chua</p>	<p data-bbox="582 300 1367 656">Jeremy Chua is a Singaporean film producer and screenwriter based between Singapore and Paris. He started out as a film programming assistant at independent art space the Substation; as well as Cinémathèque at the National Museum of Singapore where he worked on the Edward Yang and Akira Kurosawa retrospectives. From 2011, he worked in the sales and distribution of experimental short films and video art at Lowave Paris.</p> <p data-bbox="582 707 1367 947">In 2014, he founded Potocol, a film company focused on development and co-production of independent Asian films. He wrote and co-produced his first film, <i>A Yellow Bird (2016)</i> by K. Rajagopal, which premiered at 55th Cannes Critics' Week. It was a project developed with EAVE <i>Ties That Bind</i>.</p> <p data-bbox="582 999 1367 1317">He subsequently collaborated with fellow EAVE alumnus Bianca Balbuena to produce <i>Brotherhood (2015)</i>, which premiered at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and <i>A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery</i>, which premiered at Berlin and Hong Kong International Film Festivals. In 2018, he released his fourth co-production <i>A Family Tour (2018)</i>, making its world premiere at Locarno.</p>

Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="209 689 440 723">Huang Junxiang</p>	<p data-bbox="587 300 1369 658">Junxiang enjoys a good comedy and is grateful to be able to pursue a career in filmmaking. His first short film, Give Yourself A Chance, won awards at the 2012 Very Short International Festival, whereas his second, I Will Die, was screened at the 2014 Singapore International Film Festival. Most recently, Piece of Meat, co-directed with Jerrold Chong, enjoyed its premiere at the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes and subsequently travelled to Annecy and Busan.</p> <p data-bbox="587 712 1369 1064">As a producer with Zhao Wei Films, JX has produced a number of feature films including In The Room (Toronto 2016), Apprentice (Un Certain Regard 2016), Ramen Teh (Berlin Culinary Cinema 2018), Buffalo Boys (Fantasia Film Festival 2018) and Tiong Bahru Social Club (2020) which was screened in Busan and the opening film of the Singapore International Film Festival. He has also served as producer for both HBO Asia anthology series Folklore (2018) and Food Lore (2019).</p>

**Annex C: Mentees' Bios**

Name	Bio
 <p>Alistair Quak <b>Mentor:</b> Mike Wiluan</p>	<p>Alistair is a film director whose work spans an array of genres. With years in the film industry, he strives to push the boundaries of storytelling with his visceral cinematic style to deliver the best experience for his audiences and clients.</p> <p>His works have been featured at Cannes Film Festival, National Youth Film Awards, amongst other festivals. This year he was selected for the HOOQ Filmmakers Guild — 2020 amongst thousands of entries from Southeast Asia to develop “PROGRESS”; an action, sci-fi web pilot. He has also directed an episode of the award winning Vidsee Original web-series, “Queen of Hearts”.</p> <p>He is also the recipient of the IMDA Feature Film Script Development Grant, and has a track record of awards for his short films since 2012. Alistair is a graduate of Nanyang Technological University, with a BA (Hons) in Digital Filmmaking.</p>
 <p>Tan Siyou <b>Mentor:</b> Amanda Nell Eu</p>	<p>Tan Siyou is a Singaporean filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Her most recent short film, HELLO AHMA, played in competition at the Toronto IFF and the Berlinale. She is an alumna of the American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women, Busan IFF's Asian Film Academy, and a current fellow at the Universal Directors' Initiative. She's working on her first feature, AMOEBA, which is in development at SEAFIC, and was awarded the Most Promising Project at the Southeast Asian Film Lab. She's a film graduate of Wesleyan University.</p>

Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="204 763 443 875">           Ang Qing Sheng  <b>Mentor:</b> Daniel            Jeannette         </p>	<p data-bbox="584 300 1377 824">           Ang Qing Sheng is currently a lecturer in the Animation programme at LASALLE College of the Arts Singapore. He holds a Masters of Arts in Arts Pedagogy and Practice from Goldsmith University (London). He has presented at various international conferences, including the Society for Animation Studies Conference in 2016 and 2017, Animation Public Engagement Symposium and the Center for Culture and Cultural Studies Conference in 2015. He has also presented locally at the Learning and Teaching Seminar 2017 in LASALLE. His publications include the peer-reviewed Animation Practice, Process &amp; Production Journal (Intellect) and the Animation Studies Journal (SAS).         </p> <p data-bbox="584 880 1377 1404">           As an independent animation filmmaker, he has received support from LASALLE, National Arts Council (Singapore) and IMDA SFC to produce animated short films. "5 Shades of Solitude" was produced for Utter 2015 as part of the Singapore Writer's Festival; "Lak Boh Ki", the world's first Hainanese animated short, has won the Audience Choice Award and Judges Special Prize at the International Digital Animation Festival NAGOYA, Excellent Award at Asiagraph 2016 in Tokyo as well as the Singapore Gold Award at 19th Digicon6 ASIA; "Kua Bo", a Hokkien-animated short film, won the Best Animation at the Singapore National Youth Film Awards 2020 and the Silver Award at the 22nd Digicon6 ASIA Singapore.         </p> <p data-bbox="584 1460 1377 1644">           He is also a winner of the CDL E-Generation Challenge 2019 which landed him on an Arctic Expedition with world-renowned explorer Robert Swan. He aspires to produce environmental films to inspire sustainable human-nature coexistence.         </p>

Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="204 786 437 898">Grace Song <b>Mentor:</b> Sorayos Prapapan</p>	<p data-bbox="587 304 1393 495">Grace Song is a Singaporean writer-director. Her recent works under the Creatives Commissioning Creatives residency titled 'Bat Soup' and 'Dirty Laundry' were shot during the lockdown in Singapore, garnering much media attention.</p> <p data-bbox="587 551 1393 864">Her short documentary 'Last Time I was an Actress' premiered in competition at the 2020 SeaShorts Film Festival. Selected amongst 5 other filmmakers, her latest work 'When I Talk to You' is a collaboration with the Singapore Lyric Opera for the SGUnited movement. Besides METADATA being her latest endeavour, she has been working on a commissioned short film for the LEAP! Programme called 'Nocturne'.</p>
 <p data-bbox="204 1424 520 1491">Li Kayue <b>Mentor:</b> Jeremy Chua</p>	<p data-bbox="587 954 1393 1021">Li Kayue is a filmmaker working towards DP but also with a deep interest in script and direction.</p> <p data-bbox="587 1077 1393 1267">Graduated from Nanyang Technological University in Filmmaking, Kayue is a director of photography who is heavily invested in the concept of his films, and seeks a distinct way of seeing. He strives for subtlety in his storytelling and effective visual communication.</p> <p data-bbox="587 1323 1393 1592">He was a consecutive recipient of the Best Picture award at the National Youth Film Awards (Singapore) for his films 'Bangla' (2018) and 'Foul Ball' (2019) - the first was also screened at the Tokyo Short Shorts Film Festival 2019. More recently, he shot 'Washed Off' (2020) which is a part of a secondary selection for HBO Asia's Invisible Stories series.</p>