

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO NATIONAL YOUTH FILM AWARDS (NYFA) CONFERENCE 2021 - STEPPING STONE TO BECOMING AN AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER**

- The annual NYFA Conference returns as a hybrid event
- \*SCAPE NYFA showcases its newest programme, the Film Facilitation Programme

**SINGAPORE, 16 APRIL 2021** - The National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) Conference is back again from 16 - 17 April 2021 for film enthusiasts.

Organised by \*SCAPE, an organisation that supports the development of Singaporean youths, this year's NYFA Conference is themed 'Pivots and Platforms: Short Films in a New Normal'. With a total of six tracks, the Conference will explore and discuss how filmmaking will evolve in a post-Covid world. Invited speakers will share insights into how filmmaking will transform in the new norm and how youths can be future-ready.

Below is the complete guide to what to look out for, and expect at this year's NYFA Conference.

#### **An exclusive first peak at NYFA Film Facilitation Programme shorts**

The Conference will kickstart on 16 April with a closed-door screening of five short films produced under NYFA's Film Facilitation Programme.

Conceptualised by Huang Junxiang, NYFA 2020's Youth Inspiration Award winner, the mentorship journey programme saw five veteran filmmakers mentoring five selected NYFA alumni to produce a short genre film each. The five genres were action, drama, horror, comedy and animation; with each genre mentored by internationally renowned filmmakers such as 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*.

What to look out for: Apart from the first exclusive look at the five short films, mentors and mentees will share about their experience working together over the last few months. There is also a special panel discussion with Huang Junxiang and the mentees who will share key takeaways from their mentors as well as why such programmes are a necessity for youth filmmakers today.

The short films will also be available for the public to view on The Projector Plus, starting 29 April 2021. For more details on the screening, please visit [theprojector.sg/\\$1](http://theprojector.sg/$1) for more details.

*\*The film titles, synopses and filmmakers' bios can be found in the Annex.*

### **A hybrid event with tracks for up-and-coming youth filmmakers**

This year's NYFA Conference 2021 will be hosted as a hybrid event where attendees can choose to watch from the comfort of their homes, or physically join in at \*SCAPE.

The five tracks will each focus on helping youth filmmakers prepare for the post-Covid world. Topics will range from how various film industry professionals and filmmakers can adapt in changing times to workshops on how filmmakers can market their films to catch attention in the age of digitalisation.

One key track is "Film, TV, Web: Is there a Difference Anymore?". This discussion will explore how these platforms are evolving as audience-viewing habits continue to change. Industry veterans and leaders will share how various film industry professionals and filmmakers can adapt to these shifts.

What to look out for: Due to Covid-19 and circuit breaker, NYFA 2020 was conducted fully online without workshops. This year, NYFA Conference will be hosting workshops at \*SCAPE again. One exciting (not to be missed) workshop is the "NYFA Conference: Short Film Clinic", where participating youths will have the chance to speak to veteran filmmakers about their ideas and gather feedback.

Also, be on the lookout to see NYFA alumni coming back as invited speakers to share about their journey thus far. They will be passing on their knowledge

on how to market films and create engaging content to help the next generation of filmmakers.

“As a young filmmaker, I have been going to many film events and conferences to expand my knowledge and network with the local film community. It is always interesting to hear their experiences and learn about their filmmaking journey,” said GurJeevaan, NYFA alumni and this year’s speaker. “Now, I am at the opposite end – sharing my experience as a panellist. It is mind-blowing to see how far I have come. I am grateful for this opportunity and hope to inspire fellow filmmakers on their own journey.

*\*Full session details and speakers’ information can be found in the programme sheet.*

**- END -**



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**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.

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### **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.

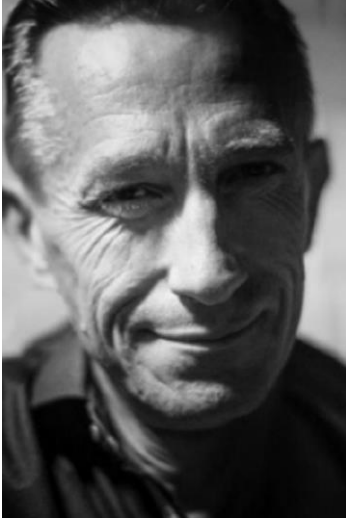

Together with industry partners and institutes of higher learning, the NYFA programme is designed to spark deeper conversations amongst like-minded individuals and supports artistic works from both aspiring and professional filmmakers. To date, NYFA has supported more than 3,000 youths, and received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



**Annex A: Mentors' Bios**



Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="209 931 379 965">Mike Wiluan</p>	<p data-bbox="587 427 1479 562">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="587 568 1479 846">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="587 853 1479 1025">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="209 1312 440 1346">Amanda Nell Eu</p>	<p data-bbox="587 1032 1479 1357">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 1364 1479 1644">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="204 882 472 913">Sorayos Prapapan</p>	<p data-bbox="587 374 1482 577">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 <i>Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives</i> (2010).</p> <p data-bbox="587 584 1482 869">He has directed many short films with the likes of <i>Prelude of the Moving Zoo</i> (2020), which made its world premiere at IFFR 2020, <i>Death of a Sound Man</i> (2017), <i>Fat Boy Never Slim</i> (2016), <i>Auntie Ma'am Never Has Never Had a Passport</i> (2014), <i>Boonrerm</i> (2013) and <i>Noumena Scene</i> (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="587 875 1482 972">In 2015, he received the prestigious Hubert Bals Script Development Fund for his feature debut, <i>Arnold is a Model Student</i>.</p>
 <p data-bbox="204 1543 403 1574">Jeremy Chua</p>	<p data-bbox="587 981 1482 1265">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="587 1272 1482 1644">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</i> (2016) by K. Rajagopal, which premiered at 55th Cannes Critics' Week. He subsequently collaborated with fellow EAVE alumnus Bianca Balbuena to produce <i>Brotherhood</i> (2015), 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</i> (2018), making its world premiere at Locarno.</p>


Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="209 936 456 965">Daniel Jeannette</p>	<p data-bbox="587 374 1482 580">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="587 589 1482 757">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="587 766 1482 1010">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="209 1411 440 1440">Huang Junxiang</p>	<p data-bbox="587 1019 1482 1299">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 1308 1482 1574">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 B: 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>Grace Song <b>Mentor:</b> Sorayos Prapapan</p>	<p>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. 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>Li Kayue <b>Mentor:</b> Jeremy Chua</p>	<p>Li Kayue is a filmmaker working towards DP but also with a deep interest in script and direction. 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. 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>

Name	Bio
 <p>Ang Qing Sheng <b>Mentor:</b> Daniel Jeannette</p>	<p>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>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>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>

### Annex C: Film Facilitation Programme Film Titles

Genre	Title	Synopsis	Filmmaker
Action	Henchmen	Set to the backdrop of an archetypal "action movie" (when a hitman seeks revenge on his former boss), we follow two henchmen, who try to avoid their inevitable fate, while waiting for their turn to "protect" their boss from the hitman.	Alistair Quak <b>Mentor:</b> Mike Wiluan
Horror	Strawberry Cheesecake	In Singapore, where even vapes are illegal, three rebellious schoolgirls are caught smoking by the principal. Their revenge prank takes a sinister turn.	Tan Siyou <b>Mentor:</b> Amanda Nell Eu
Comedy	Metadata	Erin, a burnout editor, escapes the clutches of an overbearing arthouse film director, finding freedom away from the confines of her boxed-in life.	Grace Song <b>Mentor:</b> Sorayos Prapapan
Drama	Bridget	On the night before his debut, Isa decides to open up to his parents about his long-hidden pursuit.	Li Kayue <b>Mentor:</b> Jeremy Chua
Animation	Traffic Light	At a traffic junction in Singapore, the Green Man refuses to show up. Various types of pedestrians appear - the law abiders, impatient jaywalkers, government critics and clueless playful children. Will they cross the road on red? Who would they blame for the fault?	Ang Qing Sheng <b>Mentor:</b> Daniel Jeannette