

MEDIA RELEASE

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**ANIMATION FILMS DOMINATE THE STUDENT CATEGORY AT
THE NATIONAL YOUTH FILM AWARDS (NYFA) 2021**

- NYFA 2020 Best Live Action Open Youth winner, Tan Si En, receives this year's Youth Inspiration Award

SINGAPORE, 24 July 2021 – For the first time since its inception, animation films and filmmakers from the student category received the most awards from Best Art Direction to Best Screenplay, Best Director and Best Original Music at the 7th National Youth Film Awards (NYFA)

Live action films, on the other hand, won the most awards from Best Sound Design to Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Director and Best Original Music for the Open Youth category.

Hosted by *SCAPE, an organisation that supports the development of Singaporean youths, NYFA awards youth filmmakers and films for 23 different categories, including Best Actress and Best Actor.

NYFA also presents its third Youth Inspiration Award recipient - an award given to recognise and honour a young industry professional who has made exemplary contributions towards the filmmaking industry in Singapore and is committed to nurturing the next generation of filmmakers.

Unconventional films take home NYFA 2021 titles

NYFA 2021 received over 300 submissions. The most prominent discussions and themes the youth filmmakers brought forth this year were self-identity and mental health. Some of the films were filmed completely while at home, taking creativity to the next level.

Animation short film, 'To Kill the Birds and The Bees', by Calleen Koh Yee Lin from LASALLE College of Arts won the Best Art Direction, Best Screenplay and Best Original Music awards.

The animation film follows three separate stories of four average Singaporeans – a pair of young twins, a secondary school prefect, and a conservative housewife. Each story focuses on these average Singaporeans' sexual encounters in their day.

The Best Animation award from the Student category went to 'Full Circle' by Yeow Su Xian of Nanyang Technological University. The film is about the Moon and Earth's relationship. It takes the audience on a journey through a sleepless, semi-conscious moonlit night.

From the Open Youth category, 'Dark Light' by Vikneshwaran Silva won the Best Cinematography and Best Director awards. The film follows a construction worker in Singapore's unforgettable misadventure on his day off in the red light district.

The youth actor who played the protagonist in 'Dark Light', Gosteloa Spancer, received the Best Actor award for his performance.

The full list of NYFA 2021 winners can be found in the annex.

Digitalisation and technology are paving the way for youth filmmakers

This year, a total of 21 industry veteran jurors from the region took part in NYFA.

"Having an empowered upbringing has nurtured savoir faire in these youths' art," said returning juror and producer, Juan Foo. "We can see how they are leveraging digital technology to craft films and spread them exponentially. I look forward to seeing how these upcoming filmmakers will tell stories that resonate with audiences, aside from being able to entertain, inform or inspire."

Film and television actor, and first-time juror, Oon Shu An said, "I look forward to seeing these youth filmmakers' fire and daring approach to storytelling well into the future. I am excited to see how far their voices will take them."

NYFA 2021 Youth Inspiration Award

The Youth Inspiration Award recipients are nominated and selected by the NYFA jury for a filmmaker who demonstrates artistic excellence and commitment manifested through a distinctive body of TV/film works.

The NYFA 2021 Youth Inspiration Award went to Tan Si En. Not only is she the winner for NYFA 2020 Best Live Action Award from the Open Youth category, she has also produced several award-winning films including Anthony Chen's 'Wet Season' and Kirsten Tan's 'POP AYE'. Her commitment to discover emerging Southeast Asian filmmakers led to her founding of Momo Film Co, which has since produced award-winning short film projects that have been screened at major festivals such as Locarno Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and Busan International Film Festival.

Most recently, she spearheaded the Objectifs short film incubator and Momo Distribution Grant. Si En was also involved at the NYFA Conference this year where she hosted a workshop on how youths can market their short films.

"The National Youth Film Awards has been a pivotal platform for young filmmakers in Singapore," said Si En. "The team inspires the film community, encourages filmmakers and future generations to pursue their passion in cinema. I am appreciative of the immense support that I received from NYFA as a participant, the opportunities to share as a panellist speaker, and now as the Youth Inspiration Award recipient. I look forward to working continually with NYFA and to contribute by giving back to the local and regional film community."

NYFA 2021 winners take home awards and prizes

This year's winners will also walk away with sponsored prizes that are estimated to be worth over \$70,000:

- \$1,000 cash each
- Post-production packages with Mocha Chai Laboratories
- SONY Alpha 7S III and Alpha 6600M camera
- MAGES Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology voucher
- Cathay Photo accessories vouchers
- Deity Microphones
- Creative SXFI AIR GAMER, latest wireless earbuds and stage soundbar
- Wacom Intuos Med Bluetooth tablet
- Screenwriters Association (Singapore) script consultations and complimentary membership
- The Actors' Society one year membership

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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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dream it. live it.

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.