



National Youth Film Awards Film Facilitation Programme

2021 Edition

PRESS KIT

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NYFA Film Facilitation Programme 2020 Edition

An extension of the National Youth Film Awards (NYFA), the NYFA Film Facilitation Programme (FFP) is a mentorship programme which began in August 2020, following the 6th NYFA ceremony. From August 2020 to April 2021, five young filmmakers were given the opportunity to choose one of five genres and produce a short film under the guidance of veterans in the industry. Out of the five short films, three have been selected for competition at renowned international film festivals—*Strawberry Cheesecake*, *Henchmen*, and *Bridget*. These short films are available for rental on [The Projector Plus](#).

Strawberry Cheesecake (2021), directed by Siyou Tan under the Horror genre, grips audiences with a menacing revenge prank of three rebellious schoolgirls in Singapore who were caught vaping by their principal.

Henchmen (2021), directed by Alistair Quak, is an Action short film that follows two henchmen that attempt to evade their fate as they await their turn to “protect” their boss.

Bridget (2021), a Drama short film directed by Li Kayue and Zon Chan, explores the journey of a man who reveals his secret to his family, against the backdrop of an archetypal Singaporean Malay family.

Siyou Tan, director of *Strawberry Cheesecake* (Horror)

A fellow at the **Busan International Film Festival**'s Asian Film Academy and the Universal Directors Initiative, she was mentored by Amanda Nell Eu, director of critically-acclaimed short films such as *It's Easier to Raise Cattle* (2017), shortlisted at the **74th Venice International Film Festival**. Siyou's short film premiered at the **44th Toronto International Film Festival**, with *Strawberry Cheesecake* selected and screened at the **47th Locarno Film Festival**.

Alistair Quak, director of *Henchmen* (Action)

Mentored by Mike Wiluan, co-producer of *Crazy Rich Asians* (2019) and director of *Buffalo Boys* (2018), Alistair's films have been featured at **66th Cannes International Film Festival** (Court Mèritage) among other film festivals. Apart from his wins at NYFA and Crowbar Awards, he has also written, directed, and edited for commercials and more. *Henchmen* won the **Special Mention Award** at the **25th Fantasia International Film Festival** based in Montreal.

Li Kayue and Zon Chan, directors of *Bridget* (Drama)

Armed with artistic sensibilities, Zon and Kayue are multifaceted filmmakers whose work spans across fiction, documentary, fashion and experimental. They believe in finding new grounds in visual storytelling and keeping ideas subtle yet relatable.

Their recent short film “Bridget” has been officially selected for **44th Asian American International Festival in New York** and **Minikino Film Festival 2021 in Bali**. With this visual-poetry piece, they encourage us to hang on and seek new horizons as we ride through turbulent and trying times.

NYFA Film Facilitation Programme 2021 Edition

Following the success of the 2020 Season, NYFA FFP will be continuing this year with a brand new lineup of critically-acclaimed mentors from across the globe, in addition to a new Documentary genre. The mentors include:

Frank Smith, Documentary mentor

Peabody winner for *A Year In The Clouds* (2011) and more recently produced **HBO Asia's** *The Teenage Psychic* (2017) and **Netflix's** first original series in Mandarin, *Nowhere Man*. He is also a veteran producer with **BBC** and producer for **National Geographic's** *Fish Wars*.

Rafael Manuel, Comedy mentor

He is the winner of the **Silver Bear Jury Prize** at the **70th Berlinale International Film Festival** and **George Lucas Award** at the **2020 Short Shorts Film Festival** for his film *Filipiñana* (2020). He is an internationally-acclaimed filmmaker currently developing his debut-feature film with the support of the **Cannes Cinéfondation La Residence**.

Fran Borgia, Drama mentor

As one of Singapore's top arthouse producers, he produced *A Yellow Bird* (2016), which was nominated for the **Critics Week Grand Prize** and **Golden Camera** in the prestigious **Cannes Film Festival** in 2016, and co-produced *Apprentice* (2016), which screened at the **Un Certain Regard** section at the **Cannes Film Festival** in the same year, along with Yeo Siew Hua's *A Land Imagined* (2018), which won **Pardo d'oro (Golden Leopard)** at the **71st Locarno Film Festival**.

Siqi Song, Animation mentor

Her short film *Sister* (2018), was nominated for **Best Short Film** at the **Oscars** in 2020 and for an **Annie Award** in 2018. More recently, her short film *The Coin* (2019), was featured at the **Short Shorts Film Festival** in 2020. She was named **Film Independent Directing Fellow** in 2018, with films screened at international film festivals including Sundance, SXSW, and more.

Bradley Liew, Horror mentor

His film *Motel Acacia* (2019) was at the 2018 **Berlinale Co-Production Market**, part of the 2017 **Sam Spiegel International Film Lab**, the 2016 **EAVE Ties That Bind** and the 2015 **NAFF IT Project** of the **Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival**. It made its world premiere in the **Asian Futures Competition** at the **Tokyo International Film Festival 2019**, where it was nominated **Asian Future Best Film Award**, and was the closing film of the **Jogja Netpac Film Festival**. He was the show-runner of Astro Malaysia's 'Doors: A Philippine Horror Anthology' and Signal Philippines' 'Now Streaming' Anthology Series.

Tran Thanh Huy, Action mentor

Director of *Ròm* (2019) which won the Best First Feature at the **24th Fantasia International Film Festival** in 2020. His short film, *16:30* (2012), also won the **Best Short Film Award** at the **Golden Kite Awards** in the same year.

The 2021 Edition of NYFA FFP will be featuring a new Documentary genre, presented by Impact Films.

Impact Films

Impact Films is a non-profit initiative that seeks to foster positive social and environmental change through filmmaking. Founded in 2020, Impact Films was built to bolster the filmmaking community that was badly affected by Covid-19, and use this as an opportunity to build back stronger, with a focus on making an impact. We support and celebrate filmmakers who create content that is socially or environmentally conscious, and help to translate this into concrete results. We have roots in Singapore and a team around the world, because the power of film is global, and the challenges our world faces are too.

National Youth Film Awards

More than an award platform, the National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) is the launchpad for up and coming young filmmakers in Singapore since 2015. At the heart of the programme, NYFA celebrates youths' talent in filmmaking and aspires to nurture the vision and creative spirit in the next generation of filmmakers. Since its inception, NYFA has supported over 900 youths and has received more than 2,000 short films in the Student and Open Youth categories. NYFA alumni have continued on to put Singapore on the map at regions and international film festivals by winning awards and have been commissioned by numerous corporate and industry partners.

Film Facilitation Programme

The Film Facilitation Programme (FFP) is organised by *SCAPE, an organisation that supports the development of Singaporean youths, and helmed by Huang Junxiang, NYFA 2020's Youth Inspiration Award winner.

The nine-month programme is a holistic end-to-end mentorship initiative that provides a seed funding of \$10,000 for the NYFA alumni and one-on-one guidance with acclaimed mentors, complete with distribution and marketing channels. Upon completion, the films will be made available for streaming via The Project Plus, a movie on demand platform.

This programme aims to further support young local filmmakers, foster a tight-knit community in the industry, and connect youths with the industry through close guidance from mentors. This year, mentees choose from six genres to focus their short films on, an increase from the inaugural 2020 edition's five genres.

Press contacts

Syafiqah Zainal
syafiqah_zainal@scape.sg

Pauline Leong
pauline_leong@scape.sg

Images

Logos (*SCAPE, NYFA FFP, Impact Films)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lxvtc1zmp6LJDmg5wBi9Jk4TYVpIpnFw?usp=sharing>

Stills from **Strawberry Cheesecake**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cdWCASWSFfkrZOIkbPQb2BycNESdl7K7?usp=sharing>

Stills from **Henchmen**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w4DG9IsKDcgaKy5gyK3MeERrkxgb03hv?usp=sharing>

Stills from **Bridget**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1q2tASI5gKez0hOLGA93mV3GuTlexXqjk?usp=sharing>