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National Youth Film Awards Enters Eight Edition With Introduction Of Series Pitch Lab As Part of Mentorship Series For Aspiring Filmmakers

- This year's award returns as a hybrid event to spotlight up-and-coming individuals in the local filmmaking scene
- The eighth edition of NYFA will boast 24 award categories to recognise excellence among youth filmmakers in Singapore
- An inaugural initiative, the Series Pitch Lab, will be launched for young filmmakers to learn from notable names in the industry on writing for episodic series pitch

SINGAPORE, 8 FEBRUARY 2022 - The National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) returns this year for its 8th edition, once again seeking to recognise the best of Singapore's young filmmakers.

NYFA was established in 2015 by *SCAPE, an organisation that supports the development of Singaporean youths, with the aspiration to showcase and celebrate youth talents in Singapore's film industry, as well as to provide a launch pad for emerging filmmakers through networking opportunities conversations and collaborations.

Now in its 8th year, NYFA 2022 returns with a spin on the numerical "8", representing the concept of "infinity", and a reflection of *SCAPE's never-ending pursuit to provide opportunities and open up possibilities to aspiring youth filmmakers in Singapore.

"Over the past seven editions of NYFA, we have successfully unearthed numerous emerging talents, many of whom have gone on to achieve greater things in their film careers," said Ivy Lim, Executive Director of *SCAPE.

"Last year, our NYFA Film Facilitation Programme (FFP) achieved great success in helping emerging filmmakers produce their own original shorts that have since been selected at major film festivals worldwide, like Locarno, Fantasia and Toronto After Dark. These positive outcomes are a testament to our commitment and continued efforts in supporting youths in their pursuit for excellence."

As the only platform in Singapore that spotlights youth filmmakers, NYFA serves as more than just a platform to recognise up-and-coming talents in the local film scene. Over the past few editions, NYFA has strived to connect aspiring youth filmmakers to greater platforms and industry veterans to help further advance their film careers through mentorships and programmes.

In celebration of NYFA's efforts to advance the emerging film industry in Singapore, this year's key visual will also feature elements of the metaverse, designed by none other than last year's Best Animation award winner, Yeow Su Xian.

"This key visual is a reimagination of filmmaking in a digital format, as the art form enters an age of the metaverse influenced by NFTs and streaming. Through the visual, we want to create a film metaverse that filmmakers can relate to and step into," said Yeow.

New series pitch lab for young filmmakers

This year, NYFA will also be introducing a new mentorship series, dubbed Series Pitch Lab, on the fundamentals of a television series pitch bible. The programme aims to equip young filmmakers and writers with the foundation and skills to develop their writing style for episodic series pitch. As the media landscape and audience appetite continues to evolve, the markets for series content will continue to expand. *SCAPE hopes to keep pace with this growing sector, solidifying NYFA's role in developing film craftsmanship and opportunities for young filmmakers.

This will be held as a series of workshops and online guest talks for 10 selected mentees, who will be paired with two industry mentors. The workshops will be held over 6 sessions that aim to introduce the world of episodic content and teach the fundamentals of the components required to pitch a series. Regional guest speakers will be invited weekly to share about topics that are critical and relevant to the understanding of the film industry.

Interested parties for the Series Pitch Lab may apply before 13 March 2022. There will also be an online talk with the mentors of the Series Pitch Lab on 28 February 2022 for potential participants to find out more.

Giving a step up to youths

NYFA 2022 will see 24 awards being given out across two categories - "Student" and "Open Youth". Up to 60 films will be shortlisted, and qualify for award titles such as "Best Screenplay", "Best Editing", "Best Original Music", and more (refer to ANNEX A for full list of awards).

Participants must be 35 years old and below to submit their Animation, Live Action or Documentary films.

This year's winners can expect cash and attractive prizes worth an estimated total of S\$70,000 including S\$1,000 cash each, prizes from Mocha Chai Laboratories, SONY, Cathay Photo and more.

Submissions for the 8th NYFA will be closed by the deadline of 13 May 2022.

To find out more about the submission details or to submit a film, please visit <https://scape.sg/nyfa>.

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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.

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 - List of 8th NYFA Awards

Student Category

1. Best Sound Design
2. Best Art Direction
3. Best Editing
4. Best Screenplay
5. Best Cinematography
6. Best Director
7. Best Original Music
8. Best Performance
9. Best Documentary
10. Best Animation
11. Best Live Action

Open Youth Category

1. Best Sound Design
2. Best Art Direction
3. Best Editing
4. Best Screenplay
5. Best Cinematography
6. Best Director
7. Best Original Music
8. Best Performance
9. Best Documentary
10. Best Animation
11. Best Live Action

Special Awards: Youth Inspiration Award, Most Promising Award