

EMBARGOED TILL 19 AUGUST 2022, 1600 HRS

LIVE ACTION FILMS SWEEPS MAJORITY OF AWARDS AT THE 8TH NATIONAL YOUTH FILM AWARDS (NYFA)

SINGAPORE, 19 AUGUST 2022 - The 8th National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) today announces its winners in a physical awards ceremony held at *SCAPE The Ground Theatre. This year, live action films emerged as top favourites, winning big across both the Student and Open Youth categories. Notable films include "Dirty Laundry" by Kyaw Shoon Le Yee, "A Man Trembles" by Judith Tong, and "Sweat" by Elizabeth Xu. Young actors below 13 years old were also recognised in this year's NYFA, sweeping the "Best Performance" awards in both categories.

Organised by *SCAPE, an organisation that supports the development of Singaporean youth, this year's NYFA saw a total of 321 submissions with 25 awards conferred including "Best Director", "Best Cinematography" and "Best Screenplay".

"Since 2015, the National Youth Film Awards has supported our youths to find their unique voice through filmmaking, and served as a springboard for our young filmmakers into the global industry. The films recognised today demonstrate what our youths are capable of and I'm glad that *SCAPE continues to empower our budding filmmakers to pursue their dreams," said Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

NYFA also presented its fourth Youth Inspiration Award to Jerrold Chong, local director, animator, and co-founder of homegrown animation studio Finding Pictures, in recognition of his remarkable contributions as a youth filmmaker towards the local filmmaking industry.

NYFA 2022 Youth Inspiration Award Recipient

Nominated and selected by a discerning jury made up of award-winning filmmakers and industry professionals, the annual Youth Inspiration Award honours a young filmmaker who has made exemplary contributions towards the industry in Singapore, in terms of both their works and dedication in advancing the next generation of film professionals. This year's recipient, Jerrold Chong, embodies both critical aspects.

As co-founder of Finding Pictures, Jerrold is at the heart of producing internationally recognised films that are putting Singapore on the filmmaking map, while nurturing the next generation of rising animation filmmakers under his wing. At the same time, he is serving as Programme Director for Cartoons Underground - Singapore's very own independent animation festival - that aims to grow and foster a tight-knit local animation community. With a heart to cultivate young animation filmmakers, Jerrold also conceptualised the Animated Visions Story Development Lab in 2020, a mentorship

programme that guides participants to develop their animated film under award-winning directors.

"I'm grateful for the role that National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) has played in my filmmaking journey, as well as the journeys of so many other young filmmakers. It's been a platform where I had the opportunity to meet filmmakers I admire, future collaborators and new friends within the filmmaking community. I am humbled by this recognition and I trust that platforms like NYFA will continue nurturing a new generation of creative talents, artists and storytellers. I believe that the future of Singapore's film and animation industry is bright and that we will continue striving towards telling our own stories and having an emotional impact around the world!" said Jerrold Chong, NYFA Youth Inspiration Award 2022 Recipient.

Jerrold's biography can be found in Annex A (Page 6).

Media Students Spotlighting Pertinent Issues through Film

Topics such as societal pressures, bereavement and poverty took prominence in this year's winning films, as youth deepened their exploration of various social issues.

"Dirty Laundry" expertly tackled the topic of societal expectations of women, centred around the notion where women's clothes are considered as unclean. Directed by Kyaw Shoon Le Yee and produced by Linnet Ong, this simple yet well-shot film brought home "Best Director", "Best Screenplay" and "Best Live Action", sealing its standing as the most-awarded film for NYFA 2022.

In another film focused on familial ties, "Ant Nest" explored the psyche of a rebellious tween in hopes of gaining her parents' attention. Written and directed by Eliza Goh with music produced by Sandra Sek, the film clinched "Best Original Music". Hailey Madison, who played the female protagonist, Charlotte, was also recognised with a "Best Performance" award.

Both "Best Documentary" and "Best Animation" awards went to films that delved into concepts about religion. The works - "Pin" and "话说浑沌; The Story of Chaos" - directed by Shelby Kho and Quek Yu Qing respectively, approached the topic through vastly different lenses, reflecting the contemporary way in which religion is viewed in modern society.

This year, "大鸟 (The Giant Bird)", a film submitted under the Student category also bagged the "Most Promising" award, a new recognition as part of this year's NYFA. Directed by Pan Wenbo, this film draws parallels between the SARS outbreak of 2002 and the Covid-19 pandemic two decades later, and is telling of the rising talent amongst youth filmmakers in Singapore.

"This marks the 8th edition of NYFA and over the eight years, we've seen an increase in the popularity and visibility of the aspiring filmmakers' works. We hope to further extend the opportunity to amplify their voices and work towards a more diverse and inclusive film industry. Sharing their stories and experiences is a way to advance NYFA's mission to mentor and prepare aspiring filmmakers to work in the film industry; and we believe this year's theme - "Infinity" - is a reflection of *SCAPE's commitment to providing the relevant tools and opening new doors for these filmmakers in Singapore," said Ivy Lim, Executive Director of *SCAPE.

Bold Exploration a Common Theme Across Open-Youth Filmmakers

Adding another "Best Director" award to his cap is Vikneshwaran Silva of "Altar", a returning filmmaker who won "Best Director" and "Best Cinematography" for his film "Dark Light" last year. Continuing with his signature of spotlighting the destitute side of Singapore, "Altar" follows an aged and ill security officer whose daily routine consists of him ranting about his financial struggles to a deity. Told through the eyes of "God", this poignant film is telling of the challenges faced by the underprivileged in Singapore.

"A Man Trembles" gives viewers a taste of local sci-fi-horror mix with this film that follows a Singaporean family who has opted to surrender their lives amid the struggles faced during the 1998 Asian Financial Crisis. This live action work showcases them spending their final day on Earth on Sentosa Island and gives insight into the trials faced by middle-class locals. Produced by Judith Tong with sound design by Cheng Lijie, "A Man Trembles" clinched awards of "Best Live Action" and "Best Sound Design".

"Best Documentary" was awarded to "SMRT Piece" directed and produced by Charlotte Hong. With its quirky approach of filming and overlays of the protagonist's sketches, the film also took home "Best Editing". Commended by the jury as thoughtful and vibrant, this film was recognised for its powerful illumination of the human experience and offering a keen perspective on queerness in Singapore.

For the Open Youth category, Elizabeth Xu's "Sweat" takes on a stop motion film about feminine care, presenting an immersive world in fine detail as praised by the jury. Despite being only slightly longer than two minutes, the compelling animation film bagged dual awards of "Best Animation" and "Best Art Direction".

The full list of winners for NYFA 2022 can be found in Annex B (Page 7).

Furthering the Journey with NYFA

Alumni of this year's NYFA will be invited to pitch for the Film Facilitation Programme, an extension of NYFA that is organised by *SCAPE and conceptualised by Huang Junxiang, NYFA 2020's Youth Inspiration Award recipient.

This 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 - horror, drama, action, comedy, animation, and documentary.

Winners of NYFA 2022 will also walk away with cash and prizes worth up to a total of S\$70,000, including S\$1,000 cash each. The full list of prizes can be found in Annex C (Page 10).

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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 nurturing 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 - Youth Inspiration Award Recipient Biography

Jerrold Chong is an award-winning animation filmmaker and co-founder of local animation studio Finding Pictures. His love for animation is rooted in a fascination in the magic of the medium to tell stories that go beyond the limits of reality and the expectation. His works often take on the form of surreal, at times absurdist tales that explore universal themes of connection, time/memory and social issues, through the medium of stop-motion and hand-drawn animation.

In 2019, his film *"Piece of Meat"*, co-directed with Huang Junxiang, premiered at Cannes' Directors' Fortnight and Annecy Animation Festival. His films have screened at numerous international film festivals, including Cannes Directors' Fortnight, Busan International Film Festival, Annecy International Animated Film Festival, Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), Encounters Short Film and Animation Festival in Bristol, Animatricks Animation Festival in Helsinki, Short Shorts Film Festival in Tokyo and Bucheon International Animation Festival in Korea, amongst others. His films *"Automatonomy"* and *"What Has To Be"* also won the Best Animation Award at the National Youth Film Awards Open Category for two consecutive years. Most recently he co-directed the official NDP 2021 Music Video *"The Road Ahead"*.

As an organising member of Cartoons Underground - Singapore's very own independent animation festival - he has also helped to champion and grow the local animation community. He initiated the Animated Visions Story Development Lab in 2020, where selected projects and participants are mentored and guided towards developing their projects. In 2022, he took up the role of Programme Director for Cartoons Underground. He has also served as producer for animated short films such as Morrie Tan's *"The Visit"* and Olivia Griselda and Sarah Cheok's *"She and Her Good Vibrations"*.

ANNEX B - Winners of 8th NYFA

Student Category

S/N	Award	Winner
1	Best Sound Design	The Last Stop Bervyn Chua Lee Ann National Technological University School of Art Design and Media
2	Best Art Direction	Writings on the Wall Ho Jia En National Technological University School of Art Design and Media
3	Best Editing	unspoken words Nurul Hazirah Mohamad Fadil NAFA School of Design and Media
4	Best Screenplay	Dirty Laundry Kyaw Shoon Le Yee National Technological University School of Art Design and Media
5	Best Cinematography	Yi Yi (Time Flows in Strange Ways on Sundays) Clyde Kam LASELLE College of the Arts Puttnam School of Film and Animation
6	Best Director	Dirty Laundry Kyaw Shoon Le Yee National Technological University School of Art Design and Media
7	Best Original Music	Ant Nest Sandra Sek National Technological University School of Art Design and Media
8	Best Performance	Ant Nest Hailey Madison
9	Best Documentary	Pin Shelby Kho National Technological University School of Art Design and Media
10	Best Animation	话说浑沌 (The Story of Chaos) Quek Yu Qing National Technological University

		School of Art Design and Media
11	Best Live Action	Dirty Laundry Ong Kar-Lin National Technological University School of Art Design and Media
12	Most Promising Award	大鸟 (The Giant Bird) Pan Wenbo National Junior College
13	Special Mention	Loose Threads Chayanid Siripaiboolpong and Jessieca Junesha LASELLE College of the Arts Puttnam School of Film and Animation

Open Youth Category

S/N	Award	Winner
1	Best Sound Design	A Man Trembles Cheng Lijie
2	Best Art Direction	Sweat Elizabeth Xu Yuan Li
3	Best Editing	SMRT Piece Charlotte Hong Bee Her
4	Best Screenplay	The Sea Between Us Yuga J Vardhan
5	Best Cinematography	Home Planet Jamie Issac Tham
6	Best Director	Altar Vikneshwaran Silva
7	Best Original Music	Rock Paper Scissors Elsa Mickayla
8	Best Performance	島 (An Island Drifts) Quintus Lim
9	Best Documentary	SMRT Piece Charlotte Hong Bee Her
10	Best Animation	Sweat Elizabeth Xu Yuan Li
11	Best Live Action	A Man Trembles Judith Tong
12	Special Mention	Back to One

		Tang Kang Sheng and Yeo Zhi Qi
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ANNEX C - Prizes for 8th NYFA

Student Category

<p>Best Art Direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • S\$300 Cathay Photo Accessories Voucher presented by Cathay Photo 	<p>Best Original Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Zen Hybrid worth S\$149 presented by Creative • AT2020USB condenser mic and M20x headphones worth S\$323 presented by Audio Technica
<p>Best Screenplay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Script consultations (1-1.5hr script workshop session/mentorship session with SAS screenwriter member) and complimentary membership worth S\$500 presented by Screenwriters Association (Singapore) • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES 	<p>Best Sound Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • 2-day Short Film Final Cinema Mix in Dolby-certified dubbing theatre (including theatrical & online deliverables) worth S\$7,000 presented by Mocha Chai Laboratories • Outlier Pro worth S\$119 presented by Creative • AT2020USB condenser mic + M20x headphones worth S\$323 presented by Audio Technica
<p>Best Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • 1 x DCP + the winner's film to be made available on Apple TV / iTunes movie store for purchase and rent - TVOD) worth S\$2,000 presented by Mocha Chai Laboratories • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES 	<p>Best Editing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES

<p>Best Documentary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • S\$300 Cathay Photo Accessories Voucher presented by Cathay Photo 	<p>Best Cinematography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Sony Cinema Line FX-3 worth S\$5,849 presented by Sony • S\$500 Cathay Photo Accessories Voucher presented by Cathay Photo
<p>Best Animation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES 	<p>Best Live Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • S\$300 Cathay Photo Accessories Voucher presented by Cathay Photo
<p>Most Promising Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • Stage Air V2 worth S\$69 presented by Creative 	<p>Best Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • The Actors' Society one-year membership worth S\$75

Open Youth Category

<p>Best Art Direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • S\$300 Cathay Photo Accessories Voucher presented by Cathay Photo 	<p>Best Original Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Zen Hybrid worth S\$149 presented by Creative • AT2020USB condenser mic and M20x headphones worth S\$323 presented by Audio Technica
<p>Best Screenplay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Script consultations (1-1.5hr script workshop session/mentorship session with SAS screenwriter member) and complimentary membership worth S\$500 presented by Screenwriters Association (Singapore) • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES 	<p>Best Sound Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Outlier Pro worth S\$119 presented by Creative • AT2020USB condenser mic + M20x headphones worth S\$323 presented by Audio Technica
<p>Best Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • 1 x DCP + the winner's film to be made available on Apple TV / iTunes movie store for purchase and rent - TVOD) worth S\$2,000 presented by Mocha Chai Laboratories 	<p>Best Editing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES

<p>Best Documentary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • S\$300 Cathay Photo Accessories Voucher presented by Cathay Photo 	<p>Best Cinematography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Sony Alpha 7 IV with 28-70mm kit lens worth S\$3,899 presented by Sony • S\$500 Cathay Photo Accessories Voucher presented by Cathay Photo
<p>Best Animation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES 	<p>Best Live Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • Short Film Online Colourgrading cum DCP package worth S\$10,000 presented by Mocha Chai Laboratories • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES
<p>Best Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S\$1,000 Cash • S\$500 worth of vouchers for Professional Short Programmes in Art, Design, and Technology presented by MAGES • The Actors' Society one-year membership worth S\$75 	