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National Youth Film Awards Returns with a Multifaceted Experience Combining Mentorship, Networking and Ceremony

- This year's awards return in partnership with the Singapore International Film Festival with never-before direct green lane selection access to the festival for winners of Best Short Film
- Holistic opportunities ranging from regional film exchanges to dedicated mentorships offered to participants with expanded programming under the NYFA umbrella
- Programme's inaugural initiative, NYFA Script Lab, will focus on developing short film ideas from aspiring student filmmakers into production-ready screenplays.

SINGAPORE, 4 APRIL 2023 – The National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) returns for its 9th instalment and is open for submission today, marking another year of celebrating and recognising youth talents for their bold and diverse films. Inspired by interpretations of the Rubik's Cube, NYFA 2023 is set to ignite the youthful spirit of play and stimulate a diversity of creative outcomes in filmmaking.

This year, NYFA presents an expanded programme made up of NYFA Exchange, NYFA Cinema, NYFA Lab, NYFA Mentorship, NYFA Ceremony, and NYFA Party. Each initiative is shaped to nurture the next generation of filmmakers through offering a versatile range of opportunities for learning, networking, and showcasing their skills. Spearheaded by *SCAPE, NYFA stands as one of its most enduring flagship initiatives, offering a supportive platform for ambitious and emerging filmmakers to pursue their passion in the world of cinema.

"We're pleased to partner Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) for this year's NYFA and offer incredible opportunities for our winners through the festival's vast international network," said Ivy Lim, Executive Director of *SCAPE. "With NYFA now in its 9th year, *SCAPE remains unwaveringly committed to empowering young talents and offering them opportunities for exposure beyond mentorships and networking. Through NYFA Cinema, we are glad to work with media partners in our ecosystem to distribute their works through mainstream platforms such as Apple TV, Objectifs Film Library and Cinewav Seaside Cinema. It's been an absolute pleasure for us to see the remarkable success of our past winners, and we're confident that this year's winners will scale even greater heights."



Opening New Doors With SGIFF

This year, all NYFA 2023 winners will receive an Industry Pass to the 34th edition of SGIFF, which will provide them complimentary access to the festival's screenings and events, giving them invaluable exposure to a wider audience. The partnership with SGIFF also offers budding filmmakers exclusive access to network with industry veterans, enabling them to gather valuable insights to refine their craft and propel their success in the film industry.

Winners of the Best Short Film for both the Student and Open Youth categories will also be awarded direct entries into SGIFF's Official Selection, a pivotal steppingstone to kickstart their career in film.

"SGIFF is delighted to renew our partnership with *SCAPE and build close intrinsic ties between the two organisations by introducing new entitlements for this year's NYFA award winners at our own festival. As a custodian of local cinema culture, we want to cultivate a nurturing environment for emerging Singaporean filmmakers and we recognise NYFA as one of the most important grounds for these young talents to find growth and recognition within the local industry," Thong Kay Wee, Programme Director, Singapore International Film Festival.

NYFA EXCHANGE: An Itinerary of Insights

To encourage fresh perspectives, six NYFA 2023 winners will embark on a journey to regional film festivals through NYFA Exchange. Through a curated itinerary of screenings, talks and meetings with industry professionals, it aims to offer participants with much-needed insight and exposure to the wider industry network.

This first-of-its-kind opportunity provides participants the chance to receive guidance from overseas programmers, producers, and creators, providing them with an edge in their filmmaking aspirations.

NYFA LAB: Mentoring the Next Generation of Filmmakers

This year, NYFA will also pilot its mentorship series, NYFA Script Lab, that will focus on developing a new generation of short film ideas from aspiring young filmmakers into ready-for-production screenplays. Through a combination of lectures, critique sessions and workshops led by three seasoned industry mentors, student participants will learn the fundamentals of visual storytelling and how to craft dialogue and characters for the screen.



This mentorship initiative further cements *SCAPE and NYFA's dedication to nurture the next wave of film craftsmanship and foster interaction with renowned filmmakers to empower local film talents.

NYFA MENTORSHIP: Genre Film Facilitation

As an extension, NYFA Script Lab also serves as a platform to encourage participation and submission to the Film Facilitation Programme (FFP), a scheme that provides funding and support to filmmakers in Singapore to bring their projects to life.

Previous editions of the FFP have achieved great success in helping emerging filmmakers produce their own original shorts, some of which have since been selected for major film festivals worldwide, including the Locarno International Film Festival, Fantasia Film Festival, Toronto After Dark Film Festival and Busan International Short Film Festival.

Gladys Ng, director of *Every Floor Looks the Same*, a FFP 2022 comedy film, said, "NYFA and FFP is a helpful platform for young and starting filmmakers. The guidance and support provided has been an invaluable part of my experience, and being able to work with a mentor to shape ideas and craft my film makes FFP unique and enriching. Having the opportunity to attempt a comedy piece was definitely a milestone in my career as a filmmaker."

Every Floor Looks the Same was selected for competition at the 69th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen and 40th Busan International Short Film Festival.

NYFA CEREMONY: Recognising the Cream of the Crop

NYFA 2023 is set to present 20 awards across two categories – Student and Open Youth. Up to 60 films will be shortlisted for accolades such as Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Editing, and Best Original Music, among others (see ANNEX A for a comprehensive list of awards).

Eligible participants, aged 35 and below, are invited to submit their short films ranging from live action, animation to documentary forms. This year's winners can expect cash rewards and prizes totalling an estimated S\$70,000, including S\$1,000 cash prize each and prizes from SONY, Cathay Photo, Mocha Chai Laboratories and more.

As a wrap up to the NYFA ceremony, the film community can also expect a Bloc Party celebration, where participants will be able to network with industry experts and fellow filmmakers.

Submissions for the 9th NYFA will close on 22 May 2023.



***SCAPE**
dream it. live it.



For further information on submission guidelines or to submit a film, please visit www.scape.sg/me/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. As the integrated talent and resource hub for young people in Singapore, *SCAPE offers a holistic network of programmes, communities, partners and facilities to support youths in their pursuit of interests and passion areas. Through guidance and facilitation, the youth of today will be inspired and empowered to DREAM IT AND LIVE IT at *SCAPE!

For more information, visit www.scape.sg.

About Singapore International Film Festival

Founded in 1987, the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) is the largest and longest-running film event in Singapore. It has become an iconic event in the local arts calendar that is widely attended by international film critics; and is known for its dynamic programming and focus on ground-breaking Asian cinema for Singapore and the region. Committed to nurturing and championing local and regional talent, its competition component, the Silver Screen Awards, brings together emerging filmmakers from Asia and Southeast Asia while paying tribute to acclaimed cinema legends.

With its mentorship programmes, masterclasses, and dialogues with attending filmmakers, the Festival also serves as a catalyst for igniting public interest, artistic dialogue, and culture exchanges in the art of filming. The SGIFF is organised by the Singapore International Film Festival Ltd, a non-profit organization with Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status.

The 34th edition of SGIFF will return at the end of 2023. For more information, please visit <https://www.sgiff.com>.

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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 - List of 9th NYFA Awards

OPEN YOUTH	STUDENT
Best Sound Design	Best Sound Design
Best Art Direction	Best Art Direction
Best Editing	Best Editing
Best Screenplay	Best Screenplay
Best Cinematography	Best Cinematography
Best Director	Best Director
Best Original Music	
Best Supporting Performance	
Best Lead Performance	
Best Short Film	Best Short Film

Special Awards: NYFA Youth Inspiration Award, Special Mention (Open Youth), Most Promising (Student)