



***SCAPE NYFA 2023 Nominees Media Advisory**

Dear Media Colleague,

The National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) is back for its 9th instalment. *SCAPE is thrilled to present a total of 60 nominated films, shortlisted from a total of 327 submissions by youth aged 35 years and below. The main concept of the awards this year drew its inspiration from the Rubik's Cube – as a symbol of multifaceted creativity, dimensions of individuality and active experimentation.

"NYFA this year has once again showcased the outstanding creativity and unique perspectives of our youth. This year's nominated films courageously delve into significant societal themes, demonstrating the unwavering determination and empathy of our youth in addressing key issues through their filmmaking. It's truly impressive how each of these talented filmmakers managed to craft potent stories with brevity, skilfully weaving together different genres and categories. We're proud to witness this inspiring showcase of voices and perspectives as we continue to nurture and empower our youth to shine on this vibrant platform." said Ivy Lim, Executive Director of *SCAPE.

Films nominated this year showed extreme resilience and strength as they tackled heavy and controversial themes like mental health, death, and societal expectations beyond the typical HDB drama trope. It was touching to see the compassion shown through the films in telling personal stories of both the filmmakers and their profile. These strong voices embody what *SCAPE stands for in creating a space with boundless possibilities for youth.

In **"Solitude" (Live Action) by Vikneshwaran Silva (Director)**, the film penetrates the stark realities of ageing within the ever-evolving digital era. Its thought-provoking plot compels audiences to confront the ethical borders of technology. *Solitude* was based on the rapidly ageing population of Singapore, where elderlies passing away alone in their homes will soon become a norm and raises a poignant question: Is this how we picture our elderly to spend the remaining years of their lives – being confined into a home with smart technology devices and their next-of-kins far from their reach? Silva's work could not be a more timely or compelling meditation on the complexities at the intersection of technology, ethics and ageing.

"Motherland" (Live Action) by Denise Khng (Director & Scriptwriter) plunges us into the convoluted web of parent-child-teacher relationships within the rigid confines of the education system. Khng's film features strong criticism to the parental authority, where it probes the depths of motherhood, education, and societal expectations. *Motherland* invites audiences to challenge perceived truths and the conformity to conventions. It's a

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striking narrative with emotional resonance, reminding us to question the authenticity of the roles we play and the societal norms that mould them.

Through **"Bath" (Animation) by Angelina Tan (Director)**, we explore a stirring portrait of a young boy wrestling with psychological turmoil following a terrifying sea incident. Despite being only 1.5 minutes-long, *Bath* was able to encapsulate a compelling message on post-traumatic stresses in a child. Tan invites her audience to look deeper into how traumatic incidents can affect a child, encouraging conversations around this topic that is often disregarded or overlooked.

"Beneath the Orchids" (Documentary) by Jean-Pierre Pillay (Cinematographer, Director, Producer) continues the pulse on trauma by bringing its audience into an emotionally charged investigation on intergenerational trauma and abuse. The film interweaves present-day Zoom conversations with past footage, unveiling a family's obscured history. A law student turned filmmaker; Pillay unfolds trauma that stems from family histories through *Beneath the Orchids* to ignite meaningful dialogues, inspire transformative conversations, and bring suppressed subjects into the light.

NYFA Awards 2023

Winners will be announced at the NYFA Ceremony held at *SCAPE The Ground Theatre on 31 August 2023 at 3pm. The ceremony will also be livestreamed on *SCAPE's social media platform on Facebook.

A complete list of NYFA 2023 nominees can be found on <https://bit.ly/nyfa-nominees-2023>. For all other details, please visit www.scape.sg/nyfa.

About *SCAPE

*SCAPE Co., Ltd. is a non-profit organisation, a registered charity, and an Institution of a Public Character that engages and nurtures youth by developing their talents. At *SCAPE, we offer a holistic network of programmes, communities, and facilities to support youth in their pursuit of interests and passion areas. Together with our partners, we inspire and empower our youth to **DREAM IT, LIVE IT!**

For more information, visit www.scape.sg

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 4,000 youths, and received over 2,800 short films across the Student and Open Youth categories.

ANNEX A - The 9th Edition of National Youth Film Awards

The 9th edition of the National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) takes the inspiration of the classic yet iconic Rubik's cube to engage our youth in a problem-solving exercise to reconfigure ideas and stimulate more diverse and creative storytelling in their films. Through NYFA, we want to encourage three key creative elements, namely:

1. Multi-dimensional: Reflecting a diversity of filmmaking talents, perspectives and events at NYFA to celebrate the achievements of our local youth filmmakers.
2. Puzzle-solving: Drawing parallels with the Rubik's cube, it has high replayability and stimulates the curiosity and intellect of the player - enduring traits that NYFA hopes to see in a filmmaker
3. Collaboration: Made up of multiple coloured cubes, the Rubik's cube represents the collaborative effort from multiple talents and skillsets needed in filmmaking.