

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***SCAPE'S NATIONAL YOUTH FILM AWARDS
TRANSFORMS TO SINGAPORE YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL**

- SYFF elevates NYFA to a film festival showcasing award-winning films from past editions of NYFA and introducing diverse film styles and narratives beyond the mainstream for the public to enjoy
- For the first time, films by this year's nominees will be screened for Singaporeans to immerse themselves in the creativity and talents of local filmmakers
- *SCAPE expands its platform for young local filmmakers, offering them a global representation through a brand transformation

SINGAPORE, 31 JULY 2024 - Marking a new era in celebrating young filmmaking talent in Singapore, the National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) is evolving into the Singapore Youth Film Festival (SYFF) in 2024.

Organised by *SCAPE, in partnership with Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), SYFF will usher in a two week-long festival of screenings, conference sessions and an award ceremony.

"For the past nine editions, NYFA has been instrumental in nurturing young filmmakers in Singapore. We are thrilled to elevate the Awards to a Festival with NYFA's transformation to the SYFF. This will raise its status to showcase Singapore to a global audience." said Ivy Lim, Executive Director of *SCAPE.

"With the festivalisation, it will offer the public a chance to experience and appreciate the rich tapestry of local short films by Singapore youth. We are excited to see how this new chapter will inspire creativity, foster collaboration and strengthen our local film community," she adds.

Developing a Thriving Community of Filmmakers and Film Lovers

Through SCAPE's collaboration with SGIFF, SYFF harnesses SGIFF's extensive local and international network, opening doors for young filmmakers to connect with seasoned industry professionals. At the same time, SYFF continues to honour young filmmakers with an array of awards, provide invaluable exposure, and broaden their knowledge and skills via workshops, talks, and networking events.

As part of the transformation, SYFF will also embark on efforts to build a wider community of local film lovers through a series of public and ticketed screenings. A special showcase of films from the last nine editions of NYFA will be screened under SCAPE's Nightflix Somerset monthly film screenings. Dubbed the SYFF Capsule, these films include Calleen's Koh Sexy Sushi and Tan Wei Ting's Ca\$h, both which have been recognised internationally.

For the first time since NYFA's inception, nominated films of SYFF 2024 will also be accessible through SYFF Cinema. The new initiative provides an avenue for the public to discover and better appreciate the outstanding works created by our young filmmakers. More details can be found in the [Factsheet](#), and a screening schedule for SYFF Capsule is available in [ANNEX A](#).

"SGIFF is delighted to renew our partnership with *SCAPE and elevate NYFA to the next level with the rebrand to the Singapore Youth Film Festival. Through SYFF, we aim to connect up-and-coming film talent with the international film network, providing them with broader opportunities for growth and representation on a global stage. We look forward to seeing the new heights our young filmmakers will reach through this exciting evolution," said Jeremy Chua, General Manager, Singapore International Film Festival.

Keeping in this spirit, this year's SYFF will unveil a line-up of SYFF ambassadors—accomplished filmmakers who were once NYFA nominees. These ambassadors will share their knowledge and experience, inspiring and guiding aspiring filmmakers through various roles such as sharing their insights as a panellist, judging this year's film entries as a jury member and hosting school sharing sessions amongst other opportunities. The list of Jury and SYFF ambassadors can be found in [ANNEX B](#).

SYFF Award Ceremony: Celebrating our Youth Filmmakers

Keeping in tradition with previous years, SYFF 2024 will present 20 awards across the Student and Open Youth categories, with up to 60 films shortlisted for accolades such as Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Editing, and Best Original Music, among others. Please refer to [ANNEX C](#) for a comprehensive list of awards.

Concluding the festival, SYFF 2024 will hold its annual Bloc Party, providing an exclusive opportunity for youth filmmakers to network with industry experts and fellow filmmakers.

For further information about SYFF, please visit www.scape.sg/syff.

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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 discover boundless possibilities.

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 and Southeast Asian cinema for Singapore and the region.

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 organisation with Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status.

The 35th edition of SGIFF will return from 28 November to 8 December 2024.

For more information, please visit www.sgiff.com

About the Singapore Youth Film Festival

Organised by *SCAPE, the Singapore Youth Film Festival (SYFF) serves as a national platform celebrating the achievements of exceptional young filmmakers while fostering a deeper appreciation for local films and filmmaking.

Established as the National Youth Film Awards since 2015, the Singapore Youth Film Festival (SYFF) builds upon its legacy of fostering award-winning filmmakers. By partnering with industry experts and educational institutions, SYFF will continue to inspire and nurture the next generation of cinematic visionaries in Singapore.

About Somerset Precinct

Somerset is set to be a vibrant youth precinct, as part of the Government's wider plan to rejuvenate Orchard Road into a must-visit lifestyle and leisure destination. It aims to build youth identity and support youth aspirations by providing youths with the opportunity to implement ideas and shape the space into something they can call their own. Spaces within Somerset aim to foster greater interactions among youth, and will cater to a variety of youth interests, sub-cultures and lifestyles.

Keep in touch with us on Instagram at [@yoursomersetsg](#)

Factsheet: New Initiatives of SYFF

The festivalisation of NYFA into SYFF introduces a series of new initiatives including an expansion of platforms and tailored workshops to propel youth filmmakers into the industry.

SYFF Capsule: Celebrating Nine Years of Filmmaking

Over three weekends (3 August, 7 September, 5 October), special retrospective screenings will showcase some of the best award-winning film submissions since NYFA's inception at *Somerset Youth Park*, as part of *Nightflix Somerset*. Works by filmmakers such as Tan Wei Ting's *Ca\$h*, selected for the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival; Calleen Koh's *Sexy Sushi*, which swept official selections at international film festivals including ANIMA 2021 and Toronto Animation Arts Festival International; and Kris Ong's *You Idiot*, the founder of Singapore-based film and TV company MOMO FILM CO, are among the films to look forward to.

Open to public and free-of-charge, these screenings of past NYFA-winning films are a unique opportunity that invites filmgoers to step out of their comfort zones and immerse themselves in the evolution of local cinema by youth filmmakers over the last nine years.

SYFF Cinema: Taking Nominations to the Big Screens

For the first time, all nominated films for SYFF 2024 in the Student and Open Youth categories will be available to the public through ticketed in-cinema screenings on selected dates in October and November at *Golden Village x The Projector at Cineleisure*.

By showcasing the works of youth filmmakers on the big screen, this initiative provides audiences with greater opportunities to explore diverse film styles and narratives beyond the mainstream media and extend support to local filmmakers. The full schedule of the films screened will be released in end-August on <https://www.scape.sg/syff>

SYFF School Outreach and SYFF Conference: An Exchange of Ideas

Continuing the ethos of NYFA, the SYFF School Outreach and SYFF Conference will promote an exchange of ideas and inspiration through workshops that are instrumental to the growth of Singapore's film industry.

Focusing on students at Institutes of Higher Learning and Post-Secondary Education Institutions, the SYFF School Outreach features filmmaker-led talks to inspire students in their filmmaking journey. In a similar vein, the SYFF Conference is a two-day programme featuring panel discussions with industry veterans, exploring topics aimed at equipping young filmmakers with the skills to refine their craft and carve out a niche for themselves in the industry.

ANNEX A

Screening Schedule - Nightflix Somerset x SYFF Capsule Edt.

<p>3 August 2024 REMEMBER, REMEMBER Anniversary Screening 1</p> <p>Our memories have a hold on us. Braiding our past and our futures, they brew and bleed into our craft, crystallising our fears and hopes into brand new lines of questioning.</p>	<p>7 September 2024 SENSES OF THE SOUL Anniversary Screening 2</p> <p>From the physical to philosophical, art and religion has a profound impact on our body and soul. These films excavate how Singaporean genealogies have been interpreted and integrated into our collective consciousness.</p>	<p>5 October 2024 BETWIXT & BETWEEN Anniversary Screening 3</p> <p>When navigating liminal spaces and states, we often find ourselves at a precipice. Between the old and the new, we need to reorient ourselves to other worlds to break through.</p>
<p>Somerset Youth Park 7.30pm</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROCKETSHIP Dir. Mathias Choo - NYFA 2021 (Student) • DUKA LARA Dir. Nuryn Adryana - NYFA 2023 (Open Youth) • YI YI (TIME FLOWS IN STRANGE WAYS ON SUNDAYS) Dir. Giselle Lin - NYFA 2022 (Open Youth) • ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM Dir. Hariz Zulkifli - NYFA 2020 (Student) • A MAN TREMBLES Dir. Mark Chua & Lam Li Shuen - NYFA 2022 (Open Youth) • METABOLIST REGENERATION OF A DEMENTIA NATION Dir. Jerome Xin Hao Ng - NYFA 2020 (Open Youth) • CASH Dir. Tan Wei Ting - NYFA 2018 (Open Youth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JOURNEY OF A KAVADI BEARER Dir. Navin Danial - NYFA 2015 • SLEEP IS A WASTE OF TIME Dir. Chew Jia Hui - NYFA 2021 (Open Youth) • NO REGRET Dir. Lee Kian Ping - NYFA 2016 • SUM OF OUR PARTS Dir. Olivia Tan Jia Yi - NYFA 2021 (Student) • THE PARADE Dir. Ryan Benjamin Lee - NYFA 2023 (Open Youth) • BODHI Dir. Zhen Yu Png - NYFA 2019 (Student) • THE BELIEVERS Dir. Dave Lim - NYFA 2020 (Open Youth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADAM Dir. Shoki Lin - NYFA 2019 (Student) • SEXY SUSHI Dir. Calleen Koh & Amanda Teo - NYFA 2020 (Student) • THE SEA BETWEEN US Dir. Yuga J Vardhan - NYFA 2022 (Open Youth) • I WANNA BE WHERE YOU ARE Dir. Jovontae Simon Kusuma - NYFA 2018 (Student) • YOU IDIOT Dir. Kris Ong - NYFA 2019 (Open Youth) • SMRT PIECE Dir. Charlotte Hong - NYFA 2022 (Open Youth) • SIN-SFO Dir. Leon Cheo - NYFA 2019 (Open Youth) • DIRTY LAUNDRY Dir. Kyaw Shoon Le Yee - NYFA 2022 (Student)

ANNEX B




SYFF Ambassadors




<p>JOLINNA ANG Director of Photography</p>	<p>Jolinn is a DP based in Singapore. She graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2014 and is known in the ASEAN film industry for her dedication and devotion to telling Southeast Asian stories. Her works have spanned across a variety of mediums, ranging from documentaries and narrative films to commercials and music videos. Her fervour towards her craft and intrigue in untold stories has brought her to many places all over the world. Out of Asia, she also completed a 5-year-long feature documentary, Brother Joseph McNally in 2022. She recently wrapped on her debut feature film as a Director of Photography, titled Wilderness, in Sabah, Malaysia. Enjoying and loving her work is a priority in everything she does, and she continues to work wherever meaningful projects take her.</p>
<p>RIFYAL GIFFARI Director and Screenwriter</p>	<p>Rifyal is a filmmaker adept at engaging through authentic, empathy-evoking human stories, versatile in various genres and infusing socially conscious themes in all his work. Exploring social issues and community concerns, he focuses on the bonds that can empower people. He continually seeks to craft work that resonates with the urgency of our times. He is an alumnus of the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival's Fantastic Film School, the ASEAN-ROK FLY (Film Leaders Incubator) programme as well as the Singapore International Film Festival Youth Jury and Critics Programme. He is also the recipient of the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award. He works regularly with brands such as Apple, Amazon, MUIS, Raffles Hotel, Honda, Sentosa and Great Eastern Life whilst also screening his independent short form and long form work at several international film festivals around the world.</p>
<p>PHOEBE ZOE HO Art Director</p>	<p>Phoebe is an Art Director based in Singapore. Her interests are vested in crafting immersive worlds and experiences. Her craft often entails her being hands-on in a variety of mediums - from creating physical props to graphic design.</p>
<p>BERVYN CHUA Animator, Post Production</p>	<p>Bervyn has a keen interest in animating ideas. Some of his accolades include Annecy 2023 Official Selection ("Just Another Day..." MIFA), Winner of Unreal Engine's Virtual Production Challenge, Screwdriver Film Festival, National Youth Film Awards, Digicon6 Asia by TBS テレビ and @pwnisher_ (Top 100) Alternate Realities Render Challenge.</p>
<p>VIKNESHWARAN SILVA Director</p>	<p>Vikneshwaran is an award-winning filmmaker who continues to bring engaging stories onto the big screen. He is actively engaging in freelance projects while making short films. He graduated from the MET Film School, London with a Masters in Directing in 2018. He recently won 'Best Director' at the National Youth Film Awards 2022 for the second year running for his films 'Altar' and 'Dark Light'. Filmmaking Showreel: https://vimeo.com/694787615</p>

<p>LIM SHI AN Actress</p>	<p>Shi-An is a 25-year-old actress. Her notable screen credits include Sephia (MeWatch), Third Rail (Channel 5) and Under My Skin (Viddsee). She has also done several short films and music videos. She is no stranger to the stage, and originated the role of Marianne in Checkpoint Theatre's Normal, which was nominated for Life Theatre Awards. She has also had professional experience as a graphic designer and has a passion for singing.</p>
<p>JEREMIE LIM Sound / Editor</p>	<p>Jeremie is a Sound Editor who is passionate about putting the right visuals and sound together to deliver an impact in his audiences. His works cut across documentaries, fiction, corporate, and animation films.</p>
<p>OKJ Director</p>	<p>OKJ (Real Name: Ong Kah Jing) is a Singapore-based Documentary Storyteller. His earnest to do justice to the stories told have seen him journey across the world - from covering Singapore's athletes at the 2019 Philippine SEA Games to celebrating youths who were part of a 2018 global innovation programme in Oslo, Norway. Here in Singapore, he had encapsulated the experiences of the Singapore Thieves Market prior to its demise in 2017. This led to TRESPASS: STORIES FROM SINGAPORE'S THIEVES MARKET (2018), a National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) best documentary. He had also explored the relationship between dementia and heritage through his Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) award-winning work, A SUNNY PAST (2019). OKJ seeks to produce works that create empathetic connection between audiences to universal values through the intimate access to people and places.</p>
<p>ANGELINA BOK Producer</p>	<p>Angelina Marilyn Bok is a Singaporean producer and alumna of Rotterdam Lab, Busan Asian Film School - International Film Business Academy (AFiS), Fantastic Film School and Full Circle Lab. She became part of the New Asian Producers Network (NAPNet) in 2020. She aims to collaborate across borders and tell stories with a penchant for nuanced portrayals of human relationships and the absurdity of the everyday mundane. Angelina is the Associate Producer of Singapore-Philippines horror co-production In My Mother's Skin, which is premiering at this year's Sundance Film Festival and Rotterdam Film Festival. Her mettle and gumption are recognised in seminars/masterclasses given such as Motion Pictures Association and several film festivals. Her latest short, Smoke Gets In Your Eyes, premiered at Busan International Film Festival, and was honoured best film at the Golden Rooster Awards and best Singapore short at the Singapore International Film Festival. It is also travelling to Kaohsiung Film Festival, and Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.</p>
<p>CHENG LIJIE Sound / Editor</p>	<p>Cheng started his creative journey performing and collaborating in Hwachong Institution and Tembusu College. With strong interests in the audio arts, Cheng has experimented with projects in film, music, theatre, literature and education that have had reach both internationally and on the local scene. Currently freelancing as a location sound, concert recordist, sound designer and mixer, Cheng is always on the lookout for his next creative collaboration with like-minded individuals around the globe.</p>



Jury




Student Category - Selection Committee

	<p>MYSARA ALJARU</p> <p>Mysara Aljaru is a creative and writer. Previously a Journalist and Documentary Producer, her works look into state-constructed narratives that cut across race, gender, class and sexuality. She has showcased and performed at Objectifs, The Substation, ArtScience Museum and Singapore Art Week.</p> <p>Mysara is also the Co-Editor of Brown Is Redacted, an anthology looking into minority experiences in Singapore.</p>
	<p>JONATHAN CHAN</p> <p>Jonathan Chan is a writer and editor of poetry and essays. Born in New York to a Malaysian father and South Korean mother, he was raised in Singapore and educated at Cambridge and Yale. He is the author of the poetry collection going home (Landmark, 2022), which was named to SUSPECT's 'My Book of the Year 2022' list. Previously a participant in the Singapore International Film Festival's Youth Jury & Critics Programme in 2020, his writing on film has appeared in Stories Journal, Film Criticism, Quarterly Literary Review Singapore, and Cha: An Asian Literary Journal. More of his writing can be found at jonbcy.wordpress.com.</p>
	<p>GABRIEL GOH</p> <p>Gabriel Goh is the Programme Executive at the Singapore International Film Festival. Along with Sam I-shan, he has overseen the development of the Undercurrent section at the festival since 2021, which brings in bold contemporary artist films from around the world. His programming ethos builds on his ongoing research interests in the concepts of time and idleness in Southeast Asian cinema. Outside work, he enjoys tinkering with Super8 films and documenting tifos at lower-league football matches.</p>




	<p>ALEXANDER LEE</p> <p>Alexander Lee is a film programmer and filmmaker based in Singapore. His interest lies in the region's socio-politics of land and space and how it manifests in cinema. He was the programme manager at the Mental Health Film Festival Singapore (2022-24), curating thought-provoking films and panels that addressed mental health issues and promoted open dialogues around these critical topics.</p> <p>Beyond his role in festival curation, Alexander is both a writer and filmmaker. He has participated in the critics lab at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (YIDFF) and the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF). He has also lensed multiple shorts and collaborated with filmmakers on narrative projects.</p>
	<p>NANTHINEE SHREE</p> <p>G. Nanthinee Shree is a Branding and Marketing Executive who specialises in championing local narratives and cultural representation through strategic campaigns and compelling digital content. Her achievements include being awarded the prestigious SG Digital Scholarship for Film by the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore. Nanthinee's passion for cinema has led her to key roles, such as Festival Director at Perspectives Film Festival 2020 and participation in the Singapore International Film Festival's Youth Critics & Jury Programme 2021. As a writer on film topics, Nanthinee also contributes regularly to local publications. Nanthinee holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from Nanyang Technological University.</p>
	<p>PRIYANKA NAIR</p> <p>Priyanka has dabbled in various roles in the film space for almost 10 years, from marketing for film festivals, to building communities of cinephiles, and to editing film reviews and analyses. She works in Singapore Film Society as Head of Marketing, Community and Business Development, where she collaborates with festival programmers to find the best ways to pull audiences into screenings of exclusive films that the society brings in, and with volunteer writers and content creators who are experimenting with their voices. She has a personal mission of connecting more people together through the love of film.</p>

Student Category - Awards Jury

	<p>CHEN YANYUN</p> <p>Dr. Yanyun Chen is an artist and professor. Her practice untangles aesthetic, cultural, and technological anatomies, unravelling notions of embodiment and inheritances. She wrestles with questions around traditions and the intergenerational weight carried in our bodies. She received the National Arts Council Young Artist Award (2020) and ArtOutreach IMPART Visual Artist Award (2019). Her works were awarded the Prague International Indie Film Festival Q3 Best Animation Award (2020), National Youth Film Awards Best Art Direction Award (2019), Singapore Art Museum President’s Young Talents People’s Choice Award (2018), and Japan Media Arts Festival (2012).</p> <p>Chen holds a PhD and MA in Communications from the European Graduate School and a BFA from NTU. Her works were shown at Thailand Biennale (2021), Biennale de L’Image en Mouvement BIM (2020), and Singapore Art Museum (2018), and participated in residencies under NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Tyrone Guthrie Centre, HANGAR and Singapore Tyler Print Institute.</p>
	<p>SHARDA HARRISON</p> <p>Sharda Harrison is an actor, theatremaker, arts educator, and television presenter. She is well known in Singapore for co-hosting Talking Point for Channel News Asia and playing Rose Ortega in the MediaCorp drama Sunny Side Up. Sharda also won the 2024 Straits Times Life! Theatre Award for Best Actress.</p> <p>As a corporate trainer and coach, Sharda applies her theatre training to help clients develop innovative ideas, craft effective communication skills and unlock their creative potential. Recently, she conducted an Innovation Workshop for Singapore’s Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA), helping them rethink stifling internal processes. She has also conducted workshops for organisations such as Singapore Management University, Singapore Repertory Theatre, and Nanyang Polytechnic.</p> <p>For the community, Sharda has facilitated physical theatre workshops for Maya Dance Theatre, working closely with dancers and participants in Maya’s special needs and seniors programmes. Sharda enjoys bridging theatre and art with non-performers, enhancing their confidence with live performances and expanding their life skills.</p> <p>In 2020, Sharda graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with an MA in Arts Pedagogy and Practice. Sharda is also an Adjunct Lecturer with Nanyang Academy of Arts, LASALLE College of The Arts, and Pangdemonium Education & Outreach, lecturing in Acting and Movement and Devised Theatre.</p>

	<p>JOW ZHI WEI</p> <p>Jow Zhi Wei attended Le Fresnoy (France) and LASALLE (Singapore). He is an alumnus of the Golden Horse Film Academy 2010. In 2014, he was awarded the Young Artist Award by the government of Singapore. He has made three short films, which were selected at various international film festivals—OUTING (San Sebastián International Film Festival 2010), WAITING (Busan International Film Festival 2010) and AFTER THE WINTER (Cannes Film Festival - Cinéfondation Selection 2013).</p> <p>His debut feature film TOMORROW IS A LONG TIME world premiered at the 2023 Berlinale, in the Generation 14plus competition.</p>
	<p>SHARON LOH</p> <p>Sharon Loh started her journey as a cinematographer in 2008. Educated in film and media studies at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, she later went on to a film school in Barcelona to further her studies in Cinematography. Her most notable work, A Family Portrait shot on 35mm, was selected as part of the entry for the students film competition in Camerimage, Poland. Sharon was working in the film and media industry in various roles before she shot Sandcastle, the debut feature of Boo Junfeng. Since then, she has continued to hone her skills in various projects from short films, reality shows, promo trailers, dramas and feature films. The last feature Sharon worked on was Seven Days, released in Singapore theatres in 2023. From 2015, she has worked as Director of Photography in Channel 5 long form dramas for <i>Tanglin</i>, <i>Kin</i> and <i>Sunny Side Up</i>.</p>
	<p>VIKNESHWARAN SILVA</p> <p>Vikneshwaran Silva, a Singaporean director with a passion for compelling storytelling, embarked on his journey in filmmaking after earning a Bachelor's in Digital Filmmaking from the SAE Institute in 2012. Beginning as a video editor, he later pursued a Masters in Directing at the MET Film School in London, refining his craft. His debut professional short film, The Puppeteer, filmed in Budapest, Hungary, garnered 6 awards and featured in 30 international festivals. In 2022, his impactful work Altar, shot with a single camera angle, earned him the 'Best Director' accolade at the National Youth Film Awards and was showcased at the Singapore International Film Festival. Previously in the same festival, his short film Dark Light swept awards for Best Director, Best Cinematography, and Best Actor. Inspired by filmmakers like Christopher Nolan, Vikneshwaran continues to create visually stunning narratives that resonate deeply with audiences.</p>

Open Youth - Selection Committee

	<p>VESS CHUA</p> <p>Vess Chua is a film programmer and producer based in Singapore. With a focus on Southeast Asian short films, she is currently the Programme Executive at the Singapore International Film Festival. She is also the Festival Manager of the Singapore Youth Film Festival. Previously, she also contributed to the Perspectives Film Festival, first as a Programmer in 2018, then as the Festival Director in 2019.</p>
	<p>VIKNESH KOBINATHAN</p> <p>Viknesh Kobinathan is a cultural worker based in Singapore. Their practice is a constantly evolving exploration into the gathering around moving images as an act of collective care, healing, and rest. They are currently a programmer at the Asian Film Archive and hold an MA in Film Studies from the National Film and Television School in England.</p>
	<p>LAI JUNJIE</p> <p>Lai Junjie is a producer who works in both film and television.</p> <p>He was a development executive with HBO Asia for 5 years, where he worked on its slate of original productions spanning the region including documentary Traffickers: Inside the Golden Triangle, which won Best Documentary Series at the Asian Academy Creative Awards 2021, and the anthology series Invisible Stories, Folklore and Food Lore.</p> <p>Prior to HBO Asia, he was at mm2 Entertainment for 7 years where he worked in different departments to develop a solid foundation across the industry including creative development, funding, production of feature films, shorts and TVCs, as well as marketing and distribution.</p>



SIM JIAYING

Sim Jiaying (沈佳颖) is the founder and manager of Singapore Film Database (<http://sgfilmdb.com>), a comprehensive digital resource that provides detailed information on the films, organisations, and venues defining Singapore's film ecosystem. She holds a PhD in Film and Television Studies from the University of Glasgow.

Beyond her academic roles teaching critical thinking and writing, gender and sexuality, and media literacy at local universities, Jiaying actively researches and produces content for film and mixed media projects. Her research delves into global screen cultures, examining how filmmaking processes and the sensory experiences of film both produce and challenge societal norms while negotiating cultural and gender identities. Her scholarly writings on Asian cinemas can be found in international journals such as *Film-Philosophy* and in film anthologies published by the University of Edinburgh Press and Routledge.

Open Youth - Awards Jury



JERROLD CHONG

Jerrold Chong is an animation filmmaker and director. A graduate of California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), 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, Animatricks Animation Festival, Short Shorts Film Festival and Bucheon International Animation Festival. In 2022, he was awarded the NYFA Youth Inspiration Award as well as NAC's prestigious Young Artist Award.

His short film Piece of Meat premiered at the 2019 Cannes Directors' Fortnight and was selected at the 2019 Annecy International Animation Festival, on top of various other international film festivals. His films What Has To Be and Automatonomy won the Best Animation Award at the National Youth Film Awards (Open Category) in 2018 and 2019. He is co-founder of independent animation studio Finding Pictures, and serves as Programme Director for local independent animation festival Cartoons Underground.





PANUKSMI HARDJOWIROGO

Co-founder of M'GO FILMS, Panuksmi produces fiction, documentary and multimedia installations. Her focus is on collaborations with international partners; stories that are intricately linked to the shared histories of Southeast Asia. Believing that cultural diversity is significant and inherently complex has led her to (co)produce projects with like-minded partners.

Born in Jakarta, Panuksmi spent her formative years in New York City until moving to Montreal to pursue her university studies and begin her trajectory as a producer. She lives and works in Singapore.

www.margofilms.com

	<p>SHYAN TAN</p> <p>Shyan Tan is a home-grown cinematographer whose deep passion lies in crafting narratives through his lens. Possessing a keen eye for capturing raw emotions and a strong commitment to evoking feelings through visual storytelling, he has the ability to create captivating cinematic experiences that resonate with audiences worldwide.</p> <p>He obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Digital Filmmaking from Nanyang Technological University's School of Art, Design and Media. He is also an alumnus of the esteemed Asian Film Academy in 2014 and the Golden Horse Academy in 2017.</p> <p>Shyan boasts a diverse portfolio spanning ads and narrative films. His works have gained recognition on esteemed platforms. In 2021, his work on Strawberry Cheesecake directed by Siyou Tan, earned a spot at Locarno Film Festival's Pardi di domani and was featured in Uppsala Short Film Festival and AFI Fest. An Island Drifts directed by Vivian Ip, another project he was involved in, won accolades like Best Drama Film at USC First Look 2022, received acclaim at Urbanworld Film Festival 2021 and was nominated at the National Youth Film Awards 2022. Most recently, he was awarded the Young Artist Award 2023, the highest award for young arts practitioners in Singapore.</p> <p>His unique approach to visual storytelling has opened doors to many foreign collaborations. He is currently engaged in a project with Anti-Archive, collaborating with Cambodian director Chheangkea Ieng. Additionally, he is scheduled to embark on his first feature film endeavour with Taiwanese director Lu Po-Shun 呂柏勳, with principal photography set to commence in mid-2025.</p>
	<p>WEISH</p> <p>weish (Chew Wei Shan) is a Singaporean artist whose practice spans composition, performance, music directing, dramatic writing and sound design. She forms part of electronic duo .gif, prog band sub:shaman, audiovisual collective Syndicate, experimental ensemble RATA Orkestra, and is an associate artist at Checkpoint Theatre. She also curates and promotes indie music as a radio DJ at Mediacorp Indiego.</p> <p>Her compositions have taken her around the globe, from Sundance Film Festival to the Golden Melody Awards, building sound installations in London, touring with bands through Japan, Southeast Asia, UK and Australia, and making the Oscars shortlist for Best Music in Shirkers. This April, she wrote the book, music and lyrics to—and music-directed—Secondary, an unconventional musical staged at Victoria Theatre to overwhelming acclaim. She went on to tour Europe with grindcore stalwarts Wormrot as guest vocalist, and will perform an original composition at the National Day Parade 2024.</p>



NICOLE MIDORI WOODFORD

Nicole Midori Woodford is a Singaporean film director and writer. Her debut feature film *Last Shadow at First Light*, made its world premiere at San Sebastián International Film Festival in 2023. It was nominated for multiple awards at Asian Film Awards, Asia Pacific Screen Awards and won four awards at Ho Chi Minh City International Film Festival including the Jury Prize. She is an alumna of Berlinale Talents, Asian Film Academy, Torino Film Lab and Talents Tokyo. Nicole is a recipient of the prestigious Young Artist Award in 2020 in recognition for her achievements in filmmaking.



ANNEX C

List of SYFF 2024 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
Special Mention*	Most Promising*
Best Original Music	
Best Supporting Performance	
Best Lead Performance	
Best Short Film	Best Short Film

Special Awards: Youth Inspiration Award

*At the discretion of the jury