



PRESS RELEASE

Ten ASEAN Youths Converge at SGIFF's First Ever Southeast Asian Film Lab

9 December 2014, SINGAPORE – The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) saw 10 participants from the region converge at its first ever Southeast Asian Film Lab today, held as part of the 15th anniversary of the film festival.

The Southeast Asian Film Lab is a six-day writing workshop aimed at emerging screenwriters and/or writer/directors from Southeast Asia aged between 18 and 35, with a focus on stories capturing the collective experiences of the past, present and future Southeast Asia, to be developed into feature length screenplays.

The film lab is headed by award-winning director/producer Eric Khoo, and supported by mentors for the film lab include Akanga Films' award-winning producer Fran Borgia, and independent filmmaker and co-founder of Da Huang Pictures Tan Chui Mui. It will run until 13 December 2014.

The 10 shortlisted participants are Aiess Alonso (Philippines) for *Dinhi Sa Yuta*, Bradley Liew (Malaysia) for *Amit Ng Puntod*; Jaime Habac Jr. (Philippines) for *Teatro Cajetilla*; Kavich Neang (Cambodia) for *Re-Marriage*; Kong Pahurak (Thailand) for *Through The Rustling Leaves*; Kristen Ong (Singapore) for *Afterhours*; Loeloe Hendra (Indonesia) for *Ilalang, Ingin Hilang Waktu Siang*; Marcus Lim (Singapore) for *August Men*; Sidi Saleh (Indonesia) for *Ibu*; Truong Minh Quy (Vietnam) for *Cay Xoai Den Tu Dau?*.

Yuni Hadi, Executive Director of SGIFF said: "It was very heartening for us to receive nearly 50 entries given this is the first time the film festival is organizing such a workshop. In addition to Singapore, we saw submissions from Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. By holding the first Southeast Film Lab, SGIFF is also supporting a wider Asian film community, enabling participants to share resources and exchange ideas."

Hadi added: "Our thinking behind the Southeast Asian Film Lab is to unearth potential stories from the region, and explore the richness of Southeast Asian culture through the medium of film. Through this creative cross-country collaboration, we will build up mutual appreciation and respect for our heritage amongst the participants in Singapore and the region."



The participants will attend a series of master classes and screenings with established practitioners from the region on possible writing approaches. They will also receive individual advice from mentors, and eventually conduct a story pitch in front of an industry panel.

Jaime Habac Jr, participant from the Philippines, commented: “What's great about this workshop is it enables me meet new people and filmmakers from different countries and you get to know how they make their own films. This is my first time joining a pitch session and workshop so I'm expecting to learn how to pitch properly and effectively because honestly, I don't know how to pitch projects, including my own projects, and I get stage fright.”

Hadi added that the Southeast Asian Film Lab also underscores the festival's ambition to build and nurture the film industries in Singapore, as well as the wider Southeast Asian region.

There will be a cash prize of SGD 5,000 for the Most Promising Project, presented by mm2 Entertainment, at the Silver Screen Awards taking place on December 13 at the Sands Theatre, Marina Bay Sands.

Meanwhile, Moleskine, one of SGIFF's creative partners, celebrates the Singapore International Film Festival's (SGIFF) 25th Anniversary with a creative collaboration in support of filmmaking and the festival's commitment to the development of a vibrant film culture. Participants of the Film Lab will each receive the iconic Moleskine notebook and a Moleskine pen as tools for their creative expression as well as to note inspirations gleaned from the established mentors. To further promote and inspire the art of filmmaking amongst aspiring filmmakers, these Moleskine notebooks will be on exhibition in January next year.

SGIFF, which runs until December 14, focuses on groundbreaking Asian cinema and discovering new film talents from Southeast Asia. SGIFF is known for its dynamic film programming and commitment to the development of a vibrant local film culture.

For more details, please visit the SGIFF website at www.sgiff.com.

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**Screening Venues:**

The festival will take place at multiple screening venues including Marina Bay Sands, Shaw Theatres Lido, National Museum of Singapore, The Projector (formerly Golden Theatre) and The Arts House.

Ticketing Information:

Tickets for SGIFF are available at all Sistic outlets, Website: www.sistic.com.sg and Hotline: +65 6348 5555.

- Opening / Closing Films \$25
- Special Presentation Films \$15
- All Other Films \$12

** Ticket prices exclude Sistic booking fee*

Discounts & Concessions:

- Students, Senior Citizens and NSF - \$1 discount for Opening / Closing Films and \$0.50 discount for other films.
- General Public - every booking of 10 tickets or more in a single receipt is entitled to a 10% discount.

About the Singapore International Film Festival (4 to 14 December 2014)

The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) is the largest and longest-running film event in Singapore. Founded in 1987, the festival has become an iconic event in the Singapore arts calendar that is widely attended by international film critics, and recognized worldwide for its focus on Asian filmmakers and the promotion of Southeast Asian films. The SGIFF is committed to nurturing and championing local and regional talents in the art of filmmaking. The festival serves as a catalyst in igniting public interest in the arts, and encouraging artistic dialogue and cultural exchanges. The SGIFF is organized by the Singapore International Film Festival Ltd, a non-profit organization and holds the Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status. For more information, please visit www.sgiff.com.

About the Singapore Media Festival

The Singapore Media Festival is set to become one of Asia's leading international media events, where the industry meets to discover the latest trends, talent and content in Asia for Film and TV. It brings together four complementary events - Asia TV Forum & Market (ATF) and ScreenSingapore (SS), Asian Television Awards (ATA) and Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), which will take place from 4 to 14 December 2014. The Singapore Media Festival is hosted by the Media Development Authority of Singapore, and organised by Reed Exhibitions, Contineo Media and SGIFF Ltd.



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