PRESS RELEASE

Eric Khoo to Head Singapore International Film Festival's Southeast Asian Film Lab

21 August 2014, SINGAPORE – The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) organizers have confirmed that award-winning director/producer Eric Khoo will head its first ever Southeast Asian Film Lab.

Khoo, a familiar name in the Asian film industry, put Singapore on the international film map with his first feature film *Mee Pok Man* (1995), picking up prizes at Fukuoka, Pusan and Singapore. His second feature *12 Storeys* (1997) won the Federation of International Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Award and the UOB Young Cinema Award at the 10th Singapore International Festival, and the Golden Maile Award for Best Picture at the 17th Hawaii International Film Festival. More importantly, *12 Storeys* was the first Singaporean film to be invited officially to participate in the 50th Cannes Film Festival (1997).

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.

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 be held from 8 to 13 December 2014.

Executive Director of SGIFF Yuni Hadi said: "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. Film is one of the fastest and most powerful ways of reaching the wider community. Through this creative collaboration between neighboring countries, we will build up mutual appreciation and respect for our heritage amongst the participants in Singapore and the region."

Khoo said: "I believe that this lab will help aspiring filmmakers from Southeast Asia in their story-telling. I look forward to meeting the participants".

Ten participants will be selected to 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.

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

To be eligible, screenwriters and/or writers/directors must be of Southeast Asian descent, aged between 18 to 35 years old; have at least two short films screened in international film festivals; and must not have made a feature length film before.

Participants outside of Singapore will be eligible to receive up to SGD 200 in travel subsidies. There will also be a cash prize of SGD 5,000 for the Most Promising Project, presented by mm2 Entertainment.

Melvin Ang, mm2 Entertainment's Executive Director said: "mm2 has always been interested in encouraging and grooming new talent in the industry. We look forward to hearing these unique stories from the participants, and hope the prize money will go a small way in helping emerging talents realise their dreams."

All entries must be submitted together with the completed submission form by 15 September 2014. SGIFF will announce the successful applicants by mid-October 2014. For more information, please visit http://www.sgiff.com/sea-film-lab/.

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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 nurture and champion Singaporean talents in the art of filmmaking and brings to the city, the highest standard for the enrichment of cultural life in Singapore. The festival serves as a catalyst — igniting public interest in the arts and encouraging artistic dialogue and cultural exchange. 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.

About Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA)

The Media Development Authority of Singapore (www.mda.gov.sg) promotes the growth of globally competitive film, television, radio, publishing, music, games, animation and interactive digital media industries. It also regulates the media sector to safeguard the interests of consumers, and promotes a connected society. MDA is a statutory board under the Ministry of Communications and Information (www.mci.gov.sg).

About mm2

mm2 entertainment is a media production company committed to a simple goal – to create compelling content with an emphasis on local production for audiences in Singapore and Malaysia market. Headquartered in Singapore, mm2 has offices in Taipei, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing, and the infrastructure to distribute content across Southeast and North Asia. mm2 entertainment has produced and distributed notable films, such as Love Matters (2009), Phua Chu Kang The Movie (2010), Twisted (2011), 23:59 (2011), We Not Naughty (2012), Greedy Ghost (2012), Imperfect (2012), Ah Boys To Men (2012) and the recent Ah Boys To Men 2 (2013). As a dynamic entertainment company, mm2 entertainment believes in developing new talents to constantly create fresh and relevant content for audiences.

Contact Information

Singapore International Film Festival Office

45A Haji Lane, Singapore 189238

Yeoh El Lynn, Publicist

pressoffice@sgiff.com, +65 8100 2110