Hong Kong
Kong
Arts
Centre

Hong Kong Arts Centre
The 25th ifva Awards Results Announced
With Indie Spirit Creative Talents Move forward against all Odds

Organised by Hong Kong Arts Centre and sponsored by Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), all public screenings and showcases of finalist works of the 25th **ifva** Festival were cancelled due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. The jury meetings, however, continued and the awards results were announced online on 7 March.

The 'indie spirit' has always been the most important judging criterion of **ifva**. Shortlisted works often depict the ever-changing cityscape and its people, so they indeed are the records of the era. As usual, the finalist works are extraordinary not only in terms of their narratives, but also the heart-rending documentation of the happenings in the city. They are indeed a collection of works with utmost honesty of the creative talents. It is also with this indie spirit that **ifva** and the creators could move forward against all odds.

In this edition of **ifva**, there are a total of over 1,900 works received from over 40 Asian countries and areas, in the form of shorts, animations, and media art works. The jury meetings had been conducted via video meetings and after many rounds of debates, the final results were announced on 7 March at 8pm via **ifva** Facebook Live.

Gold Awards for all five categories are as follows:

Open Category – *Old Man And A Dog*
Open Category works depict the different unique cityscapes of this city, which are both ruthless and tender. After an enthusiastic debate among jurors, Chan Hon-yan's *Old Man And A Dog* was awarded the Gold Award. The short depicts how a lonely dying old man and a dog with terminal disease comfort each other, and how he approaches death. Juror Ernest Chan Chi-wa thinks "the plot focuses on the details of daily life, and the performance of Paul Che who plays the protagonist is particularly natural and honest".

Youth Category –*Bully's Wording*
The Gold Award goes to Cheung Ching-ho's *Bully's Wording*. The protagonist, Jun, is always bullied by his classmates, and as the situation escalates, they end up at the police station where all the bullying classmates try to make up their defense statements. Juror Tsang Tsui-shan finds "the imperfect performance of the actors makes it more convincing, the choice of actors is impeccable and the filming, editing and performance combine to give an impressive result".

Animation Category – *Another World*
The ten finalist works include animation from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Iran. The Gold Award winning work, Ng Kai-chung Tommy's *Another World* is a depiction of the story between a little ghost and a girl desperate to find her brother in the underworld. Juror Mak Shing-fung thinks "the character design, artistic treatment and animation are outstanding with exquisiteness, which makes this short film quite a promising work".

Media Art Category – *As You Were Here*
On top of the local finalists, there are also shortlisted works from Taiwan, China and Thailand. Taiwanese artist Pan I-an's *As You Were Here* was awarded Gold Award. This unique project contains four wearable electronics, each of

them is a reminder of the artist's mother's gestures, advices or worries. Juror Tamás Waliczky thinks "the project is a sensitive, personal vision of the relationship between the artist and her mother. It is sensual, feminine and it has warm humour".

Asian New Force Category – *The City of Honey*

More than 1,000 applications were received for Asian New Force Category this year. Besides Iran and the Philippines, it was the first time works from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to be listed as finalists. The Gold Award winner goes to *The City of Honey* by Iranian director Moein Ruholamini, a tale of homeless children who want to leave their war-torn city. Juror Ying Liang praises the outstanding performances of the children, who "express the multilayered emotions with a sense of humour and ease. It is a short piece but deals with the essence of cruelty without mercy".

Please refer to Appendix for the full list of **ifva** Awards results and prize details.

Winners of this year's **ifva** are supported by a lot of parties with sponsorship in terms of cash prizes, foreign film festival visit, and trophy sponsored by LCSD, Pure Art Foundation and Goethe-Institut Hongkong.

The screenings for Open Category, Youth Category, Animation Category and Asian New Force Category Finalist Showcase will be postponed to early August this year. Further announcements will be made in the near future.

Website: www.ifva.com

Email: ifva@hkac.org.hk

Phone: 2824 5329

About **ifva**

ifva, formerly the Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards, was founded by the Hong Kong Arts Centre in 1995. Over the years, **ifva** has established itself as Asia's pioneering force in short film, animation and media arts, by providing a unique and professional platform for Hong Kong and Asian creative talents to unite, exchange and promote their works.

With the aims to promote short film and media arts and defend independent creative spirit, every year, in addition to the professionally renowned **ifva** Awards and **ifva** Festival, **ifva** also organises a series of extended programmes including the followings: "CINEMA 2.0" media arts exhibition examines different subject matters at the intersection of arts, culture, technology and society; "All About Us" celebrates diversity and the creative voices of young people from the ethnic minority backgrounds; "Jockey Club **ifva** Everywhere" makes film and media arts accessible to people from all walks of life; and Community and School Tour encourages students to experience and appreciate different media art forms.

ifva
Hong Kong Arts Centre

Media Enquiry:

Annie Ho (Marketing and Development Director)	Tel: 2824 5306 / 9481 8706	Email: aho@hkac.org.hk
Samantha Szeto (Assistant Programme Manager, **ifva**)	Tel: 2582 0294	Email: sszeto@hkac.org.hk
Tobe To (Assistant Programme Manager, **ifva**)	Tel: 2824 5326	Email: tto@hkac.org.hk