

For immediate release

**HAF21 ADDS 15 WORK-IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS
FOR FIRST PHYSICAL EDITION SINCE 2019**



8 February 2023 (Hong Kong) – The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society today completes the 21st Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF21) line-up by shortlisting 15 work-in-progress projects, adding to the 28 in-development projects announced previously.

HAF21 will take place from 13 to 15 March at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in conjunction with the 27th Hong Kong Film & TV Market (FILMART). It will be the first physical, in-person edition of HAF since 2019.

The 15 shortlisted work-in-progress projects include three from Hong Kong and eight feature debuts. Emerging and established actors from across Asia, including Fish Liew, Austin Lin, Ma Chih-Hsiang, Matsuda Ryuhei, Wang Xuebing, Wu Kang-Ren, and Zu Feng, top-line many projects. Renowned filmmakers such as Stanley Kwan, Mai Meksawan, and Ram Krishna Pokharel also featured prominently as producers.

HAF introduced the work-in-progress section in 2017 for later-stage projects seeking completion funding, post-production partners, distributors and sales agents, and film festival support, complementing its main programme, which was designed specifically for projects in the pre-production or development stages.

Debut projects

Among the feature debut projects are:

- In ***A Journey in Spring***, filmmakers Peng Tzu-Hui and Wang Ping-Wen follow an old man who puts his wife in a freezer when she passes away suddenly, only to start a journey to face his life regrets.
- Produced by Zhou Yaowu and directed by Ma Xiang, ***The Actor*** stars Wang Xuebing (*The Pluto Moment*) as an actor who seeks help from a friend with extraordinary power to revive his career.
- Starring Zu Feng (*Summer Of Changsha*) and Guo Keyu (*Red Cherry*), Lin Jianjie's family drama ***Brief History of a Family*** revolves around a seemingly harmonious middle-class family disrupted by a mysterious friend of the son.
- Produced by Stanley Kwan for director Sasha Chuk, ***Fly Me to the Moon*** tracks the struggles of two sisters who moved from Hunan to Hong Kong in the 90s, with a cast led by Wu Kang-Ren, Angela Yuen, and Chu Pak-him.
- ***Hani*** by Hou Dasheng is a Yunnan-set drama about a 14-year-old boy who is about to marry a 12-year-old child bride deep in the mountain.
- Qu Youjia's ***She Sat There Like All Ordinary Ones*** is a coming-of-age drama about two high school students who befriend and reject each other. Xie Meng (*Memoria*) produced.
- Starring Austin Lin (*IWeirDo*) and Esther Liu (*Light The Night series*), Lien Chien-Hung's Taiwan and France co-production ***Salli*** follow a 38-year-old chicken farmer who starts an online romance with a Frenchman until he disappears. Lee Lieh (*Detention*) is an executive producer.
- Patiparn Boontarig's ***Solids by the Seashore*** follows a young Muslim woman who falls for a female activist-turned-visual artist in south Thailand, produced by Mai Meksawan (*Manta Ray*).

Leading ladies and leading men

Two projects featuring female-driven stories:

- In ***Carefree Days***, director Liang Ming reunites with his actress Lv Xingchen from *Wisdom Tooth* (best director winner at HKIFF's Young Cinema Competition), who plays a young woman whose life collapses when she gets uraemia. Still, she decides to go on a trip with her best friends.
- ***Do Fish Sleep with Their Eyes Open?*** follows a young Chinese woman who starts a new life in Brazil, living with her aunt in a fancy building with hidden stories. Nele Wohlatz (whose *The Future Perfect* won the best first feature at Locarno) directs this co-production of Brazil, Taiwan, Argentina and Germany.

Projects with top leading men include:

- Su Hung-En's suspense thriller ***Hunter Brothers*** is about a man who, upon release from jail, attempts to settle unfinished family business with his brother. It stars Ma Chih-Hsiang, Lin Ching-Tai, and Hsu Yi-Fan (all from *Seediq Bale*).
- Directed by Peng Tao (*Leaving For Love*), ***Listening to the Wind*** is about a terminally ill man who returns to his hometown with his wife after a long absence, hoping to pay a last visit to his estranged father. It stars Yao Anlian (who won best actor at the Montreal World Film Festival for *Factory Boss*).
- Kwan Man-hin's ***The Remnant*** is about a former gangster boss who comes out of retirement when residents in his poor neighbourhood are threatened with eviction, with Philip Keung, Fish Liew and Ling Man-lung in the cast.

The two non-Chinese language projects are

- ***Guras*** by Saurav Rai (whose *Nimtoh' Invitation'* won the grand jury prize at Jio MAMI Film Festival) follows the mystical journey of a nine-year-old Nepali girl in search of her lost dog. Ram Krishna Pokharel, a winner of a Sports Emmy Award, was the producer.
- ***Who Were We?*** by Tomina Tetsuya (whose *Blue Wind Blows* premiered at Berlinale's Generation Kplus) explores the inexplicable love between a man and a woman with no memory of the past. The film stars Matsuda Ryuhei (*Before We Vanish*) and Komatsu Nana (*Moonlight Shadow*).

Details of the Open Pitch Session

All shortlisted work-in-progress projects will feature in an open pitch session on 13 March 2023 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Representatives of each project will introduce their projects and showcase footage of their films. All HAF and FILMART badge holders are welcome to participate. Details of the session are as follows:

Date: 13 March 2023 (Monday)

Time: 14:00 - 18:00 (Hong Kong Time)

Venue: Starlight Theatre, Hall 1

Remarks: HAF/FILMART badge holders may attend

Please refer to the **Appendix** for details on all shortlisted projects.

HAF Projects Latest Milestones

- Liu Jian's *Art College 1994* (HAF16, 2018) has been selected in the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival's main competition
- *Absence* (HAF20, 2022) by Wu Lang has been selected in the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival's Encounter section
- Burak Çevik's *Forms of Forgetting* (HAF19, 2021) will have its World Premiere at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival's Forum section
- Yang Heng's *Silent Ghosts* (HAF20, 2022) premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2023
- Lau Kok Rui's *The Sunny Side of the Street* (HAF20, 2022) won Best Leading Actor, Best New Director, and Best Original Screenplay at the Golden Horse Film Awards in Taiwan

Guest and Media Accreditation for HAF21

Investors, financiers and other film-industry guests can now register for HAF at <https://Industry.hkiff.org.hk/guest-registration> and schedule individual meetings with filmmakers to discuss their projects. Guests will be given access to HAF in addition to joining official networking events, screenings, seminars or other activities.

Media registration details can be found here:

<https://www.hkiff.org.hk/accreditation/media>.

For more up-to-date information about HAF21, please visit our official website at <https://Industry.hkiff.org.hk> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hkiffindustry/>.

To download information:

<https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/@HAF21>

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About Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is Asia's premier film financing platform. HAF brings Asian filmmakers with upcoming film projects to Hong Kong for co-production ventures with top film financiers, producers, bankers, funding bodies, sales agents, distributors, and buyers. Around 30 in-development projects (IDP) and ten work-in-progress projects (WIP) are selected annually to participate in the three-day event attended by more than 1,000 filmmakers and financiers from over 35 countries and regions. HAF has the advantage of being held in conjunction with Hong Kong FILMART, Asia's largest film market, attracting over 8,000 professionals.

HAF enhances the prospects of the participating projects through close collaborations with international organisations such as iQIYI (Mainland China), Cinemart (the Netherlands), Asian Project Market (South Korea), Golden Horse Film Project Promotion (Taiwan), MIA (Italy) and more. Cash and in-kind awards are made with support from Create Hong Kong and Film Development Fund, among others.

About Hong Kong International Film Festival Industry Office (HKIFF Industry)

To promote and support the film industry development more effectively, The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society restructured its industry services and set up Hong Kong International Film Festival Industry Office (HKIFF Industry) in 2021. From polishing up projects for a better appeal (HAF Film Lab), getting them off the ground and finding post-production assistance (Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum), to exposing the projects to major international platforms (HAF Goes to Cannes) and on to planning the career of finished films (HKIFF Collection), HKIFF Industry offers independent filmmakers comprehensive services and windows to the world.

About The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS)

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to discovering and promoting creativity in film art and culture. It organises the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF). Another highlight is the Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival (SummerIFF), held every August. In 2013, HKIFF introduced the repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme to enrich and deepen Hong Kong moviegoers' experience through a monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective, and thematic showcases. In 2021, HKIFFS restructured its film industry services and set up HKIFF Industry to promote and support non-mainstream film industry development through co-production, festival strategies, and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: www.hkiff.org.hk

Appendix: Full list of the HAF21 work-in-progress (WIP) projects

* First feature projects

<p>A. * The Actor 馬勺</p> <p>Director 導演: Producer 監製 / 製片: Production Company 製作公司:</p>	<p>Mainland China 中國內地</p> <p>Ma Xiang 馬翔 Zhou Yaowu 周耀武 Hangzhou Mashao Pictures Co., Ltd. 杭州馬勺影業有限公司</p>
<p>B. * Brief History of a Family 家庭簡史</p> <p>Director 導演: Producer 監製 / 製片: Production Company 製作公司:</p>	<p>Mainland China 中國內地</p> <p>Lin Jianjie 林見捷 Lou Ying 樓瑩, Wang Yiwen 王衣文, Zheng Yue 鄭玥 First Light Films 驟然破曉 (成都) 影業有限公司</p>
<p>C. Carefree Days 逍遙遊</p> <p>Director 導演: Producer 監製 / 製片: Production Company 製作公司:</p>	<p>Mainland China 中國內地</p> <p>Liang Ming 梁鳴 Wu Jueren 吳覺人, Zhang Jian 張建, Zhu Dan 朱丹 Chips Pictures 廈門薯片影業有限公司</p>
<p>D. Do Fish Sleep with Their Eyes Open? 魚睡覺的時候闔眼嗎?</p> <p>Director 導演: Producer 監製 / 製片: Production Company 製作公司:</p>	<p>Brazil 巴西 Taiwan 台灣 Argentina 阿根廷 Germany 德國</p> <p>Nele Wohlatz 妮莉·沃拉茲 Nele Wohlatz 妮莉·沃拉茲, Emilie Lesclaux 艾蜜莉·萊斯拉, Kleber Mendonça Filho 克雷伯·曼東沙·費侯, Justine O. 王思靜, Roger Huang 黃江豐, Rosa Martínez Rivero 羅莎·馬田妮絲·里維, Violeta Bava 維奧莉·塔巴華, Meike Martens 麥克耶·馬滕斯 CinemaScópio, Yi Tiao Long Hu Bao International Entertainment Co. 一條龍虎 豹國際娛樂有限公司, Ruda Cine, Blinker Filmproduktion GmbH</p>

E.	* Fly Me to the Moon 但願人長久	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演:	Sasha Chuk 祝紫嫣	
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Stanley Kwan 關錦鵬	
Production Company 製作公司:	The Flow of Words Limited 語絲有限公司	
F.	Guras	India 印度 Nepal 尼泊爾
Director 導演:	Saurav Rai 索拉·夫雷	
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Ram Krishna Pokharel 拉姆·克里希納·波哈雷爾, Sanjay Gulati 桑傑·古拉提	
Production Company 製作公司:	Icefall Production, LowIQ Production, Crawling Angel Films, Neonate Audio LLP	
G.	* Hani 哈尼	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演:	Hou Dasheng 侯大勝	
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Wang Hongwei 王宏偉	
Production Company 製作公司:	Jiagu Culture Communication Co., Ltd. 甲古文化傳播有限公司	
H.	Hunter Brothers 獵人兄弟	Taiwan 台灣
Director 導演:	Su Hung-En 蘇弘恩	
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Chen Pao-Ying 陳保英	
Production Company 製作公司:	Phbah Film Production Ltd. 小花電影有限公司	
I.	* A Journey in Spring 春行	Taiwan 台灣
Director 導演:	Peng Tzu-Hui 彭紫惠, Wang Ping-Wen 王品文	
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Wang Ping-Wen 王品文	
Production Company 製作公司:	Being Film and Art Co., Ltd. 今日影像藝術有限公司	
J.	Listening to the Wind 風過耳	Mainland China 中國內地
Director 導演:	Peng Tao 彭韜	
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Yao Anlian 姚安瀛, Wang Biaoxia 王彪霞, Wang Rongjing 王戎靖	
Production Company 製作公司:	Heaven Pictures (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. 天畫畫天(上海)影業有限公司, Beijing TH Entertainment Co., Ltd. 北京天浩盛世娛樂有限公司	

K. The Remnant 惡人當道	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演:	Kwan Man-hin 關文軒
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Ding Yui-shan 丁雲山, Heidi Ng Hoi-yan 吳凱恩
Production Company 製作公司:	Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers Limited 香港電影工作者總會有限公司
L. * Salli 莎莉	Taiwan 台灣 France 法國
Director 導演:	Lien Chien-Hung 練建宏
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Lee Lieh 李烈, Dennis Wu 吳明憲, Amanda Tseng Man-Yin 曾曼盈, Uilin Ong 王威人
Production Company 製作公司:	ENLA Media Limited 十宜影樂有限公司, The Graduate Co., Ltd. 畢業生有限公司, Bole Film 伯樂影業股份有限公司
M. * She Sat There Like All Ordinary Ones 她坐在那，像個普通人一樣	Mainland China 中國內地
Director 導演:	Qu Youjia 瞿尤嘉
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Xie Meng 謝萌, Wu Xianjian 鄔憲健, Gao Song 高松
Production Company 製作公司:	Beijing Booy Media Co., Ltd. 捕影傳媒, Rediance 赤角
N. * Solids by the Seashore	Thailand 泰國
Director 導演:	Patiparn Boontarig 柏迪·彭潘達力
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Mai Meksawan 邁爾·密沙雲, Chatchai Chaiyon 察齊·查揚
Production Company 製作公司:	Diversion, Error Brothers
O. Who Were We?	Japan 日本
Director 導演:	Tomina Tetsuya 富名哲也
Producer 監製 / 製片:	Hatanaka Mina 畠中美奈
Production Company 製作公司:	TETSUYA to MINA film