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HKIFF48 NAMES FIREBIRD JURY

6 March 2024 (Hong Kong) – The 48th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF48) has unveiled a distinguished line-up of jury members for its Firebird Awards competition, including Carlo Chatrian, Zar Amir, Fruit Chan, Karena Lam, Liu Jian, and Du Haibin.

The competition, which aims to recognise emerging talents in cinema and celebrate the most innovative and exciting new films, will announce its winners at the Awards Ceremony at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on 7 April.

HKIFF48 has tasked four independent jury panels with selecting 12 winners from a shortlist of 42 films in four sections this year, evaluating the films based on their creativity, technical skills, and artistry.

The jury for the Firebird Awards Young Cinema Competition for Chinese language films, now in its sixth year, are HKIFF48 Filmmaker-in-Focus **Fruit Chan**; HKIFF48 Ambassador and renowned actress **Karena Lam**; and **Zhang Xianmin**, a professor of Film Studies at Beijing Film Academy and the producer of notable Chinese independent films such as *Old Dog* and *Kaili Blues*.

Zar Amir, the first Iranian actress to win the Best Actress award at Cannes with *Holy Spider*, will join three other exceptional industry professionals to judge the Firebird Award Young Cinema Competition for World Cinema. The other jury members for this competition are **Lila Avilés**, a Mexican director whose film *Tótem* won last year's Firebird World Cinema Award; **Derek Tsang**, a Hong Kong director who received numerous awards for his film *Better Days*; and **Carlo Chatrian**, the former Artistic Director of the Locarno Festival and Berlin International Film Festival.

Du Haibin, a multi-award-winning Chinese independent documentary filmmaker, will be part of the jury responsible for selecting the Firebird Award and Jury Prize winners in the Documentary Competition. Joining Du are **Lea Glob**, a Danish director who won the Firebird Documentary Award at HKIFF47 with *Apolonia*,

Apolonia, and **Chen Wan-Ling**, the Head of Documentary for Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute and a programmer for the Taiwan International Documentary Festival.

Three esteemed jury members will judge the Short Film Competition: **Liu Jian**, an acclaimed Chinese animator and film director; **Norris Wong**, who won the Best New Director award at the Hong Kong Film Awards with her debut film *My Prince Edward*; and **Simon Liu**, a notable experimental filmmaker known for his alternative documentary forms and abstract diary films.

The Firebird Awards Competition is a part of HKIFF48, which will be held from 28 March to 8 April. The festival will announce its complete programme and screening schedule on 8 March.

To download more information:

https://usercontent.hkiff.org.hk/Press/HKIFF48/20240306_Firebird_Juries/

Media Enquiry

Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF)

Rainy Tao

Tel: +852-9707-4317

Email: rainy_tao@hkiff.org.hk

Jessie Chan

Tel: +852-2102-7383 | 9571-5514

Email: jessie_chan@hkiff.org.hk

Strategic Public Relations Group (SPRG)

Andico Tsui

Tel: +852-2114-4346 | 6902-3831

Email: andico.tsui@sprg.com.hk

Chloe Lai

Tel: +852-2114-4344 | 6748-6032

Email: chloe.lai@sprg.com.hk

About The Hong Kong International Film Festival

The Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) is one of Hong Kong's most significant cultural events annually. It is Asia's longest-running platform for filmmakers, film professionals, and filmgoers worldwide to launch new work and experience outstanding films. HKIFF introduces world cinema to local audiences to enrich and deepen the understanding of Hong Kong moviegoers. Committed to discovering new talent, HKIFF premieres the breadth of Chinese cinema and showcases Asian talent. Festival-goers can enjoy world-class films, attend seminars hosted by leading filmmakers from around the world, visit film exhibitions, participate in receptions and parties, and more. HKIFF draws extensive coverage from the local and international media and has grown in importance as one of the premier platforms for launching films in Asia.

About The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (www.hkiff.org.hk)

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 annual 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).

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