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## The Asian Film Archive's Young Critics & Jury Programme

SINGAPORE - The Asian Film Archive invites students to apply for the Young Critics & Jury Programme, a film appraisal scheme under the Archive's larger educational outreach project - *Cineodeon 2008* - which will culminate in a *Symposium on Singapore Cinema*. Participants will evaluate the cultural significance of select Singapore films in the Asian Film Archive Collection and award the contributions made to Singapore cinema by members of the film industry.

For this programme, the Archive will be selecting 20 students to be mentored by film critics, scholars and programmers from July to September 2008. Students can apply to either be Young Critics who will write on the artistic and social issues evoked by the films and present their papers at the *Symposium*; or be part of the Young Jury who will assess the film-craft in these films to determine the films or filmmakers who will receive *Cineodeon Awards* at the *Symposium*.

Launched last year, *Cineodeon* is a youth-initiated cinema chain project designed to help students learn how to programme and manage screenings of films from the Asian Film Archive Collection. In 2007, students organised 50 screenings of Southeast Asian films from the Collection, reaching a total viewership of 1,628 and raising S\$1982.90 for filmmakers whose films have been showcased. Continuing with last year's format, *Cineodeon 2008* will feature a selection of culturally important Singapore films. Such a focus on Singapore films will provide a valuable opportunity for younger audiences to be acquainted with local cinematic achievements, many of which might have escaped their notice. This year, students with an interest in film writing and research would also be able to participate in the inaugural Young Critics & Jury Programme.

Mr. Tan Bee Thiam, Executive Director of the Asian Film Archive, comments on the Archive's purpose for this initiative, "As an Archive, we collect films we believe to be culturally significant so that future generations can be inspired by and learn from such important historical and artistic works. Thus, an important aspect of our work is to make these documents readily available to our young and empower them to voice their thoughts about our cultural identity by promoting active spectatorship."

Key programmers, scholars and critics from the film community will form the mentorship panel for the Young Critics & Jury Programme. Amongst them are Mr. Dave Chua (Programme Manager of the Singapore Film Society), Mr. Low Beng Kheng (Programme Manager of the Substation), Dr. Foo Tee Tuan (Assistant Professor at Nanyang Technological University), Dr. Edna Lim (Lecturer at the National University of Singapore), Mr. Nicholas Chee (Co-founder of Sinema), William Phuan (Programmer of New York Asian Film Festival) and Mr. Wong Lung Hsiang (Critic with *Lianhe Zaobao*).

To qualify for the Young Critics & Jury Programme, students should submit an original essay of about 800 -1000 words on film or film-related matters and a statement of purpose of about 300 words on why he or she would benefit from such a programme. Application forms can be downloaded from the website [www.asianfilmarchive.org/cineodeon2008](http://www.asianfilmarchive.org/cineodeon2008). Completed applications must reach the Archive by **12 July 2008**.

*Cineodeon* 2008 is sponsored by Iluma and Film Garde and supported by the Lee Foundation, Media Authority Development, National Library Board and Singapore Management University.

#### Resources available to media for publicity of *Cineodeon* 2008

##### 1) Pictures

(downloadable at <https://www.yousendit.com/download/TTdHb2VITmFRYS9IRGc9PQ>)

- a. Film stills of films featured in *Cineodeon* 2008
  - i. Eating Air by Jasmine Ng and Kelvin Tong
  - ii. Ah Ma by Anthony Chen
- b. *Cineodeon* Team from Singapore Polytechnic last year
- c. Mass Briefing for *Cineodeon* 2007

##### 2) Programme website: [www.asianfilmarchive.org/cineodeon](http://www.asianfilmarchive.org/cineodeon)

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## **About the Asian Film Archive (AFA)**

The Asian Film Archive is a non-governmental organization founded to preserve the rich film heritage of Singapore and Asian Cinema. It hopes to encourage scholarly research on film and to promote a wider critical appreciation of this art form.

The Archive is the winner of the New Non-Profit Initiative Award at the Annual National Volunteers and Philanthropy Awards 2007, which recognizes organisations for their originality, sustainability, impact and best practices. We are an affiliate with the prestigious International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) and a member of the Southeast Asia-Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association (SEAPAVAA). Our collection includes works by some of Asia's most renowned filmmakers like Mike de Leon, Lino Brocka, Hussain Haniff and U-Wei Hajisaari.

Culturally significant films are preserved by the Archive so that our future generations can be inspired by and learn from such important cinematic works. To make our film collection more accessible to its audience, we have developed outreach programmes with the aim to generate greater appreciation for film, its art and industry.

For more information, please contact:

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