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Results of Asian Film Archive Young Jury Awards at the *Symposium on Singapore Cinema*

SINGAPORE - The *Symposium on Singapore Cinema*, held on the 20th of September, culminated with the inaugural Asian Film Archive Young Jury Awards, which was helmed by a panel of youth members who decided upon the awards after watching 25 Singapore feature and short films that made up the film selection at the *Cineodeon* 2008 screenings. The Young Jury awarded top prizes to *Eating Air* by Kelvin Tong and Jasmine Ng and *Ah Ma* by Anthony Chen. *12 Storeys* by Eric Khoo and *Zo Gang* by Jacen Tan received the Jury Prizes. For a complete list of the awardees, please refer to Annex A.

Anthony Chen, one of the featured filmmakers, commented, "It is amazing what the Asian Film Archive is doing with young minds through something like *Cineodeon*. I have always believed that media and cultural literacy should start from a young age, and the future of filmmakers like myself is in the hands of this generation of youths who will form our audience in the years to come."

Said Tan Bee Thiam, Executive Director of the Asian Film Archive, "*Cineodeon* is an outreach project for us to nurture and engage new young audiences for films in our collection. It also provides feedback to the film community on what young viewers feel about the films that we make, exhibit, critique and preserve."

The *Symposium* also featured a well-received panel discussion on Singapore Cinema by distinguished speakers like Ms. Sun Koh (Executive Producer, *Lucky 7*), Mr. Kenneth Tan (Director, Singapore Film Commission) and Dr. Kenneth Paul Tan (Author, *Cinema and Television in Singapore: Resistance in One Dimension*). Abstracts of the presentations can be found at <http://www.asianfilmarchive.org/Cineodeon2008/SymposiumPresentations.aspx>.

The *Cineodeon* 2008 Audience Survey, which involved 418 students from pre-tertiary and tertiary institutions, was conducted to gather information about how youths feel about local films. Preliminary results revealed that at least 84% of the students watched at least one film a month at the cinemas. They indicated a desire to see more Singaporean films as much as they would like to see Hollywood films. While only 9% felt that Singapore films are as good or better than other films screened, 47% of them will still watch a local film because they are curious about local stories that are being told. 42% of them will do so to support local talent and work.

Cineodeon 2008 and the *Young Critics and Jury Programme* is organised by the Asian Film Archive, sponsored by iluma, Film Garde and SMRT, with SMRT Media as the official outdoor media. Supporters of the programmes are Lee Foundation, Media Authority Development, National Library Board, Pixelart and the Singapore Management University.

Annex A: Awards List

THE ASIAN FILM ARCHIVE YOUNG JURY AWARDS

Young Jury Members

Cassandra Eng Yu Wen, Glendon Kok Jun Wei, Han Tian Yu,
Low Ser En, Mei-Er Melissa Lam, Tang Hui Ling

Mentors

Tan Bee Thiam, Dr. Wong Lung Hsiang, Dr. Victor Valbuena

Best Feature Film

Eating Air by Kelvin Tong & Jasmine Ng

Jury Prize for Feature Film

12 Storeys by Eric Khoo

Best Short Film

Ah Ma by Anthony Chen

Jury Prize for Short Film

Zo Gang by Jacen Tan

Best Direction for a Feature Film

12 Storeys by Eric Khoo & *Eating Air* by Kelvin Tong & Jasmine Ng (Tie)

Best Direction for a Short Film

Monkeylove by Royston Tan

Special Mention for Direction of a Short Film

Fonzi by Kirsten Tan

Best Cinematography for a Feature Film

Perth by Djinn

Best Cinematography for a Short Film

Fonzi by Kirsten Tan

Most Memorable Sequence

Eating Air by Kelvin Tong & Jasmine Ng

Best Screenplay for a Feature Film

Singapore Dreaming by Woo Yen Yen & Colin Goh

Best Screenplay for a Short Film

Santa is Here by Christina Oer

Best Local Representation

12 Storeys by Eric Khoo

Special Mention for Local Representation

Singapore Gaga by Tan Pin Pin

Best Performance

Jack Neo in *12 Storeys* & Koh Boon-Pin in *12 Storeys* (Tie)

Best Sound Design for a Feature Film

Eating Air by Kelvin Tong & Jasmine Ng

Best Sound Design for a Short Film

Ah Ma by Anthony Chen

Best Editing

Where The Sun Rises by Grace Phan

Special Mention for Editing

Homeless FC by James Leong & Lynn Lee

SYMPOSIUM ON SINGAPORE CINEMA

Best Film Papers (Pre-tertiary category)

Winner:

12 Storeys by Jasvin Wu, Dunman High School

Commendation:

Examination of the Family in Singapore Film by Goh Shunjie, Dunman High School

Best Film Papers (Tertiary category)

Winner:

The Singapore Heartland: The Performing Identities of Local Landscapes by Eleine Ng, National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Commendation:

881: The Postmodern Musical by Natasha Zhao, National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Judges: Professor Chua Beng Huat, Mr. Stefan Shih, Mr. Yong Shu Chiang

Best Cinedeon Team (Pre-tertiary category)

Not 881, Not Money No Enough- But It's Singaporean! by Shuqun Secondary School

Team members: Muhd Nur Adam B Ahmad, Muhd Mirza B Kamsani, Mohd Fadreezul B Mohd, Arvind Kumar Pillai, Edmund Tay Zhi Yang, Paja S/O Saminathan

Best Cinedeon Team (Tertiary category)

Nothing Special - Just A Cup of Passion by Nanyang Technological University, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information

Team Members: Yan Zixin, Lisa Ten Xi'en, Kong Yenlin, Cheng Wanyan, Yang Shuhui, Han Xuemei

Judges: Mr. William Phuan, Mr. Lau Chee Nien, Mr. Victric Thng

Annex B: List of Cineodeon Films

Feature Films:

- *12 Storeys* by Eric Khoo (1997)
- *Eating Air* by Kelvin Tong and Jasmine Ng (1999)
- *Homeless FC* by James Leong and Lynn Lee (2007)
- *Money No Enough* by Tay Teck Lock (1998)
- *Perth: The Geylang Massacre* by Djinn Ong (2004)
- *Singapore Dreaming* by Colin Goh and Woo Yen Yen (2006)
- *Singapore GaGa* by Tan Pin Pin (2005)
- *The Art of Flirting* by Kan Lume (2005)
- *The Road Less Travelled* by Lim Suat Yen (1997)
- *They Call Her...Cleopatra Wong* by Bobby Suarez (1978)
- *Unarmed Combat* by Han Yew Kwang (2005)
- *Where The Sun Rises* by Grace Phan (2006)

Short Films:

- *Ah Ma* by Anthony Chen (2006)
- *Carrot Cake* by Swee Wee Keong (2005)
- *Fonzi* by Kirsten Tan (2006)
- *Influence* by Dzulkifi Sungit and Remi M. Sali (1995)
- *Monkeylove* by Royston Tan (2005)
- *Moonly* by Victric Thng (2003)
- *Norman On The Air* by Wee Li Lin (1997)
- *Old Woman* by Lau Chee Nien (2005)
- *Trishaw* by Bertrand Lee (2001)
- *Santa is Here* by Christina Oer (2006)
- *Sewing Room* by Ang Soo Koon (2005)
- *Utama: Every Name in History is I* by Ho Tzu Nyen (2003)
- *Zo Gang* by Jacen Tan (2006)

Film synopses and biographies of directors can be found here:

<http://www.asianfilmarchive.org/cineodeon2008/CineodeonFilms.aspx>.

High resolution film stills of films featured in *Cineodeon 2008* are available to the press for publicity of this event: <https://www.yousendit.com/download/bVIEZGVU0I5RmJIRGc9PQ>.

Annex C: Details about *Cineodeon 2008*

Cineodeon 2008

Launched in 2007, *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. *Cineodeon 2008* shines a spotlight on Singapore cinema and features a selection of 25 culturally important Singapore films. The focus on Singapore films provides a valuable opportunity to showcase local cinematic achievements to a younger audience – many of whom might not have had the opportunity to view them. In all, 103 students from pre-tertiary and tertiary education institutions took part to organise 17 screenings, reaching out to a total audience of 773 people and raised \$990 for filmmakers whose works have been showcased.

Moving Minds Lab: Young Critics Programme

The 22 Young Critics were matched to 19 mentors, a group consisting of film scholars, critics and bloggers from publications such as Straits Times *Life!*, *8 Days*, *Today* and *Lianhe Zaobao*, as well as film academics from institutions like the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. The Critics met up regularly with their mentors in the month of August to develop their paper with their mentors' insight and guidance. Their papers were considered in the running for the Best Film Paper and will be showcased on the *Cineodeon 2008* website. They were expected to have critically analyzed societal and cinematic issues raised in Singapore films, including the films featured during *Cineodeon 2008*. Abstracts of the presentations can be found at <http://www.asianfilmarchive.org/Cineodeon2008/SymposiumPresentations.aspx>.

Moving Minds Lab: Young Jury Programme

The Young Jurors were matched to mentors, a group consisting of film critics, programmers and festival curators from establishments like the Singapore Film Society. Apart from viewing *Cineodeon* films to decide on the recipients of the Young Jury Awards, these Young Jurors are also responsible for explaining their award selections at the *Symposium on Singapore Cinema* and honouring the awardees with a citation for each award, in the style of film festival award ceremonies.

About the Asian Film Archive (AFA)

The 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 Archive (FIAPF) and a member of the Southeast Asia-Pacific Audio Visual Archives Association (SEAPAVAA). Our collection includes works by some of Asia's renowned filmmakers like Mike de Leon, Lino Brocka, Hussain Haniff and U-Wei Hajisaari.

Culturally significant films are preserved by the Archive so that 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.

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