



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Singapore International Film Festival Opens Call for Film Submissions, Invites Applications for Southeast Asian Film Lab and Youth Jury & Critics Programme**

**5 May 2015, SINGAPORE** – The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) returns for its 26<sup>th</sup> edition from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015! Film submissions are now open till 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015 at [www.sgiff.com/submissions](http://www.sgiff.com/submissions). It will consider all feature films and Asian short films made after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 with at least a Singapore premiere status, and have not been broadcasted on TV nor been made available on the Internet. In addition, SGIFF also announced the call for applications for its Southeast Asian Film Lab and Youth Jury & Critics Programme.

In 2014, the 25<sup>th</sup> SGIFF had made a strong comeback to the regional film circuit, unveiling 147 movies from 50 countries, supported by strong ticket sales. Stellar film personalities that graced the festival included acclaimed film directors John Woo, Wang Xiaoshuai and Eric Khoo, actors Chen Bolin and Tong Dawei, and actresses Zhang Ziyi, Juliette Binoche, Cheng Pei Pei and Natassja Kinski. SGIFF's competition section, the Silver Screen Awards, also presented a total of 9 prizes to emerging and talented filmmakers in Asian Feature Films and Southeast Asian Short Films. This year, the **Silver Screen Awards** takes place on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

The SGIFF **Southeast Asian (SEA) Film Lab** in 2015 will be led by award-winning film producer Terence Chang (*Broken Arrow, Face/Off, Red Cliff*) with filmmakers Yong Mun Chee (Singapore) and Sherad Anthony Sanchez (Philippines) taking on mentor roles. Terence, Mun Chee and Sherad will share their filmmaking experiences and bring on board different perspectives because of the diversity of their backgrounds, pushing participants to reach their potential.

Terence Chang, Head of Southeast Asian Film Lab comments: "I am excited about meeting new filmmaking talents in Southeast Asia through SGIFF's Film Lab. I look forward to being in Singapore this December!"

The 6-day SEA Film Lab focuses on story development for the successful applicants, who will be working on their first feature films, and includes access to the Festival's visiting filmmakers. A Most Promising Project Award is presented at the end of the Lab at SGIFF's Silver Screen Awards. Malaysian filmmaker Bradley Liew was recipient of the award last year with his film project *Awit Ng Puntod* and says, "SGIFF's film lab was a fantastic opportunity to get feedback and needed advice in



order for my film to evolve." The film is slated to shoot at the end of the year. For 2015, 10 participants are expected to be selected for the Lab, and will compete for the Most Promising Project (cash prize of S\$5,000) presented by high-flying Singapore director, Anthony Chen's film company, Giraffe Pictures.

"SGIFF's SEA Film Lab champions the voice of young filmmakers, and aims to develop cross-cultural dialogue and meaningful collaboration that foster a sense of community. A strong Southeast Asian network is needed for successful partnerships and co-productions, and SGIFF's Lab plays that role as a connector," says Yuni Hadi, SGIFF's Executive Director.

SGIFF's **Youth Jury & Critics Programme** seeks to nurture a new generation of critical writers on cinema from the region. The workshop will take place on Saturday each week from 31<sup>st</sup> October, as well as 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November. Participants will be educated on the historical and cultural significance of past and present Southeast Asian works, how film theory and close readings of films greatly benefit film writing for a wider audience, as well as different interviewing approaches. The Programme will culminate in a live film journal created by the participants on the festival's website, *Youth Jury Coverage*, extensively covering the works in competition in the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition. Finally, the Youth Jury will vote on the Youth Jury Prize-winning film during the Silver Screen Awards. It is open to post-secondary students based in Singapore and the programme is expected to take in 12 to 15 participants. This year's Youth Jury & Critics Programme will be led by UK-based film academic and curator, May Adadol Ingawanij (Thailand).

"Critical thinking and writing about cinema had always played an important role in its development. Southeast Asian cinema experienced rapid growth in the recent years and it is crucial to document, examine and chart its progress. We started the Youth Jury & Critics Programme last year to nurture and encourage young writers from Singapore to discuss, think and write about the cinema of our region, and it had been absolutely inspiring to hear their voices. And this year, we can't wait to meet the new cohort and to discover the stories they will tell us," says Zhang Wenjie, SGIFF's Festival Director.

Both the Southeast Asian Film Lab and the Youth Jury & Critics Programme were first launched in 2014. For more details, please visit the SGIFF website at <http://sgiff.com>.

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### **About the Singapore International Film Festival (26<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015)**

The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) is the largest and longest-running film event in Singapore. Founded in 1987, the festival has become an iconic event in the Singapore arts calendar that is widely attended by international film critics, and recognised worldwide for its focus on Asian filmmakers and the promotion of Southeast Asian films. The SGIFF is committed to nurturing and championing local and regional talents in the art of filmmaking. The festival serves as a catalyst in igniting public interest in the arts, and encouraging artistic dialogue and cultural exchanges. The SGIFF is organized by the Singapore International Film Festival Ltd, a non-profit organization and holds the Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status.

SGIFF's competition section, the Silver Screen Awards' categories in 2015:

- *Asian Feature Film Category*
  - Best Film
  - Best Director
  - Best Performance
  - Special Mention
  
- *Southeast Asian Short Film Category*
  - Best Southeast Asian Short Film
  - Best Singapore Short Film
  - Best Director
  - Special Mention
  - Youth Jury Award

For more information, please visit [www.sgiff.com](http://www.sgiff.com).

### **About the Singapore Media Festival**

The Singapore Media Festival, hosted by Media Development Authority is set to become one of Asia's leading international media events, where the industry meets to discover the latest trends, talent and content in Asia for Film and TV. It brings together established media events – Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), Asia TV Forum & Market (ATF) and ScreenSingapore (SS) and Asian Television Awards, which will take place from 26 November to 6 December 2015.

### **About Giraffe Pictures**

Giraffe Pictures is a boutique film company founded by Singapore filmmaker Anthony Chen and producer Huang Wenhong. Based in Singapore, the company prides itself as a home for emerging



filmmakers in Asia. Giraffe Pictures aims to become an international label for the best of Asian cinema, focusing on cinematic creativity and vision, telling unique Asian stories that will resonate with a global audience.

### **Contact Information**

Singapore International Film Festival Office

45A Haji Lane, Singapore 189238

Ang Hwee Sim, General Manager

[pressoffice@sgiff.com](mailto:pressoffice@sgiff.com)

+65 9732 7905



**Head of Southeast Asian Film Lab**

**TERENCE CHANG, 张家振 (USA/China)**



Terence Chang studied filmmaking at New York University in the mid-70s. Upon his return to his native Hong Kong, he started producing a series of acclaimed and successful movies. In 1986, he joined D&B Films as Overseas Distribution Manager and launched the international careers of Brandon Lee and Michelle Yeoh. But it was his collaboration with director John Woo that culminated with contemporary classics such as *The Killer* (1989), *Once a Thief* (1991) and *Hard-Boiled* (1992). Their collaboration continued in Hollywood and Chang produced all of Woo's pictures including *Broken Arrow* (1994), *Face/Off* (1997), *Mission Impossible 2* (2000), *Windtalkers* (2002) and *Paycheck* (2004). He also produced *The Big Hit* (1997), *The Corruptor* (1999) and Woo's two-part Chinese epic *Red Cliff* (2008). In 2012, Chang received the prestigious CineAsia "Producer of the Decade" Award.

Chang recently produced the highly acclaimed action films *Reign of Assassins* (2010) and *Brotherhood of Blades* (2014), and the two-part Chinese language film *The Crossing* (2014-5).



### **Southeast Asian Film Lab Mentors**

#### **YONG MUN CHEE, 杨敏芝 (Singapore)**

At 18, Yong Mun Chee took her first plane ride, landing in London where she would spend the next three years studying at the London School of Economics. She backpacked widely in Europe and the Middle East, working on a goat farm where the sun never set, in a cable factory, at a dishwashing conveyor belt, on a kibbutz. She then returned to Singapore and got a job as a broadcast journalist, covering social and political stories in Asia. She co-created *Extraordinary People*, winner of an Asian TV Award for Best Documentary Series before moving to Los Angeles to study at the esteemed USC Film School where she focused on directing and also cinematography.



She was the first Singaporean to win a Directors Guild of America award for her short film, *9:30*. The short also screened at over 50 festivals worldwide, including Deauville, Edinburgh and Cannes “Tou Les Cinemas Du Monde”, winning a special jury award at SXSW. *Where the Road Meets the Sun* (2011), her feature directorial debut, won Special Jury Award, Best Director and Best Supporting Actor at Worldfest Houston, as well as Best Ensemble Acting and Outstanding Cinematography at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

#### **SHERAD ANTHONY SANCHEZ (Philippines)**

Sherad Anthony Sanchez’s works have won more than a dozen awards and been selected in over 100 film festivals internationally. His first short film, *Apple*, premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. In his junior year, while on a leave of absence from school, he made his first feature, *Huling Balyan Ng Buhi: O Ang Sinalirap Nga Asoy Nila (Huling Balyan Ng Buhi: Or The Woven Stories Of The Other)* after winning a grant from Cinema One Originals. In his senior year, Sanchez was awarded a scholarship to study at University of Southern California.



His second feature, *Imburnal (Sewer)*, surprised audiences with its aggressive film language and went on to win numerous international awards. Sanchez has also produced, through his production company Salida Productions, *Kolorete*, Special Jury Prize winner at Cinema One Originals, and *Balangay*, which was made with agitprop Sweden and Dox:Lab Copenhagen. His most recent film, *Jungle Love* (2012), which was dubbed as “a must-see Cinematic U.F.O.” by Venice Film Festival programmer Paolo Bertolin, won in Berlin PornFest and continues to be screened in various international Film Festivals.



**Youth Jury & Critics Programme Mentor**  
**MAY ADADOL INGAWANIJ (UK/Thailand)**



May Adadol Ingawanij is Reader at Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media, University of Westminster, and Course Co-leader for the MA Film and Television. She is the co-editor, with Benjamin McKay, of *Glimpses of Freedom: Independent Cinema in Southeast Asia* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Southeast Asia Program Publications, 2012). Her article “Animism and the Performative Realist Cinema of Apichatpong Weerasethakul” appears in *Screening Nature: Cinema Beyond the Human*, Anat Pick and Guinevere Narraway, eds., (Oxford: Berghahn, 2013). May is writing a book on the cinematic apparatus, which uses the practice of itinerant film projection and the aural art of film versioning in Siam/Thailand during the Cold War as its ground for theorisation. Her blog accompanying the project is [siam16mm.wordpress.com](http://siam16mm.wordpress.com). She also writes widely on cinema and art in Southeast Asia for multi-lingual print and online publications.

In 2012, May directed the 6th Bangkok Experimental Film Festival: Raiding the Archives. Other recent curatorial projects include *Comparing Experimental Cinemas* (Bangalore, 2014), with Shai Heredia of Experimenta India; the screening programme *Forces and Volumes* featuring works by Charles Lim, Nguyen Trinh Thi, Khvay Samnang and Nget Rady, and Taiki Sakpisit (BIMI Essay Film Festival, London, 2015). In 2009, she co-organised a Lav Diaz retrospective in Bangkok.