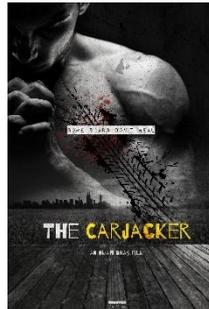


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“FILIPINO”, “THE CARJACKER” AND “THE WOMEN” EMERGE AS THE WINNERS AT SOUTHEAST ASIAN FILM FINANCING PROJECT MARKET 2018

Filipino political thriller set in Cebu bags top prize – a co-production deal worth up to US\$200,000



Posters of winning projects: (L-R) “Filipino”, “The Carjacker”, “The Women”

SINGAPORE, 07 December 2018 – ScreenSingapore, together with Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association (SAAVA) and Ties That Bind: Asia/Europe Producers Workshop (TTB), today announced three producers from the Philippines, Singapore and Myanmar as award recipients of the fourth Southeast Asian Film Financing (SAFF) Project Market. “Filipino” took home the prestigious Cre8 Co-Production Award, while “The Carjacker” won the Aurora Media Award and “The Women” received the AV8 Award.

Conceived in 2015 to promote opportunities for the meeting and matching up of film creatives with their investor counterparts, the SAFF Project Market is a platform for promising feature-length projects with Southeast Asian elements to connect with global network of media financiers, distributors and collaborators. By facilitating interaction between producers and key players in the film industry, the initiative strives to grow the standards of filmmaking in the region.

Winning projects tell Southeast Asian stories

A political thriller set in Cebu, Philippines in the aftermath of a massive explosion, “Filipino” tells the story about a journalist who sneaks through the blockade and gets intertwined with five individuals trapped in a fatal chess game between fundamental extremists and higher powers.

“Filipino” stood out amongst the finalists for its potential to be commercialised and co-produced across Southeast Asia and beyond, and also for its evocative storytelling. For this project, producer Mel Allego will receive a co-producing financing worth between US\$20,000 and US\$200,000 from Cre8 Productions.



In Partnership With:
SAAVA
Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association Limited

An elated Mel Allego commented, “I’m totally thrilled and gobsmacked! Although this is my first feature length film, I have always had an artistic background, as a dancer and lately as an organiser of the Cebu International Film Festival. This award will certainly go a long way for my passion and love for great storytelling through films.”

On his inspiration for a political thriller Allego said, “I always have had (these) thoughts and ideas about my experiences living in contemporary Philippines. I wanted to do a film that is something nonconventional, and get people thinking about what is correct, what is incorrect – against the backdrop of the current uncertain socio-political landscape.”

Separately, “The Carjacker” won the Aurora Media Award that provides co-production financing worth between US\$10,000 and US\$150,000. Set in a small town in Malaysia, this is a contemporary crime drama of a taxi driver with a violent past, who must hijack a car off the street and deliver it to a mafia boss who is holding this estranged younger brother ransom.

Equally thrilled, director and writer Oman Dhas shared, “I am truly amazed – I did not expect to win this award. I am grateful that I got a chance to participate in SAFF, where I was hoping to find potential financiers, co-producers and distributors. But this win will now change everything, and it will also certainly elevate the project’s appeal and eventually help for its fruition.”

This year’s SAFF Project Market also honoured an aspiring young producer and a director each with a training voucher worth S\$2,000 as part of the AV8 Award. The award went to producer Youngjeong Oh and director The Maw Naing for their work on women’s issues and struggles in Myanmar titled “The Women”.

On the win, producer and writer Ms Oh said, “It’s totally unexpected! This is our first time participating in the SAFF Project Market and it was a great platform to network with who’s-who from the industry, learn from great experts from the region and the world, and most importantly – it gave a much-needed exposure to the budding Myanmar film industry.”

“There have been huge changes for women in the past decade, but the story of about their everyday struggles and rights for women in Myanmar is rather unusual. They are in a dilemma as they aim to catch up of with rest of the world after years of suppression,” director Naing shared in summing up the story.

The SAFF Project Market 2018 received submissions from across Southeast Asia, with the 15 finalists representing Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Singapore, covering a myriad of genres such as action, drama, horror, science fiction and thriller.

SAFF Project Market is a partnership between ScreenSingapore, SAAVA and TTB, and is supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation. For more information, please visit <http://www.screensingapore.com.sg/film-financing-forum/>.



ScreenSingapore is co-located with the Asia TV Forum & Market, and is part of the Singapore Media Festival.

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About ScreenSingapore 2018

ScreenSingapore is Southeast Asia's definitive marketplace for filmmakers, producers, distributors, financiers and film buyers to explore co-production opportunities, seek financing, make deals and stay abreast of the evolving film landscape.

After its continued success in 2017, ScreenSingapore will once again host the Southeast Asian Film Financing (SAFF) Project Market, in partnership with the Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association (SAAVA) and Ties That Bind: Asia/Europe Producers Workshop (TTB), to connect promising filmmakers and producers from Southeast Asia and Europe with international co-producing partners, festival programmers, distributors, commissioners, and financiers.

For more information, please visit www.screensingapore.com.sg

About Asia TV Forum & Market (ATF) 2018

Asia TV Forum & Market (ATF) – the region's leading entertainment content event – is the platform of calibre to acquire knowledge, network, buy, sell, finance, distribute and co-produce across all platforms. It is the premier stage in Asia to engage with the entertainment industry's top players from around the world. It's where the best minds meet and the future of Asia's content is shaped.

ATF also offers the opportunity to discover vital trends, crucial statistics and significant foresight in TV's digital, kids and formats arenas. Its business match-making opportunities open doors to some of the best new offerings in the region. With over 5,500 international buyers and sellers from more than 54 countries, ATF presents valuable business prospects for top of the line benefits.

For more information, please visit www.asiatvforum.com

About Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association (SAAVA)

The Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association (SAAVA) is a non-profit association that seeks to unify media producers in the region. The association's mission is to advance creative development across the region, promote Southeast Asian audio-visual content and capabilities globally, as well as stimulate business collaborations between its members.

To find out more, please visit www.saava.org

About Reed Exhibitions (RX)

Reed Exhibitions is the world's leading events organiser, with over 500 events in over 30 countries. In 2017 Reed brought together over seven million event participants from around the world generating billions of dollars in business. Today Reed events are held throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa and organised by 38 fully staffed offices. Reed Exhibitions serves 43 industry sectors with trade and consumer events. It is part of RELX Group, a global provider of information and analytics for professional and business customers across industries.



**A PREMIER FILM
Market & Conference
in Southeast Asia**

5 – 7 DEC 2018
Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
www.screensingapore.com.sg

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SAAVA
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www.reedexpo.com

About the Singapore Media Festival (SMF)

The Singapore Media Festival, hosted by the Infocomm Media Development Authority, is set to become one of Asia's leading international media events, where the industry meets to discover the latest trends, talents and content in Asia for Film, TV and digital media. Taking place from 29 November to 9 December 2018, the Singapore Media Festival brings together established media events such as the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), Asia TV Forum & Market (ATF) and ScreenSingapore and SMF Ignite. For more information about the Singapore Media Festival, please visit www.sgmediafestival.com.

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