

FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 22

Udine - 30 June / 2 July 2020

FOCUS ASIA and TIES THAT BIND

Here they are: the 9 titles selected for the FEFF 22 All Genres Project Market and the 25 professionals selected for the international Asia-Europe workshop.

Press release for 15 June 2020
For immediate publication/release

UDINE – In this difficult moment for the global film industry, the **2020 edition of FOCUS ASIA** represents a direct response to the challenges that Asian and European professionals from the sector have been facing in recent months. The **industry section of the Far East Film Festival** – which will this year be appearing in a **completely virtual version from 30 June to 2 July** - will be a unique event that will lay the foundations for tomorrow's films while at the same time promoting the circulation of international titles in cinemas and festivals on both continents.

The **FOCUS ASIA program** will include the **All Genres Project Market** - the platform dedicated to projects currently in development and with potential for co-production in Europe or Asia - and this year will be presenting nine films directed by internationally-renowned directors as well as by debuting filmmakers to **over 200 professionals from the sector**.

The **Project Market selection committee** has examined **85 projects overall** (which have arrived **in Udine from 39 countries**) and is composed of four international genre cinema experts: Thomas Jongsuk Nam of the NAFF - Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (South Korea), Sten-Kristian Saluveer of the Black Nights Film Festival - Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event (Estonia), Mike Hostench (Spain) and Valeria Richter of Nordic Factory (Denmark).

Thanks to its renewed collaboration with HAF-Hong Kong, **FOCUS ASIA** will be presenting an international preview of the Vietnamese project *The River Knows Our Names*, selected from the 33 titles which will be launching in the Hong Kong market in August.

The **over 200 participants** registered for this online edition of **FOCUS ASIA** will have the opportunity to meet the nine selected teams, as well as all the other accredited key players, in a completely virtual setting. Our aim is to preserve the intimate, relaxed atmosphere that characterizes the flesh-and-blood event, and thanks to our collaboration with the same digital platforms used by the **Cannes Marché du Film**, we will attempt to optimize the presentation of the projects and the online meetings between the participants.

This year's packed programme will also have room for films in search of distribution with the first edition of **Far East in Progress**, the only event in Europe dedicated to Asian films in post-production, and the third edition of **Get Ready for the Future**, a platform dedicated principally to the export of Italian and European films to the Asian market. **FOCUS ASIA** will announce the line-ups of both sections a few days before the festival starts.

Ties That Bind 2020, the world's only workshop dedicated to co-productions between Asia and Europe, will also be part of the digital version of the festival, and will be hosting **webinars** and **round tables**. As it's impossible to hold the first session of the workshop in Udine this year, these online events aim to bring the 25 selected participants together in a virtual space and to investigate the current situation of the film industries in both continents, with the emphasis on future challenges and opportunities. The consolidated collaboration between the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund**, **EAVE**, the **Far East Film Festival of Udine**, **SAAVA/REED** and the **Creative Europe - MEDIA Program** will instead bring the flesh-and-blood version of **Ties That Bind** to Udine next year as part of the **2021 edition of the Festival**.

Let's not forget that **FOCUS ASIA** is organized by the **Centro Espressioni Cinematografiche/Far East Film Festival di Udine** with the collaboration of the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund**, together with the **MiBACT General Directorate for Cinema**.

FOCUS ASIA 2020 – the nine selected projects:

All the Songs We Never Sang, directed by Chris Rudz and produced by Amy Aoyama (Japan, Poland);

Black Dust, directed by Kit Hui and produced by Christopher Granier-Deferre (UK, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China);

Escape to Oz, directed by Sam Voutas and produced by Melanie Ansley and Jane Zheng (Australia, China);

Girl in the Playground, directed by Yang Wang and produced by Lucy Lu and Belle Lau (China);

Mandai River, directed by Michael Sewandono and produced by Raymond van der Kaaij (Netherlands, Indonesia);

Possession Road, directed by Jack Lai and produced by Yui Shan Ding and Joey O'Bryan (Hong Kong);

Skeleton River, directed by Khavn De La Cruz and produced by Stephan Holl and Achinette Villamor (Germany, Philippines);

Solids by the Seashore, directed by Patiparn Boontarig and produced by Mai Meksawan and Chatchai Chaiyon (Thailand);

FOCUS ASIA Award all'HAF - Hong Kong:

The River Knows Our Names, directed by Chi Mai and produced by Chi Mai and Phong Bui (Vietnam).

TIES THAT BIND 2020 – the 25 professionals and the 10 projects selected:

Alemberg Ang, vy/ac Productions, Philippines

Project: **Dancing the Tides (Pangalay)** by Xeph Suarez

□ Geremia Biagiotti, Intramovies, Italy

□ Julia Cöllen, Fünferfilm, Germany

Project: **The Greenhouse** by Luise Donschen

□ Silje Grüner, Evil Doghouse Studios & Europafilm, Norway

□ Sigmund Elias Holm, Western Norway Film Commission & Fiction Norway, Norway

□ Tsai Hsin-Hung, House on Fire International, Taiwan

Project: **Lost and Found** by Natasha K.H. Sung

□ Naoko Ishise, Jackfruit International, Singapore/Japan

Project: **Purple Sun** by Carlo Enciso Catu

□ Nguyen Luong Hang, East Films, Vietnam

Project: **Youthfully Yours** by Trinh Dinh Le Minh

□ Amalie Lyngbo Quist, Beo Starling, Denmark

Project: **Longevity** by Rasmus Kloster Bro

□ Richard Mewis, 108 Media, UK/Singapore

Project: **Mrs Raffles**, Showrunner: Alison Hume

□ Filipa Reis, Uma Pedra no Sapato, Portugal

Project: **UK Kei** by Leonor Teles

□ Thaididhi Thaididhi, Third Floor Production, Myanmar

Project: **Fruit Gathering** by Aung Phyoe

□ Nadia Trevisan, Nefertiti Film, Italy

Project: **The Rope** by Alberto Fasulo

□ Bérénice Vincent, Totem Films, France

□ Agathe Vinson, Film Development Council of the Philippines, France/Philippines

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