



News Release

For immediate release

Singapore brings over 20 feature film projects to Cannes Film Market

Mediapolis @ one-north will also be showcased

Singapore, 5 May 2009 – The Media Development Authority (MDA) will be leading a contingent of eight local production companies to promote a slate of over 20 film projects at Cannes Film Market (13 – 24 May). The eight companies participating under the Singapore Pavilion at Cannes are Akanga Film Asia, Axxis, gsmprjct'média, Hot Cider Films, Infinite Frameworks, Monsoon Pictures, Oak3 Films and Upside Down Concepts.

Said Dr Christopher Chia, MDA's Chief Executive Officer: "From a production perspective, the number of Singapore-produced films has been steadily growing over the years; from a mere two productions in 1995 to 12 feature films in 2007 and now, more than 20 local productions will be represented at the Cannes Film Market. This is a direct result of several co-investment schemes developed by the Singapore Government, including the New Feature Film Fund and the Stereoscopic 3D Film Development Fund, as well as media financing options through the S\$1.3 billion (US\$0.9 billion) private equity anchored in Singapore to date."

Among the slate promoted at Cannes is Ho Tzu Nyen's *HERE*, which is being screened in the Directors' Fortnight section and in consideration for the Golden Camera Award, which recognises the Best First Feature of the festival. *HERE* is produced by gsmprjct'média, M'GO Films, Akanga Film Asia, Oak3 Films and Tzological Films. Its screening at Cannes will mark the film's world premiere and is the fifth consecutive year that at least one Singapore film is selected for showcase or in competition at the Cannes Film Festival. *HERE's* theatrical release in Singapore is scheduled for this June.

The Singapore Film Commission (SFC), an agency under MDA, will also be promoting the nine film projects green-lit last year under its New Feature Film Fund. These include the recently completed *Blood Ties* 还魂, which marks the directorial debut for Chai Yee Wei. The thriller is a co-production between Oak3 Films, Hot Cider Films and SFC, and stars talented newcomer Joo Yee Leong and veteran Hong Kong actors Cheng Pei-Pei (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) and Kenneth Tsang (*Memoirs of a Geisha*) along with local actors David Leong (*Painted Skin*), Vincent Tee (*Singapore Dreaming*) and Maggie Tan (*Becoming Royston*). The film, produced by Lim Suat Yen for Oak3 Films, is tentatively scheduled for theatrical release in September 2009.

The Singapore film slate also includes *Amphibious*, the first stereoscopic 3D film to be developed out of Singapore, which will be directed by world-renowned fantasy filmmaker Brian Yuzna and will star Bosco Francis (*My Magic*) as a fanatic Elvis Presley fan sea captain who battles a gigantic sea scorpion in a visual effects-laden action-adventure tale.

Another title is *Freedom Formula: Ghost of the Wasteland*, based on the comic book series created by Edmund Shern, about a futuristic genetically engineered racer who learns that his bloodline has the power to change society. The film is the first Singapore intellectual property to be developed into a tent-pole film franchise by Hollywood's New Regency studio. It will be co-produced by Bryan Singer's production company Bad Hat Harry Productions and will be developed as a potential directing vehicle for Bryan Singer (*X-Men*, *Superman Returns*). Barry Levine, founder of Radical Publishing, is attached to produce with Jesse Berger and Michael Zoumas (*Coraline*, *Mimic*) attached as executive producers.

Please see the Annex for listings of the Singapore film slate.

Mediapolis @ one-north

This year, MDA's expedition to Cannes has an additional agenda. Together with JTC Corporation, MDA will be promoting Mediapolis @ one-north, a 19-hectare self-contained media cluster with an array of soundstages, digital post-production facilities and R&D labs. Positioned as the infrastructural conduit that will enable Singapore to host international media players and big-budget projects, Mediapolis @

one-north is targeting full completion by 2020. Its first tenant is award-winning Singapore media company, Infinite Frameworks, which is currently developing a soundstage and digital studio complex that is slated to be ready by 2011.

Visit the Singapore Pavilion during Cannes Film Market at C9, Riviera Hall in the Palais des Festival in Cannes, France.

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Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA)

Formed in 2003, the Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA) plays a vital role in transforming Singapore into a Global Media City and positioning it at the forefront of the digital media age. MDA spearheads initiatives that promote developments in film, video, television, radio, publishing, music, games, animation, media services and Interactive Digital Media. At the same time, in ensuring clear and consistent regulatory policies and guidelines, MDA helps to foster a pro-business environment for industry players and increase media choices for consumers. For more information, visit www.mda.gov.sg and www.smf.sg.

Singapore Film Commission (SFC)

The Singapore Film Commission (SFC) is an agency under the Media Development Authority (MDA) that facilitates and assists film development for Singapore. The SFC's key areas of focus are: Funding, Facilitation and Promotion. Its mission is to nurture, support, and promote Singapore talent in film-making, the production of Singapore films, and a film industry in Singapore. For more information please visit, www.sfc.org.sg

National Archives of Singapore

Annex: Singapore films represented at Cannes Film Market 2009

(Note: The listing is not comprehensive)

Title : HERE [41st Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival 2009]
Genre : Fiction
Producers : gsmprjct'médi, M'GO Films, Akanga Film Asia, Oak3 Films and Tzulogical Films
Director : Ho Tzu Nyen
Language : English
Status : Completed
Synopsis : *Here* follows the journey of He Zhiyuan, a middle-aged man who struggles to make sense of his reality following the sudden death of his wife. Interned at Island Hospital, he is selected for an experimental treatment, which forces him to confront the devastating truth behind his past, present and future.

Title : Blood Ties [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Horror / Thriller
Producers : Oak3 Films, Hot Cider Films
Director : Chai Yee Wei
Language : Chinese
Status : Completed
Synopsis : A dead cop possesses the body of his kid sister to avenge his death and his wife's murder at the hands of his ex-partner and his boss. This is an unusual thriller with a supernatural twist, set against ancient Chinese myths and superstitions.

Title : Sandcastle [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Drama
Producer : Zhao Wei Films
Director : Boo Junfeng
Language : English / Mandarin / Chinese dialect
Status : In development
Synopsis : An intimate and lyrical story between an adolescent boy and his dementia stricken grandmother, as he seeks to forget a recent trauma and she struggles to reconcile with a past long forgotten.

Title : Look Both Ways [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Drama
Producer : Big Machine Films
Director : Yong Mun Chee
Language : English
Status : In development
Synopsis : Four men from four corners of the world fatefully cross paths at a cheap hostel on Hollywood boulevard. In a world divided, they discover they have more in common than they ever could have imagined.

Title : 24 Hours of Anger [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Drama
Producer : Blue River Pictures
Director : T T Dhavamanni
Language : Tamil
Status : In development
Synopsis : Prakash is only 14. He has drug addicts for parents and a mentally-challenged brother. But he swears to protect his family to his death. The story chronicles the life of Prakash in 24 hours interjected with flashbacks.

Title : Forgotten Tears [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Drama
Producers : Juan Foo, Ground Glass Images c/o Shooting Gallery
Director : Ellery Ngiam
Language : Mandarin / English
Status : In development
Synopsis : As a professional mourner, Helen Ying cries at other people's wakes. But she cannot bring herself to mourn her eldest daughter's death. A family drama on how the living comes to grips with death.

Title : Thunder Boys [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Summertime sports young adult drama
Producers : Teo Eng Tiong and Lim Jen Nee of Pilgrim Pictures, Juan Foo of Shooting Gallery Motion Pictures and Lim Young Chien of Flashpoint Inc.
Director : Alaric Tay
Language : Japanese / Mandarin
Status : In development
Synopsis : Set on the beautiful tropical beaches of Singapore, Thunder Boys is about a group of fallen athletes from sports various backgrounds looking to start a new life with a new game – Bossaball.

Title : Koi [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Comedic drama
Producers : Oak3 Films (Jason Lai), Big Bully Films (Mika G. Yamaji), Upside Down Concepts (Michael Chua)
Director : Mika G. Yamaji
Language : English / Japanese
Status : In development
Synopsis : Koi centers on four separate encounters that take place at the periphery of the Tsukiji fish market (the largest in the world) in Central Tokyo, amongst a silent sushi chef, a proud food critic, a fledging TV host, and a travelling prostitute.

Title : Forever [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Dark comedy
Producer : Silvia Wong, Bobbing Buoy Films
Director : Wee Li Lin
Language : Mandarin
Status : In development
Synopsis : Joey is an up-and-coming wedding video director who seems to have everything. As Joey prepares for a romantic wedding video starring herself and her fiancé Gin, wedding vows become wedding woes. See how sex, lies and videotapes play out between reality and fantasy in Forever - a dark comedy when even wedding videos aren't all that they seem.

Title : The Innocents – A Time for Youth [SFC New Feature Film Fund recipient]
Genre : Drama
Producer : Zhao Wei Films
Director : Chen-Hsi Wong
Language : Mandarin
Status : In development
Synopsis : Sent to live with her grandmother in the quiet outskirts of Singapore, 12 year-old Sulian comes to know Huat, an ostracised and poor boy. Despite their tacit and grudging friendship, both carve out escapist worlds for themselves.

Title : Amphibious [Stereoscopic 3D]
Genre : Horror / Thriller
Producer : Komodo Films
Director : Brian Yuzna
Status : In development
Synopsis : Amphibious is Singapore's first stereoscopic 3D feature film about the attack of a giant sea scorpion, with generous doses of exciting visual effects and Asian exoticism.

Title : Freedom Formula: Ghost of The Wasteland
Genre : Sci-Fi Action
Producers : New Regency, Bryan Singer's Bad Hat Harry Productions, Barry Levine and Jesse Berger of Radical Pictures
Language : English
Status : In development
Synopsis : In a future where corporations rule the city states, extreme high speed racing exosuits called Vicious Cycles race for entertainment on the track driven by captive members of bloodline genetically bred solely for speed. Freedom Formula questions what freedom and redemption truly mean.

Title : Flooding in the Time of Drought
Genre : Drama
Producer : Paddy Pictures (Sunny Yong)
Director : Sherman Ong
Language : Various
Status : In development
Synopsis : The film takes us on a journey across 8 stories and 10 languages, as the protagonists grapple with a freak drought, amidst their dalliance with human foibles and their fantasies of everlasting loves and broken romances.

Title : Bubblegum Crisis
Genre : Live-Action / Adventure / Sci-Fi
Producers : Titus Ho, Johnny Lau, Benjamin Toh
Language : English
Status : In development
Synopsis : Set in a post-disaster city in the future, humans have come to rely heavily on robots called Boomers to take care of mundane work. A group of four young, female mercenaries who call themselves the Knight Sabers make it their mission to deal with rogue Boomers. Based on the popular Anime of the same name, Bubblegum Crisis follows the Knight Sabers on their quest for truth and justice.

Title : JI'A
Genre : Drama, Inspired by true events
Producer : Monsoon Pictures (Christopher Chew)
Language : Korean, Mandarin
Status : In development
Synopsis : She was a promising dancer until her secret past turned her into a fugitive and changed her destiny forever.

Title : CHALO DELHI!
Genre : Drama, Based on true events
Producer : Monsoon Pictures (Christopher Chew)
Status : In development
Language : English, Hindi
Synopsis : They were idealistic young girls who became brave and powerful women in their passionate quest to free Mother India.

Title : Endless Day
Genre : Drama / Romance / Fantasy
Producers : gsmprjct média, Akanga Film Asia, Tzological Films
Director : Ho Tzu Nyen
Language : Malay, Chinese, Japanese and English
Status : In development
Synopsis : In an undeterminable time and place, a boy and a girl try to build themselves a house, in the heart of a tropical paradise. Soon history catches up with them, their names are known, and their pasts revealed, as armies of darkness close in upon them. Together, they must face the most terrible of their adversaries – a shamanic shape-shifter, as unstoppable as destiny itself.

Title : Love Matters
Genre : Drama / Comedy
Producers : Neo Studios, MMStudios, Grand Brilliance
Director : Jack Neo, Gilbert Chan
Language : Mandarin, Dialect, English
Status : Completed
Synopsis : Love Matters is a humorous and entertaining look at love and happiness in a straight-laced Asian society, through the misadventures of three men as they search for love and happiness – with varying results.

Title : Painted Skin
Genre : Period martial art fantasy
Producers : Ningxia Film Studio, Shanghai Film Group, Mediacorp Raintree Pictures, Golden Sun Films and Salon Multimedia Center
Director : Gordon Chan
Language : Mandarin
Status : Completed
Synopsis : During the Chin and Han era, Commander Wang Sheng leads his troops in a raid on bandits in the desert. In the process he rescues a beautiful woman and brings her back with them. However he has no idea that this woman, Xiao Wei, is in fact a fox spirit in human form.

Title : Kallang Roar the Movie
Genre : Sport / Drama
Producers : Tay Hoo Wee
Director : Cheng Ding An
Language : English (Main) / Chinese / Malay
Status : Completed
Synopsis : Battling a life-threatening disease, an entire board of unsupportive officials ready to oust him, and a record 12 years of foreign football supremacy, unorthodox coach Uncle Choo defiantly returns to train the Singapore football team – his one last shot at restoring his country's pride. Based on a true event, this is a tale about sheer grit, unbreakable will and deep passion.