



NEWS RELEASE

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GLOBAL BEST PRACTICE PRODUCTION SKILLS FOCUS FOR VIETNAMESE FILMMAKERS DURING FILM WORKSHOP IN HANOI

Feature film pitch competition recipient wins trip to Los Angeles for film immersion course

HANOI/SINGAPORE – Sharing global best practice production skills was the focus of a one-day Hanoi Spring 2015 Film Workshop hosted by the Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Embassy of Denmark and held at L’Espace in Hanoi on March 17, completing a 10-day film production training course aimed at building knowledge and skill levels for Vietnam’s leading film producers.

Awards were presented to filmmakers competing in the feature film pitch competition, where filmmakers presented new feature film project ideas to a panel of local and international film industry judges.

Receiving praise from the judges for his project, *Thong Rom (Lanky Lilbrat)*, a social realist tale about a young boy who takes huge risks with a mafia gang involved in gambling to save his mother and her neighbors from having to give up their home in a decaying apartment building, Tran Dung Thanh HUY was awarded first place, winning a trip to Los Angeles to participate in a comprehensive five-day film immersion program that takes place in early November in the lead up to the American Film Market (AFM).

The MPA Film Workshop featured international film producer Jon Kuyper, Production Supervisor for Warner Bros. Pictures on Baz Luhrmann’s *The Great Gatsby*, Peter Jackson’s *The Hobbit* trilogy and George Miller’s *Mad Max: Fury Road*, Production Supervisor for Lionsgate on *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay parts 1&2* and *Gods of Egypt* from visionary Australian director Alex Proyas, and most recently as independent Executive Producer of Sean Penn’s *The Last Face*, which shot in South Africa and stars Javier Bardem, Jean Reno and Charlize Theron.

Jon Kuyper presented a masterclass on the various responsibilities and tasks required from today’s professional producer - from development, through pre-production, production and post-production, and through the various release windows, providing anecdotal experiences to emphasize the role of a producer working in today’s internationalized film industry. This was followed by a 30-minute Q&A moderated by Stephen Jenner, Regional Director Strategic Communications & Third Party Outreach, Asia

Pacific MPA, where participating filmmakers showed interest in how producers can best improve their skills, the relationship between the producer and director, how producers deal with major challenges in budgeting and scheduling, and what course independent filmmaking in Vietnam might take for the current generation of aspiring local filmmakers.

During the afternoon, filmmakers participated in a mentoring session, where they partnered up with the six judges and mentors, including Jon Kuyper, Vietnamese filmmakers Dang Nhat Minh, Pham Nhue Giang, Bui Thac Chuyen, and Hong Anh, Ed Neubronner, Senior Vice President Regional Operations, Communications, Corporate Affairs & Administration, Asia Pacific MPA, and Stephen Jenner. The session was followed by a feature film pitch competition where each of the seven finalist filmmakers pitched their new film project to the group of judges. Presentations were judged on the ability for each filmmaker to communicate their project and on the quality of the film project itself.

Announcing the winner, Jon Kuyper said, “Every one of the seven participants involved in the feature film pitch competition presented their projects with confidence and professionalism. I was tremendously impressed by the high standard and sophistication of the film projects. The judges deliberated carefully over the final selection of the winning project, given the quality of the work, and the ability of the filmmakers in communicating their film ideas. I trust we will see some exciting films developed by this generation of Vietnamese filmmakers, and I look forward to seeing the finished films.”

Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director, Asia Pacific MPA, said, “These are exciting times to be a filmmaker in Vietnam. The screen industry is growing, more people are attending the cinema, new high quality cinemas are being built, and filmmakers are showing an intense interest in producing quality feature films. We applaud the desire to up-skill producers in a profession that in today’s environment is highly demanding, and requires both extensive creative and business skills. I’d like to thank our guest speaker Jon Kuyper for sharing his valuable knowledge and stories from the set, and the speakers and participants who contributed so much to this day exchanging new ideas and experiences. Congratulations to the winner of the pitching competition – Tran Dung Thanh HUY. I hope you enjoy the visit to the heart of the American film industry, and I look forward to seeing your films.”

The Hanoi Spring 2015 Film Workshop was hosted by the MPA and the Embassy of Denmark with the support of Institute Francais and Vblock Media. The MPA Asia Pacific has hosted film workshops since 2006, providing stepping-stones for emerging filmmakers to develop their careers. In the last 12 months, the MPA has conducted film workshops in Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Chengdu, Busan and Tokyo. Winners of the feature film project pitching competitions spend five days in Los Angeles on an intensive film immersion course, meeting agents, management, production and distribution companies, unions and guilds, and attending the American Film Market (AFM).

Images from these events are available [here](#).

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About the MPA:*Promoting & Protecting Screen Communities in Asia Pacific*

The Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Motion Picture Association International (MPA-I) represent the interests of the six international producers and distributors of filmed entertainment. To do so, they promote and protect the intellectual property rights of these companies and conduct public awareness programs to highlight to movie fans around the world the importance of content protection. These activities have helped to transform entire markets benefiting film and television industries in each country including foreign and local filmmakers alike.

The organizations act on behalf of the members of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc (MPAA) which include; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. The MPA and the MPA-I have worldwide operations which are directed from their head offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. and overseen in the Asia Pacific by a team based in Singapore. For more information about the MPA and the MPA-I, please visit www.mpa-i.org.

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