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Indonesia's Edwin to Receive the Edward Yang New Talent Award at the 6th Asian Film Awards

Hong Kong, 8 February 2012 — The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) announced today that Indonesian director Edwin will receive the Edward Yang New Talent Award at the upcoming 6th Asian Film Awards (AFA). The AFA Presentation Ceremony will be held on 19 March 2012 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong. Edwin is only the third filmmaker to receive the Award, which was set up at the 2nd Asian Film Awards in 2008.

Edwin is currently attending the 2012 Berlinale where his latest film, *Postcards From the Zoo*, is competing for the coveted Golden Bear. He said, "I am excited by the news of this award. It's both a vindication of what I've been doing, and an encouragement to me as a filmmaker. It's an honour for me and for independent film in Indonesia."

After the Berlinale, *Postcards From the Zoo* will compete for the Firebird Awards for Young Cinema at the 36th Hong Kong International Film Festival, also organised by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society.

Edwin first burst onto the cinema scene with two short films – *Kara, Anak Sebatang Pohon* (2005) and *Trip to the Wound* (2007) – which premiered at Cannes and the Berlinale respectively. He became a major talent to watch after his debut feature in 2008 – *Blind Pig Who Wants to Fly* – travelled extensively on the international film festival circuit. Mosaic like, the film is set within the contemporary social and racial tension of urban Indonesia, following eight

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characters in their absurdist journeys to live a better life.

Postcards From the Zoo tells the story of a girl growing up among the animals inside Jakarta Zoo after her father has abandoned her. She engages in a romance with a traveling magician, and works as a masseuse telling animal stories to customers. "People go to the zoo for the same reason they might go to any other public gathering place, to see and be seen," said Edwin. "But the dynamic is more interesting in a zoo because it's humans and animals looking at each other. In a sense, it's analogous to cinema, which is also about watching and being watched."

In the Asian Film Awards' six-year history, Edwin is the third filmmaker to receive the Edward Yang New Talent Award. The two previous recipients are Japan's ISHII Yuya (latest film, *Mitsuko Delivers*) in 2008, and Taiwan's WEI Te-Sheng (latest film, *Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale*) in 2010. The Award was initiated at the 2nd Asian Film Awards in 2008, to commemorate the renowned Taiwan filmmaker Edward Yang, who passed away in 2007.

"The aim of the Award is, of course, to encourage emerging talents from the region," said Mr. Roger GARCIA, Executive Director of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society. "We are very happy to find in Edwin a most deserving recipient of the Award. His approach to cinema and eternal human issues is at once lyrical, dreamlike, magical, and I'm almost tempted to say mythical. I venture that we are witnessing an auteur in the making, hopefully the evolution of a world class filmmaker."

About the Asian Film Awards

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The AFA Presentation Ceremony takes place as part of the Entertainment Expo Hong Kong. Since 2007, the Asian Film Awards (AFA) has sought to highlight the best in Asian cinema to the world, and to promote Asian film culture both regionally and internationally. Eminent filmmakers, distinguished guests and acclaimed talents from around the world are invited to bestow awards upon the winner(s) of each category, making the Ceremony a dazzling extravaganza as well as an influential cultural event that helps position Hong Kong as the hub of Asian cinema. Each year, the AFA makes presentations in a range of categories such as Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, in recognition of artistic achievements in the cinemas and film industries of the Asian region. The 6th AFA is one of the Opening Gala events of Entertainment Expo Hong Kong and will coincide with two other flagship events of the HKIFFS: the 36th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), and the 10th Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF).

For more information about the Asian Film Awards and film submission for nomination, please visit: <http://www.asianfilmawards.asia>

About the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited

Uniting the World through Film

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to the discovery and promotion of creativity in the art and culture of film.

Through its year-round programmes, the mission of the Society is to strengthen global appreciation of Chinese film culture and to promote inspiring films from around the world, enriching the cultural life of Hong Kong.

Committed to the development of a vibrant film culture in Hong Kong and Asia, the Society organises three annual flagship events in March and April: The Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) and the Asian Film Awards (AFA).

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Passionately believing in the power of films to unite cultures and generations, the HKIFFS is devoted to giving thousands of film lovers around the region direct access to the world's most inspired films all year round.

Website: <http://www.hkiff.org.hk>

For further information, media only:

Waggener Edstrom Worldwide

Ms. April TSUI / Ms. Vickie CHONG

Phone: +852-2578-2823 / +852-6336-8090

E-mail: HKIFFS-MediaEnquiries@waggeneredstrom.com

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society

Ms. Helen LUI

Phone: +852-2102-7386 / +852-9031-9876

E-mail: helen_lui@hkiff.org.hk



Edwin, Writer/Director

Indonesian writer and director Edwin was born in Surabaya in 1978.

In 1999, he left Surabaya to study film at The Jakarta Institute of the Arts. During that time, he participated in film workshops at the Berlinale Talent Campus, and the Asian Film Academy in Pusan, South Korea.

In 2005, he wrote and directed the critically acclaimed *Kara, Anak Sebatang Pohon*, which became the first Indonesian short film screened at the Director's Fortnight, Cannes, in 2005. His next short film, *Trip to the Wound* (2007), was selected for the International Competition at the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival in February 2008. Edwin's third short film, *Hulahoop Soundings* (2008), a commissioned project for the International Film Festival Rotterdam, screened in the International Competition at the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival in February 2009.

Blind Pig Who Wants To Fly (2008), Edwin's feature film debut, made its world premiere at the 13th Pusan IFF in South Korea and played such festivals as the 38th Rotterdam IFF, the 11th BAFICI (Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival), the 33rd Hong Kong International Film Festival, the 35th Seattle International Film Festival, the 44th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic, and the 58th Melbourne International Film Festival. The film also screened at MoMa, the Viennale, Taipei Golden Horse International Film Festival, and the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, amongst others.

Blind Pig Who Wants to Fly won numerous awards including the Fipresci Award, IFF Rotterdam 2009; Special Jury Mention, Singapore IFF 2009; NETPAC, Taipei Golden Horse IFF 2009; Silver Award, Festival of the Three Continents 2009; Youth Film Award, Festival of the Three Continents 2009.

Edwin's latest feature, *Postcards from the Zoo*, is currently competing for the coveted Golden Bear at the 2012 Berlinale.