

MPA APSA ACADEMY FILM FUND



**ASIA PACIFIC
SCREEN ACADEMY™**

In June 2010 at the Shanghai International Film Festival, the Motion Picture Association announced a new partnership with Australian-based Asia Pacific Screen Awards, widely regarded as the highest accolade in film for the vast and creative Asia-Pacific region.

The MPA APSA Academy Film Fund, wholly supported by the MPA, would provide four \$25,000 script development grants for Asia-Pacific filmmakers, an initiative intended to stimulate production in the region, particularly at the development phase, among the 70 countries embraced by APSA.

A member of APSA's Academy must be attached to the project in one of the following roles: Executive Producer, Producer, Director, Screenwriter, Actor, Actress or Cinematographer.

The Academy is made up of past APSA Nominees, Winners, Jury and Nominations Council members – the most respected names in film from the region and some from outside it, including Jury members and Producers from Europe, the UK and the US. Its Patron is Australian screen legend Jack Thompson AM.

"Most days filmmakers wake up to a big challenge in their struggle to bring their stories to the screen. There is not a lot of help along the way. But today is a good day for all of us. The initiative by the MPA and the APSAs is an exciting new opportunity that will help filmmaking communities across Asia Pacific realise their dreams."

Huang Jianxin

APSA International Jury President 2009



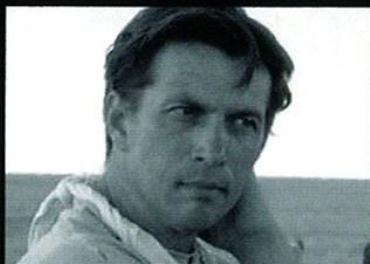
INAUGURAL MPA APSA ACADEMY FILM FUND RECIPIENTS

More than 87 submissions from across Asia-Pacific were received in the inaugural funding round. Submissions were assessed by an industry panel and the first recipients were announced at the 2010 APSA Ceremony.



Korean writer/director and three-time APSA Winner Lee Chang-dong, for *Memories of Chung-gu Hoe (Memories of Blue Hill Club)*.

Lee Chang-dong's previous films include the APSA and Cannes Film Festival prize winners *Miryang (Secret Sunshine)* and *Shi (Poetry)*. At the 2010 APSAs, *Shi (Poetry)* won the Achievement in Directing (Lee Chang-dong) and Best Performance by an Actress (Yun Jung-hee) awards. *Miryang (Secret Sunshine)* was named Best Feature Film at APSA in 2007 and also took out the Best Performance by an Actress award that year.



Sergey Dvortsevov, from Kazakhstan for *Айқа (Ayka)*.

Sergey, who is based in Russia, was a member of APSA's 2010 International Jury and writer/director of the APSA Best Feature Film in 2008, *Tulpan*.

Sergey has directed numerous award-winning documentaries, including *Paradise, Bread Day, High Way* and *In the Dark*. *Tulpan* was his first feature film.



Peng Tao, from the People's Republic of China, for *Dao Cao Ren (Straw Man)*.

Peng Tao's previous film *Xue Chan (Little Moth)* was nominated for an APSA in 2007 for Best Achievement in Directing.

Peng Tao is a graduate of the Beijing Film Academy. His award winning student films, *Story in The Winter* and *Goodbye Childhood* were both widely acclaimed on the international festival circuit.



Asghar Farhadi receiving the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film International Festival for *Nader and Simin: A Separation*, with Jury President, Isabella Rossellini. Image: Getty Images.



MPA APSA FILM FUND RECIPIENT WINS GOLDEN BEAR

The first completed project from the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund is Asghar Farhadi's *Nader and Simin: A Separation*, currently experiencing significant worldwide success.

In February 2011, it premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival where it won the Golden Bear for Best Film as well as the Silver Bears for Best Actress and Actor awarded to the ensemble cast.

It is the first Iranian film ever to win Berlinale's Golden Bear and the first film in the festival's history to win the three top prizes.

It went on to win the Sydney Film Festival's Sydney Film Prize in Australia and was pronounced a 'breakout auteur hit' in France by industry trade publication Screen International for drawing close to 400,000 admissions in its first three weeks of release and maintaining a place in the box-office top ten

alongside *Transformers 3*, *Kung Fu Panda 2* and *X-men: First Class*. The film's sales agent, Memento, have sold the film to multiple territories and will continue to roll out its worldwide release including distribution in North America by Sony Pictures Classics.

Nader and Simin: A Separation is in Official Competition for the Fifth Annual Asia Pacific Screen Awards. The live webcast of the Awards Ceremony can be viewed on November 24, 2011 via: www.asiapacificscreenacademy.com

Asghar Farhadi (Islamic Republic of Iran) for *Nader and Simin: A Separation*.

Asghar Farhadi's film *Darbareye Elly* (*About Elly*) won the APSA for Best Screenplay and the Jury Grand Prize in 2009.

Asghar's directorial debut was 2003's *Dancing in the Dust*. His second feature film, *Beautiful City*, won the Best Feature Film award at the Warsaw Film Festival 2004. *Fireworks Wednesday*, his third feature was also widely acclaimed.

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2010 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund Recipient, Lee Chang-dong accepting the Award for Best Feature Film at the 2007 Asia Pacific Screen Awards, pictured with Academy Patron Jack Thompson AM.

2011 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

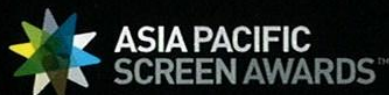
The 2011 application period is now open and will close on Friday October 21. Projects will be assessed ahead of the fifth annual APSA Ceremony and successful applicants will be announced during the fifth annual Asia Pacific Screen Awards Ceremony on Australia's Gold Coast on November 24.

The selection panel will once again be Chaired by Ronin Films' Managing Director and member of APSA's 2009 International Jury, Andrew Pike. He will be joined by award-winning Chinese screenwriter turned director Xue Xiaolu (*Together, Ocean Heaven*) and leading Australian writer/director Tony Ayres (*The Home Song Stories, Walking on Water*).

Projects are assessed on the same criteria which applies to films in the APSA competition – films that best reflect their cultural origins, demonstrate cinematic excellence and are deemed Asia-Pacific in origin.

Rules and regulations, submission details and online application forms are available online:

www.asiapacificscreenacademy.com and www.mpa-i.org



Asia Pacific Screen Awards Ltd.

Level 25, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane Qld 4000 Australia

PO Box 7990, Waterfront Place, Brisbane Qld 4001 Australia

T + 61 7 3222 1010 F + 61 7 3221 1684

E info@apscreenawards.com | www.asiapacificscreenacademy.com



"I am delighted to continue our fruitful partnership with the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in providing support to filmmakers during the vital development stage of their projects. We were overwhelmed by the success of the inaugural Film Fund and anticipate that the standard of submissions for this year will be very high indeed."

Mike Ellis

President and Managing Director
Asia Pacific, MPA at the Beijing
Film Festival, April 2011

