

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday 7 November 2018**ASIA PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS, MPA APSA ACADEMY FILM FUND****Celebrated at Washington DC Embassy Event****Producer Lee Joon-dong Presents Special Screening of *BURNING*****- APSA Chair, Australia's Michael Hawkins presented with MPA Creativity Award**

The Motion Pictures Association of America (MPA), the Embassy of Australia and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea on Monday evening jointly hosted a special screening of the internationally-acclaimed Korean film *Burning* in Washington DC in a celebration of the Brisbane-based Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) and the success of the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund. *Burning* producer Lee Joon-dong travelled to the US to present the film and participate in a Q&A.

Starring American actor of Korean descent Stephen Yeun (*The Walking Dead*, *Okja*), produced by Lee Joon-dong and directed by his brother, Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong, *Burning* was a recipient of the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund (2010) for script development and is currently nominated for Best Feature Film and Best Screenplay at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards, the region's highest accolade in film.

Prior to the screening, the MPA hosted a celebration of APSA and the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund on the theme 'The Soft Diplomacy of Film', an opportunity to discuss the growth and success of APSA and the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund. Attendees included Charlie Rivkin, Chairman & CEO, Motion Picture Association of America; Ambassador Hockey, Embassy of Australia; Ambassador Cho, Embassy of South Korea; Michael Hawkins, Chairman, Asia Pacific Screen Awards; and *Burning* Producer Lee Joon-dong.

At the event, Chairman & CEO of the Motion Picture Association Of America, Charlie Rivkin, presented Australia's Michael Hawkins with the **MPA Creativity Award**, for excellence in the promotion of Asia Pacific filmmaking, in recognition of his work in developing the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. 2018 will Hawkins' sixth APSA ceremony in the role, a key period of growth for the awards and its Academy.

MPA APSA Academy Film Fund is a unique initiative created to support the development of new feature film projects from the culturally diverse Asia Pacific region, which spans 70 countries and areas and is the fastest growing region in the world in terms of cinema production. Projects are assessed by the same criteria that apply to films in the APSA competition – films that best reflect their cultural origins and demonstrate cinematic excellence.

Now entering its ninth round, the fund has seen phenomenal success in 2018, with a staggering five films selected to premiere at Cannes (*Ayka*, *Burning*, *The Wild Pear Tree*) and Venice Film Festivals (*The River*, *Memories of My Body*), with several going on to win key

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awards at both events. The fund awards four development grants of US\$25,000 annually and is wholly supported by the MPA. It is open to APSA Academy members and their colleagues.

Burning, based on a short story by celebrated Japanese author Haruki Murakami, broke records at Cannes to become the highest-rated film in the history of the Screen International critic's poll and also won the FIPRESCI Prize. The film is Korea's official submission to the 91st Academy Awards® for Best Foreign Language Film, where it is in the running to become the first Korean film ever nominated.

In a surprising and unprecedented move that literally places the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in the picture, two of Lee Chang-dong's winning APSA awards can be seen featured in scenes of *Burning*. The unique glass awards, designed by Brisbane artist Joanna Bone for APSA winners, were won for Best Feature Film (*Secret Sunshine*, 2007) and Achievement in Directing (*Poetry*, 2010). Lee has won an additional third APSA for Best Youth Feature Film as a producer on *The World of Us* (2016) and has received a total of eight APSA nominations.

The Washington screening comes as the film goes into wide release in the United States cinemas this week and continues to receive rave reviews, with Criterion just days ago declaring it will be 'one of the most talked-about films of the year'.

The ninth round of Academy Film Fund recipients will be determined by the 2018 jury comprised of **Kiki Fung**, Programmer at the Hong Kong International Film Festival, Korean Producer **Kim Young** and returning Jury Chair **Andrew Pike OAM** of Australia.

The recipients will be announced at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards Ceremony in Brisbane, Australia on 29 November In 2018, 46 films from 22 countries and areas are nominated for the awards.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTABLE TO:

Charlie Rivkin, Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America:

"For more than six years now, Australia's Michael Hawkins has demonstrated great leadership in promoting quality filmmaking from across the Asia Pacific in his stewardship of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. We are proud to partner with the APSAs in the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund which has enjoyed such great success at film festivals and awards around the world, and we are delighted to recognize his significant contribution to filmmaking with the **MPA Creativity Award For excellence in the promotion of Asia Pacific filmmaking.**"

Mike Ellis, President & Managing Director Asia Pacific, MPA:

"Asia Pacific filmmakers are making their mark on the global stage, both in terms of their critical success at major awards and festivals, and in terms of their commercial appeal – and the Asia Pacific Screen Awards has contributed substantially to this trend. We celebrate the outstanding artistic merit of films like *Burning*, which received support from the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund, and congratulate the APSAs on the important role they are playing in

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recognizing some of the region's most astonishing talent."

Michael Hawkins, Chair of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards, and its Academy:

"I would like to thank the MPA for this award, which is a great recognition of APSA and all that it stands for. This event, here at the MPAA's headquarters in Washington DC, is a great opportunity to showcase what APSA and the MPA are achieving together and we are all very proud to welcome producer Lee Joon-dong to this special screening of *Burning*, an MPA APSA Academy supported film and already an internationally celebrated story from our region."

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LEE Joon-dong, Producer – BIO

Born in 1957, LEE Joon-dong is the producer of *Poetry* (2010), for which LEE Chang-dong won the Best Screenplay Award at the Cannes Film Festival. He co-produced the international joint projects *Never Forever* (2006) and *A Brand New Life* (2009). A younger brother of LEE Chang-dong, LEE started his filmmaking career as the production manager of the director's third film *Oasis* (2002). Upon establishing Now Films, he produced the highly acclaimed melodrama film, *My Mother, the Mermaid* (2004), which starred JEON Do-youn. He specializes in producing low/mid-budget art films, one of which being *Never Forever* (2006), directed by Korean-American woman director Gina KIM. The movie was a Korea-US joint project that used numerous US production staff members, and was screened at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2009, he collaborated with the French distribution company Diaphana Films in producing *A Brand New Life* by Ounie Lecomte. LEE is also actively working as a member of the Korean Film Producers Association (KFPA), seeking for an alternative model of production in the industry, which is largely eaten by conglomerates. He then gave *Save the Green Planet* director JANG Joon-hwan the chance to make his much anticipated sophomore feature, the action thriller *Hwayi: A Monster Boy* (2013). It became his biggest success to date with 2.3 million admissions. He and his brother joined hands again in 2014 but this time to produce Gina KIM's *A Girl at My Door* (2014), starring BAE Doo-na and *A Brand New Life* lead actress KIM Sae-ron. The film made a sensation in Cannes where it premiered and had an extremely long run on the festival circuit thereafter, with more than 25 selections. He was once again involved as a Producer of LEE Chang-dong's first movie directed in eight years, the mystery drama *BURNING* (2018), which joined the main competition of the Cannes Film Festival.

ABOUT THE ASIA PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS & ASIA PACIFIC SCREEN ACADEMY

The region's highest accolade in film, the Asia Pacific Screen Awards, based in Brisbane, Australia, are supported by Brisbane City Council and managed by economic development board Brisbane Marketing. APSA recognises and promotes cinematic excellence and cultural diversity of the world's fastest growing film region: comprising 70 countries and areas, 4.5 billion people, and responsible for half of the world's film output.

APSA and its Academy is committed to its ongoing global partnerships with UNESCO, FIAPF, the European Film Academy (EFA), the Motion Picture Association (MPA), Premios Platino del Cine

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Iberoamericano, NETPAC (the Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema), the Asia Pacific Screen Lab (APSL) and Griffith Film School.

All APSA nominees, International Nominations Council, Selection Panels and International Jury members are inducted into the prestigious APSA Academy presided over by Australian screen legend Jack Thompson AM PhD. The Academy boasts over 1,100 of the region's leading filmmakers and provides exclusive networking, development and funding opportunities available to Academy members through the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund, and Academy mentoring opportunities for the next generation of Asia Pacific filmmakers through the Asia Pacific Screen Lab.

<https://www.asiapacificscreenawards.com/about-academy>

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.

MPA APSA Academy Film Fund recipients 2010 – 2017

2017 Suman Mukhopadhyay/Rajit Kapur (India)
Robert Connolly (Australia)
Guy Davidi (Israel)
Vladimer Katcharava (Georgia)

2016 Haifaa Al Mansour (Saudi Arabia)
Joo Young Park (Republic of Korea)
Rolf de Heer (Australia)
[The River](#), Emir Baigazin (Kazakhstan)

2015 Ami Drozd (Israel)
[Wajib](#), Annemarie Jacir (Palestine)
Cliff Curtis (New Zealand)
Surabhi Sharma (India)

2014 Signe Byrge Sørensen (Denmark)
Dror Moreh (Israel)

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Panah Panahi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mostofa Sarwar Farooki (Bangladesh)

2013 Ainsley Gardiner (New Zealand)
Jeannette Hereniko (Marshall Islands)
Reis Çelik (Turkey, Iraq)
[Memories of My Body](#), Garin Nugroho (Indonesia)

2012 Kath Shelper (Australia)
Mohammed Rasoulof (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Suha Arraf (Israel)
The Wild Pear Tree, Zeynep Atakan (Turkey)

2011 [No Burqas Behind Bars](#), Maryam Ebrahimi (Sweden, Japan, Netherlands, Denmark)
[Bomb, A Love Story](#) Payman Maadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Pryas Gupta (India)
[Memories on Stone](#), Shawkat Amin Korki (Iraqi Kurdistan)

2010 [A Separation](#), Asghar Farhadi, (Islamic Republic of Iran)
[Burning](#), Lee Chang Dong (Republic of Korea)
The Cremator, Peng Tao (People's Republic of China)
[Ayka](#), Sergey Dvortsevoy (Russian Federation)

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