

**PRESS RELEASE  
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TELEPHONE  
+61 7 3006 6200  
FAX  
+61 7 3006 6250  
WEBSITE  
brisbanemarketing.com.au

## **APSA WINNING FILM *MEMORIES OF MY BODY* RECEIVES SCREENING HONOUR AT UNESCO PARIS HQ**

**Paris, France:** Master Indonesian director and 2018 Asia Pacific Screen Award (APSA) winner Garin Nugroho last night presented a special screening of his film **KUCUMBU TUBUH INDAHKU (*Memories of my Body*)**, the sensual story of a traditional Lenggler dancer, at the world headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris.

The screening forms part of his prize for *Memories of My Body* winning the **2018 APSA Cultural Diversity Award under the patronage of UNESCO**. This unique platform provides a rare opportunity to screen the film to a truly international audience, the attendees of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee meeting for the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

UNESCO Assistant Director-General Mr Ernesto Ottone R said “UNESCO and APSA share a common belief that truly transformative cinema – cinema that promotes the values of inclusion, dialogue and human rights – is more likely to emerge when the people behind the camera reflect the full range of our cultural diversity. That is why UNESCO was proud to serve on the jury of the 2018 APSA Cultural Diversity Award and why we are pleased to spotlight this year’s winner at UNESCO Headquarters.”

The award and screening event contribute to fulfilling the shared common goals of APSA and UNESCO: to promote diversity of cultural expression and raise awareness of the value and power of culture and cultural industries at local, national and international levels.

The Brisbane-based APSA and Paris-based UNESCO are celebrating a unique 12-year collaborative relationship and in 2018, for the first time, a dedicated APSA International Jury was appointed to preside solely over this award.

Chairman of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and its Academy, Michael Hawkins said, “The UNESCO screening of the Cultural Diversity award winner immediately puts into practice what APSA and UNESCO aim to achieve with the award and in general: to share unique stories on screen for audiences worldwide to connect with, thereby preserving culture through sharing it.”

The APSA International Cultural Diversity Jury consisted of prolific and acclaimed documentarian and author, and the first female filmmaker from Yemen, **Khadija Al-Salami** (Jury Chair), Laos’ first female feature filmmaker and first horror feature filmmaker **Mattie Do** (Laos) and the first ever juror formally representing UNESCO, **Anthony Krause**, Chief of the Policy and Research Unit in the Section for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The jury said *Memories of My Body* is a “powerful coming-of-age story of a dancer that is unafraid of traversing multiple artistic expressions and forms to understand and define his individual identity. It is a call for resistance to challenge social and cultural norms through art. A universal tribute to artistic freedom that resonates intimately with each one of us.”

The screening was the fifth annual screening of its kind, following similar screening events for all of the APSA-winning films in this category since 2014’s *Memories on Stone*.

APSA is an initiative of the City of Brisbane.

APSA is endorsed by UNESCO and FIAPF-International Federation of Film Producers Associations.

In alliance with:

The screening was followed by a Q&A panel discussion with Garin Nugroho, APSA lead Jaclyn McLendon, and Anthony Krause. Khadija Al-Salami was also in attendance.

*Memories of my Body* lead actor Muhammad Khan was in attendance at the APSA 29 November ceremony in Brisbane, where he accepted the unique handmade glass vessel by award-winning Brisbane artist Joanna Bone.

*Memories of My Body*, which received an MPA APSA Academy Film Fund grant for early script development, world premiered in the Horizons competition of the 75<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival in September. APSA co-presented the Australian Premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival in October.

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

***Memories of My Body* APSA Ceremony clip:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOo0CiEkBY>

**IMAGES:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ohmojc3zddkvu0g/AAAb8NhpE9-HRRenUL7xgql2a?dl=0>

### **Media enquiries:**

Alicia Brescianini +61 400 225 603 [alicia@abcfilm.com](mailto:alicia@abcfilm.com)

Cathy Gallagher +61 416 227 282 [cathy@abcfilm.com](mailto:cathy@abcfilm.com)

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **MEMORIES OF MY BODY - SYNOPSIS**

Juno is just a child when his father abandons him in their village in Central Java. Alone now, he joins a Lengger dance center where men shape their feminine appearance and movement. Since his youth, Juno has grown to feel that in a man there is always an element of male and female. But the sensuality and sexuality that come from dance and bodies, mixed with the violent social and political Indonesian environment, force Juno to move from village to village. On his journey Juno gets attention and love from his dance teachers, a handsome boxer and a Warok, and he must face the battlefield that his body is becoming.

<https://www.asiapacificscreenawards.com/apsa-nominees-winners/2018/cultural-diversity-award/memories-of-my-body-kucumbu-tubuh-indahku>

### **APSA CULTURAL DIVERSITY AWARD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF UNESCO**

#### **Previous winners:**

2017 – [DEDE](#) (Georgia, Croatia, Netherlands, Qatar, United Kingdom)

2016 – [THE DARK WIND](#) (Reşeba) – Iraq, Germany, Qatar

2015 – [THE IDOL](#) (YA TAYR EL TAYER) - Palestine, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, United Kingdom

2014 – [MEMORIES ON STONE](#) (BÎRANÎNÊN LI SER KEVIRÎ) –Iraq / Germany

2013 – [THE PAINTING POOL](#) - Islamic Republic of Iran

2012 – [WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW: SEEDIQ BALE](#) - Taiwan

2011 – [TOOMELAH](#) - Australia

2010 – [BAL](#) (HONEY) - Turkey

2009 – [SAWAN BAAN NA](#) (AGRARIAN UTOPIA) - Thailand

2008 – [TINAR](#) - Islamic Republic of Iran

2007 – [THE BAND'S VISIT](#) (BIKUR HATIZMORET) – Israel / Egypt

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**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 the 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 Iberoamericano, NETPAC (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 1,200 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>

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

**UNESCO**

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

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