



11th ASIA PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS ANNOUNCES 2017 YOUTH, ANIMATION, DOCUMENTARY NOMINEES + JURY



Brisbane, Australia: The Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) today announced the 2017 nominations in the award categories of Youth, Animation and Documentary and the International Youth Animation Documentary Jury, to be chaired by the internationally acclaimed filmmaker and APSA Academy member Haifaa Al Mansour (*Wadjda*, *Mary Shelley*).

These first fifteen feature film nominations hail from 13 Asia Pacific countries and areas, with films from People's Republic of China and Australia receiving three nominations each.

As the region's highest accolade in film, 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 is responsible for half of the world's film output.

Joining Al Mansour on the International Youth Animation and Documentary Jury for 2017 will be Melanie Coombs, the Australian producer behind Academy Award® winner *Harvie Krumpet* and APSA Best Animated Feature Film winner *Mary and Max*, and renowned British producer Steve Abbott (*A Fish Called Wanda*, *Brassed Off*) representing APSA's Academy Alliance with the European Film Academy (EFA).

The Jury will meet for screenings and deliberations in Brisbane in November before presenting the winners at the 11th Asia Pacific Screen Awards ceremony on Thursday 23 November.

The nominees are:

BEST YOUTH FEATURE FILM:

***Big Big World* (Koca Dünya, Turkey) – screened in the Horizons Competition at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival.**

Jasper Jones (Australia) – directed by APSA Academy member Rachel Perkins (*Bran Nue Dae*, APSA 2010 Best Children's Feature Film nominee)

The Seen and Unseen (*Sekala Niskala*; Indonesia, Netherlands, Australia, Qatar) – selected for the Cinéfondation Residence programme at the Cannes Film Festival, the film World Premiered at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival and is an APSA Academy Children’s Fund recipient.

The Skier (*Ski-Baz*, Islamic Republic of Iran) – Premiered at the Isfahan International Film Festival.

The Summer is Gone (*Ba Yue*, People’s Republic of China) – Winner of three 2016 Golden Horse Awards, for Best Feature Film, Best New Performer and the FIPRESCI Prize.

Chairman of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and its Academy Michael Hawkins said, ‘In announcing this first round of nominees for the 2017 Asia Pacific Screen Awards, the event takes its first major step into its second decade. Furthermore, to see eight returning APSA Academy members among the nominated films in various roles, is testament to the strength of the growing Academy, presided over by Australian acting legend Jack Thompson AM PhD, and boasting just over 1000 of the region’s most elite film practitioners.’

Chair of the 2017 APSA Youth, Animation, and Documentary Jury Haifaa Al Mansour said, ‘I am so thrilled to be returning to Australia to serve on the APSA Youth, Animation, and Documentary Jury at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. Australia is an incredibly special place for me, as my son Adam was born there while I was studying film at the University of Sydney. It was through that program that I wrote some of the earliest drafts of the screenplay for my first film *Wadjda* as well, so it is really the place where it all began. Serving on the jury is an incredible honour for me, and such a wonderful opportunity to see the best of up-and-coming talent from the region. I am looking forward to showing my son (who is now eight) the country of his birth and bringing the whole family along to experience the warmth and hospitality of the land down under!’