



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## MPA FOSTERS CHINA'S FILM MARKET, EMERGING TALENT AT 5<sup>TH</sup> NEW MEDIA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

*KingBonn Academy Workshop script competition winners headed for Los Angeles*

SHENZHEN/SINGAPORE – On May 12, the Motion Picture Association (MPA) announced the winners of its inaugural feature film pitch competition at the second annual KingBonn Academy workshop, held at the 5th China International New Media Short Film Festival (CSFF) in Shenzhen. The workshop, organized by MPA and the Shenzhen Media Group (SZMG), showcased the talent of young filmmakers from across China and helped nurture future creative generations with a series of master-class lectures.

From 124 high-quality submissions, 15 young filmmakers were selected to pitch their feature film scripts in front of a jury of experts. Two winners – Tang Hao: *The Disappearance of Carmen* and Zhao Houkuan: *Back Home* – received an equal number of votes from the judges and were awarded a five-day film immersion course in Los Angeles sponsored by the MPA. They will learn how the world's largest film and television industry works and be given opportunities to introduce their winning projects to film executives.

Following his win, Tang Hao, one of the two authors of winning script, *The Disappearance of Carmen*, said, "MPA's workshop gave us a rare opportunity to learn scriptwriting and filmmaking first-hand from real masters and I intend to show my gratitude through my future works – to the very best of my creative ability. This once-in-a-lifetime experience starts a whole, new chapter of my filmmaking career."

This year's event attracted a dynamic group of lecturers – including Eben Davidson, Paramount Senior Vice President of acquisitions and production; David Traub, co-founder, Epiphany Film Fund; actor and writer Chiu-Wing Lam; U.S. television director of the hit series *Friends* Roger Christiansen; and Richard Taylor, co-founder and co-director of the WETA companies – who spoke to the workshop's 400 young professional and university filmmaker participants.

"Paramount is pleased to work with MPA to provide a platform for film collaboration, creativity and innovation. It gives me great pleasure that workshops like this one will help lead a new generation of filmmaking for tomorrow's audiences," said Davidson.

MPA's film workshops have become highlights at major film festivals around the Asia Pacific region – including the Beijing International Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival and Tokyo International Film Festival.

"It's a real honor to work with CSFF and our friends at the SZMG to produce this film workshop in its second successful year. We are proud to support a platform that gives emerging filmmakers the chance to develop relationships with the international film market", said Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director Asia Pacific, MPA. "This workshop and similar events will help introduce new ideas, deepen understanding between filmmakers and promote our mutual progress."

The CSFF is China's only short film competition festival authorized by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT) and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government. This year's event was organized by the Shenzhen Municipal Bureau of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the

Shenzhen Media Group, and co-organized by the Shenzhen Times Network Media Co.

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**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](http://www.mpa-i.org).

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