

# FREEDOMFILMFEST

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2019



**PROGRAMME BOOK**

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# HARGA NAIK, GAJI MAINTAIN (SOARING PRICES, STAGNANT WAGES)

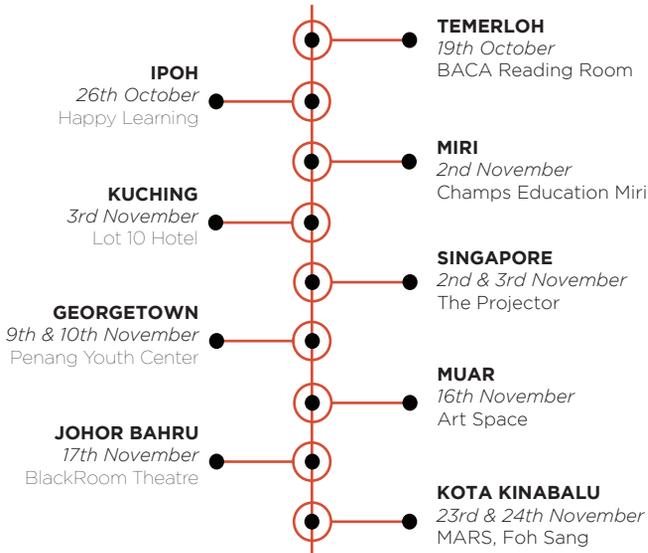


FFF highlights that the UN Declaration on Human Rights declares that “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of [themselves] and of [their] family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care.”

But despite that, many of us are struggling to provide for ourselves. Issues such as the rising cost of living, the ever increasing price of food and petrol, the struggle to finance housing and pay for healthcare and stagnant wages are serious issues facing Malaysians and the international community alike.

This year’s film line up aims to spark debate, identify problems and look for alternative solutions to issues of wealth inequality.

## FFF 2019 TRAVELLING FESTIVAL



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# FREEDOMFILMFEST 2019

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## **FREEDOMFILMFEST**

The power of film is undeniable and FFF has harnessed this creative tool to facilitate and inspire ordinary people to exchange knowledge, information and analysis, and make positive changes in their society. Since its inception in 2003, FFF has created a crucial platform for social filmmakers, human rights activists and other concerned individuals to showcase their films and advocate their causes.

## **THE ORGANISER**

The Freedom Film Network (FFN) is a non-profit body established to support and develop social documentary filmmaking within the context of freedom of expression and values contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Malaysia. FFN is a collective of filmmakers with a passion for sharing stories that can make an impact and contribute to a more just, equal and peaceful world.



**Anna Har, Festival Director  
Freedom Film Network**

The theme of FFF2019 “Harga Naik, Gaji Maintain” or “Soaring Prices, Stagnant Wages” is inspired by a song by Putrabumi, a Malaysian rock band helmed by Brian Gomez who infuses the reality of being a Malaysian into many of his compositions.

Although politics and law reforms took centre stage since the new government came into power more than a year ago, the sad reality is the economic wellbeing of many Malaysians has remained pretty much the same.

Cost of living continues to surge upwards and the working class is increasingly hard pressed just to make ends meet especially those living in the cities. This economic trend is not only happening in Malaysia. Worldwide, economic and financial systems are increasingly “pro-profits” rather than “pro-people”, resulting in societies paying the hefty price of social, economic, cultural and environmental destruction.

Ordinary Malaysians who stepped up to “save” their country in the last general elections cannot just watch and wait for real reforms now that they seem to have successfully installed a brand new government into power. We must continue to participate fully and build a vigilant civil society with a strong and united voice so that the current leaders will have no choice but to listen to us.

Each year the FreedomFilmFest event has provided a vital platform for civil society to gather and express their social concerns and causes through the medium of films. This annual activity has created a safe conducive space for the general public to discuss, analyse, dialogue and share with each other about pressing issues in our world today especially in Malaysia. More importantly, we can inspire and motivate each other to be more proactive in addressing social justice and other human rights issues.

The FFF2019’s curation of films and activities is aimed at helping the audience empathise and better understand the mechanics of current market systems and impact of new technology on many aspects of global social and environmental conditions. For instance, ‘Push’ which focuses on the worldwide housing crisis;

'Sisters For Sale' tells real stories of young Hmong Indigenous girls being trafficked as young brides to China; and 'People's Republic of Desire' which tells strange but real stories of live video streaming hosts, their revenues and complex family lives. There are also insightful films such as 'A Northern Soul' about the difficult lives of the working class in United Kingdom; and 'Outside' about the homeless in Germany.

Malaysian films include 'Pengidup Aku' (My Life) which reflects the perspective of Indigenous People in Sarawak who migrate to urban areas in search of jobs; 'Demi Paymitra' (For Paymitra) which highlights the plight of the urban poor in Kuala Lumpur city; 'Bila Kami Bersatu' (When We Are One) about the struggle of hospital contract cleaners for better wages; and 'Doa Seorang Nelayan' (A Fisherman's Prayer) about the desperation of a fisherman on Penang Island to save his community's livelihood and the sea from destruction.

The festival also has a selection of current international films that have made an impact and featured at key film festivals around the world such as 'Everything Must Fall', 'A Thousand Girls Like Me', 'Zero Impunity', 'Outside' and 'Call Her Ganda'. A big salute to all the talented, brave and passionate filmmakers who have brought us these stories.

The Freedom Film Network is a small, passionate team of three (in pic, Brenda Danker, Choo Huey Shin and me) but strongly supported by so many wonderful partners, friends, volunteers and audiences. Your sincere contribution and participation is what makes the festival a success year after year.



## ORGANISERS

### ORGANISED BY:

Freedom Film Network

### IN COOPERATION WITH:

Selangor State Government  
European Union

### SUPPORTED BY:

Alliance Francaise de Kuala Lumpur  
British Council  
Embassy of France  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Embassy of Sweden  
EU National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)  
German-French Cultural Fund  
Goethe-Institut  
MyDocs  
Penang Institute  
PJ Live Arts  
The School

### PARTNERS:

Art Battle  
Bentarakata  
Civica Research  
Engage  
Function 8  
Happy Learning  
Joining Hands Against Modern Slavery  
LUMA  
Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights  
Panggau  
Pit Stop Community Cafe  
SEED Foundation

Sisters In Islam  
SUARAM  
WITNESS

### FESTIVAL TEAM:

Festival Director:  
Anna Har

Production & Program Consultant:  
Brenda Danker

Festival Manager:  
Choo Huey Shin

Admin & Finance:  
Kayo Sunazawa

PR & Publicity:  
Deborah Augustine & Liyana Yusof

Technical Consultant:  
Goldwyn Mathews

Film Preview & Selection Committee:  
Andrew Ng  
Ashleigh Lim  
Effa Desa  
Eunice Alexander  
Jeremy Robeiro  
Loo Hong Chuang  
Low Yit Leng  
Maisarah Muhd Najib  
Mien Ly  
Mustafa K. Anuar  
Natalie Tan  
Ong Lai Mun  
Philip Wong  
Seira Sacha  
Soon Wei Xen  
Teo Soh Lung  
Thomas Barker

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

- All film screenings are for viewers who are 18 years old & above.
- Entry to all events is strictly via a pass.
- Seating is on a first come, first serve basis.
- The organiser reserves the right to request for identification and refuse entry to anyone for security and privacy reasons.
- Unauthorised video, photo and audio recordings in all festival event locations are strictly prohibited.



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**PUSH**Sweden / 92 minutes / 2019 / **10.30AM - 12.30PM**

*Fredrik Gertten*  
*Director, Sweden*

Housing prices are skyrocketing in cities around the world. Incomes are not. 'Push' sheds light on a new kind of faceless landlord, our increasingly unlivable cities and an escalating crisis that has an effect on us all. This is not gentrification, it is a different kind of monster. The film follows Leilani Farha, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, as she travels the globe trying to understand who is being pushed out of the city and why. "I believe there is a huge difference between housing as a commodity and gold as a commodity. Gold is not a human right, housing is," says Leilani.

**FREEDOM TALK 1****2.00PM - 3.30PM****PUSHING BACK ON UNAFFORDABLE HOMES IN THE CITY- WHAT CAN OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DO?**

In our contemporary world, the lack of national and state funding, market deregulation, growing power of global corporations, and increasing competition for scarce real estate often burden our neighbourhoods. This causes serious distortions in our social fabric and puts the goal of ensuring equitable, inclusive and just cities at risk.

Sustainable Development Goal 11 is to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” by 2030. Everyone should have genuine access to “adequate housing”, described by the United Nations as being grounded on “affordability”, “legal security of tenure”, “habitability”, “availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure”, “accessibility”, “location” and “cultural adequacy”.

Given this situation, the local government cannot stay on the sidelines, and need to take a central role. What are they doing and what more can they do to ensure Malaysians their rights to adequate housing in the cities?

The film screening of ‘Push’ and the presence of filmmaker Fredrik Gertten is supported by the Embassy Of Sweden.



**SPECIAL EVENT**

1.00PM - 2.00PM

**ART BATTLE: VISUAL ARTISTS TAKE ON FFF DOCUMENTARIES**

Since its inception, Art Battle has hosted over 1,200 competitions in over 50 cities worldwide. The first Art Battle was held in 2001 in New York City and later expanded across the US, Canada and Brazil. Since 2016, it has been running in Kuala Lumpur and has become a hit for the fertile art scene in Malaysia!

In a special collaboration with FFF, the mechanics of the competition are tweaked to challenge the artists further. The featured artists were given a preview of this year's documentaries to help them interpret and paint their perspectives live before an audience and against the clock with only a 30-minute time limit! The audience can then bid for the paintings, starting at RM150.

This special edition of Art Battle is supported by Fireworks, an ethical fashion brand; and Premier Art, an art store offering a range of fine art materials located in Publika Shopping Gallery.

SEPT 21 (SAT)

FILM SCREENING



## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF DESIRE

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USA, China / 95 minutes / 2018 / **2.00PM-4.00PM**



*Hao Wu*  
*Director, USA*

As an entire generation has come of age on social media, virtual relationships are slowly replacing real-life human connections, and China has taken it to the extreme. Here, live streaming has become the most popular online entertainment for hundreds of millions of people. 'People's Republic of Desire' provides a vérité journey into this digital universe where young performers earn as much as US\$150,000 (RM600,000) a month singing, dancing or doing talk shows to tens of thousands of live interactive audiences. The film follows three young characters - a singer, a comedian, and a migrant worker as they search for fame, fortune and human connections through live streaming.



## BILA KAMI BERSATU

*When We Are One*

Malaysia / 20 minutes / 2019 / **4.00PM - 6.00PM**



*Asyraf Abd Samad (left), Minxi Chua (right)*  
Directors, Malaysia

'Bila Kami Bersatu' (When We Are One) follows the lives and struggles of three women from Malaysia's national hospital service workers' labor union as they collectively fight for their monthly wages to be raised to RM1,500. The film documents their day-to-day experiences as hospital service workers, providing rarely seen insights into the lives of working class women in Malaysia. It also shows the real life stakes they face within an increasingly unequal economic system and the political and social risks they take in order to improve their lives and that of the other workers in their industry.

SEPT 21 (SAT)

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FILM SCREENING



## DOA SEORANG NELAYAN

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*A Fisherman's Prayer*

Malaysia / 15 minutes / 2019 / **4.00PM - 6.00PM**



*Andrew Han*  
*Director, Malaysia*

Zakaria Ismail believes it is a divine calling for him to defend the welfare of his fellow coastal fishermen and villagers in the face of a sudden massive land reclamation project in Southern Penang.

The fishing area has provided for generations of these B40 families and is now threatened with being buried under 4,500 acres of reclaimed land. B40 families refer to the bottom 40% of Malaysian households with monthly incomes of RM3,900 and below.

In this story about class struggle, contention for space between modern and traditional, and the Machiavellian interventions of political actors, Zakaria turns to his God for wisdom and courage to stand against one of the most ambitious projects being carried out in New Malaysia.



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## A VERY HARD SALE

Vietnam / 6 minutes / 2019 / 4.00PM - 6.00PM



*Morgan Ommer*  
Director, Germany

Vietnam is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Yet in many communes, not every household has a hygienic latrine. Defecating in the backyard or in the nearby river is obviously not convenient or safe in bad weather conditions, and also a public health risk and environmental threat.

Women are at the forefront of these issues as they are the ones who care for the sick in traditional village households. However, it is also the women who are part of the solution.

SEPT 21 (SAT)

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FILM SCREENING



## PENGIDUP AKU

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*My Life*

Malaysia / 20 minutes / 2019 / **8.00PM - 10.30PM**



*Albert Bansa*  
*Director, Malaysia*

Tony, an Iban Indigenous Person from the interior of Dalat in Mukah, Sarawak has been working as a construction worker for more than ten years. Sadly his wages remain low and his situation is not likely to change in the near future. The rising cost of living and his low salary makes Tony very anxious as he continues to support his son who is still in primary school. Tony's story represents the lives of many in Sarawak. Due to lack of employment opportunities and inadequate infrastructure in the village, increasing number of families and youths are now forced to work in the city.



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## DEMI PAYMITRA

*For Paymitra*

Malaysia / 20 minutes / 2019 / **8.00PM - 10.30PM**



*Azreen Madzlan*  
Director, Malaysia

Paymitra is a bright and active 7-year-old girl who lives with her parents in Program Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) Desa Rejang, Kuala Lumpur. Her father works as a security guard while her mother stays at home taking care of the family. Paymitra grew up often deprived of sufficient daily meals and proper nutrition. Due to her impoverished situation, she is underweight and malnourished. She also never gets to play outside due to high incidents of crime in her housing area. This film tells the story of a child living in Kuala Lumpur city's public housing who is left behind in Malaysia's race to become a high-income nation.

SEPT 22 (SUN)

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FILM SCREENING



## EVERYTHING MUST FALL

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South Africa, Netherlands, Belgium / 85 minutes / 2018 / **1.00PM - 3.00PM**



*Rehad Desai*  
*Director, South Africa*

The film takes an unflinching look at the #FeesMustFall student movement in the South African political landscape during the 2015 protest against the cost of education. These youths have reached breaking point and will not back down until they have achieved a social transformation the previous generations have given up on.

The story is told by four student leaders at Wits University and their Vice-Chancellor, Adam Habib, a left-wing, former anti-apartheid student activist. When Habib's efforts to contain the protest fail, he brings 1,000 police personnel into the campus which resulted in dire consequences for the young leaders. The film blends dramatic unfolding action with a multi-protagonist narrative and much of the drama lies in the internal struggles of the activists which revolves around the weight of leadership.

***FREEDOM TALK 2*****3.00PM - 4.00PM**

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**STUDENT PUN MAU MAKAN**

Many Malaysian students face the serious issue of rising tuition fees, and also struggle with the basic problem of their everyday survival. It was reported that some students only eat one meal a day, skip meals regularly or cannot pay for transport to get around or to go home during the holidays. Some students undertake part time jobs to survive, keep up with their peers or maintain their desired lifestyles.

In this session, we can hear students speak about their daily economic struggles and then together, to explore what can be done to help students with financial needs.

The film screening of 'Everything Must Fall' and the Freedom Talk is organised in collaboration with MCCHR & SUARAM. A campus tour of the film will also be organised.

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SEPT 22 (SUN)

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FILM SCREENING



## DRAUSSEN

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*Outside*

Germany / 80 minutes / 2018 / **4.00PM - 6.00PM**



*Tama Tobias-Macht (left),  
Johanna Sunder-Plassmann (right)  
Directors, Germany*

The film explores the turbulent lives of homeless persons in Cologne, Germany. The homeless share with the audience their insights and secrets of survival on the streets. Their sleeping spaces filled with their collections of personal artifacts like museum pieces reveal their stories, memories and emotions.

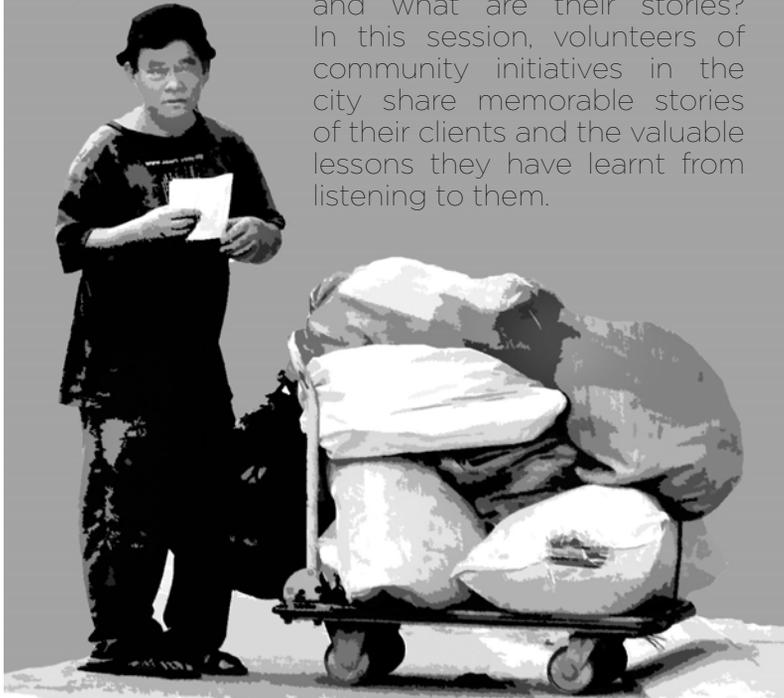
The film screening of 'Outside' is supported by the German-French Cultural Fund, Alliance Française de Kuala Lumpur, French Embassy and the Goethe-Institut Malaysia.

**FREEDOM TALK 3**

6.00PM - 7.00PM

**LIFE LESSONS FROM THE STREETS**

Who really are the clients of soup kitchens and feeding initiatives and what are their stories? In this session, volunteers of community initiatives in the city share memorable stories of their clients and the valuable lessons they have learnt from listening to them.



SEPT 22 (SUN)

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FILM SCREENING



## A THOUSAND GIRLS LIKE ME

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Afghanistan, France, Netherlands, Switzerland / 80 minutes / 2018 / **8.00PM - 10.00PM**



*Sahra Mosawi-Mani*  
Director, Afghanistan

The story of a young Afghan woman's brave fight to seek justice. For more than thirteen years, Khatera Golzad endured physical and sexual abuse in the hands of her father. After several aborted pregnancies, she gave birth to two children. Despite her many attempts to file charges, she was not helped by the authorities or the legal system. She went on to appear on national television to publicly accuse her father and finally succeeded in bringing her case to court, despite threats from relatives and judges who labelled her a liar. 'A Thousand Girls Like Me' is an awe-inspiring vérité documentary that sheds light on the broken Afghan judicial system and the women it seldom protects.

The film screening of 'A Thousand Girls Like Me' and talk is organised in collaboration with Sisters in Islam (SIS).

***SPECIAL EVENT***

**8.00PM - 10.00PM**

**FESTIVAL IN THE COMMUNITY**

This film screening event is held at the PPR Lembah Subang 2 public housing community in Petaling Jaya and organised in collaboration with YB. Maria Chin, Member of Parliament of Petaling Jaya. Malaysian human rights films from the FFF will be screened followed by discussion with the MP and representatives from relevant government departments and organisations.

SEPT 25 (WED)

FILM SCREENING



# CLOCKED OUT

## CLOCKED OUT

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Malaysia / 9 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



*Walli Khalik*  
*Director, Malaysia*

Working multiple jobs is becoming a common thing among Malaysians due to the increasing cost of living in the country, and young adults are constantly pressured to prove themselves in society.

'Clocked Out' is a documentary highlighting the struggles of a student striving for financial security. The story focuses on Jolin's daily life as she juggles between full-time studies and working multiple part time jobs. The film presents a daunting picture of the financial security of young adults in Malaysia.



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## MY WORLD

Malaysia / 10 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



*Chan Yoong Shing*  
Director, Malaysia

The film follows a man's journey and struggle to secure his son's future and to make a difference in this world. Adli Yahya, the founder of Autism Cafe Project in Malaysia, together with his son have created a platform for youth with Autism to establish their own businesses.

SEPT 25 (WED)

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FILM SCREENING



## HIDDEN IN TOWN

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Singapore / 8 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



*Kennice Foo Yu Yi*  
*Director, Singapore*

The ground-up initiative Pekik Community Services is developed by residents to benefit all residents. 'Hidden in Town' explores the activities and events such as youth soccer trainings and food distributions carried out by the non-governmental organisation to engage residents of the tri-street area which happens to sit on prime land. Despite their struggles, the spirit of helping one another continues to stand strong.



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## THE LAST PRINTING PRESS

Malaysia / 8 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



*Nurul Yasmin*  
*Director, Malaysia*

Veeramani is an Indian merchant who lives near Jalan Yusuff in Ipoh. He is the proud owner of Star Printing Works which was started in 1987 and has passed through three generations in his family. Today Veeramani still owns and uses an old printing machine which operates in the traditional way. Unfortunately the emergence of more sophisticated modern printing technology has become a threat to his business.

SEPT 25 (WED)

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FILM SCREENING



## AKI

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*Grandfather*

Malaysia / 8 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



*Herald Nyumbang Anak Nyulim*  
*Director, Malaysia*

A story about the film director's grandmother's experiences during World War II in the 1940's when Sarawak was invaded by the Japanese. She also shares about her husband's encounter with a ghost, Merdang, who gives him invisible powers enabling him to find the dragon's fang which makes him invincible.



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## TEI KAKAH

Malaysia / 11 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



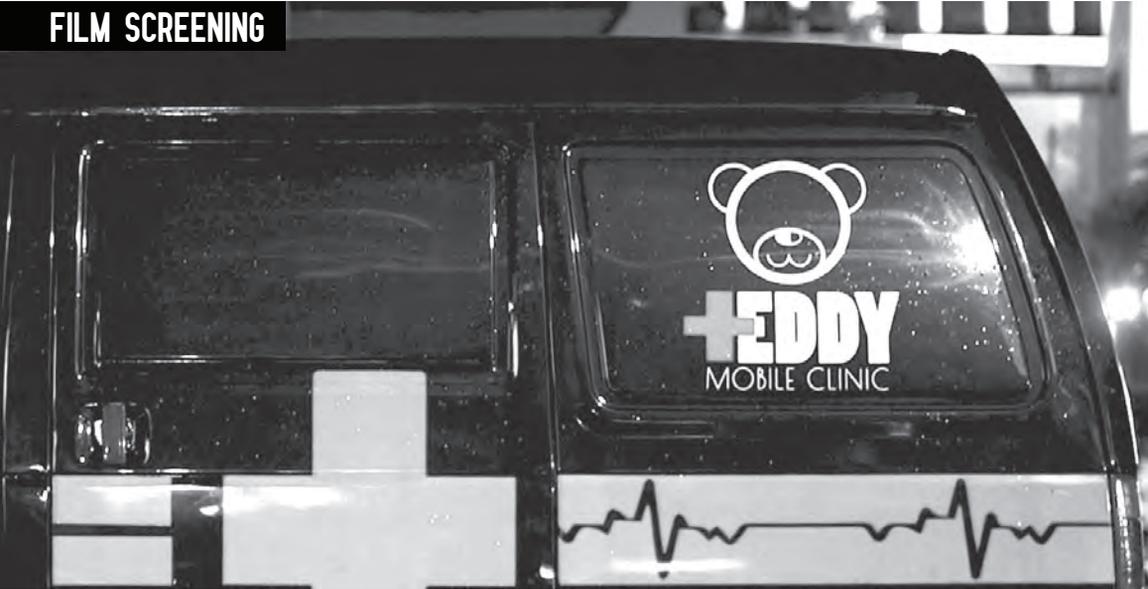
*Jeremy Jecky*  
*Director, Malaysia*

'Tei Kakah' is a journey into the past life of Elisah, a construction worker who dreams of a better life outside of his rural upbringing. Along the way, an astrophysicist contemplates on humanity's need for exploration of the unknown. Elisah's journey is bookended by a Kayan folklore about a mother and son journeying into the forest in search of fruits.

SEPT 25 (WED)

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FILM SCREENING



## DAY OF A DOCTOR

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Malaysia / 10 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



*Fahmi Sani*  
*Director, Malaysia*

Dr. Madhu operates his clinic in Cheras during the day and also runs his street clinic in the night. Every Wednesday and Thursday nights, he would hit the streets of KL with his team to provide free medical check-ups for the homeless or anyone who could not afford to pay for medical treatments and services.

Dr Madhu has been recognised for his outstanding voluntary services and has received wide media coverage gaining him the moniker "The Street Doctor". Despite his popularity, there is still a lot to learn about Dr Madhu.



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## 橋上的黎明暮色

*Bridge Commuters*

Singapore / 8 minutes / 2019 / **2.30PM-4.30PM**



*Venus Oh*  
*Director, Singapore*

Bridge Commuters is a short intimate portrait documentary of personal stories of working class individuals who cross the causeway bridge from Johor to Singapore to secure a living. Braving the causeway jams from both ends, these individuals share about their personal dreams and hopes.

SEPT 25 (WED)

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***FILMMAKER TALK***

5.00PM - 6.00PM

**CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE  
DOCUMENTARY AT A TIME BY  
MARION GUTH, AMINDA FARADILLA  
AND BEN RANDALL**

Three young filmmakers share their views on creativity, career and impact in documentaries. What can young people bring to documentaries? Can it bring them fame and fortune? Is it their weapon to create a better world?



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## SISTERS FOR SALE

Australia, Vietnam, China / 87 minutes / 2018 / **8.00PM-10.00PM**



*Ben Randall*  
*Director, Australia*

Young Hmong women at the border between Vietnam and China find themselves caught between a violent custom and a vicious criminal underworld. Investigating the mysterious disappearances of his teenage friends, an Australian filmmaker uncovers a human trafficking crisis and sparks an incredible series of events. Betrayed, stolen, and sold into forced marriages with strange men, two teenage friends are forced to make the heartbreaking choice between their baby girls and their own freedom.

This film screening is organised in collaboration with Joining Hands Against Modern Slavery.

SEPT 26 (THU)

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WORKSHOP //

1.00PM - 10.00PM

## ***OUTSIDE* MULTIMEDIA WORKSHOP: STORYTELLING WITH THE HOMELESS**

This multimedia workshop is focused on using photography and video, and adopts a different perspective by inviting soup kitchen volunteers, artists and young filmmakers to converse with homeless people. They collaborate to produce short multimedia narratives and shine a different light on the personal sharing of experiences and stories of homeless people.

The workshop participants will be guided by award-winning filmmaker Lau Kek Huat and social educationist Joycelyn Lee.

The *OUTSIDE* Multimedia Workshop is organised in collaboration with Pit Stop Community Cafe.



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## A NORTHERN SOUL

United Kingdom / 76 minutes / 2018 / **8.00PM - 10.00PM**



*Sean McAllister*  
*Director, United Kingdom*

Sean McAllister returns to his hometown of Hull, as curator of its UK City of Culture opening. Back living with his 90-year-old parents and reflecting on changes to a city hit by cuts in public spending and divided by Brexit, Sean is drawn to the fringes of the town where he encounters Steve, a struggling warehouse worker with a dream.

This film screening is supported by the British Council.

***SPECIAL EVENT*****10.00AM - 12.00PM****IDFA PITCH & WORKSHOP**

The IDFA Pitch is a platform for Malaysian filmmakers to pitch their social and environmental justice film project at the FFF2019. The winner of the best pitch will get an all-expense-paid trip to attend IDFA, the biggest international documentary film festival in the world in November 2019.

Documentaries pitched can be at any stage - from early production to near completion, but should focus on social issues in Malaysia. Filmmakers who pitch their documentary should also commit to submitting their documentary to IDFA 2020.

Prior to the pitch, shortlisted applicants will have the opportunity to be mentored by award-winning filmmaker, Lau Kek Huat (Director of 'Absent Without Leave' and 'The Tree Remembers') before they pitch their stories to a panel of distinguished judges.

The IDFA Pitch is supported by the IDFA and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

Attendance to the workshop and pitching session is by invitation only.

***SPECIAL EVENT***

**2.00PM - 3.30PM**

**VIDEO ACTIVIST FORUM**

Activist filmmakers from the South and Southeast Asia region will gather to share their short documentaries, the impact on the communities they work with, and also the challenges they face in creating videos for change. This forum will feature presentations from West Papua, Myanmar, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia and others.

This forum is organised in collaboration with WITNESS.

Attendance to the event is by invitation only.

SEPT 27 (FRI)

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## WORKSHOP //

### **FROM REPORTING ON THE STREETS TO YOUTUBE JOURNALISM - A VIDEO ACTIVIST FILM WORKSHOP WITH LEXY JUNIOR RAMBADETA.**

Award winning documentary filmmaker and video journalist Lexy Junior Rambadeta will share his experience in experimenting and using different styles and techniques of storytelling to create a popular demand for social and environmental justice videos. Lexy will present his current initiative, the "jakartanicus channel" on YouTube, where videos made by journalists and activists are able to reach as many as 1.3 million views per video.

This workshop is organised in collaboration with WITNESS.

Attendance to the workshop is by invitation only.



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## THE TREE REMEMBERS

Taiwan, Malaysia / 88 minutes / 2019 / **8.00PM - 10.00PM**



*Lau Kek Huat*  
*Director, Malaysia*

'The Tree Remembers' presents the current situation in Malaysia where racial policy is still practiced and victims are forced to remain silent. This film re-examines the origin of racism in Malaysia and the taboo of the racial riots of 1969.

SEPT 28 (SAT)

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FILM SCREENING



## 50 YEARS OF SILENCE

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Malaysia / 45 minutes / 2019 / **10.00AM - 12.00PM**



*Tham Seen Hau*  
*Director, Malaysia*

The May 13 riots remain as a national wound that has yet to heal after half a century. With the incident shrouded in taboo and trauma, those who have lost their loved ones in the tragedy have remained voiceless for decades.

The Ngs were a family of ten living in Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur in 1969. Five of them died in the May 13 riots. Due to the unbearable pain, the surviving family members never spoke to each other about the tragedy since the incident. 48 years later, they broke their silence as the director interviewed them individually, slowly piecing together fragments of a buried memory.

***FREEDOM TALK 4*****12.00PM - 1.00PM**

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**RECONCILING WITH THE PAST THROUGH  
STORYTELLING AND NARRATIVES**

In Malaysia, race and race relations are deemed as very sensitive topics and any discussions and activities related to these subjects are strictly regulated under various laws which incidentally infringe on freedom of speech and allows censorship of creative content. But this has not stopped Malaysians from highlighting and featuring such topics in their creative work. One such topic is about the racial riots of May 13, 1969. Discuss with 3 young Malaysians who have decided to deal with this incident through their films and artwork. Listen to them share about their motivations and what they have learnt from their experiences.

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SEPT 28 (SAT)

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FILM SCREENING



## ZERO IMPUNITY

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France, Luxembourg / 95 minutes / 2019 / **12.30PM - 3.30PM**



*Stéphane Hueber-Blies (left),  
Nicolas Blies (right)  
Directors, France*

For centuries, victims of sexual war crimes have experienced abuse and its devastating consequences, and yet very few have had the courage or the support to break the centuries-old silence and speak up.

'Zero Impunity' offers a voice to victims across the globe, including Syria and Ukraine, the African continent and the USA.

The film is an important and necessary eye-opener to raise awareness and screams outrage on the subject. It is also a film about life, love and humanity.




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## AMAE, THAMEE, AMA

*Mother, Daughter, Sister*

Myanmar / 28 minutes / 2018 / **12.30PM - 3.30PM**



*Jeanne Hallacy*  
Director, USA

The film gives voice to Kachin and Rohingya women calling for an end to sexual violence in conflict. The film revolves around the stories of four women — Shamima, a volunteer counselor working with survivors of military rape in a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh, Dil Kayas, a teenage survivor, and San Lung and Lu Ra, the sister and mother of two Kachin school teachers brutally raped and killed in 2015, allegedly by the Burmese military.

Powerful testimonies from survivors, witnesses and activists which explore the far-reaching impact of sexual violence and trauma on communities is interwoven with stories of courageous women calling for justice and an end to impunity.

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## **FILMMAKER TALK**

**3.30PM - 4.30PM**

### **IMPACT CINEMA: THE CASE OF THE FILM 'ZERO IMPUNITY' BY MARION GUTH**

Documentaries and films can create powerful impact on society. How can we get involved with activism through films and how can audiences join filmmakers in their campaigns and causes? A clear example is the filmmakers' strategic use of their award winning film 'Zero Impunity', to create a successful impact campaign to engage their audiences and advocate for the victims of sexual violence in the current war zones.

The film screening of 'Zero Impunity' and Marion Guth's presence at the festival is supported by the German-French Cultural Fund, Alliance Française de Kuala Lumpur, French Embassy and the Goethe-Institut Malaysia.




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## CALL HER GANDA

USA, Philippines / 98 minutes / 2018 / **3.30PM - 5.30PM**



*PJ Raval*  
Director, USA

When Jennifer Laude, a Filipina transwoman is brutally murdered by a U.S. Marine, three women became intimately involved in the case—Virgie Suarez an activist attorney, Meredith Talusan, a transgender journalist and Julita “Nanay Laude”, Jennifer’s mother. Together, they galvanised a political uprising, pursuing justice and taking on the hardened legacy of U.S. imperialism in the Philippines.

A modern David and Goliath story, ‘Call Her Ganda’ fuses personal tragedy, human rights activism and the little-known history and complex aftermath of U.S. imperialism in the Philippines, forging a visually daring and profoundly humanistic geopolitical investigative exposé.

This film screening is organised in collaboration with SEED Foundation.

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FILM SCREENING



## AN ONLINE CITIZEN

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Singapore / 20 minutes / 2019 / **5.30PM - 6.00PM**



*Calum Stuart*  
*Director, Scotland*

Despite not having any background or training in journalism, Terry Xu is chief editor, videographer, writer and webmaster of The Online Citizen, one of Singapore's few independent media outlets. With a lean team and a tight budget, it is a struggle to keep the entire enterprise afloat in an environment where mainstream media is controlled by a government which does not look kindly upon dissent.

But with the introduction of anti - "fake news" legislation that would allow government ministers to become arbiters of truth, the environment in Singapore might become tougher than it has ever been.

***FREEDOM TALK 5*****6.00PM - 7.00PM**

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**FAKE OR FACT?**

Governments, journalists, activists, ordinary folks, regardless, everyone seems to be trying to make sense of the onslaught of "Fake News". Is the Fake News threat as big as some make it out to be? Is legislation inevitable and what are its implications on freedom of expression and activism? What are the different ways we can use to effectively identify and curb Fake News?

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SEPT 28 (SAT)

FILM SCREENING



## SUPERMONK

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Nepal / 18 minutes / 2018 / **5.30PM - 7.00PM**



*Shehang Gyamjo  
Tamang  
Director, Nepal*

During the people's war in Nepal, Tashi, an 11-year-old monk and action film enthusiast encounters a rebel child soldier hiding in his monastery. An unexpected friendship blossoms when Tashi helps the scared child soldier evade capture by the military, and to remember his past. Alone in his mission to help his new friend, they both travel the same path.

Tashi usually takes to watching films, and together with his new found friend successfully escape chance encounters with government forces, strict monk disciplinarians and the rebel forces. The film tells a touching tale of adventure between two children who form an unlikely bond based on compassion and innocence.



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## TATTINI

*The Moon is Bright Tonight*

Nepal, Myanmar / 16 minutes / 2018 / **5.30PM - 7.00PM**



*Abinash Bikram Shah*  
Director, Nepal

A migrant worker's body arrives in a remote Nepali village. His widowed wife wants to start a new life with his life insurance payout but she faces resistance from her father-in-law and village elders claiming the money belongs to the village according to tradition. The film reflects on the issues of migrant workers in Nepal and the outdated traditions that continue to restrain them.

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FILM SCREENING



## TAHARA

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*Shelter*

Nepal / 26 minutes / 2018 / **5.30PM - 7.00PM**



*Deepak Tolange*  
Director, Nepal

A challenging journey of a mother and her young daughter living in a slum during the turmoil of a "squatter" movement in Kathmandu.

## JUDGES

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### Best Feature Length Documentary



**PROF DATO' DR AISHAH BIDIN** is a Professor of Corporate and Insolvency Law at the Faculty of Law, UKM and a former SUHAKAM (Human Rights Commission of Malaysia) Commissioner (2013- 2019). She served as the Dean of Faculty of Law, UKM (2009-2014) and Deputy Dean (Academic, Research and International Relations), UKM (2000-2006). She was also the former legal advisor of UKM Holdings the corporate arm of UKM (2008-2013). She is currently a commission member of the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM) and was formally an executive council member of the International Centre for Law and Legal Studies (I-CeLLS), Attorney General Chambers (AGC) of Malaysia and Legal Aid Foundation of Malaysia (YBGK).



**YAZID AHMAD** brings 25 years of filmmaking experience to Rack Focus Films. His involvement in films started at the early age of 9 in his father's production company. After 10 years of editing, directing and camera experience, Yazid moved to Kuala Lumpur to pursue his dream of becoming a filmmaker. In 2004, Yazid directed and edited his first and award winning documentary entitled, 'Are we doing enough?' He went on to direct documentaries for Discovery Channel, Asian Food Channel, The Crime and Investigation Channel, National Geographic Channel and other Asian-based broadcasters. He has produced and directed over 20 hours of documentaries and currently working on a historical documentary series about Malaysian history and politics entitled 'Road To Nationhood'.



**JULIANA LOW** has worked within the broadcast & content business for the past 21 years, with a considerable amount of time spent working with sports and general entertainment content. She currently heads the Content Acquisition & Programming for Viu's Malaysia service. Her years of experience gained in traditional content practices and broadcast environments were instrumental in laying down the foundation for Vuclip's first Viu market and her untiring quest to help propel content distribution into a new digital age of video streaming.

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## JUDGES

### Best Short Documentary

**LAU KEK-HUAT** is a Malaysian filmmaker based in Taiwan. His short film 'Nia's Door' won Best Short Film Award, Sonje Award in Busan International film festival, and selected for the 38th. Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival. 'Absent Without Leave' is his debut feature documentary film, and it is also a very personal one as he documents his journey back to his hometown in Malaysia tracing the footsteps of his grandfather who was a former member of the Malayan Communist Party (CPM). The film had a successful theatrical release in Taiwan and also won the audience choice award when it was shown at the Singapore International Film Festival. He is an alumnus of Golden Horse Academy and Berlinale & Tokyo Talents.



**FIRDAUS HUSNI** is the Chief Human Rights Strategist at the Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR). She was formerly a lawyer and a member of the Bar Council, where she chaired the Constitutional Law Committee, co-chaired the Human Rights Committee and was also Deputy Chair of the Task Force on the IPCMC and Police Accountability. In 2016, Firdaus was awarded the Women of the Future award by the Women of the Future organisation due to her work in citizens' education and empowerment on the Malaysian Constitution and human rights. In 2017, Firdaus received the Chevening Award and thereafter obtained her LLM degree focusing on human rights in the United Kingdom.



**NICK OLLE** has been a professional journalist for 18 years. He has worked across print, radio, television and online media for outlets in Australia, South America, North America, Europe and Asia. He is presently the Senior Supervising Producer at Al Jazeera International's flagship Asia Documentary Programme 101 East. Previously, he was a foreign correspondent based in Buenos Aires, Argentina for The Global Mail, ABC, NPR and other outlets. Before moving to Malaysia, he worked for Australia's international current affairs programme, SBS Dateline and Network Ten's The Project. He has been nominated for numerous prestigious awards and in 2014 he won the Australian Human Rights Commission's media award.



## JUDGES

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### Best Student Film



**BEN RANDALL** is an Australian activist and multi-award-winning documentary filmmaker. Following the abductions of his friends from Vietnam in 2011, Ben founded 'The Human, Earth Project' to raise awareness of the global human trafficking crisis. His work has been seen by millions via CNN, TEDx, VICE, Newsweek, Channel NewsAsia, etc.



**MARION GUTH** is the co-founder of a\_BAHN, a film production company based in Luxembourg. Her filmography is developed around a committed cinema with a social impact. Each of her films is accompanied by concrete actions aimed at impacting the theme addressed. She produced her first social impact film 'Zero Impunity', directed by the Blies Brothers, and deals with sexual violence in wartime. A feature-length film mixing animation and real image, it won an award at the FIPA d'Or (International Festival of Audiovisual Programmes, France) for its digital and social impact campaign.



**AMINDA FARRADILLA** oversees production and content development at Dosfellas. She has over 10 years of experience in production having produced programmes for Al Jazeera, National Geographic Channel, NHK and Channel NewsAsia. She was instrumental in developing the original series 'Secret Tribes' for Channel News Asia. In 2014, her film 'Ida's Choice' was awarded the Best Documentary at the Freedom Film Festival and screened at the Europe - Vietnamese Film Festival, Hanoi in 2015.

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**JUDGES**

## Film Grants Selection Panel

**JOYCELYN LEE** is the co-founder of the Pit Stop Community Cafe, a volunteer-driven pay-it-forward cafe in Kuala Lumpur. Joycelyn co-founded the Pit Stop, registered as a social enterprise, with partner Andrea Tan in 2016 as a platform to promote volunteerism and to work with groups and communities on resolving pressing social issues. Prior to cofounding the Pit Stop, Joycelyn was a communications specialist for more than a decade, having headed up two international communications agencies and working with an international secretariat on environmental issues. She joined the corporate world after 15 years in journalism, including more than seven years as a business writer.



**HARUN RAHMAN** established Novista to work exclusively on documentaries. An accomplished director and cameraman, he has worked on many projects including those for History Channel and National Geographic. His numerous awards include Best Wildlife Documentary Award for the film 'Among Great Apes' with Michelle Yeoh at the 2010 Asian Television Awards. Harun is also the President and founding member of MyDocs, Malaysian Documentary Association.



**THOMAS BARKER** is an associate professor at the University of Nottingham Malaysia teaching communications in film and television. He researches and writes on Indonesian cinema, creative industries, and Southeast Asian cinema more broadly. He has previously written for Nang magazine, The Jakarta Post, presented an 8-part series on BFM 89.9FM called 'Unpacking Malaysian Cinema', and served as a jury member for Festival Film Dokumenter in Yogyakarta. His monograph 'Indonesian Cinema After the New Order: Going Mainstream' is newly published by Hong Kong University Press with an Indonesian version forthcoming with KPG (Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia).



## JUDGES

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### IDFA Pitch



**MARION GUTH** is the co-founder of a\_BAHN, a film production company based in Luxembourg. Her filmography is developed around a committed cinema with a social impact. Each of her films is accompanied by concrete actions aimed at impacting the theme addressed. She produced her first social impact film 'Zero Impunity', directed by the Blies Brothers, and deals with sexual violence in wartime. A feature-length film mixing animation and real image, it won an award at the FIPA d'Or (International Festival of Audiovisual Programmes, France) for its digital and social impact campaign.



**MARK FRANCIS** is an award-winning executive producer and commissioner with more than 15 years experience in creating innovative programming across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America. As head of Original Programming for Iflix, he is responsible for bringing the company's original content strategy to life, across genres that include scripted drama, feature film, comedy, and factual entertainment. Under his stewardship, Iflix Originals hit several milestones including the platform's best-ever performing series in both 'Magic Hour' (Indonesia) and 'KL Gangster Underworld' (Malaysia) and a bold documentary about the 2018 Malaysian elections.



**NICK OLLE** has been a professional journalist for 18 years. He has worked across print, radio, television and online for outlets in Australia, South America, North America and Europe and Asia. He is presently the Senior Supervising Producer at Al Jazeera International's flagship Asia documentary program 101 East. Previously, he was a foreign correspondent based in Buenos Aires, Argentina for The Global Mail, ABC, NPR and other outlets. Before moving to Malaysia, he worked for Australia's international current affairs program SBS Dateline and Network Ten's The Project. He has been nominated for numerous prestigious awards and in 2014 he won the Australian Human Rights Commission's media award.

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