

2022

**FREEDOM
FILMFEST
PROGRAMME BOOK**





“Pandemik Dua Darjat” (Pandemic of Inequality)

The Covid-19 pandemic created disastrous and deadly effects worldwide. Malaysia emerged from two years of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic and many had hoped to see a return to normalcy. But there is another alarming pandemic, a silent killer which is perhaps more deadly - the Pandemic of Inequality. It is the decades-old problem of socio-economic inequality between the top elites and the desperate millions who are barely making ends meet. Unfortunately the Covid-19 crisis has further widen this divide.

This is not a new ‘disease’ and it sickens ordinary people especially the poor who usually have limited access to basic and urgent healthcare, education and welfare. They are often denied justice, dignity and basic human rights. Meanwhile the privileged few are treated differently and seem to be insulated from the law when they break standard protocols during Covid-19 lockdowns. ‘*Dua Darjat*’ is now a popular catch phrase in reference to ‘double standards’ which is a clear symptom of the deadly ‘Pandemic of Inequality’.

The films selected for this year’s festival effectively reflect the spirit of this theme.

FFF 2022 TRAVELLING FESTIVAL



**Miri
Ipoh
Melaka
Kuching
Langkawi
Singapore
George Town
Kota Kinabalu**

ABOUT FREEDOMFILMFEST (FFF)

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.

Every edition of the festival guarantees the birth of new social films that tell important Malaysian stories from the perspective and aspirations of the ordinary *Rakyat* (people). This is realised through a strategic film grant and mentorship programme to support activists and first time filmmakers.

In almost 2 decades of existence, FFF has nurtured new audiences and expanded the appreciation of creative powerful non-fiction films which enable its viewers to empathise with others and compel social change.

The best human rights films of the festival are selected by esteemed jurors and will receive the Justin Louis Award. This award is named in honour of video activist and Pusat Komag's first coordinator who lost his life during a fact finding mission to investigate human rights abuses in the interiors of Sarawak.



ORGANISING TEAM

Freedom Film Network:

ANNA HAR
BRENDA DANKER
CHOO HUEY SHIN
SHERIDAN MAHAVERA
ALBERT BANSA

Goethe-Institut Malaysia:

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MASJALIZA HAMZAH
NELLY NOVEANE TAMIN

Support:

SOON WEI XEN
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SEIRA SACHA
SHERRIE RAZAK DALI
CHAN TSU CHONG
TAN JO HANN

Artwork & Design:

ARIF RAFHAN OTHMAN
AMIRUL RAMTHAN

The festival will not be possible without the contributions of all our partners, collaborators, festival volunteers, session facilitators and resource persons. Thank you!



Freedom Film Network -Festival Organiser

FFN

Freedom Film Network (FFN) is a non-profit entity with a mission to harness the power of films and storytelling to inspire social change and human rights for all. It was co-founded by Anna Har and Brenda Danker together with the alumni of activists filmmakers from FFF's film grant and mentorship programme. FFN's formation in 2017 also meant the mantle of organising the FreedomFilmFest (FFF) was passed on to FFN from Pusat Komus, a human rights organisation that originally established the festival.

FFN supports and collaborates with activists, filmmakers and communities to produce creative and powerful socially relevant-themed Malaysian films.

It also aims to build the (critical) perspective and technical capacity of social filmmakers to enable them to produce high quality social films through sharply programmed training events conducted by relevant experts from around the world.

FFN consults and partners with academic institutions, communities and CSOs to develop relevant curricular, organise engaging film sessions, and develop impact strategies for campaigns using films.

FFN welcomes anyone who is interested to join our expanding network and being part of our mission as volunteers, contributors and members.



FREEDOMFILM **NET**
WORK
Pertubuhan Perfileman Sosial Malaysia

Social Films For Social Change



Social Films For Social Change (SFSC) is a 5-year European Union funded project to increase the capacity of filmmakers and CSOs, especially women and indigenous people to use films to promote human rights in Malaysia.

Apart from film production grants and trainings for filmmaking, FFN in partnership with Goethe-Institut, Malaysia now offer support to CSOs in the form of third party impact grants to produce and use films in their work.

Through the SFSC project, FFN has begun the creation of *Arkib Filem Rakyat*, an archive of video footage and completed films related to the Malaysian social movement as early as 1990's.

The '*Bebaskan Filem, Merdeka Minda Rakyat*' is FFN's initiative to build a body of knowledge around film censorship and its impact and implications, and to engage stakeholders on this issue. This initiative will contribute towards advocacy for policy and law reforms needed to protect and ensure a better ecosystem for social filmmaking and freedom of expression in Malaysia.

BEBASKAN FILEM

MERDEKAKAN MINDA RAKYAT

Join the movement to reform the film censorship system in Malaysia



We need your voice
to push for change.
Fill the survey now.



Share your
film censorship
experience.



Screen Nasir Jani
Melawan Lembaga
Puaka.



Join our mailing
list for updates.

Find out more: bit.ly/BebaskanFilem

FreedomFilmFest Film Grant

Every year the festival calls for film proposals to produce short social-themed films. The grant provides RM15,000, equipment rental & production support in the form of mentoring from local and international filmmaking professionals. All grantees' films will premier at the FreedomFilmFest and their impact campaigns supported by FFN. Look out for our next call in February 2023.





SOCIAL
FILMS
FOR
SOCIAL
CHANGE

**CONSIDER FILM FOR YOUR
NEXT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN!**

SOCIAL IMPACT GRANT

FOR MALAYSIAN CSOs

**UP TO RM30,000 PER PROJECT
DEADLINE: 31 OCTOBER 2022**

apply at freedomfilm.my



Anna Har, Festival Director of FreedomFilmFest (above), film screening in FFF 2019 (below).

PREFACE

After almost 3 years since the last on-ground FreedomFilmFest, it feels great to be able to gather once more to watch social films on the big screen.

This year we feature 34 films made just before and during the pandemic period and FFN proudly supports 12 of them. It is not an easy feat to film under tight movement restrictions while dealing with the threat of a deadly virus. I commend all the filmmakers who persisted to bring us these important and powerful stories that are truly a testimony of our times.

There are so many gems in this year's showcase but I would like to highlight just a few here. One of them is *'There To Document'*, a film that looks back at a decade of organising the FreedomFilmFest in Singapore. It will open a discussion on why resistance and diversity of perspectives are important in society.

Something new and worth checking out are the 3 videos by artists from the current ILHAM art gallery exhibition. The artists of *'Portrait of the Jungle People'*, *'I Enjoy Being A Girl'* and *'Membawang'* not only approach social themes creatively but with sensitivity, leaving viewers with much to ponder after watching these films.

We are very proud to showcase three films by the *'Apa Kata Wanita Orang Asli'* team which were rooted in a storytelling workshop held at the FFF 2018. In the process of learning and making the films, this cohort of young Orang Asli women have grown more confident and resolute about the need to assert their rights and identity. These films are now their voices and their weapon!

This year's festival introduces more ways to tell stories that matter - by using archive footage and also through investigative journalism. So do check out the related films and talks such as *'They Call Me Babu'* and talk by Pieter van Huystee on using archives in films, and also the award winning film *'Collective'* and the workshop on how to turn an investigation into a story.

Stories are sometimes our only way to share and express what cannot be said. This rings true especially for our neighbours in Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand presently under military-controlled regimes. So come listen to stories "from within" and be in solidarity with the filmmakers who will be present at their film screenings.

It is true that most of the films tackle heavy and painful subjects which are too close to home. But the solutions cannot be found by merely turning a blind eye on these issues. We have to understand them, be prepared and then find the collective strength in solidarity with others to move forward. My sincere hope is this festival will be our platform to do this together.



Creative performance from the storytelling workshop in FFF 2018

SEPT 9 (FRI)

7.40 pm In The Same Breath

SEPT 10 (SAT)

11.00 am There To Document
FREEDOM TALK 1: "Sorry Tak Lepas..." The Paranoia
& Tragedy Of Film Censorship.

2.00 pm Portrait Of The Jungle People
I Enjoy Being A Girl
Membawang (*Gossip*)
FREEDOM TALK 2: Artistic Approaches To Tackling
Social Stories.

4.00 pm Emerging Voices:
Three Ways To Falter
Second Prison
Living In Limbo
Distance
Daratanku Tenggelam (*Drowned Land*)
Karpel (*Carpet*)

8.00 pm Softie

SEPT 11 (SUN)

2.00 pm Homebound
Rasa & Asa (*Flavours, Feelings & Hopes*)

4.00 pm FREEDOM TALK 3: The Impact Of Art & The Art Of Impact.

8.00 pm Peluang Kedua (*Second Chance*)
Anak Ibu, Anak Malaysia (*I, Too, Am Malaysian*)

SEPT 14 (WED)

6.00 pm Launch of Arkib Filem Rakyat (*Social Film Archive*)
FREEDOM TALK 4: The Right To Tell Your Own History
With Archive Materials.

8.00 pm They Call Me Babu

SEPT 15 (THURS)

11.00 am FREEDOM TALK 5: Changing The World With
Character Driven Films
8.00 pm Four Journeys

SEPT 16 (FRI)

11.00 am Rahsia Rimba (*Secrets Of The Forest Guardian*)
Selai Kayu Yek (*Roots Of My Land*)
Klinik Ku Hutan (*The Forest, My Clinic*)
FREEDOM TALK 6: If Not Us, Then Who?
-Young Orang Asli Women
Changing The Narrative.
2.00 pm Padauk: Myanmar Spring
Pattani Calling
Not Love Songs
5.00 pm Can't Run, Can't Hide
Grey Scale
8.00 pm Jiwa Pendidik (*The Soul Of A Teacher*)
Fafa: Perjuangan Tak Didendang (*The Unknown
Struggle Of Fafa*)

SEPT 17 (SAT)

11.00 am Workshop: How To Turn An Investigation Into A Story.
2.00 pm Baliu Kano Kai (*Ancestral Domain Of The Punan Ba*)
Empangan Nenggiri: Suara Bantahan Orang Asli
(*Nenggiri Dam: Protest Voices Of The Orang Asli*)
3.30 pm Collective
7.00 pm Awards Ceremony
8.30 pm Sorry We Missed You

FILM
SEPT 9 (FRI)
7.40-10.30 PM

FILM SYNOPSIS & EVENT DETAILS



100 min
2021

In The Same Breath



Nanfu Wang,
Director, USA

'In The Same Breath' recounts the experiences of people on the ground during the novel coronavirus and the way two countries dealt with its initial spread, from the first days of the outbreak in Wuhan, China until its rampage across the United States. The film explores the early confusion and parallel campaigns by authorities in trying to contain the virus as well as shape the public narrative through misinformation, resulting in devastating impact on citizens of both countries. Nanfu Wang is a Chinese-born American filmmaker. Her debut film *'Hooligan Sparrow'* premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2016 and was shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 2017.

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
11 AM-1 PM



There To Document

26 min
2021

An intergenerational community reflects on the 10-year history of FreedomFilmFest in Singapore. Organised by local activists in Singapore, the festival brought plural perspectives from around the world to local audiences and sparked discussions about injustice, inequality, and the rights of migrant and under-represented communities. Celeste is an aspiring documentary filmmaker and mutual aid organiser outside of her regular day job. Her interest in Anthropology and Southeast Asian studies have shaped her approach in listening to people's stories.



Celeste Tan,
Director,
SINGAPORE

FREEDOM TALK 1

**“Sorry, Tak Lepas..”
The Paranoia & Tragedy
Of Film Censorship**

What happens when stories that expand the diversity of perspectives and differ from mainstream ideas are told on screen? Past and present organisers of FreedomFilmFest Singapore and the producer of the film *‘Split Gravy On Rice’*, Zarul Albakri will provide insights on their own experiences.

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
2-4 PM

The making of 'Portrait of the Jungle People', 'I Enjoy Being a Girl' and 'Membawang' were made possible through a production grant by ILHAM Gallery as part of its inaugural ILHAM Art Show, a triennial exhibition platform initiated to give artists in Malaysia the opportunity to experiment and make new work. The ILHAM Art Show 2022 is currently on at ILHAM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur (ilhamgallery.com) until 23 October 2022.



Portrait of The Jungle People

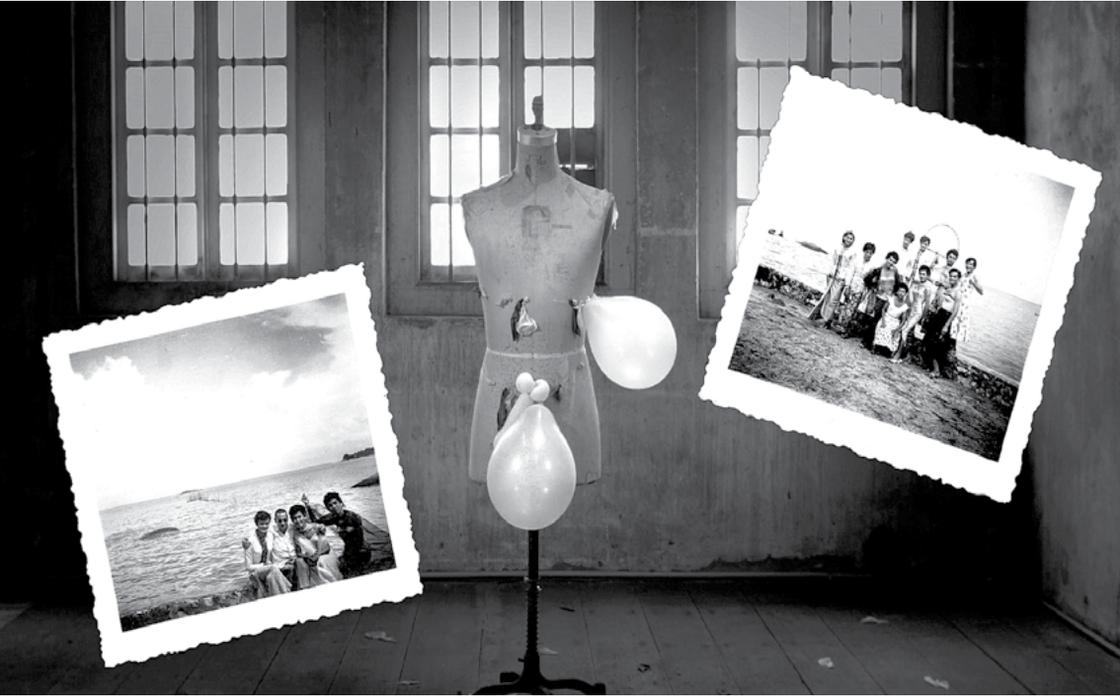
15 min
2022

'Portrait Of The Jungle People' or 'San-Ba-Lou' explores both the artist's family history and roots in Malaysia to honour the offshoots who can neither be traced nor mapped. The film consists of a series of fragmented narratives and post-memories depicting the ways in which humans and machines make sense of each other. Eddie Wong is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher. He earned an MA in Computational Arts from Goldsmiths, University of London from 2018–2020.



Eddie Wong
Director, MALAYSIA

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
2-4 PM



37 min
2022

I Enjoy Being A Girl



Hoo Fan Chon
Director, MALAYSIA

This photo-video essay is part of an on-going project, *'Anita & Ava - Photography As A Self-Restorative Tool'*, which looks at how two childhood friends explore their gender identity through photography, as they transition into adulthood. The film gives a glimpse of the time they had with their peers from the transgender community in Malaysia. Hoo Fan Chon is a visual art practitioner who currently resides in George Town, Penang. He completed his BA in Photography at the London College of Communication, UK, in 2010.

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
2-4 PM



Membawang **(Gossip)**

15 min
2022

Membawang means gossip in Malay and 'makcik bawang' literally means 'onion aunties' who gather around the kitchen to prepare food and 'gossip'. This video reaffirms 'gossip' as an initiator of memory and producer of acquired knowledge and wisdom, creating collective identities. It is an attempt to subvert the patriarchal construction of female stereotypes as malicious, envious and weak. Dipali Gupta is an artist whose work is an exploration of societal constructs from the domain of the feminine. She graduated from La Salle College of the Arts, Singapore and Goldsmiths University of London and currently lives in Kuala Lumpur.



Dipali Gupta
Director, INDIA

FREEDOM TALK 2

Artistic Approaches To Tackle Social Stories

Listen to artists Eddie Wong, Hoo Fan Chon and Dipali Gupta talk about how they approach somewhat 'heavy' subjects in an artistic and meaningful way and adopt creative treatments to transgress biases and open new ways of thinking.

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
4-5.30 PM

Emerging Voices

This session showcases 6 short documentary films produced by Malaysia & Singapore film students. Through their lens, we see and hear stories that matter to them.



Three Ways To Falter

4 min
2021

A young Singaporean woman interprets her family and life through the prism of the Covid-19 pandemic in Singapore. Rachele Lee Xin Yi is a recent graduate from Film, Sound & Video at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. She writes and directs film and most of them have an animal in them. She dreams of running a laundromat studio where she can work on her piles of unfinished scripts.



Rachele Lee Xin Yi
Director, SINGAPORE

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
4-5.30 PM

Emerging Voices



11 min
2020

Second Prison



Kueh Yong Peng
Director, SINGAPORE

'*Second Prison*' is a story of an ex-convict Matthew and an ex-prison officer Hilary in Singapore. They became friends and created a business enterprise known as 'The Caffeine Experience', and helped other ex-convicts along the way. Two years later, Matthew opens a new cafe and Hilary now works as a prison supervisor. They come together to celebrate Chinese New Year along with other ex-convicts and workers from the cafe, and more importantly to celebrate their unlikely friendship. Kueh Yong Peng has always been fond of films since an early age and he hopes to create films that will inspire others like how he was inspired when he was growing up.

Emerging Voices

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
4-5.30PM



Distance

10 min
2021

After sending his family back to Malaysia four years ago, a retiring expatriate, Thomas, finally begins his journey back to them from Abu Dhabi (UAE) when the Covid-19 pandemic strikes. Borders close, and non-Malaysian citizens aren't allowed to enter the country. As another year goes on without contact and now cooped up in their homes, Thomas and his family reach their breaking point and begin to fall apart. Hannah Newman is currently enrolled in the Digital Film Production Programme at Sunway University. She is a Malaysian-British and has lived abroad for six years. Exposed to different cultures, values and mindsets, Hannah's films focus on connections and relationships.



Hannah Newman
Director, MALAYSIA

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
4-5.30 PM

Emerging Voices



13 min
2022

Karpet **(CARPET)**



Keefe Loh Kian Wei
Director, MALAYSIA

A husband feels pressured to buy a new carpet for his wife as the Muslim Hari Raya approaches in Malaysia. The film gives a glimpse of the value system among certain lower income families. Keefe Loh is currently pursuing his degree at Multimedia University in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. He hopes to show the everyday life of Malaysians through his films and tell meaningful stories about his home country.

Emerging Voices

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
4-5:30 PM



Living In Limbo

13 min
2021

Statelessness is an issue that has never been properly addressed by the authorities in Malaysia. It has left many to struggle in silence. This documentary highlights a young woman's torturous journey in applying for a Malaysian Identity Card (IC) and exploring her own identity. *'Living In Limbo'* is directed and edited by Yavino Lucas Ng, and produced by Tan Jing Xuan and Loh Jia Jing. Yavino was born and raised in Sarawak. He completed his bachelor's degree in broadcasting from UTAR and is passionate about telling stories as a cinematographer.



Yavino Lucas Ng
Director, MALAYSIA

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
4-5:30 PM

Emerging Voices



11 min
2022

Dataranku Tenggelam **(Drowned Land)**



Faez Shazwan
Director, MALAYSIA

The floods in Taman Sri Muda last year continue to haunt the residents and many others in Malaysia. Till today, the affected residents are still clearing and cleaning their homes and forced to live with huge losses caused by the devastating floods. This unfortunate and shocking incident has also exposed the weakness of the country, both at the government and society levels. Faez Shazwan was born in Kuala Lumpur in 1997. He graduated from the Faculty of Film, Theatre and Animation at UiTM Puncak Perdana and hopes to be one of the top horror directors in the future.

FILM
SEPT 10 (SAT)
8-10 PM



Softie

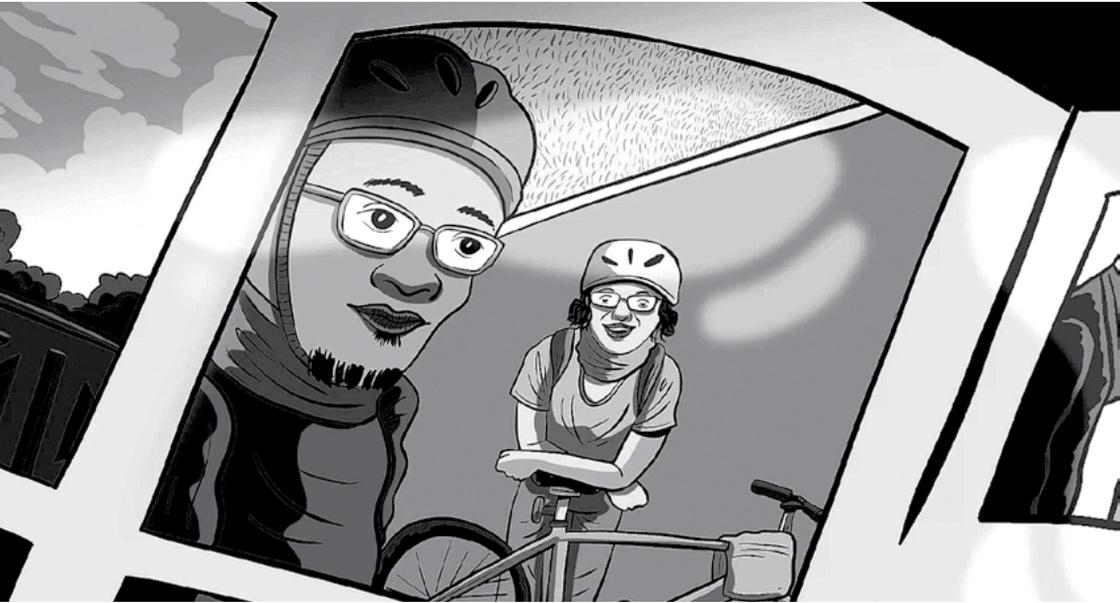
96 min
2020

Political activist Boniface “Softie” Mwangi runs for office in a regional Kenyan election but learns that conducting a clean campaign against corrupt opponents is increasingly harder to combat with idealism alone. Boniface soon finds that challenging strong political dynasties is putting his family at risk. Should country really come before family, as he has always believed? Sam Soko is a documentary filmmaker based in Nairobi, Kenya. ‘Softie’, his first feature documentary project was premiered at the 2020 Sundance film festival. Soko has received Emmy, Peabody, and PGA nominations for his work.



Sam Soko
Director, KENYA

FILM
SEPT 11 (SUN)
2-4 PM



17 min
2022

Homebound



Ismail Fahmi Lubis
Director, INDONESIA

Tari is an Indonesian migrant worker who has worked in Taiwan for 10 years. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, her plans to return home began to reveal the lack of rights for vulnerable migrant workers and the systemic misinformation which surrounds them. *'Homebound'* is an intimate animated documentary portrayal of a migrant worker's experience abroad and an urgent wake up call about the unjust system that exploits thousands of women each year. Ismail is one of Indonesia's foremost documentary film directors and his films have screened at Rotterdam IFF, Busan IFF, Jean Rouch IFF, Doc Point Documentary Film Festival and Taiwan IFF amongst others. Ismail's first two documentaries were nominated for Indonesia's Best Feature Documentary Award at Festival Film Indonesia and his film *'Help Is On The Way'* won the award in 2019.



Rasa Dan Asa **(Flavours, Feelings & Hopes)**

27 min
2021

Indonesian domestic workers Ningrum and Binti could not return home to their families when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Together with other domestic workers from PERTIMIG (Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers Association in Malaysia), they find support and hope by learning to document their lives on their handphones. In their own voice, they share their experiences working and living in Malaysia during the lockdown. 'Rasa dan Asa' celebrates their solidarity and persistence to advocate for their rights. Okui Lala is an artist and cultural worker and her work explores themes of identities, diaspora and sense of belonging through performances of domestic activities such as sewing, cooking, conversing and building. Nasrikah is an Indonesian migrant worker who has been living in Malaysia since 1997. She is an advisor for PERTIMIG and a field facilitator for IDWF (International Domestic Workers Federation).



*Okui Lala, MALAYSIA
(top) & Nasrikah,
INDONESIA (below),
Directors*

The Impact Of Art & The Art Of Impact



Across the world, artists and campaigners are looking towards narrative strategies to interpret our world, imagine a just future, and pressure for change. Hear from Malinda Wink as she shares impact case studies from Doc Society's work in our region and across the globe. Also hear about how they support storytellers with documentary features and shorts, podcasts and other forms, in collaboration with movement leaders, policymakers, educators, experts and NGOs.

Join the discussion about how artists and new partners can work together collectively like never before to shift consciousness, change behaviours and influence policy environments.

Malinda is the Global Director of Good Pitch, Doc Society. Her professional experience spans senior roles within the corporate, political, philanthropic and NGO sectors.

Before joining the Doc Society team, Malinda was Executive Director of Good Pitch Australia and Shark Island Institute from 2013-2019 and raised more than \$AUD14 million in philanthropic grants and built over 400 strategic partnerships for 19 social impact documentaries. She has worked as a mentor for pitch and impact workshops including Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program and Good Pitch programs in many countries and was the impact consultant for IDFA.

Malinda is the Executive Producer of '2040' (Dir. Damon Gameau), 'The Final Quarter' (Dir. Ian Darling), and 'Big Deal: Is Our Democracy for Sale?' (Dir. Craig Reucassel).

This Freedom Talk is supported by the British Council in Malaysia.

FILM
SEPT 11 (SUN)
8-10 PM



Anak Ibu, Anak Malaysia *(I, Too, Am Malaysian)*

15 min
2022

This is a short film about a mother's years of struggle to pass on her Malaysian citizenship to her daughter. The film sheds light on how Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws deny thousands of children their rights to be Malaysians and the heavy toll it imposes on their families. Elroi is a multimedia investigative journalist, whose stories have ranged from indigenous peoples and human trafficking to refugees. His work has received numerous accolades including being twice nominated for a Peabody Award, winning five SOPA Awards and seven Asian Media Awards. During his time at R.AGE, the team won the Kajai Award twice, and was conferred the United Nations Malaysia Award in 2016.



Elroi Yee
Director, MALAYSIA

FILM
SEPT 11 (SUN)
8-10 PM



15 min
2022

Peluang Kedua (Second Chance)



*Mohammad Alshatri,
Director, MALAYSIA*

A documentary film which features the concept of second chance through the stories of two individuals, Paneer and Redzuan. Paneer is a death row prisoner who wants to contribute to society through his younger sister Angelia and other family members. He founded a welfare organisation in Malaysia called Sebaran Kasih while being incarcerated in Singapore. Redzuan's story tells of how an ex-convict tries to continue his life, work and family after being released from 23 years in prison. Mohammad Alshatri is a political science graduate whose work focuses on police and prison reform and about the abuses and inequalities in the justice system. Mohammad's first short animation film, *'Chili Powder And Thinner'*, is based on true events about a boy who suffered custodial torture and had lost his friend while in police detention.

Launch Of Arkib Filem Rakyat: Malaysia Social Film Archive

The Arkib Filem Rakyat (Social Film Archive) has accumulated close to three decades of raw footage and films documenting the nation's social movement history and activities. This collection provides an alternative perspective of the peoples' history, identity and nation building efforts. It is the only human rights film footage archive in Malaysia and it is an ongoing effort to preserve and document historical audio-visual materials sourced nationwide. Join us for the launch of the very first peoples' social film archive.

FREEDOM TALK 4

The Right To Tell Your Own History With Archive Material



Who owns history and how to tell your own story? This becomes a relevant question because the archive film footage mostly belongs to the people who were in power when the footage was made, for instance the British and Dutch colonial empire before colonies became independent states. The archive footage represents their colonial values. Top Dutch independent producer Pieter van Huystee will share how to produce or create a documentary with only archive material and how to de-construct the colonial perspective and to tell your own history with it. By showing examples of *'They Call Me Babu'* (Indonesian perspective) and his new project, *'Moeder Suriname'* he will elaborate further about his approach and methodology.

This Freedom Talk is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Malaysia.

FILM
SEPT 14 (WED)
8-10 PM



78 min
2019

They Call Me Babu



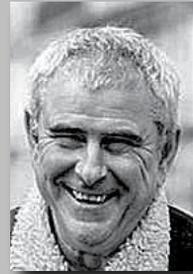
Sandra Beerends
Director,
NETHERLANDS

This film is about native Indonesian girls working as *'pembantu'* (nannies) for colonial Dutch families in the 1940's against the backdrop of the second world war and Indonesia's struggle for independence. The film is told from the perspective of Alima and begins with her decision to flee from an arranged marriage to work as a *'pembantu'* for a Dutch family. Through all her new impressions and thoughts, she looks critically at colonial society and her own position. The film cleverly uses archive footage. Sandra Beerends is a script editor, creative producer and writer/director who works for the Dutch broadcaster NTR and runs her own company Beruang. Her work includes script editing of *'Kauwboy'* (2012), *'In Blue'* (2018), and the writing of *'Arigato'* (2012). *'They Call Me Babu'* is her debut.

FREEDOM TALK 5

Changing The World With Character Driven Films

30 years ago Sean McAllister was an unemployed kid in his hometown in Hull, north of England making polemical films he hoped would change the world. But sadly (or maybe not) none of these films were ever seen publicly.



Years later he went to the National Film and TV School where he learnt the subtlety of character driven documentary film making (also called observational film making) and he applied that to his interest in political film making.

His journey making documentaries in the years since film school has taken him around the world making feature docs for the BBC. His films often tell intimate character driven stories exploring people's lives locked in political conflicts around the world.

This Freedom Talk is supported by the British Council in Malaysia.

FILM
SEPT 15 (THURS)
8-10 PM

Note: This film screening is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Malaysia.



117 min
2021

Four Journeys



Louis Hothothot
Director,
NETHERLANDS

As the second child born during China's one-child policy, director Louis Hothothot was illegal for a while. The Chinese-Dutch filmmaker exposes family traumas by going back to China and interviewing his parents and sister and gets a glimpse of the painful history of Mao Tse Tung's China. Louis Hothothot is a filmmaker, video artist, graphic designer and art critic reviewer. He regularly shows his art pieces and his films has won awards in China and Amsterdam. He also won the MovieBlok Award from The DMZ International Documentary Film Festival in Korea in 2020.

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
11 AM-1 PM



Rahsia Rimba (Secrets Of The Forest Guardian)

5 min
2022

Kedek journeys into the forest and connects with her ancestral past and indigenous identity. She gathers strength from her ancestors and the spirits of the forest to defend her community. 'Apa Kata Wanita Orang Asli' is a collective of young Orang Asli women from various tribes in Malaysia. They aim to amplify their voices through storytelling as they articulate their lived realities and demand for equality and rights for their community.



*Apa Kata
Wanita
Orang Asli
Producers,
MALAYSIA*



*Han Rusan, Sylvia Othman,
Wak Masnah (top), Aireen July,
Analisa Atang (below)*

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
11 AM-1 PM



Selai Kayu Yek (Roots Of My Land) 12 min 2020

Aleh, a young Orang Asli indigenous woman in Malaysia struggles to find support from her village when her family's ancestral land is encroached upon. Fearing for the lost of her land on which she grows tapioca, she seeks out popular Orang Asli YouTuber Rien to expose and share her story. Rien initially refuses to help because she believes life is better in the city instead of farming. Aleh and Rien eventually realise that they actually share a common struggle and identity, and together they find their voices and speak out.

Apa Kata Wanita Orang Asli
 Producers, MALAYSIA



Sylvia Othman



Diana a/p
 Tan Beng Hui



Niwani Sari



Natasya Robut



Sherry a/p
 Tan Hock Khee



Maranisnie
 Mohsin



Arni Natasya
 Ibrahim



Lungey Uda



Siti Suhaila
 Plan



Analisa Atang



Rosita Dollah



Rosdila Roslan



SelIndang
 Sellman



Nora Kantin



Azie Suzana
 Ibrahim



Yaliyana Lenab

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
11 AM-1 PM



Klinik Ku Hutan (The Forest, My Clinic)

14 min,
2020

Deep in a forest in Perak State, Malaysia, two city-based Orang Asli indigenous women are enjoying the beauty and calmness of the forest. But their enjoyment quickly turn into despair when Abong suddenly falls gravely ill. In seeking to be healed, they discover their elders' knowledge of traditional medicinal herbs, and they soon rediscover their deep spiritual and physical ties with the forest. They experience true healing when they finally reconnect with their indigenous culture, values and identity.



Sylvia Othman



Sherry a/p
Tan Hock Khee



Maranisnie
Mohsin



Arni Natasya
Ibrahim



Lungey Uda



Rosita Dollah



Rosdila Roslan



Azie Suzana
Ibrahim

Apa Kata
Wanita
Orang Asli,
Producers,
MALAYSIA



Yallyana Lenab



Selindang
Sellman

FREEDOM TALK 6

If Not Us, Then Who?
Young Orang Asli Women
Changing The Narrative

The Malaysian *Apa Kata Wanita Orang Asli* indigenous Orang Asli women team has premiered their films in a variety of film festivals, including the Native Spirit Festival (UK), Chuncheon International Film Festival (South Korea) and Asinabka Film & Media Art Festival. They have charted a new path by creating their own media spaces; and telling their stories from their own perspective and in their own words. Join the conversation with the *Apa Kata Wanita Orang Asli* team as they share their journey of taking their voices to the screen.

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
2-4.30 PM



Padauk: Myanmar Spring

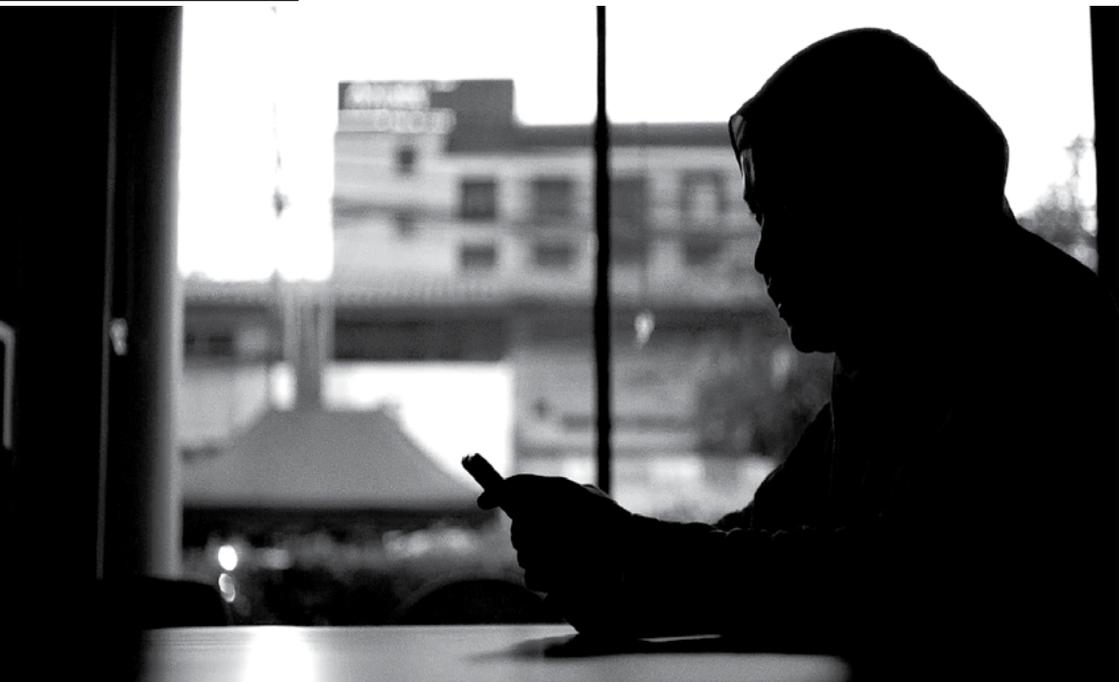
56 min
2021

The film takes viewers to the streets of Myanmar during the heady days following the February 2021 military coup. Through Nant, a young first-time protester, we meet three human rights activists whose lives have been turned upside down by the coup. Beautifully augmented by poetry and art, the film shows the resilience and determination of the people of Myanmar and the sacrifices they have made. Jeanne has lived and worked in Southeast Asia for 25 years producing and directing documentary films about human rights and social justice issues. She is also the Director of InSIGHT Out! digital media project for youth in conflict affected areas. Rares has lived in Yangon since 2018 where he lead Kirana's film project covering the protest movement of February 2021.



*Jeanne Marie Hallacy
(top) & Rares Michael
Ghilezan (below)
Directors, USA*

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
2-4.30 PM



14 min
2021

Pattani Calling



Vijitra Duangdee
Director, THAILAND

'Pattani Calling' is a story of a community in Southern Thailand being forced by state digital policies into exile from modern communications. It is also a tale of defiance and resourcefulness by a people who wants to stay connected despite the state's refusal to give them SIM cards. Vijitra Duangdee is a Thailand-based producer/reporter, and presenter on Thai TV and Reuters TV in Hong Kong. She is also a stringer and reporter for AFP news agency, South China Morning Post and Voice of America. She also produced and directed short films about different social issues impacting Thailand.

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
2-4.30 PM



Not Love Songs

17 min
2021

The film follows a young Cambodian rapper Kea Sokun's rise and fall against the backdrop of the country's authoritarianism under Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Cambodian People's Party. Sokun's video on social justice-themed nationalist songs goes viral in 2020 and ultimately lead to his arrest and imprisonment for a year on charges of "incitement to commit a felony". While the government portrays Sokun as an opposition-funded musician calling for an uprising, his parents argue that he is just a kid making music in his room. Jack Brook is an American Cambodia-based filmmaker and journalist and currently editor with the Southeast Asia Globe, a publication focusing on human rights and environmental justice issues.



Jackson Brook
Director, USA

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
5-7 PM

FreedomFilmFest Grant Programme



20 min
2022

Can't Run, Can't Hide



Umashankari
Yomarakuro
Director, MALAYSIA

Imagine sleepless nights caused by thundering noises and foul smelling chemicals which follow you to your school, work place and homes. Factories continue to mushroom in your once serene neighbourhood. This is the reality of Kampung Sungai Manggis and Kuala Langat residents as their once peaceful neighbourhood is being destroyed by heavy industries in Selangor state, Malaysia. The protests and cries of local residents who have lived there for 4 generations have fallen on deaf ears of the local and state authorities. Umashankari Yomarakuro is a filmmaker and managing director of Prevail Productions. Her previous works include *'The Pure Life Society'* and *'One Finger, Fate Changer'*. She also directed and wrote the stage programme *'Oh My, India'*.



Grey Scale

20 min
2022

'Grey Scale' is a story about living alone and growing old in a gentrifying neighbourhood, seen through the eyes of a single elderly woman. During the prolonged pandemic lockdown, new challenges forced her to adapt to the rapidly changing world around her. The story presents the quiet struggles among the elderly in their quest towards independent and dignified ageing. Evelyn Teh is a multidisciplinary researcher on environmental and urban policy. She is an active member of several national and regional environmental networks and holds a master's degree in city design and social science. 'Grey Scale' is her directorial debut.



Evelyn Teh
Director, MALAYSIA

FILM
SEPT 16 (FRI)
8-10 PM

FreedomFilmFest Grant Programme



20 min
2022

Jiwa Pendidik **(The Soul Of A Teacher)**



Rahmah Pauzi
Director, MALAYSIA

How does a veteran teacher prepare the first batch of pandemic online-learning students sit for the SPM exams (Malaysian Certificate of Education) in the under-resourced Perimbun Secondary School in Malaysia? Teacher Rusmiyana and other veteran teachers find strength in learning to teach virtually, and passionately overcome obstacles. This is a film about hope and determination in an aging institution sidelined within Malaysian society. Rahmah Pauzi is a video journalist and documentary maker with an MA in News and Documentary from the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, New York University. She contributes to PBS, Al Jazeera, Channel News Asia, and BFM Radio.



Fafa: Perjuangan Yang Tak Didendang

(The Unknown Struggle Of Fafa)

20 min
2022

This is the story of Fafa, a schizophrenic who faces discrimination from her surrounding community. Since an early age, she had to struggle with strange voices inside her head and also deal with the voices of people who often do not understand her condition. This consciousness has made Fafa voice out more strongly to raise awareness about mental disability in Malaysia. Amirul Ramthan is a self-taught digital artist, illustrator and animator from Kelantan with 10 years experience in the industry. His latest animation work is featured in the documentary 'Tanah Tumpah Darah Kita'. Amirul believes art is a medium of expression to create awareness about social injustice especially among the youth.



Amirul Ramthan
Director, MALAYSIA

How To Turn An Investigation Into A Story



By Chan Tau Chou

Have you ever watched a powerful documentary and wondered, “How did they do that?” This session unpacks a typical production of an investigative film and takes the guess work out of the process. We first introduce a framework that anyone can apply for a robust investigation. We then share storytelling tools to turn your findings into a compelling story.

Chan Tau Chou has been a media professional for over 20 years. He spent much of his career covering Asia as an investigative journalist with Al Jazeera English. An award winning documentary filmmaker, Chan was also a judge for the New York Festivals International TV and Film Awards. He provides consultancy for major brands, non-profits and media organisations.

FILM
SEPT 17 (SAT)
2-3.30 PM



Baliu Kano Kai **(Ancestral Domain Of The Punan Ba)**

20 min
2022

The Punan Ba community in Belaga, Sarawak in Malaysia defends their ancestral land against logging companies and plantations which have been given licenses to conduct activities on the land. This has been the long time practise among companies despite local indigenous communities not consenting to their activities, and were never properly compensated. Is this in fact a new form of colonialism? Albert Bansa is documentary filmmaker from Dalat, Sarawak who is passionate about indigenous people's narratives and uses documentary form as a way of telling the stories of marginalised communities. Gebril Atong is an indigenous human rights defender from Punan Ba. In 2014, he led his community to sue the Sarawak government and seven timber and plantation companies for violating their native customary rights.



*Albert Bansa (top) &
Gebril Atong (below)
Directors, MALAYSIA*

FILM
SEPT 17 (SAT)
2-3.30 PM



15 min
2022

Empangan Nenggiri: Suara Bantahan Orang Asli

(Nenggiri Dam: Protest Voices Of The Orang Asli)



Shafie Dris
Director, MALAYSIA

The Nenggiri Dam is to be built on Orang Asli customary land in Gua Musang in Kelantan State, Malaysia. The local government and also the National Electric Company (TNB) claims the majority of the communities agrees to the dam construction and relocation. This film gives voice to the Orang Asli people who opposes the construction of this dam. Shafie Dris is an Orang Asli activist and filmmaker who is at the forefront of the Orang Asli struggle. He produces films on land rights and indigenous people's rights including documentaries such as 'Hak Dinafikan', 'Abai', and 'Tak Kesampaian'.

FILM
SEPT 17 (SAT)
3.30-5.30 PM



Collective

109 min
2019

In 2015, a fire at Bucharest's Collective club leaves 27 dead and 180 injured. Soon, more burn victims begin dying in hospitals from wounds that were not life-threatening. Then a doctor blows the whistle to a team of investigative journalists. One revelation leads to another as the journalists start to uncover a vast health care fraud. When a new health minister is appointed he offers unprecedented access to his efforts to reform the corrupt system, but he also faces many obstacles. Following journalists, whistle-blowers, burn victims, and government officials, *'Collective'* uncompromisingly look at the impact of investigative journalism at its best. Alexander is a German-Romanian filmmaker born in Romania who studied directing at The Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB). His documentary film, *'The World According To Ion B'* was awarded an International Emmy Award in 2010. His feature documentary film *'Toto And His Sisters'* was an European Academy Award nominee 2015.



Alexander Nanau
Director, GERMANY
/ROMANIA

FILM
SEPT 17 (SAT)
7-10.30 PM

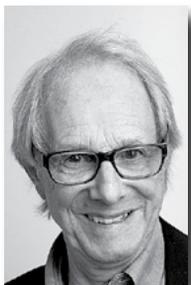
AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY **FILM SCREENING**

Note: This film screening is supported by the British Council in Malaysia.



101 min
2019

Sorry We Missed You



*Ken Loach,
Director, UK*

Hoping that self-employment through gig economy (free market system) can solve their financial woes, a hard-up UK delivery driver and his wife struggles to raise a family end up trapped in the vicious circle of this modern-day form of labour exploitation. Ken Loach is a British film director and screenwriter. His socially critical directing style and socialist ideals are evident in his film treatment of social issues such as poverty, homelessness, and labour rights.



JUDGES

JUSTIN LOUIS AWARD BEST HUMAN RIGHTS FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Timo Goosmann is the Counsellor Deputy Head of Mission of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Malaysia and head of the Political, Press and Information section.

He joined the EU Delegation to Malaysia in September 2021. He previously served as a diplomat for the Federal Foreign Office of Germany between 2009 and 2021 and was posted to Quito and Jakarta. He has also worked as a business consultant, university lecturer and in a think tank.



Juliet Jacobs is a producer and presenter at BFM89.9 in Malaysia since 2010, focusing on non-mainstream content related to people, social issues, and the environment. Juliet continues to enjoy her postgraduate crash course on life, through her work at BFM.



Kamil Othman graduated in Economics and Accounting from the Anglia Ruskin University in UK. In 1981 he joined Shell Malaysia and in 1999 he became the Vice President for Creative Industries Strategy and Policy at the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDEC). In 2012, he executive produced '*Saladin*' which was nominated for the Emmy Awards. From 2014-2016 he was the Director General of FINAS (National Film Development Corporation Malaysia). In 2017, he was appointed Adviser on Creative Industries to the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia.



JUDGES

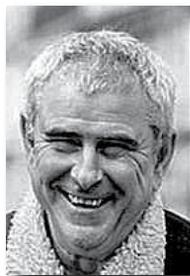
JUSTIN LOUIS AWARD BEST HUMAN RIGHTS SHORT DOCUMENTARY



Chan Tau Chou has been a media professional for over 20 years. He spent much of his career covering Asia as an investigative journalist with Al Jazeera English. An award winning documentary filmmaker, Chan was also a judge for the New York Festivals International TV and Film Awards. He provides consultancy for major brands, non-profits and media organisations.



Darshini Kandasamy currently runs 'Between The Lines', an email newsletter service that curates, summarises and contextualises daily news in Malaysia. She has formerly worked at the globally renowned Malaysian online news portal Malaysiakini, and also written for international publications like CNN and Foreign Policy.



Sean McAllister is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. His early films include '*Working for the Enemy*' (1997) and '*The Minders*' (1998), Sundance Jury Prize-winning '*The Liberace of Baghdad*' (2004) and '*Japan: A Story of Love and Hate*' (2008). More recent successes include '*The Reluctant Revolutionary*', Sheffield Jury Prize winning, BAFTA nominated '*A Syrian Love Story*' (2015), and now '*A Northern Soul*' (2018). Sean's work continues to inspire, surprise and fascinate audiences. In 2017, Sean was director of the opening ceremony of the Hull City of Culture.

JUDGES

**JUSTIN LOUIS AWARD
BEST STUDENT FILM**

Sofia Setyorini is an impact producer and founder of East Cinema, a film programme that focuses on conflict/minority places in the world and East Indonesian issues. She holds a master's degree at the Jakarta Institute of Arts. Her thesis was about film curatorial that focuses on Papuan films.

Her film entitled '*Help Is On The Way*' was awarded the best feature documentary at the Indonesian Film Festival 2019. Sofia worked at In-Docs (Indonesian Documentaries) Jakarta in 2006 where she was responsible for screening documentaries throughout Indonesia.



Junad M. Nor co-founded Layar Lucida, a women-led creative studio based in Kuala Lumpur. She is a starving filmmaker with a hearty appetite. Her works are among other things, works of social commentary. Junad has a flair for finding humour in the commonplace and she draws inspiration from the everyday life and personal experiences.



Hoo Fan Chon is a visual art practitioner and completed his BA in Photography at the London College of Communication, UK, in 2010. His works involve investigating the process of cultural translation, taste as a cultural and social construct, and how our value systems fluctuate as we migrate from one culture to another. His research studies the familiar yet foreign aspects of material culture, the making of cultural symbols and vernacular visual practices, reinterpreting them within contemporary socio-cultural contexts through artwork fabrication, exhibition making, self published magazines, workshops and presentations.



JUDGES

JUSTIN LOUIS AWARD

FFF FILM GRANT



Amir Shahlan was born in Malaysia, but grew up in many countries. His recent work makes use of video and animation to create contemporary 'Wayang Kulit' (shadow puppets) images. An MFA graduate from George Mason University, Amir is currently the Dean of Faculty of Cinematic Arts in the Multimedia University. Prior to joining the academia in 2013, Amir worked in the creative industry producing and directing videos and advertistments.



Eva Zahar is a professional film editor from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has almost 15 years of experience working in the Malaysian film industry and has edited a diverse range of documentary and fictional pieces for broadcasters such as the Discovery Channel. She is also an actor and has featured in several Malaysian television dramas as well as regularly appearing on stage in Kuala Lumpur.



Rozana Isa came into the women's rights movement in Malaysia in 1999 serving as Project Coordinator at Women's Aid Organisation (WAO), an NGO addressing violence against women. She is currently in her sixth year serving as the Executive Director of Sisters in Islam (SIS), an NGO advancing the rights of Muslim women within the framework of Islam, human rights, constitutional guarantees and lived realities.

JUDGES

JUSTIN LOUIS AWARD

FFF FILM GRANT

Senator Datuk Ras Adiba Radzi is a Malaysian politician and community activist. She is also a broadcast journalist, news anchor, presenter, poet, director and producer. She has served on TV3 and NTV7 as a broadcast journalist, news presenter, television presenter and sports commentator. She was appointed as Senator on May 20 2020 to represent persons with disabilities. In November that same year, she was appointed as Chairperson of BERNAMA, the Malaysian National News Agency.



Ayam Fared is a founding member of notable Malaysian theatre collective, *Rumah Anak Teater*, and is a prolific writer, director, artistic director and performer. He is known for *'Crossroads: One Two Jaga'* (2018), *'Psiko: Pencuri Hati'* (2013) and *'Jalan Pintas'* (2011).



Poh Si Teng is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and journalist. She produced the Academy Award-nominated short documentary, *'St. Louis Superman'*. She was the director of the International Documentary Association (IDA) Grants and Enterprise Programme. Prior to joining IDA she oversaw the US, Canada and Latin America as documentary commissioner and senior producer for Al Jazeera English's flagship documentary strand, Witness.



BEST FILM

FFF Film Grant Programme

PRIZE: TICKET TO IDFA

International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

Sponsored by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Malaysia.

JUDGES



Pieter van Huystee started his own production company in 1995. He has produced many documentaries and feature, short films and single plays with renowned Dutch filmmakers like Johan van der Keuken, Heddy Honigmann, Renzo Martens, Leonard Retel Helmrich and others. Many of his works are screened at festivals globally and have received many awards. Pieter made his first feature length documentary, *'Hieronymus Bosch: Touched by the Devil'*, his debut as a director.



Senator Datuk Ras Adiba Radzi
(Refer to previous page for detail profile.)



Rozana Isa
(Refer to previous page for detail profile.)

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