

## Three Projects Win Big at 2019 LPFF Talent Lab, led by Tribeca Film Institute

**Luang Prabang, 9 December 2019** -- Jaime Habac Jr.'s *Golden* and Feisal Azizuddin's *Angkat* took home top awards last night at the 2019 LPFF Talent Lab, led by Tribeca Film Institute® (TFI). Additionally, Ladawan Sondak's *Lady of the Hills* received the Indochina Productions' Rising Star Award. The Lab, which focused on grant writing and project pitching, was held from 7-9 December 2019 at Avani+ Luang Prabang.

The three-day Lab ran as an intensive work session for feature-length scripted and documentary projects in advanced development. The Lab consisted of various instructional and practice sessions to strengthen each project's narrative structure and creative development. Sessions addressing business planning, financing, and co-productions built participants' film industry acumen. The workshop focused especially on "the art of the pitch," including collaborative pitch training and feedback sessions with industry professionals.

The jury selected Jaime Habac, Jr. to attend the TFI Network market at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival® (15-26 April 2020).

Hosted annually by TFI, the industry market gives filmmakers the opportunity to build connections with a wide range of industry insiders, who can assist them in the advancement of their projects.

TFI will mentor Habac through the completion of the project. All participants in this year's Talent Lab will also receive preferential consideration for any of TFI's grants as TFI program alumni.

*Golden* tells the story of a group of gay seniors evicted from their home after the death of their benefactor. Rather than accept defeat, the friends decide to return to their roots and perform as drag queens to raise money for a new home. *Golden* is a musical comedy-drama inspired by the true story of Manila's Golden Gays.

Singapore-based media investment firm Aurora Media Holdings, represented on the jury by Jeremy Sim, selected Feisal Azizuddin as the recipient of their Aurora Producing Award. Azizuddin, who attended the Talent Lab with his screenwriter Wong King Wai, will receive \$10,000 USD to assist in the production of his film, *Angkat*.

*Angkat* is a dark comedy that follows three brothers with a fractious relationship. The protagonists go on a journey to return the body of their father to their remote village in time for his burial. Before they can accomplish their task, their van breaks down and they are forced to carry his coffin the remaining 30 km home.

Founded by Justin Deimen, Terence Kong, and Sim, Aurora Media is one of Southeast Asia's leading media and entertainment asset incubation, investment, and management specialists.

Following the afternoon pitch forum, the jury made the announcement of the winning projects during a picturesque Mekong River cruise. Talent Lab fellows and jury boarded a Mekong Kingdoms riverboat, a sophisticated lounge craft, and took in Luang Prabang's magical mountain views as they celebrated the winning projects.

The jury comprised filmmaking professionals from around the world, including Sim and Pinitanpirom; Kulikar Sotho, an award-winning Cambodian filmmaker, and actor and producer Ken Streutker.

Jury member Atchariya Pinitanpirom, partner and producer with Indochina Productions, presented the Rising Star Award to Ladawan Sondak. Sondak attended the Lab with her director Burn Kosalawat; their team will receive \$1,500 for the production of their documentary *The Lady of the Hills*. Indochina Productions will also arrange for a Thai film mentor to review the project.

Founded in 2010, Indochina Productions produces and collaborates with award-winning directors and talented creatives to help deliver their vision through feature films, television commercials, or long-form content.

The six projects selected by LPFF, which are in various stages of production, come from four ASEAN-member countries: Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand. The pool included four scripted and two documentary features. Attendees taking part in the Talent Lab included directors, writers, and producers involved in the films. The participating projects included:

***Angkat*** (Malaysia), represented by Feisal Azizuddin (director) and Wong King Wai (screenwriter)

***Fruit Gathering*** (Myanmar), represented by Aung Phyo (director, writer) and Thaidhdi (producer)

***Golden*** (Philippines), represented by Jaime Habac Jr. (director)

***Kumudra*** (Myanmar), represented by Min Min Hein (director)

***The Lady of the Hills*** (Thailand), represented by Ladawan Sondak (producer) and Burn Kosalawat (director)

***Tupada*** (Philippines), represented by Joy Aquino (director) and April Batican (producer)

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#### **LPFF Background:**

Founded in 2009, the Luang Prabang Film Festival (LPFF) is a not-for-profit project that fosters cross-cultural dialogue within the region and supports the burgeoning film industry in Laos. Throughout the year, LPFF organizes a range of cultural events and educational activities, from film screenings to workshops for amateur Lao filmmakers. LPFF also manages the Lao Filmmakers Fund, a publicly-generated granting system that helps local artists realize their film projects. For more information about LPFF, please visit <https://www.lpfilmfest.org/>.