

Rewarding cool flicks that click

Competition draws 54 short films by aspiring talents in Penang, KL and India

PENANG

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YOUNG filmmakers and their meaningful works were recognised at the Flicks Fiesta competition's Awards Night at KDU Penang University College.

A total of nine accolades were given out under six categories open to aspiring talents at university, college and secondary school levels.

Mohd Faiz Muhamad from UCSI University claimed the coveted Yasmin Ahmad Award for his entry titled *Flaw*, edging out 53 other submissions received from hopefuls in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and India.

Guest of honour Datin Orked Ahmad, who said her late sister would have been touched by how well the next generation of filmmakers were keeping her legacy alive, presented the award.

"The submissions were amazing. Even though these are student projects, they were professionally executed.

"Yasmin herself was not professionally trained as a filmmaker, but she was a keen observer and good storyteller," she said.

Orked said Yasmin had always advised budding talents to never imitate another, because at best, they would be a poor imitation.

"Instead, one should be true to themselves, harness their God-given talents, and tell a story that is from the heart."

She pointed to Yasmin's works, which are true reflections of

everyday life in Malaysia, which are meant to reach out and promote unity.

"Storytelling can help nation-building. Her famous works highlighted the 1Malaysia concept even before it actually came about," Orked added.

Unimas' Chen Yong Jiam won Best Cinematography for *Reincarnation*, while Daniel Cheang from Han Chiang College took Best Editing for *Akar Pula*.

Cheang said it was a team effort, and paid tribute to his five other college mates for making the short film that highlighted the loss of Malay culture in modern times.

"Trends are changing, and traditional art forms such as *mak yong* and *wayang kulit* are slowly dying out," he said.

There was also a Jury's Special Mention prize under Best Editing that went to USM student Mohamad Iskandar Zulkarnain Sahir's *The Bolt*.

In the Best Public Service Announcement category, SMJK Jit Sin's Yeng Wen Nee took top honours with *Flying Dreams*, with Penang Chinese Girl High School student Carine Ong Wei Fang's *My Youth is Yours* also receiving a mention for Most Facebook Likes.

Unimas student Chen Yong Jiam won the Best Short Film prize for *Reincarnation*, with university mate Luqman Hakimi

Che Daud also getting a Jury's Special Mention for *Before I Sleep*.

Chen's film highlighted the issue of child kidnapping and organ harvesting, which could also mean a new lease of life for those benefiting from it.

"I'm delighted. When I started out, I never expected this as the standards of other filmmakers are so high," he said.

Another Unimas student, Engku Mohamad Zuhairi Che Engku Jalil, got the Best Documentary accolade for his entry, *Di Sebalik Orang Hijau*.

The winners received cash prizes along with trophies, certificates, hampers and vouchers.

Besides the short film awards, there was also a photography competition which attracted some 110 submissions.

SMK Chung Ling's Teh Wei Yang won Best Photo for his image titled *Snake-Charmer Jr*.

Shardul Parab from India's Birla Institute of Sciences got a Jury's Special Mention for *The Path to the Lord*, while USM student Ravindran Munusamy took the Audience Impact Award for his photo, *Love*.

The competition was organised by second-year mass communication and public relations students under KDU Penang's Department of Mass Communication, in collaboration with the Penang Youth Development Corporation.



Chen (second from left), Yeng (third from left) and Cheang (third from right) with representatives of other winners who could not attend the ceremony.