

NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC HONOURS THE INVISIBLE PEOPLE OF SINGAPORE THROUGH FILM

Three film tributes by school alumni to be screened at the National Museum of Singapore

Singapore, 22 July 2016 – To honour the silent, unsung heroes who have contributed tirelessly to Singapore, three films conceptualised and produced by Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s (NP) School of Film & Media Studies (FMS) alumni will be screened at the National Museum of Singapore today.

As part of The Honour Film Initiative, a collaboration between NP and Honour (Singapore), these student-led productions present unique perspectives on honour in Singapore, celebrating the spirit and sacrifice of those who toil behind-the-scenes on the visual stage. The three NP FMS alumni productions are among a slate of 20 films that were produced under the initiative.

On how the concept of honour shaped his perspective, NP Film, Sound & Video (FSV) graduate and Director of *A Better Life*, Eysham Ali, said: “This initiative has given us the autonomy to freely explore the theme of honour, allowing us to express ourselves as artists. In producing this short film and documentary, I was able to honour not just my own values as a filmmaker, but also the unsung heroes amongst us.”

Counting The Honour Film Initiative as one of the ways that NP could help build a culture of empathy and promote harmony in our society, Principal of NP, Clarence Ti, said: “When we train film makers at the polytechnic, we are not only teaching them skills for a creative career, we are building a generation of storytellers, to inspire us and to bring to life our best virtues, including that of honour.”

The initiative seeks to meaningfully engage youth through the medium of film, and to spark conversations on character, citizenship and values, by recognising and celebrating the value of honour in daily living. It also hopes to pioneer a new approach in values education, by using the medium of film to inspire reflection and action. These films will be made available to interested schools in Singapore.

“Singapore's future will depend very much on Singaporeans being a people who honour our word by keeping our promises, and who honour each other by regarding one another as worthy of respect. Honour (Singapore) is very happy to support the work of young filmmakers, and I am both impressed and encouraged by how they have been able to imagine the practice of honour in so many different situations in life. It shows their understanding and commitment to build a worthy future for themselves and for Singapore,” said founding chairman of Honour (Singapore), Lim Siong Guan.

NP and Honour (Singapore) worked together to create the strategy, framework, methodology and approach to empower students and young filmmakers to express themselves meaningfully and contribute positively to the community. NP is the first polytechnic in Singapore to introduce service-learning as a

pedagogy to all students, and The Honour Film Initiative is an example of how service-learning can be made course-specific and purpose-driven.

The shortlisted films by NP FMS alumni, which will be screened at the National Museum, include:

Ayah – Amelia Sai and Nur Khairah

An evocative short film inspired by Nur Khairah's father, who has worked as an SMRT staff for more than 20 years. The film garnered more than 132,000 views when it was released online for Father's Day last month. Amelia Sai and Nur Khairah are recent FSV graduates from NP and produced the film as part of their Advanced Filmmaking course.

Where A Dream Begins – Lena Goh and Liu Tong

A documentary honouring the sacrifice and commitment of a university student who strives to represent Singapore in canoeing whilst juggling a full workload in school. Lena Goh is an FSV graduate from NP.

A Better Life – Eysham Ali and Lucas Chiam

A portrait documentary that gives voice to the bittersweet story of migrant workers who hail from different lands, highlighting their common journey as they toil for a better life for their families back home. Eysham Ali is an FSV graduate from NP.

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About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Inaugurated in 1963 as Ngee Ann College with only 116 students, Ngee Ann Polytechnic is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with more than 16,000 full-time students, about 2,000 part-time students and an alumni community of over 130,000.

The polytechnic offers 49 full-time courses through its nine academic schools - School of Business & Accountancy, School of Design & Environment, School of Engineering, School of Film & Media Studies, School of Health Sciences, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, School of InfoComm Technology, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology. Ngee Ann supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy which offers a wide range of part-time programmes. The Polytechnic has also established two Centres of Innovation - in Environmental & Water Technology and Marine & Offshore Technology - to work on collaborative research and technology projects.

Learning takes place amid a caring and conducive environment with top-notch facilities ranging from broadcast, multimedia and animation studios to research laboratories as well as simulation and technology centres. With our emphasis on a broad-based education, coupled with our signature Service-Learning pedagogy and global exposure, Ngee Ann Polytechnic's vision is to prepare graduates with a passion for learning, values for life and competencies to thrive in a global workplace. For more information, please visit www.np.edu.sg.

About Honour (Singapore)

Honour (Singapore) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting a culture of Honour and Honouring. We are a citizen-led initiative, founded by concerned citizens and guided by a multi-racial and multi-religious panel of community advisors.

We believe that the blueprint for Singapore's success has been that of human imagination and hard work, as well as the courage to be different and unique — founded on honour, integrity and trust. In other words, that we are a people who can be trusted to deliver on our promises, remains essential for Singapore's future.

Honour is also critical as an enabler for constructive, respectful debate. As Singapore can expect increasingly robust debates and social action on a widening array of national issues, a strong vein of honour and mutual respect between individuals and groups — even when there may be sharp differences in views — enables respectful, constructive debate over issues of national life. This will determine the quality of relationships in our community and society. For more information, please visit www.honour.sg

About The Honour Film Initiative

The Honour Film Initiative seeks to honour the Invisible People of Singapore as individuals deserving of dignity and regard; as hidden heroes who strive to create a better life and a better world for others. Through short films, we seek to acknowledge them and to tell their stories.

In working with young emerging filmmakers, we did not attempt to define for them what honour is. The ideas were entirely theirs, and their interpretation has been illuminating. We were pleasantly surprised by the quality of their craft and the strength of their narratives, and we believe you would be too.

The initiative is entering into its second year. The short films have been very well received online, with the most popular short film garnering over 230,000 views. To catch a glimpse of what honour looks like through the lens of our filmmakers, visit www.honour.sg/short-films or [www.Facebook.com/HonourOurSingapore](https://www.facebook.com/HonourOurSingapore)