

“The Great Buddha+”, “Inmates” won Renaissance Awards

Organized by Renaissance Foundation Hong Kong (RFHK), the “Renaissance Awards 2018” has recently revealed the list of winners this year. Director HUANG Hsin-yao’s “The Great Buddha+” and MA Li-directed “Inmates” have won the Awards in the Film/Drama and the Film/Documentary category respectively.

HUANG Hsin-yao’s “The Great Buddha+” uses black-and-white and lurid colour to represent the big divide in opportunities facing people of different status in society. In the film, gritty black-and-white images are used most of the time to represent “life is black and white” as well as the helplessness seen by the underprivileged; Colourful images from a dashboard camera are on the other hand used to represent the decadent life enjoyed by rich and powerful people. The film has won recognitions internationally, including “Best Film from Mainland and Taiwan” at the 37th Hong Kong Film Awards held in April this year.

Director MA Li’s “Inmates” depicts the doomed situation of patients at a mental asylum in northern China. The five intense hours in the documentary is filled with statements by numerous patients and the daily happenings in their lives, which was very down-to-earth however also appeared stressful at the same time. It was the winner of “Best Documentary” at the 54th Golden Horse Awards.

According to the Renaissance Foundation, the “Renaissance Awards” aims at encouraging new creative talents. Winning works must be “pioneering, proficient and influential”; being “pioneering” is of 50% importance and being “proficient and influential” of the other 50% in determining whether works are eligible for the Award. This explains why the “Renaissance Awards” are given to “The Great Buddha+” and “Inmates”. Apart from the Film categories, there are also other categories in “Renaissance Awards”, such as Music, Creative Writing/Pure Literature, Creative Writing/Non-fiction, etc..

Winners of the “Renaissance Awards” are invited to introduce their work and share their experience at the “Renaissance Summer Camp 2018” to be held at Shun Hing College of Jockey Club Student Village III, University of Hong Kong from 11 July to 15 July, during which the “Renaissance Awards – Prize Presentation Ceremony” and an open forum will also take place.

About Renaissance Foundation

Founded in 2012 and based in Hong Kong, the Renaissance Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to nurturing upcoming generations of young creative talents. It sponsors independent creation and incubates new networks of cultural industries, establishing a professional platform to facilitate entry into international markets. The Foundation has been a long-term advocate for the development of independent music, film, creative writing and multi-disciplinary arts. To date, grants have been obtained from the HKSAR Government from the Home Affairs Bureau, Create Hong Kong of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, Lee Hysan Foundation, and the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau, as well as various private donors.