



ASIAN  
ACADEMY  
CREATIVE  
AWARDS

## ASIAN ACADEMY CREATIVE AWARDS ANNOUNCES FIRST NATIONAL WINNERS

**CANNES: 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2018:** The Asian Academy Creative Awards released its National Winners at a special industry event in Cannes, France today.

The highly anticipated announcement revealed just who will represent their nation or territory at the Gala Finals at Singapore's historic Capitol Theatre this coming December.

Just to make it to the Gala Final an entrant had to be judged by their peers to be the very best in their own nation and it was these works that were honoured in Cannes.

The inaugural awards have immediately stamped their pedigree by attracting entries from powerhouse producers and platforms from across the Asia Pacific region, setting up an intriguing battle for top honours.

Sixteen nations will vie for a newly minted AAA golden trophy across a broad spectrum of content disciplines and, as one Australian network executive observed "I have to win the equivalent of our Australian academy award just to make it to the final of the AAA's so it's a tough competition" then he smiled and added "but if you win it, well, you know you've won something really special".

It was an honest assessment given the enormous competition from the likes of Korea's MBC, CJ ENM, Chinese giants Ciwen Media, Huace Film&TV, India's Phantom Films and One Life Studios, Taiwan Public Television, Endemol Shine, Fremantle and a bevy of South East Asian majors including Astro and MediaCorp.

International heavyweights were out in force including Turner, Viacom, HBO, NBCU, Disney, Fox and Discovery and the OTT Platforms Viu, HOOQ, iQIYI, Youkou Alibaba, Amazon Prime, Hulu and Netflix are all represented. The true extent of their presence, however, will be better known after the yet-to-be-announced final 5 Drama Categories.

In contrast to the mega-producers were the first tentative entries from Myanmar. The national format of the AAA's allows smaller nations to equally showcase their work.

"We gathered expert judges from right across the region to assess the work in each country" AAA President Michael McKay said of the process "and after the appointed panel had cast their votes there were instances where a fraction of a point separated the shows".

McKay also noted that on many instances shows had to go to an extra tie-breaker round to separate them, since only one winner from each nation can go through to the final. "If you didn't get through this time you may have missed out by a mere fraction" he observed.

**Five Super Categories To Be Announced are:**  
Best Drama plus Best Single Drama or Telemovie  
Best Actor, Best Actress plus Best Director (Fiction)

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## INSIGHTS

### BEST ACTOR AND ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

The **Best Actor and Actress In A Supporting Role** were released ahead of the announcement of 5 more drama categories to be held at an exclusive party in one of Cannes most glamorous hotels on Tuesday evening (CEST, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>).

#### **DOUBLE OR NOTHING**

The Academy judging panel gave the nod to India's Phantom Films in both Supporting Role actor and actress categories for the powerful Netflix hit **Sacred Games** (which also picked up Best Editing - India).

Hakka TV doubled up too with Candy Yang (Xiao-li Yang) and Chia-Kuei Chen for the highly favoured **Rozeki**, meanwhile Philippine's GMA swept the category with Kylene Alcantara (**Kambal Karibal**) and Gabby Eigenmann for **Contessa**.

Not to be outshone, OTT player Viu weighed in with their big Indonesian play **The Publicist** and it paid off for Poppy Sovia along with Michael Kho's performance in **Kenapa Harus Bule?**

Singapore's **Tanglin** will also feature thanks to Christina Kydoniefs' performance and MediaCorp scored "the double" with Thaneth Warakulnukroh for **Missing**.

Hulu Japan chimed in with **Miss Sherlock's** Shihori Kanjiya.

The "Best Supporting" competition provides the strongest hint yet that the AAA's drama awards will be a heavyweight battle between the region's major scripted studios and their stars.

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## BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Red Carpet Film's **Hotel Salvation** will fly the flag for India come the Gala Final.

Taipei's Hakka TV's **Rozeki** has also firmed as a favourite with judges including tonight's win in the screenplay category.

HOOQ's big 2018 play is likely to come from Indonesia's Oscar entry **Marlina The Murder In Four Acts** which snapped up Best Original Screenplay – Indonesia plus Best Cinematography – Indonesia and will be country's entry into Best Programme by an OTT/Streamer. "Marlina" fans now anxiously await the outcome of the remaining drama announcements.

## AUSTRALIA SEEKS GOLD RUSH

With 18 national wins to their credit, the Australians showed their determination to take home some gold when Method Studios entered their special effects work on HBO's juggernaut "**Game of Thrones**" and International Emmy nominated **Masterchef** was selected to represent Australia in the Best Non Scripted Entertainment category.

## KIWIS NOT OUTDONE

Neighboring New Zealand found themselves in the same voting block as Australia but showed they don't mind competing with their Trans-Tasman Neighbour. They picked up 7 national wins of their own including former supermodel Rachel Hunter's **Tour of Beauty** series from Imagination TV.

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## DANCE OFF

Best Music or Dance Programme has emerged as a hotly contested category with 7 nations vying for the AAA's "Goddess of Creativity".

Youkou's **Street Dance of China**, **India's Next Superstar** (Endemol Shine) and Korean giant CJ ENM's **Produce 101** are among the nations competing.

## NEWS BATTLE

The News and Current Affairs categories are, as was perhaps expected, largely a battle between the international heavyweights CNN and BBC but Australia's darling of modern day news **The Project** is one to watch, along with the nation's long running current affairs authority **60 Minutes**.

The year's big news stories are at the forefront including the **Trump-Kim Summit** coverage which will see BBC represent Singapore and CNN Bangladesh for **Rohingya** and GMA for its **Malawi** coverage. CNN's **Thailand Cave Rescue** reporting will represent that country's Best Single News Story.

Channel News Asia exerted its supremacy locally when it picked up 8 national victories for Singapore.

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