

**MPA APSA ACADEMY FILM FUND****2011 WINNERS****2010 Film Fund Recipient “A Separation” Takes Best Film at APSA 2011**

Script development grants totaling US\$100,000 were awarded to four filmmakers from the Asia Pacific region at the 2011 Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

The grants are offered by the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund, an initiative of the Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA), now in its second year.

The four filmmakers, who will each receive US\$25,000 from the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund, to be allocated to the script development of new feature film projects, are:

- Shawkat Amin Korki (Iraq/Kurdistan) for his project “Memories on Stone”. Shawkat Amin Korki was previously inducted into the Academy in 2007 for “Crossing the Dust”, for which he received a Best Achievement in Directing nomination in 2007.
- Peyman Moadi, from the Islamic Republic of Iran for his film “Those Days”. Peyman was nominated this year for Best Performance by an Actor for “A Separation”, which was the first film to be completed with funding from the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund.
- Maryam Ebrahimi, Iranian-born Swedish filmmaker, for the documentary “Burqas Behind Bars”. Maryam was also inducted into the academy this year, winning the Best Documentary Feature Award for “I Was Worth 50 Sheep”.
- Pryas Gupta (India) for his “The Cricket Tree”. A former member of the APSA International Jury, Pryas was inducted into the academy in 2008. His film “The Prisoner” won the Jury Grand Prize that year.

More than 70 filmmakers from 25 countries submitted entries to the 2011 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund. The fund offers script development grants to stimulate the development of feature film projects originated by APSA Academy members and their colleagues across Asia-Pacific.

The three panel members for the 2011 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund were Australian/Chinese filmmaker Tony Ayres, Australian producer, film historian and distributor Andrew Pike and Chinese scriptwriter and director Xue Xiaolu.

Of the four projects to receive grants in 2010, Asghar Farhadi's "A Separation" has already achieved significant worldwide success. It premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival earlier this year where it won the Golden Bear for Best Film as well as the Silver Bears for Best Actress and Actor. It won the Sydney Film Festival's Sydney Film Prize in Australia and tonight it took home top honours as Best Film at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

The APSA Academy includes almost 500 of Asia-Pacific's most influential filmmakers. All Winners, Nominees, Jury and Nominations Council members are inducted into the Academy. Since its formation in 2008, the APSA Academy has become a vital industry network. Co-production opportunities are fostered. Ideas and development opportunities are shared.

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