

The Spirit of Asia Award of Tokyo International Film Festival 2015 goes to

Inner Mongolian director Degena Yun

The Japan Foundation Asia Center and the 28th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) announced the winner of the Spirit of Asia Award on October 31. The winner was chosen from the directors of the Asian Future section, which is considered to be a gateway to success for Asian promising directors.

■ The Spirit of Asia Award by The Japan Foundation Asia Center

The winner: Degena Yun

Inner Mongolian-born Degena Yun obtained her bachelor's degree in Media Arts from Royal Holloway, University of London and master's degree from Department of Directing at Beijing Film Academy. Her filmography includes *The Forest* (2011), *Latitude 52* (2012), which is her debut feature and a nominee at the Montreal World Film Festival, and *A Simple Goodbye* (2015), which was one of the selected projects for the Hong Kong Asia Film Financing Forum 2015.



A Simple Goodbye(2015/China)

■ The directorial film presented at TIFF:

A Simple Goodbye (2015/China)

A daughter spends the last days with her estranged father who has cancer, building a new relationship. Degena Yun's autobiographical film is based on her acclaimed screenplay. The protagonist is played by the director herself.

Messages from the winner and the jury of The Spirit of Asia Award

I am so delighted. It is an honor for Degena to receive such high acclaim. I would like to express gratitude on behalf of Degena and other staff. This film was her graduation assignment, and I am very pleased that this film, which was made by young talents, is appreciated.

- Zhao Yanming (Line Producer)

There are several films directly dealing with problems and circumstances people are facing, so it was difficult to choose just one winner. I found strength to rise up in all of the films, but the winner's film is really a magnificent film among them.

- Tadao Sato (President, the Japan Institute of the Moving Image/ Film Critic)

The Spirit of Asia Award by The Japan Foundation Asia Center

The Spirit of Asia Award, an award within the Asian Future section created in 2014, is to be given to an aspiring director who is expected to be internationally active beyond cultural barriers. The Winner is to be decided by three commissioners: Tadao Sato (President, The Japan Institute of Moving Image/Film Critic), Masamichi Matsumoto (Director, Cinematheque) and Hiroyasu Ando (President, The Japan Foundation). The winner is to receive a trophy and a short trip to Japan (or to Asia, in case of Japanese director).

For information on the other awards at the TIFF, please refer to the official website indicated below.

The Japan Foundation Asia Center <http://www.jfac.jp>

At the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting in December 2013, the Japanese Government announced a vision statement on a new policy for Cultural Exchanges in Asia – "WA Project ~Toward Interactive Asia~." Serving to achieve two-way art/cultural exchanges and supporting Japanese language learners, the Japan Foundation launched a new department, the Asia Center in April 2014. The Asia Center carries out various projects to foster deeper, mutual understanding and further develop relationships between Japan and our fellow Asian countries.

Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) <http://2015.tiff-jp.net/en/>

TIFF, which marks its 28th year, is the only international film festival in Japan accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations.* Starting in 1985, as the first large film festival of the country, it has made a significant mark on the film and entertainment industry of Japan and Asia and has grown to Asia's largest film festival. The festival provides opportunities for people in the film industry and film enthusiasts to encounter great films from all over the world shown in Asia's film capital Tokyo.

* **International Federation of Film Producers Associations** is an international organization which improves or reviews issues of the world's film industry and international film festivals.

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