

**Spotlight on Cultural Policy Series Thirteen:
Roundtable on
*Singapore's Television Industry: The View Ahead***

Wednesday, 11 August 2021
Online via Zoom

PROGRAMME

10.00 am – 10.05 am

Introductory Remarks

Mr Tan Tarn How
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

10.05 am – 11.30 am

Singapore's Television Industry: The View Ahead

Moderator

Ms Jasmine Ng
Filmmaker &
President
Singapore Association of Motion Picture Professionals

Speakers

Mr Joachim Ng
Director
Media Industry Development
Media & Innovation Group
Infocomm Media Development Authority

Ms Angeline Poh
Chief Customer & Corporate Development Officer
Mediacorp Pte Ltd

Mr Lee Thean-jeen
Managing Director
Weiyu Films

Mr M. Raihan Halim
Creative Director
Papahan Films

Mr Freddie Yeo
Chief Operating Officer
Infinite Studios

Ms Tan Hui Er
Co-founder

Not Safe For TV
The Hummingbird Co.

Respondents

Mr Molby Low
Chief Executive Officer &
Chief Creative Director
Wawa Pictures

Mr Chow Wai Thong
Founder &
Executive Producer
August Pictures Pte Ltd

11.30 am – 12.20 pm

Discussion

12.20 pm – 12.30 pm

Closing Remarks

Mr Tan Tarn How

12.30 pm

End

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CHOW Wai Thong, founder of August Pictures Pte Ltd, is a renowned Singapore-based director and producer. He has a broad array of works under his belt – from drama, infotainment to documentary. As executive producer, his works have either been nominated or have won over 90 international accolades, including the esteemed New York Festivals TV & Film Awards and Asian TV Awards. Some of his widely acclaimed dramas include *Beijing to Moscow*, *Driver*, *Mind's Eye*, *Crouching Tiger Hidden Ghost* and *Teenage Textbook: The Series*.

LEE Thean-jeen is one of the most prolific writer-directors and showrunners working in the Singapore film and television industry today, having created, executive-produced, written and directed over 200 hours of film and television content in the span of his almost three-decades-long career. His shows have been recognised at many regional and international award festivals, including the Asian Creative Academy Awards, the New York Festivals, the Asian Television Awards, and the Prix Jeunesse.

A recognisable name on the local television scene, his most popular titles include *Reunion*, *128 Circle*, *Code of Law*, *Zero Calling* and *The Pupil*. His latest work is the period drama *This Land is Mine*.

Molby LOW is a television veteran of more than 25 years. He started his career with Singapore's local television stations and established his own independent production

company WaWa Pictures Pte Ltd in 2007. Under Mr Low's steady leadership and unwavering passion for the local entertainment industry, WaWa Pictures has since grown to become a prolific leading content provider in Singapore.

Currently many of WaWa's content are widely distributed in Southeast Asia (SEA), Pan Asia, Australasia and even Latin America. Mr Low is in a constant process of grooming and mentoring new creative talents. He continually pushes to produce content that will not only intrigue the local and regional audiences but also resonate with the global viewers.

Jasmine NG is a director and executive producer who tells stories across platforms — from film to television, to theatre and site-specific installations (*Eating Air, Moveable Feast, Shirkers, Afterlife, Lonely Planet Six Degrees, Future Feed, IPS PRISM, In the Silence of Your Heart, and Both Sides, Now*), and with diverse collaborators (Discovery Channel, National Geographic, Mediacorp, HOOQ, Institute of Policy Studies, and Lien Foundation). She has been invited to serve on many juries and pitch panels in Singapore and in the region (Singapore International Film Festival, Discovery Channel, National Arts Council, and Infocomm Media Development Authority – Singapore Film Commission). Ms Ng is also a creative consultant and commissioner on film and television projects.

Joachim NG currently serves as Director, Media Industry Development, a division within the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA). He is also concurrently Director of the Singapore Film Commission. His responsibilities include overseeing the implementation of industry development strategy for media sector, including administration of grants and programmes that supports talent development and content production. IMDA is the lead government agency that regulates and promotes the infocomm and media sector in Singapore.

Prior to joining IMDA, Mr Ng served in various industry development roles at the Media Development Authority, Infocomm Development Authority, and the Singapore Economic Development Board. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Industrial Engineering.

Angeline POH is Mediacorp's Chief Customer & Corporate Development Officer. In this concurrent appointment, she oversees Mediacorp's customer engagement and programming across its multiple platforms; as well as manages the development and execution of corporate-wide strategy, projects, and initiatives. Ms Poh also oversees the Singapore Media Academy, which offers training and education services for the media industry.

Prior to joining Mediacorp, Ms Poh was responsible for developing the technology & media sectors through her various roles in the Infocomm Media Development Authority, Media Development Authority, and Economic Development Board.

She also previously led a regional publishing business as Managing Director of McGraw-Hill Education.

M. RAIHAN Halim, often calling himself a “part-time scriptwriter, full-time storyteller”, began his career in television after winning two Golden Pen Awards at Infocomm Media Development Authority’s National Scriptwriting Competition in 2005 and 2007.

In 2014, Mr Raihan embarked on his feature film project, *Banting*, which he wrote, produced and directed by himself. The film’s commercial releases in Singapore and Malaysian theatres were met with overwhelming response. The film was also screened at the 34th Hawaii International Film Festival.

Mr Raihan has since created award-winning shows *Firasat* and *SR115* for Mediacorp’s Suria. In 2018, he won the award for Best Original Script at the first Asian Academy Creative Awards for *SR115*. Now working on his next film, *La Luna*, he looks forward to creating content for the worldwide audience. Till today, he still counts his *nenek*, or grandmother, as his biggest fan in the world.

TAN Hui Er is the co-founder of Not Safe For TV (NSFTV), a platform driving culture and change with authentic storytelling. Alongside NSFTV, Ms Tan explores alternative perspectives and progresses the boundaries of content in the media landscape. She has worked on projects with Facebook, Singapore Tourism Board, and the Esplanade. Ms Tan believes that experiencing stories have the power to effect social change and finds purpose in unravelling the human condition with her audience.

TAN Tarn How is Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of Policy Studies. He researches arts and cultural policy.

Freddie YEO is the Chief Operating Officer of Infinite Studios and has more than 25 years of media industry experience. He manages the entire media operations of Infinite Studios in Singapore and Indonesia.

Mr Yeo is also a film and television producer. His producing credits include *My Magic*, which was in competition for the Palme D’Or in 2008, *Be With Me*, and *Tatsumi*, all of which were directed by Singapore film auteur Eric Khoo and premiered in Cannes. Other producing credits include HBO Asia’s and ABC’s epic period drama series *Serangoon Road*, HBO Asia’s *Halfworlds*, Fox International Pictures’ *Agent 47*, Scott Free Films’ *Equals*, Warner Bros’ Golden Globe-nominated and worldwide box office sensation *Crazy Rich Asians*, and HBO’s Emmy winning series *Westworld 3*.

He has been a member of the Advisory Committee of the Singapore Film Commission (SFC) since 2005 and served on the Board of Governors at Nanyang Polytechnic for nine years (2010–2019) and was Chairman of Nanyang Polytechnic’s School of Interactive Digital Media Advisory Committee for 12 years (2007–2019), and Institute of Technical Education’s School of Design and Media for nine years (2010–2019).

Last modified on 3 August 2021

