



# Wildlife Asia

## International Wildlife & Environmental Film Festival

The inaugural Wildlife Asia Film Festival is at an end, but the adrenalin is still buzzing through our veins! This four-day festival was the culmination of over two years of planning, & a lifetime's worth of blood, sweat & tears! And it was well worth it!

We were humbled by the enthusiastic responses we received from delegates. This truly was a special event for all, & the overwhelming reaction from participants makes a strong argument for staging the festival again next year, contrary to our initial intention of Wildlife Asia being a biennial event. So, we will be working towards this objective, but have a significant mountain to climb if we are to raise the necessary funds in time.

Our deepest thanks to our sponsors, supporters, trainers & participants for making Wildlife Asia a success! And thanks also to our event organisers Pacific World, our fantastic volunteers & venues Suntec Singapore, Singapore Zoological Gardens & The Arts House for making things go so smoothly!

We are truly honoured to announce that two of our special guests - Wong How Man & Valmik Thapar have agreed to be Patrons of Wildlife Asia! Our deepest thanks to both - this is a fantastic endorsement of the significance of Wildlife Asia!

We will announce further news regarding the next fest shortly. In the meantime we'd like to share with you the highlights of Wildlife Asia 2007.

Chris Dickinson  
Wildlife Asia Executive Director

Wildlife Asia would not have been possible without the generous support of our Sponsors:





Chris Dickinson  
Exec Director, Wildlife Asia



VIP guests Mr Ng Lang from NParks  
& Catherine McNabb from STB



Shinichi Murata (NHK) receives  
gift of thanks from Prof Leo Tan



Vikram Channa  
Discovery Networks

## Wildlife Asia Fest Highlights 13-16 March 07



Prof. Leo Tan  
Chairman, NParks

### Opening Ceremony

with Guest of Honour Prof. Leo Tan, and Keynote Address by Wong How Man

It couldn't have been a better start to the festival! We were honoured to have Professor Leo Tan, Chairman of Singapore's National Parks Board, to open the festival with an emotional and motivating speech that struck at the hearts of all & really helped to set the tone for the rest of the week! During the session Professor Tan presented a token of thanks to each of our Sponsor Partners.

Professor Tan was followed by Mr Wong How Man, President of the China Exploration and Research Society, whose Keynote Address dealt a second knock-out blow to Prof. Tan's. Delegates & guests were treated to an all-to-brief visual journey through the many years of How Man's explorations in China.

Our deepest thanks to Prof. Tan & Wong How Man for making the opening ceremony such a memorable experience for all!



Wong How Man  
President, CERS

The following four days consisted of a busy mix of seminars, workshops, training sessions, all-important social events, public screenings and the Lion Awards. The highlights are as follows...

### Seminars

We got the ball rolling with our first seminar *East Side Story* - Industry leaders including Discovery Networks Asia VP Production **Vikram Channa**, NHK Executive Producer **Shinichi Murata** & National Geographic Channels Int'l (Singapore) EVP Production **Bryan Smith** took a look at the state of wildlife filmmaking in Asia.

The seminar *Indie Scene* was moderated by **Tony Chow** from AIPRO (Singapore) & looked at the growing number of indies making moves into wildlife & environmental filmmaking in Asia - panelists from **Caldecott Prdn's Int'l**, **InFocus**, **Novista**, **Scubazoo** & **TVE Asia Pacific**.

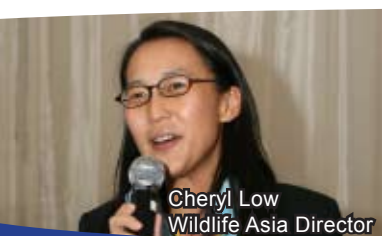
*Focus On Climate Change* saw **Tanya Petersen**, Head of TV for WWF International joined by **Shuji Yamamoto** from NHK, **Melissa Alipalo** from the ADB and **Dr Jean Yong** from NIE to discuss whether the media is failing to effectively communicate this issue to the public.



Bryan Smith  
National Geographic



Indie Scene Seminar



Cheryl Low  
Wildlife Asia Director



Youth filmmaking workshop  
at Jurong Bird Park



Opening night reception  
at the Arts House



Valmik Thapar, Ng Lang & Lady  
McNeice at Botanic Gardens event



HD Workshop



Delegates in the festival trade show



Euston Quah  
NTU



Wang Jingming  
CTV

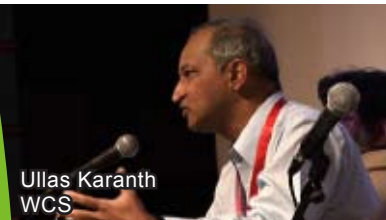
## Wildlife Asia Fest Highlights 13-16 March 07

### Seminars

**Focus on the Tiger Crisis** - Our panel included Ullas Karanth from WCS, Chris Shepherd from TRAFFIC & filmmaker Mike Birkhead who give us a greater understanding of the tiger crisis & debated how the media can help bring the tigers from the brink of extinction.

**Green is the Colour of Money** - This thought-provoking discussion debated the economic impact of our use & abuse of the environment. Moderated by journalist Nirmal Gosh with contributions from James Compton from TRAFFIC, Duncan Pollard from WWF International, Thomas Thomas from Singapore Compact & Euston Quah from Singapore's NTU.

**Films that Make a Difference** - the final session of the festival in which we identified the kinds of films that ARE making an impact on conservation, before asking whether more can still be done! A fiery topic that provoked a heated debate that will continue beyond the festival. Contributors included Steve Fairchild from WCS, Bryan Smith from National Geographic & Joe Yaggi from Jungle Run.



Ullas Karanth  
WCS



Duncan Pollard  
WWF



Mike Birkhead, John Stainton,  
Steve Fairchild



Pitching Workshop



Video Camera Workshop

### Training Workshops

Delegates had a great opportunity to develop their skills in a number of areas - scriptwriting, pitching, location sound recording, non-linear editing/mobile filmmaking & HD camerawork.

Our trainers included Frances Berrigan of Cicada Films, Brian Leith from the BBC, Ronald Tobias from Montana State University, David Curl from the Australasian Natural History Unit, Hiroyuki Kozako from NHK, Mark Roberts from TV & Film Sound, & Brad Dillon from Most Wanted Pictures, as well as the great people from AV8 & Apple! All did a remarkable job & the sessions were very well received by participants.

### Speed Pitching

These sessions provided delegates with valuable one-on-one meetings with broadcasters and potential co-production partners such as National Geographic, Animal Planet, PTS, Cicada Films, Marco Polo Films & Caldecott Productions Int'l. Speed Pitching will definitely become a regular event at Wildlife Asia.



Valmik Thapar being interviewed for regional news



Location Sound workshop



David Curl



Fest banners outside the venue



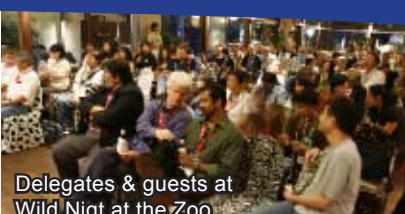
Dr Brady Barr



Photo exhibition in trade show



Some of our youth participants



Delegates & guests at Wild Nigt at the Zoo

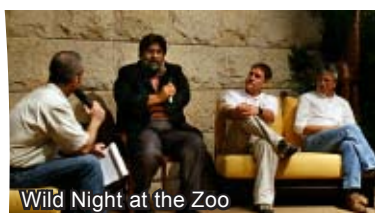
**Wildlife Asia**  
Fest Highlights  
13-16 March 07

**A Wild Night at the Zoo**  
with special guests:

Interview by TV Presenter & Conservationist **Hayden Turner**



- Wong How Man** - China's celebrated explorer
- Dr Brady Barr** - Record-holding herpetologist & TV presenter
- Valmik Thapar** - Tiger expert & conservationist



Wild Night at the Zoo

A truly enjoyable evening for all! Hayden Turner did a fantastic job as our very own Jay Leno, fielding great questions to our guests who returned with wonderful, inspiring & moving replies. Nights like this make one realise that you simply cannot ask to be in the company of better people! During this event we also focused on the tiger crisis - we hope Wildlife Asia will become an important platform to raise awareness of such issues in Asia.



Valmik Thapar

After 90 minutes of engaging dialogue our delegates were treated to an awesome spread of food as well as a tour of the Night Safari!



Wild Night guests eye-view

The location could not have been better - our thanks go to the Singapore Zoo for helping to make this such a memorable night. We'll definitely make Wild Night... a regular feature of Wildlife Asia.



The Wham brothers who came over from the US

**Youth Events**

**Me & the Environment** - on our relationship with the natural world & the effects our actions have on the environment. With speakers **Louis Ng** from ACRES, **Dr Geh Min** from the Nature Society (Singapore) & **Siva** from Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research.

**Filming in the Field** - a workshop run by Allan Michaud & Sandesh Kadur at Jurong Bird Park, giving participants an insight into how to become a wildlife cameraman.

**Talent of Tomorrow** gave us the opportunity to learn of the outstanding achievements of budding young filmmakers - including the **Wham brothers** from the US.

**Youths Speak Out** provided youths with a platform to air their concerns about the environment & express what they think we can do to make their future bright and green. An inspiring event for all - it's great to see that Singaporean youths have such a passion for the natural world - something that we must nurture in years to come.



Youth Event with 'Siva' from RMBR

**Public Events**

Outside of the main festival venue, we screened films throughout the week at Singapore's Arts House. The National Parks Board also generously played host to **Valmik Thapar**, **Mike Birkhead** & **Michael Wong** for two special screenings at the Botanic Gardens. We thank NParks for their generosity & warm reception of our guests!



Michael Wong at the Botanic Gardens public screening



Hayden Turner



Another great social event...



...at Singapore Zoo!



Wong How Man



Emilie-Ann Oehlers & Hayden Turner



The lion dance that started the Lion Awards



Chandi Jayawickrama  
Orchid Award Winner



**Wildlife Asia**

*Fest Highlights*  
13-16 March 07

**The Lion Awards**

The Lion Awards are named after Singapore - 'The Lion City', & the individual awards are named after different endangered flora & fauna in Asia, apart from The Elements Craft Awards - named after the Chinese elements.

The actual award itself is in the form of a special print designed for Wildlife Asia by Singapore's celebrated Artist Mr Tan Khim Ser. We are indebted to Mr Tan for generously designing and painting this work of art.

The characters "shi zi" is the Chinese word for Lion; the bamboo in the background denotes peace and longevity; and finally, bamboo in Chinese is "zhu", which also closely sounds like the Chinese word for pig - and according to the Chinese calendar, this is the year of the Golden Pig. It all comes together!

The Judges for this years awards were:

- Tadashi Ansai - Senior Producer, Nature & Science Programs, NHK Enterprises
- Tony Chow - President, Association of the Independent Television Production Companies
- Mok Choy Lin - Supervising Producer, National Geographic Channel Asia
- Ronald Tobias - Discovery Professor of Science & Natural History Filmmaking, Director, Graduate Program in Science & Natural History Filmmaking, Montana State University
- Vikram Channa - Vice President Production, Discovery Networks Asia

We are extremely grateful to the Judges for giving up so much of their time!

The awards ceremony was aptly started by a lion dance, after which our hosts Emilie-Ann Oehlers & Hayden Turner took command of the show. Twenty awards were presented including one that the Judges were compelled to create during their session the day before the festival - the Loris for best Asian film.



Vijay Bedi receiving Loris Award



Moon Bear Winner Xi Zhinong



James Gibbons, Miles Kupa & John Stainton, during Steve Irwin Tribute



Brian Leith receiving the Lion Award on behalf of the BBC



John Stainton

Half way through the awards we took time to pay tribute to **Steve Irwin**. Steve's producer & long-time friend **John Stainton** joined Discovery Networks Asia SVP Programming & Creative Services **James Gibbons** & Australia's High Commissioner **Miles Kupa** to share memories & pay respect to a man who made a highly significant impact on wildlife filmmaking & conservation & will be dearly missed by millions.



Michael Wong

Our congratulations to all winners - the full list is on the next page. We'd like to make a special mention of **Michael Wong** who wins the award for the best acceptance speech! The Awards were a great climax to a great four days!

After the formalities of the Awards we let our hair down at club DXO for our Awards Party.



Our post-Awards party at DXO...



...with the Singapore skyline as a backdrop!



Party people with WA Director Cheryl Low



The wonderful Pacific World girls!

*Congratulations to the Lion Awards Winners:*



THE LION (best entry)

**Planet Earth: Shallow Seas** BBC, co-produced by JVP, NHK, BBC Worldwide

THE LORIS (best Asian wildlife film)

**Cherub of the Mist** Bedi Films

THE RHINO (breaking boundaries)

**The Wild and the West** ORF, Cosmos Factory, co-produced by Discovery Channel, NDR Naturfilm

THE DOLPHIN (aquatic)

**Planet Earth: Shallow Seas** BBC, co-produced by JVP, NHK, BBC Worldwide

THE ORANG-UTAN (technology)

**Planet Earth: Jungles** BBC, co-produced by JVP, NHK, BBC Worldwide

THE CORMORANT (man & nature)

**Tiger Zero** Wildvision for Animal Planet International, produced by Mike Birkhead Assoc's

THE HORNBILL (children's)

**Hawaii Reef Etiquette** For The Sea Productions

THE TURTLE (newcomer)

**Wolverines- Hyenas of the North** NDR Naturfilm Studio Hamburg Documentaries

THE ORCHID (Singapore production)

**Warrior Bees** Media Collective, co-produced by National Geographic & the Economic Development Board, Singapore

WATER (cinematography)

**The Queen of Trees** Flat Dog Productions, co-produced by NHK, BBC, 13/WNET New York, Granada International, ZDF

WOOD (sound recording)

**Galapagos: Born of Fire** BBC, co-produced by National Geographic Television, BBC Worldwide

FIRE (picture editing)

**Death Valley** NHNZ, co-produced by Thirteen/WNET, NDR (Germany), NHK (Japan)

METAL (sound editing)

**The Meadow** Studio Hamburg Prodn's, NDR Naturfilm, Nautilus Film GmbH

EARTH (script writing)

**The Queen of Trees** Flat Dog Productions, co-produced by NHK, BBC, 13/WNET New York, Granada International, ZDF

THE ECHIDNA (conservation film/ VNR/ news)

**Borneo's Pygmy Elephants** Off The Fence/ Michael Patrick Wong

THE ANTELOPE (environmental film/ VNR/ news)

**Village of Dust, City of Water** Moving Images

THE RAMIN (website / new media)

**www.films4.org** Cockroach Productions

THE ELEPHANT (photography)

**Orang utan Swinging** Cede Prudente

THE SUNBEAR (contribution to conservation)

**Xi Zhinong**

THE WHALE (contribution to wildlife filmmaking)

**Naresh Bedi & Mike Pandey**



© Deeble & Stone



© Xi Zhinong

© Bedi Films

© NautilusFilm GmbH