YOUNG ARTIST AWARD 2020



NICOLE MIDORI WOODFORD



Behind the scenes on the set of *Waiting Room*, 2018. Photo courtesy of Gladys Ng

NICOLE MIDORI WOODFORD (b. 1986) is a Singaporean film director, writer and editor. She is an alumna of Berlinale Talents, Asian Film Academy, Torino Film Lab and Talents Tokyo. Nicole is interested in the kinship between strangers and surrogate families as well as their collective trauma. Her works negotiate the struggles of her female protagonists and their roles within society.

With a love for writing short stories, Nicole has been writing and directing her own short films over the past decade including For We Are Strangers in 2015. In 2017, Nicole's short film, Permanent Resident, was selected in many festivals including Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and Busan International Film Festival. Her latest short films, Tenebrae and Waiting Room were both produced in 2018, the latter for 15 Shorts featuring real Singaporean stories. Nicole is also one of the writer-directors for the second season of the celebrated HBO Asia series FOLKLORE.

Her debut feature film project, Last Shadow at First Light (2020) (formerly titled You Are There) produced by Jeremy Chua and Shozo Ichiyama, was selected for the inaugural edition of Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab (SEAFIC), Southeast Asian Lab, Talents Tokyo and Torino Film Lab. Her project was awarded the Open SEA Fund award at SEAFIC and the Co-Production award at Torino Film Lab in 2018. Last Shadow at First Light is slated for principal photography in Singapore and Japan.

Nicole is currently also a film lecturer at the School of Art, Design and Media in Nanyang Technological University (NTU), her alma mater. She graduated from the pioneer batch in 2009 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Digital Filmmaking. Nicole was the faculty mentor for two NTU thesis films, *Adam*, selected to compete at Cannes Film Festival and awarded the Best Singapore short film at SGIFF in 2019, and *Paper Roof* selected at Tribeca Film Festival in 2018.

In 2019, Nicole was awarded the inaugural Youth Inspiration Award by *SCAPE and SGIFF for National Youth Film Awards 2019. She was the first recipient of this award in recognition of her contributions through her films and mentorship of film students, growing the next generation of filmmakers in Singapore.