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Youth power ... Tan (third left) flanked by winners (from far left) Ling, Soong and Chan at the Berjaya Youth Short Film Awards.

An inspired triumph

> Kyle Soong wins the grand prize at the Berjaya Youth Short Film Competition 2015 with his film *Sam Sir*, based on two of his mentors

BY DENISSA GOH

THE fifth Berjaya Youth Short Film Competition 2015 recently ended with 23-year-old Kyle Soong announced as the grand prize winner.

Soong's winning short film entitled *Sam Sir* is based on a true story, and is inspired by two of his mentors.

"The world tells us that the amount of your possessions equals success, but for me that's not it," said Soong. "Life is not about how much you have, but [is about] seizing a moment of joy with the people around you."

The top 10 shortlisted films were played at the grand finals and were evaluated by a panel of five judges comprising noted local film directors and producers such as Datin Paduka Shuhaimi Baba, Afdlin Shauki, Aniu, Gayatri Pillai, and Oscar-winning filmmaker Ruby Yang, a special guest judge from Hong Kong.

This year, the contestants chose from a choice of themes which centred on the trending abbreviated youth slang and hashtags - #YOLO (You Only

Live Once), #TBT (Turn Back Time), #ABC (Always Be Creative) and #LOL (Laugh Out Loud).

Scoring was split into two parts - 60% for content (relevance to theme, creative interpretation of themes, and originality); and 40% for technicality (cinematography, appropriate screenplay, sound track, and technical production).

As the grand prize winner, Soong walked away with RM30,000 cash and a 27-inch Mac Pro worth RM18,498.

The first runner-up prize of RM12,000 cash and a 15-inch MacBook Pro notebook worth RM8,999 went to *A Gift of Gab* directed by Sidney Chan, 25, who was few points short of Soong.

Second runner-up Ling Kah Yong, 24, won RM5,000 cash and a 13-inch MacBook Air notebook worth RM4,549 for his short film *Superman*.

He also won RM8,000 cash from the People's Choice Award for receiving the highest number of online votes from the general public during the Rank & Win Contest.

The Rank & Win contest allowed the online community to

rank their top three favourites, with the voter whose ranking choices match the results at the grand finals standing a chance to win a GoPro HERO4 action camera worth RM1,499.

Berjaya Corporation Berhad senior general manager for group corporate communications Judy Tan said she believes the objectives of the short film competition has been met, judging from the winning entries.

"Kyle mentioned that he was inspired by some people in his life and hence now, he's inspiring other. That's truly beautiful, and that is the objective of the short film ... that when people are inspired, they [can] choose to inspire others," said Tan.

"I think it's very important for the youth to tell their own story about their community [and] their country, and to look deeper into themselves about what inspires them to make the society a better place."

This year marks Berjaya Youth's fifth year of conducting the short film competition, with a total of over 190 entries received since its launch in April this year. For more, go to www.berjayayouth.com.