



The 21st Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Brings Canadian Talent to the Spotlight

VAFF 21 Runs November 2-5 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village

VANCOUVER, BC – OCTOBER 9, 2017 – The 21st Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is proud to showcase four Canadian feature presentations, all of which are nominated for the VAFF Canadian Feature Award. The festival is set to run from November 2-5, 2017, at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 West Pender St., in Vancouver's historic Chinatown.

Taking the stage first is a film entitled **THE LONELY LIGHT OF HOME**. This film follows a family who runs a B&B fishing lodge in coastal British Columbia. When an alluring stranger arrives at the door, they are thrust into new emotional territory. Shown together in this program is the short film **A TRIP WITH MOM**, a story about how complex mother and daughter relationship can be.

Taking the stage next is the film **CARDINAL X**. Based on actual events; the film narrates the story of the most powerful drug dealer on the United States west coast. After losing her scholarship, Angie is forced by financial necessity to become an expert at making the party drug Ecstasy in the chemistry lab at her prestigious West Coast university. Business heats up, but she is hiding dangerous secrets from everyone in her life and must finally make a choice between chasing her dreams and following the almighty dollar. Following next is the VAFF Best Canadian Short Award nominee short film **THE LION**. This film tells the story of Francis Arevalo, a Vancouver hip-hop artist, after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

The final Canadian feature in the festival is the film **A TIME TO SWIM**. In the suburbs of Montreal, Mutang Urud is a stay-at-home dad, but in Malaysia, he was a voice of resistance for the indigenous peoples of Sarawak. The film follows Mutang as he returns home for the first time since his exile. The remote forest village, however, is not like he remembers it. The short film that follows is another VAFF Best Canadian Short Award nominee. **ANASTASIA LIN: THE CROWN** tells the story of Anastasia Lin after being crowned Miss World Canada 2015. Anastasia discovers that local authorities have threatened her father in an effort to silence her criticisms of the Chinese government.

When China is named host of the Miss World Finals, she must confront the possibility that she will be banned from competing unless she complies.

The theme for this year's festival is "Visual Landscapes." Through this theme, we are proud to showcase and celebrate the Asian Canadian cinematic landscape. The films lined-up will examine the different perceptions of Canada; how its people and culture are influenced by filmmakers, whose stories we choose to tell, and how we tell these stories. This allows us to think about how Asian Canadian creative feature in their cultural territory and whether the current Canadian cinematic landscape accurately mirrors our diverse reality or distorts it.

The 21st Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival will take place on November 2-5, 2017, at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas at 88 West Pender Street, in Vancouver's historic Chinatown. There will be 12 programs during the festival, including projects from local filmmakers as well. The festival is set to showcase 10 feature films, 23 short films, as well as a special presentation of shorts in partnership with We Heart Canada.

Tickets are available online beginning October 1st at www.vaff.org or at the VAFF table located in the lobby of the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas starting November 2. Tickets may also be purchased during the festival on November 3-6 at the door. VIP passes, which gives guests priority access to all film screenings and special events, may also be purchased before or during the festival. Media can request screeners, film stills, and more detailed information by contacting media@vaff.org.

About the Vancouver Asian Film Festival

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society (VAFF) is a not-for-profit organization that celebrates diversity in film. The longest-running Canadian film festival of its kind, VAFF was founded by independent filmmaker and writer Barbara K. Lee in 1995 and debuted in September 1997. VAFF is entirely organized and produced by a group of dedicated volunteers, and is made possible by generous financial support from corporate sponsors, public funders and private donors. Organizers are expecting close to 4,000 audience members over the four-day festival. Now on its 21st year, this four day festival will be on November 2-5, 2017 with the theme, "VISUAL LANDSCAPES." This year's theme celebrates the historical and contemporary experience of cultural and geographical place in the landscape of Canada.

Follow the festival and take a look at what goes on behind-the-scenes at:

facebook.com/VAFFvancouver
twitter.com/VAFFvancouver
instagram.com/VAFFvancouver
youtube.com/VAFFVancouver
#VAFF2017