



## The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Celebrates Canadian Film Through Shorts

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

**VANCOUVER, BC – OCTOBER 9, 2017** – The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is proud to showcase the works of local Canadian talents through short film presentations. Included in the line-up are VAFF Best Canadian Short Award Nominees and the three winning entries from this year's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual VAFF Mighty Asian Movie Making Marathon (MAMM 12). 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.

The short films celebrate LIFE IN MULTICULTURE. Included in this year's line-up are the Best Canadian Short Award Nominees – **SLEEPWALK** (Bernard takes care of his wife, Alicia, on her restless sleepwalking nights; then one night she says something while sleepwalking that changes everything), **VIOLET AND JUNE** (You know that feeling when you realize that everyone you know is going to die and nothing you do will ever be of consequence in comparison to the movements of the universe and then you accidentally fall in love with your best friend?), **THE ETHER INSIDE** (a film that shows the seductive, haunting ways in which darkness can enter our minds and the domestic space), **FLAGGED** (a documentary illustrating the social fragmentation of Vancouver's young Vietnamese community), and **FLOATING LIGHT** (Dana struggles to understand the older generation's traditions while Sam must answer her sister's questions regarding religion and the transition from life to death). Included is also the film **LUCY** (a chimpanzee that was raised to believe she was human, but when she became too wild to handle, she was sent to Africa). The winning films from MAMM 12 that will be included are **SKIN TO SKIN** (a young Filipino-Canadian man gives up everything to follow his first love after her visa extension is denied and is put to the test after her family rejects him because of the color of his skin), **LOST IN TRANSIT** (a martial artist finds himself trapped in a series of unfortunate events after deciding to walk instead of drive), and **BULGOGI** (a young Korean immigrant roams the streets of Vancouver pondering the emotional cataclysm between his parents and his new found love).

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 weather the current Canadian cinematic landscape accurately mirrors our diverse reality or distorts it.

The 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.vaff.org](http://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](mailto: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:**

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