



## International Short Films Displayed at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival

*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) invites you to a celebration of international short films. These films contain a mix of all genres, which highlight stories from the international Asian diaspora. 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 international short films that were curated for this year's festival highlights how we all do whatever it takes to deal with the unexpected things that life brings us. The films that will be shown in this program include **MONDAY** (*USA*, a young hustler confronts racism and the immortality of his occupation as he sells everything and anything to make money), **THE BALLAD OF THE KNIFE SHARPENER** (*China / USA*, a young knife sharpener from rural China uses his voice and songs to attract customers as he tries to make ends meet), **IN BLOSSOM** (*Hong Kong, Yu-Cheung*, a dyslexic student, may be asked to quit school due to his "poor behavior"), **A TAXI OF COLDNESS** (*Korean*, when a man rides a taxi late at night, the taxi driver offers him gum and the man suddenly remembers his mother's "Drugged Gum" story), and **SILENT DUSK** (*China*, two elderly people meet, connect, and care for one another in this poetic meditation on life and love set against the landscape of Tibet).

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 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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