



## International Films Exhibited 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) is proud to showcase the work of international Asian talents, to celebrate different perspectives and diversity in film. 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 award winning films are highlighted in the INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT program highlight the complex intergenerational, intercultural dynamic and conflict of diaspora families. The Feature Film from France is entitled **THE SOUL OF THE TIGRE**. The film follows Alex, a man of Chinese descent, who lives the typical European carefree life. After his brother's sudden death, he is forced to look for an explanation by digging into his won family history, uncovering a secret. Torn between two cultures, Alex must come to terms with his past and make major decisions. The American short film from **THE HOME IS WHERE THE SUNSETS** premieres after. In this film, Allison's life in L.A. turns upside down when her family comes to visit from Hong Kong for the very first time. As stress grows in her, Allison must come to terms with their differences.

Three international documentaries will also be featured in the festival. The first is an American documentary entitled **FINDING KUKUAN**. This film tells the story of Chinese-Hawaii-born Li Ling-Ai, the un-credited female producer of *Kukuan*, a 1941 Academy Award-winning documentary about World War II China that has been lost for decades.

Also featured is the short film **CONTENDERS**, a UK / Indian documentary that follows three adolescent girls who navigate social and financial pressure as they train to become national and international level boxers. The last short documentary, also from America, is entitled **IM/PERFECTION** and this features the story of Hitoshi Hida, a Japanese who immigrated to Hawaii, as he struggles to pursue architecture and a creative outlet in hand-rendering designs.

Another international film to be featured in the festival is a Taiwanese film **UPSTREAM**. This film tells the story of Guo Wen-han, Mayor of Wanhe City in Taiwan, as he seeks re-election but is kidnapped just before polling day by a young man from the city's

poorest, most polluted district. The short Korean film **TOENAIL** is featured in the same program. The short film follows Frank, a career-obsessed yuppie who has never seen eye to eye with Chang, his father. But when a broken toenail sends Chang to the hospital, Frank comes to learn what is truly important

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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