



Columbus Opens the 21st Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival

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) opens with the film **COLUMBUS**, starring John Cho. The thought-provoking film leads the festival in its celebration of Asian talent and diversity in film. The festival is set open at the River Rock Casino Resort, 8811 River Road, Richmond. An opening night gala follows at the same location.

John Cho leads a talented cast in the opening film **COLUMBUS**. The film follows a renowned architectural scholar who suddenly falls ill during a speaking tour. His son, Jin (John Cho) finds himself stranded in Columbus, Indiana, a small town celebrated for its significant modernist buildings. Jin strikes up a friendship with Casey (Haley Lu Richardson), a young architecture enthusiast. As their friendship develops, they both explore the town and their conflicted emotions. The film explores how space and place can be synonymous with identity and culture. The film has so far won the Special Jury Prize for Narrative Feature at the Independent Film Festival Boston 2017.

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.

Limited tickets are available for the opening night gala. Tickets are at \$15 each. Attire for the opening night is semi-formal.

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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