



Documentary Feature Films Displayed at the 22nd Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival

VAFF 22 Runs November 1-4 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village

VANCOUVER, BC – OCTOBER 22, 2018 – The 22nd Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is proud to introduce its Documentary Features Series, which explore the Asian and Pan-Asian experiences worldwide. Featured in this series are: **HAVANA DIVAS**, **LATE LIFE: THE CHIEN-MING WANG STORY**, **BAD ASS BEAUTY QUEEN: THE STORY OF ANASTASIA LIN**, and **DRAWN TOGETHER: COMICS, DIVERSITY AND STEREOTYPES**.

Two sisters learned the art of Cantonese opera in Havana during World War II and toured Cuba to perform. **HAVANA DIVAS** follows the story these two women who are trying to perform Cantonese opera in Hong Kong and Mainland China. The short **NATHAN JUG V. BRUCE LEE** precedes this documentary. Nathan Jung recounts the crazy, true and hilarious story of meeting Bruce Lee for the first time in this short.

LATE LIFE: THE CHIEN-MING WANG STORY follows the latter years of Wang's professional baseball career, the first and only Taiwanese player for the New York Yankees. It is the story of a man who is unwilling to give up and unable to let go.

Follow Miss World contestant Anastasia Lin as she brings the world's attention to an increasing list of China's human rights atrocities, putting everything on line to stay true to her conscience and her chance at the crown in **BAD ASS BEAUTY QUEEN: ANASTASIA LIN**. Two short films precede this documentary. The first film, **GOOD GIRLS DON'T** focuses on a Filipina-Canadian girl who defies her mother's warning that she'll turn into a boy if she plays sports. The second short, **JIEJIE**, follows two young sisters being raced by a single immigrant mother in Los Angeles in 1997.

The last of the documentaries, **DRAWN TOGETHER: COMICS, DIVERSITY AND STEREOTYPES**, follows the journey of three talented artists as they use comics and cartoons to challenge racial, religious, and gender stereotypes and inspire others to breakthrough socially and self-imposed limitations. The film taps into the explosion in the public's appetite for superhero entertainment to open a deeper dialogue about identity, respect, and representation. The short **EVE** precedes this documentary. In the film, an inventor develops feelings for his A.I., Eve. One day a man breaks in to kill him and destroy Eve.

The theme for this year's festival is **INFUSIAN**. Through this theme, **INFUSIAN** shines a spotlight upon the diverse artists, agitators, thinkers, and innovators who shape the living experience of contemporary Canadians. **INFUSIAN** tells the stories of individuals and communities blending together old and new, East and West, classic and cutting-edge, myriad ways of living and thinking that draw out the strengths and unique flavours from many different ingredients. It also reflects the undeniable hybridity of modern Canada, with multiple heritages, histories, and cultures both within and outside of the Asian diaspora coming together in countless combinations.

The 22nd Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival will take place on November 1-4, 2018, at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas at 88 West Pender Street, in Vancouver's historic Chinatown. There will be 13 programs during the festival, including projects from international and local filmmakers. The festival is set to showcase 10 feature length films, 21 short films, as well as a special presentation of 4 shorts in partnership with We Heart Canada + Japan 90, and an Industry Panel Series.

Tickets are now available online at www.vaff.org. Tickets may also be purchased during the festival on November 2-4 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. More information about tickets, passes, and ticket bundles can be found at <http://festival.vaff.org/2018/tickets-passes/>. 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 22nd year, this four day festival incorporates the theme of **INFUSIAN**, which shines a spotlight on individuals and communities who create new art and culture by blending together old and new, East and West, classic and cutting-edge, myriad ways of living and thinking. It also reflects the undeniable hybridity of modern Canada, with varied heritages, histories, and cultures coming together in endless combinations to create a vibrant cross-cultural landscape.

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

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