



MEDIA ADVISORY

The 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Begins

November 5–8, Vancouver hosts the best of Asian North American and International Cinema

Vancouver, BC—September 24, 2015—The 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF 19) is pleased to announce the countdown to its celebration of Asian diaspora and diversity in film, set for November 5–8, 2015 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W. Pender St., in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown district.

“We are extremely excited for this year’s 19th festival,” stated Grace Chin, Festival Director. “VAFF is gearing up for its 20th anniversary celebration next year, and this year’s program continues to showcase the breadth and depth of Asian diaspora filmmaking beyond the stereotypes and mainstream film festival offerings, with programming that additionally reflects the increasingly borderless creative and industry sensibility of Canada’s west coast. Our industry seminar series launches this year as well, geared toward independent and filmmakers interested in the opportunities presented by the international distribution market for our films.”

VAFF 19 asks, “What’s Your Role [in...insert Community here]?” with a lineup that invites us to examine the complications within the search for personal and cultural identity. The festival’s nine film programs include 37 feature-length and short films of all genres, with English dialogue or English subtitles, from the Asian diaspora—including a world premiere, 5 North American premieres and 13 Canadian premieres. An additional 9 films are Vancouver premieres. Twenty filmmakers, from Canada and internationally, are expected to attend. Organizers anticipate close to 4,000 audience and industry members over the four-day festival.

The Best Canadian Short Award 2015, sponsored by the National Film Board of Canada, will be presented to one of six nominated short films by Canadian filmmakers. New this year, is the VAFF Industry Insight Seminar Series: panel topics include how independent filmmakers can take advantage of Vancouver’s rapid evolution into a post production hub, and how to capitalize on emerging opportunities for international distribution/co-production.

The 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival will take place November 5–8, 2015, at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas at 88 West Pender Street in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown. Close to 4,000 audience members and media are expected to attend the four-day festival.

The entire program schedule will be available online at www.vaff.org starting October 8. Tickets will be available online at www.vaff.org starting October 18, or at the VAFF table located in the lobby of the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W. Pender St., Vancouver, starting November 5.

Interviews and photo opportunities are available. Additional releases, images and screeners/links will also be available. Please email media@vaff.org or visit vaff.org/media for media accreditation forms and other information.



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.

Follow the festival as it unfolds at:

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YouTube/VAFFVancouver

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VAFF 19: MEDIA ANOUNCEMENTS

One-liner:

Vancouver, BC—The 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival showcases the best of independent Asian international diaspora cinema in English, and with English subtitles, November 5–8 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown; get tickets and passes online at www.vaff.org from October 8, and at the theatre box office starting November 5.

Two-liner:

Vancouver, BC—The 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival showcases the best of independent Asian international diaspora cinema in English, and with English subtitles, including feature-length and short films in all genres. The festival takes place November 5–8 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown, with nine programs covering 37 films, and an afternoon of industry panels. Tickets and passes are available online at www.vaff.org from October 8, and at the theatre box office starting November 5.

Paragraph:

Vancouver, BC—The 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival showcases the best of independent Asian international diaspora cinema in English, and with English subtitles, including feature-length and short films in all genres (narrative, documentary, animation, experimental). The festival takes place November 5–8 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown.

VAFF 19 asks, “What’s Your Role [in...insert Community here]?” with a lineup that invites us to examine the complications within the search for personal and cultural identity. This year’s program includes festival circuit award winners, a world premiere, 5 North American premieres and 13 Canadian premieres, and an additional 9 Vancouver premieres. The Best Canadian Short Award 2015, sponsored by the National Film Board of Canada, will be presented to one of six nominated short films by Canadian filmmakers. New this year, is the VAFF Industry Insight Seminar Series: panel topics include how independent filmmakers can take advantage of Vancouver’s rapid evolution into a post production hub, and how to capitalize on emerging opportunities for international distribution/co-production.

Tickets and passes are available online from October 8 at www.vaff.org, or at the VAFF 19 Box Office at Cineplex Odeon International Village, 88 W. Pender St., from November 5 at 6:00 pm. For more information, please email info@vaff.org.

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VAFF 19: HIGHLIGHTS

For the full program schedule, program and film synopses, and more detailed film and festival information, please refer to the online program at www.vaff.org.

- **Opening Night + Gala:** The 2015 Sundance selection, retro 80's romantic comedy "Seoul Searching"
- **Centrepiece Presentation + Celebration:** Taiwan's "The Kids"
- **Closing Night + Afterparty:** The LA Film Festival 2015 Nightfall Award winner "Crush The Skull"
- **"Date Night Friday" film:** "It's Already Tomorrow In Hong Kong" featuring real-life couple Jamie Chung (Once Upon A Time, The Hangover II) and Bryan Greenberg (Friends With Benefits, Bride Wars)
- **Shot-and-produced in Vancouver:** "Beyond Redemption," a stylized Hong Kong action-inspired adrenaline rush from Canadian stunt coordinator and first-time feature film director Bruce Fontaine; and "The Tree Inside," a beautifully shot, heartfelt drama that follows a woman who can't keep a relationship longer than a couple of months as she struggles to overcome her seasonal impulse to change.
- **Two documentary programs:** "Right Footed" from Emmy-winning director Nick Spark, about the inspiring courage of Philippine American Jessica Cox, born without arms; and "The Roots Remain," about Cambodian Canadian graffiti artist Fonki's return to Cambodia to paint a commemorative mural for relatives killed in the Khmer Rouge genocide
- **Two festival award-winning shorts programs:** One of international shorts, the other all-Canadian shorts, including the VAFF Best Canadian Short Award 2015 winner
- **An afternoon of film industry panels** focused on independent filmmaking and international production: Introducing the VAFF Industry Insight Seminar Series (VAFF I²)

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VAFF 19: BEST CANADIAN SHORT AWARD 2015

Sponsored by the National Film Board of Canada, the VAFF Best Canadian Short Award (BCSA) is presented annually to a qualifying Canadian independent short film/filmmaker in the current year's festival. Now in its eighth year, there is an average of 3–6 films per year that qualify for the BCSA nomination. The annual winner is determined by a three-member film industry adjudication panel. The award is presented each year at the industry Filmmakers' Luncheon during the festival, attended by filmmakers, industry members, VAFF partners and media.

BCSA 2015 Adjudication Panel (alphabetical by last name):

- Jeff Chiba Stearns, Co-Founder, Hapa-palooza Festival
- Selwyn Jacob, Producer, National Film Board: Pacific and Yukon Centre
- Kristyn Stilling, Festival Director, Vancouver Short Film Festival

BCSA 2015 Nominees (in program screening order):

- Canadian Shorts program, "Virtual Hitman," Drama, Vancouver premiere, Canada: Phil Borg, Director
- Canadian Shorts program, "Singing in Diaspora," Documentary, Vancouver premiere, Canada: Sabchu Rinpoché, Director
- Canadian Shorts program, "My Least Favourite Person," Drama, Vancouver premiere, Canada/China: Lantian Chen, Director
- Canadian Shorts program, "Cantonese: Passing," Documentary, Canada: Elizabeth Cheong, Lisa Lee, Directors
- Canadian Shorts program, "Taste of Identity," Documentary, World premiere, Canada: Derek Kwan, Director
- Canadian Shorts program, "Glass Eyes," Drama, Canada: Jonathan Chan, Director

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VAFF 19: INDUSTRY INSIGHT SEMINAR SERIES (VAFF I²)

A new initiative for the 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival, VAFF I² is an afternoon of professional development seminars and business networking, offering insight for independent filmmakers, producers and investors to current industry topics and the increasingly international, diverse filmmaking, post production, digital entertainment and distribution landscape of the West Coast.

Open to VAFF Industry, Filmmaker and VIP Passholders and festival ticket holders with membership, panel topics this year include how independent filmmakers can take advantage of Vancouver's rapid evolution into a post production and visual effects hub, and how to capitalize on emerging opportunities for international distribution/co-production.

For the panel schedule and panelist/moderator announcement updates, please refer to the online program guide at www.vaff.org.

VAFF I²: Post Production Panel

(Panelists and Moderator TBA)

A panel of filmmaking and post-production professionals looks into the current state of tech to discuss how to make the most of today's indie budgets. Starting with deliverables and working backwards through the production process, the panel will explore:

- Importance of defining post workflow and delivery requirements during prepro.
- Genre impact (e.g. narrative vs documentary) on deliverables and workflows.
- How to use technology and scheduling to maximize available hours in post, while diminishing potential headaches.
- Trending now, and the crystal ball: future directions in post.

VAFF I²: International Distribution/Co-Production Panel

(Panelists and Moderator TBA)

Players from both the traditional and emerging worlds of distribution, and some of Vancouver's working independent producers, will address:

- The wide and expanding international distribution options for independent filmmakers.
- How to create integrated platforms tailored to your film's distribution and monetization goals.
- Practical insights into international co-production for independent films.
- Trending now, and the crystal ball: future directions in international independent film distribution/co-production.

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VAFF 19: MEDIA ROOM

Media Room

VAFF 19 will have a Media Room for interviews and photo opportunities during the festival, November 5–8, 2015 inclusive:

- Schedule:
 - Thu, Nov 5 | 6:00pm – 8:00pm
 - Fri, Nov 6 | 4:00pm – 9:30pm
 - Sat, Nov 7 | 11:00am – 2:00pm; 8:30pm – 9:30pm
 - Sun, Nov 8 | 1:00pm – 2:00pm; 6:00pm – 7:00pm

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Please send interview requests to media@vaff.org.

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VAFF 19: ATTENDING FILMMAKERS

Attending Filmmakers (As of September 17, 2015)

Feature Films:

- **Thursday, November 5, 2015**
 - Opening Night "Seoul Searching," Romantic Comedy, Vancouver premiere, USA: Benson Lee, Director; Rosalina Leigh, Ensemble Cast
- **Friday, November 6, 2015**
 - Canadian Feature Presentation "The Tree Inside," Romantic Drama, North American premiere, Canada: Michelle Kim, Rob Leickner, Directors
- **Sunday, November 8, 2015**
 - Canadian Doc Spot "The Roots Remain," Documentary, Canadian premiere, Canada: Andrew Marchand-Boddy, Director
 - Closing Night "Crush The Skull," Thriller Comedy, Canadian premiere, USA: Chris Dinh, Producer/Co-Writer/Lead Actor

Short Films:

- **Friday, November 7, 2015**
 - International Shorts "Idyllwild," Drama, Canadian premiere, China/USA: Zenas Cao, Director
 - International Shorts "The Spring in My Life," LGBTQ/Drama, Canadian premiere, S. Korea: Cho-Yeon Yun, Director
- **Sunday, November 8, 2015**
 - **Best Canadian Short Award 2015 Nominees:**
 - Canadian Shorts "Virtual Hitman," Drama, Vancouver premiere, Canada: Phil Borg, Director
 - Canadian Shorts "Singing in Diaspora," Documentary, Vancouver premiere, Canada: Sabchu Rinpoché, Director
 - Canadian Shorts "My Least Favourite Person," Drama, Vancouver premiere, Canada/China: Lantian Chen, Director
 - Canadian Shorts "Cantonese: Passing," Documentary, Canada: Elizabeth Cheong, Lisa Lee, Directors
 - Canadian Shorts "Taste of Identity," Documentary, World premiere, Canada: Derek Kwan, Director
 - Canadian Shorts "Glass Eyes," Drama, Canada: Jonathan Chan, Director
 - **Not in competition:**
 - Canadian Shorts "Home," Drama, Vancouver premiere, Canada: Athena Han, Director
 - Canadian Shorts "Dissonance," LGBTQ/Animation, Canada: Anna Ngo, Director
 - **VAFF RedPacketChallenge Winners:**
 - Canadian Shorts "15 Seconds of Mukbang," Comedy, VAFF RedPacketChallenge Ultra Short 1st Place Winner, Canada: Aaron Ledig, Director
 - Canadian Shorts "#Support," Comedy, VAFF RedPacketChallenge Ultra Short 3rd Place Winner, Canada: Yoosik Ethan Oum, Director

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- Canadian Shorts "Taylor vs. Yusuf," Action, VAFF RedPacketChallenge Micro Film 3rd Place Winner, Canada: Tanay Ulgen, Director
- Canadian Shorts "On Being Chinese, Culture and Identity," Documentary, VAFF RedPacketChallenge Micro Film 2nd Place Winner, Canada: David Ng and Jen Sunshine, Directors
- Canadian Shorts "Red Pockets," Music Video, VAFF RedPacketChallenge Micro Film 1st Place Winner, Canada: Brian Cheung, Director

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