



19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Opens with SEOUL SEARCHING

VAFF 19 Runs November 5-8, 2015 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village

Vancouver, BC—September 24, 2015—The 19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF 19) is proud to announce that **SEOUL SEARCHING**, which premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival, will kick off 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. Director Benson Lee will be in attendance at the Vancouver premiere. An Opening Gala follows the screening.

Korean-American filmmaker Benson Lee won the Jury Prize at Sundance with his Competition Drama, “Miss Monday,” in 1998. A decade later he returned with “Planet B-Boy,” a critically-acclaimed, commercially-successful doc about breakdancing crews competing in an international competition, and now goes back to his indie roots with **SEOUL SEARCHING**, a John Hughes-inspired romantic comedy. Set in 1986 and based on actual events, the core of Lee’s nostalgically funny film is a heartfelt exploration of “Who am I?” and “Where do I belong?” by a group of Korean misfits from around the world (including Sid not-so Vicious played by Justin Chon, “21 And Over,” “The Twilight Saga”), forced by their parents to attend a cultural propaganda camp in Korea—resulting in the wickedly best summer of their lives. The film will find synergy with Vancouver’s Korean Canadian community, some of whom attended those camps for “gyopo” (foreign-born teenagers) themselves.

Preceding **SEOUL SEARCHING** is **THE LOYALIST**, USA-based Korean filmmaker Minji Kang’s subtly satirical, festival award-winning short drama which examines the burden of privilege when the teenage daughter of a North Korean general gets sent to a Swiss boarding school.

“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, 4 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 five 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.

VANCOUVER ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL | 4862 PINE CRESCENT, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6J 4L3

EMAIL: info@vaff.org | WEB: vaff.org



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.

Tickets are available online at www.vaff.org beginning October 8 and at the VAFF Box Office at the Cineplex Odeon International Village lobby starting November 5. VIP passes are available online for \$88 in advance, or \$150 during the festival. All VAFF VIP pass holders will receive priority access to all film screenings and special events at the festival and have the chance to mingle with filmmakers, actors and other industry guests. Media can request screeners, film stills, and further information by emailing media@vaff.org.

Follow the festival as it unfolds at:

Facebook/[VAFFVancouver](https://www.facebook.com/VAFFVancouver)

Twitter/[#VAFF2015](https://twitter.com/VAFFVancouver)

Instagram/[vaffvancouver](https://www.instagram.com/vaffvancouver)

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. Close to 4,000 people are expected to attend the four-day festival.

MEDIA CONTACT

Steve Kim
Media Relations, VAFF
Phone: 604-315-2846
Email: media@vaff.org

Grace Chin
Festival Director, VAFF
Phone: 604-505-8449
Email: grace.chin@vaff.org

VANCOUVER ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL | 4862 PINE CRESCENT, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6J 4L3

EMAIL: info@vaff.org | WEB: vaff.org