



19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Closes with CRUSH THE SKULL

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 the Canadian premiere of **CRUSH THE SKULL**, which won the inaugural Nightfall Award at the 2015 Los Angeles Film Festival, as the Closing Night presentation of its celebration of Asian diaspora and diversity in film. VAFF 19 is set for November 5–8, 2015 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W. Pender St., in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown. Producer, Co-Writer and Lead Actor Chris Dinh will be in attendance. A Closing Gala follows the screening at Sai Woo, 158 E. Pender St., Vancouver, right in the heart of Chinatown.

Originally conceived as a short film (which the wildly popular Wong Fu Productions liked so much, they posted it on their own YouTube channel as a “Special Halloween Presentation”), the feature film version of **CRUSH THE SKULL** was successfully funded through Kickstarter crowdsourcing. Fans of chiller-comedy hybrids, including Sam Raimi’s classic “Evil Dead” franchise and its recent homage, “Cabin In The Woods,” won’t want to miss this “burglar vs. serial killer” thriller that combines a heist caper with an old-school slasher flick. Ollie and Blair are a typical fun, young couple who just happen to earn a dishonest living by breaking into poorly secured, upper-class homes. After falling into debt when their last job goes horribly awry, they find themselves having to pull one last easy B&E at a secluded vacation home in the mountains—which turns out to be the evil lair of a deranged serial killer.

Preceded by a couple of creepy shorts: festival award winner **TEASPOON** from India’s Aban Bharucha Deohans, about how the frustrations of traditional Asian extended family living can lead to a disturbing end (you’ll have to watch it to see how the teaspoon plays); and Chinese director Tong Zhou’s **FISH EYE**, in which a housekeeper suspects her employer has more than one skeleton in his closet.

“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 your Community]?” 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.

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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:

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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.

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