



19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Celebrates Canadian Film

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 showcase the work of Canada’s filmmakers in its celebration of Asian diaspora and diversity in film. Sixteen Canadian films, in all their glorious diversity, feature this year at VAFF 19: November 5–8, 2015 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W. Pender St., in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown.

They include a Special Presentation of locally cast, shot, produced and directed action feature **BEYOND REDEMPTION**; the powerfully emotional homecoming documentary **THE ROOTS REMAIN** by two young Montreal documentarians; Shot over 14 months right here in Vancouver, British Columbia, the city’s exquisite seasonal landscape subtly mirrors the emotional life of the protagonist in **“THE TREE INSIDE”** and **LIFE IN MULTICULTURE**, an eclectic slate of short films from emerging Canadian directors that includes this year’s nominees for the National Film Board-sponsored **Best Canadian Short Award**, the winners of the inaugural **VAFF RedPacketChallenge** short filmmaking contest featuring Vine-style and micro-film length videos, and the best from this year’s UBC Asian Cultural and Asian Migration Studies filmmaking course.

If Antoine Fuqua and the late Tony Scott had collaborated on a Hong Kong-style action flick, it might look a lot like **BEYOND REDEMPTION** from seasoned stunt coordinator and first time feature film director Bruce Fontaine; “just when you think you’re out,” undercover cop Billy Tong’s checkered past catches up with him, and he must (of course) fight to redeem his own soul and the lives of those he loves. The director, producers, writers and most of the ensemble cast will attend. **THE ROOTS REMAIN** documents the journey of Montreal graffiti artist Fonki (director in attendance), as he makes a physical and emotional journey in Cambodia to paint a giant mural dedicated to relatives killed in the Khmer Rouge genocide.

Our well-loved **LIFE IN MULTICULTURE** shorts program, with most of the directors in attendance, will reveal this year’s Best Canadian Short Award winner from nominees **VIRTUAL HITMAN** (Toronto-based Phil Borg’s video game drama with a real-life twist); **MY LEAST FAVOURITE PERSON** (Lantian Chen’s very personal dramatization of standing up to bullying at school); **SINGING IN DIASPORA** (Sabchu Rinpoché’s examination of how one woman comes to terms with cultural isolation); **CANTONESE: PASSING** (a short doc and UBC ACAM pick from Vancouver’s Elizabeth Cheong and Lisa Lee that asks: is the Cantonese language in trouble?); **TASTE OF IDENTITY** (short doc and World premiere of Derek Kwan’s thesis: Vancouver’s cultural identity is intimately connected with our stomachs); and **GLASS EYES** (a Langara College Film Arts Program pick from Jonathan Chan about a police state that regulates dreams).

“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.”

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

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



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, 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 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. 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 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
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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

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