



19th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Centrepiece: Taiwan's THE KIDS

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 present the Canadian premiere of Taiwanese film **THE KIDS** as the Centrepiece 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. An intimate Centrepiece Celebration follows the screening at the nearby Clough Club, 212 Abbott St., Vancouver in the Gastown district.

In competition at the 17th Taipei International Film Festival this year, **THE KIDS** from young Taiwanese first-time director Wei-Shan Yu subverts the “meet cute” genre and examines the subsequent fallout from a young couple's shotgun wedding—exploring how far the boy inside the man will go to please the girl of his dreams. When eighth-grader Bao-Li unexpectedly comes to the rescue of Jia-Jia, a girl one grade above, they immediately fall in love. Bao-Li drops out of school to support Jia-Jia when she becomes pregnant, but the marriage goes south when Bao Li's mother's gambling habit causes serious financial problems. A restless Jia-Jia, bored with her lackluster married life, begins an affair with her boss at work; she leaves Bao Li after a heated argument, taking their daughter with her. Hoping to win his family back, Bao-Li makes a risky decision—and soon realizes his difficulties are just beginning.

Preceded by **QUYEN** from USA-based director Lucretia Stinnette, a look at how the shattered marital expectations of a Vietnamese bride toward her South Korean husband and mother-in-law, can form into fresh resolve; and Santiago Fabregas' “**Keiko**,” in which an old married Japanese couple play out their very different perspectives on seeking, and getting, satisfaction while visiting their only son in Mexico City.

“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.

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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.

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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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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