



## **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival International Spotlight**

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

**Vancouver, BC—September 24, 2015**—The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF 19) is proud to invite you on an evening of international perspectives, in its celebration of Asian diaspora and diversity in film. VAFF 19 takes place November 5–8, 2015 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W. Pender St., in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown.

The films of **IN AND OUT**, our International Shorts showcase (all of them Canadian premieres), range from festival award-winners to lesser known gems that explore how the choices we make can result in unexpected consequences. From bittersweet sexual initiations and rites of passage, to jarring, even traumatizing cultural, social and political awakenings—these unflinching films look at how circumstances can force an acknowledgment of moral responsibility, and commitment to a course of action: are you in, or are you out?

American director Emily Ting’s **IT’S ALREADY TOMORROW IN HONG KONG** transplants the walk-and-talk charm of Richard Linklater’s “Before Sunrise” to the Fragrant Harbour as Ruby and Josh—the real-life husband and wife team of Jamie Chung (“The Hangover II,” “Once Upon A Time”) and Bryan Greenberg (“Friends With Benefits,” “Bride Wars”)—fall in and out of love. If you missed it at VIFF this year, catch it now. Preceded by Japanese filmmaker Kimie Tanaka’s short, **HIDE & SEEK**, a relationship vignette of a very different kind: urban, independent male nurse Shoichi finds himself back in a small town after his mother’s death, and suddenly responsible for the care of his estranged, shut-in younger brother.

“We are extremely excited for this year’s 19<sup>th</sup> festival,” stated Grace Chin, festival director. “VAFF is gearing up for its 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**EMAIL: [info@vaff.org](mailto:info@vaff.org) | WEB: [vaff.org](http://vaff.org)**



The 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:media@vaff.org).

Follow the festival as it unfolds at:

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Twitter/[#VAFF2015](https://twitter.com/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](mailto:media@vaff.org)

Grace Chin  
Festival Director, VAFF  
Phone: 604-505-8449  
Email: [grace.chin@vaff.org](mailto:grace.chin@vaff.org)

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