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OPENING, CENTERPIECE & CLOSING:
GALAS ATTRACT HIGH-PROFILE INTERNATIONAL GUESTS TO TORONTO

Toronto, October 8, 2014 — Reel Asian's 2014 Galas feature a return to the big screen by acclaimed Hong Kong filmmaker Fruit Chan, the directorial debut of Taiwanese actor Umin Boya, and a promising first feature from India hot off its premiere in Cannes.

TORONTO OPENING NIGHT GALA: THE MIDNIGHT AFTER
(director Fruit Chan, actor TBC in attendance, Hong Kong 2014, Toronto Premiere)
Tue Nov 6, 7:00 PM, Isabel Bader Theatre

Hong Kong helmer Fruit Chan returns to the big screen with this genre-bending action-packed film, a delirious journey through modern Hong Kong. In the city's Mongkok area, passengers of different ages and backgrounds board a minibus bound for neighbouring Taipo. Suddenly, at the stroke of midnight, they find the entire town completely deserted. Then when four students succumb to a deadly virus that seems to be connected to the mystery, the remaining survivors are left offering their own interpretations of what has happened including theories ranging from the philosophical to ridiculous. Most importantly, are these passengers the sole survivors of this strange pandemic? *The Midnight After* had its world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival, and went on to win the Special Jury Award at the Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival.

Director Fruit Chan is an independent Hong Kong Second Wave screenwriter, filmmaker and producer, who is best known for his style of film reflecting the everyday life of Hong Kong people. His name became familiar to many Hong Kongers only after the success of his award-winning 1997 film *Made in Hong Kong*.

CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION: KANO
(director Umin Boya in attendance, Taiwan 2014, Canadian Premiere)
Fri Nov 8, 7:00 PM, The Royal

This year Reel Asian is proud to present the Canadian Premiere of KANO, Taiwanese actor Umin Boya's directorial debut, co-written and produced by hitmaker Wei Te-sheng.

"What does race have to do with baseball?" Based on a true story, *KANO* depicts a multiethnic squad of rural Taiwan-based highschoolers who made it to the national championships in Japan in 1931. "KANO" stands for the Kagi Agriculture and Forestry Public School, from southern Taiwan. In the span of a year, this multi-ethnic baseball team went from a losing record to unprecedented honor at Japan's grandest youth sports event. *KANO* completes Wei's colonial trilogy exploring ambivalent Taiwanese attitudes toward Japanese rule from 1895-1945. *KANO* is the directorial debut for Boya, most well-known for his leading role in *Seediq Bale (Warriors of the Rainbow 2011*).

401 Richmond St W | Toronto, ON M5V 3A8 | T 416.703.9333 | F 416.703.9986 | info@reelasian.com | www.reelasian.com
Charitable # 870021383RR0001

TORONTO CLOSING NIGHT GALA: MONSOON SHOOTOUT
(director Amit Kumar in attendance, India 2013, Toronto Premiere)
Friday Nov 14, 7:00 PM, The Royal

To shoot, or not to shoot? Monsoon Shootout is a bold noir piece that examines the outcome of three possible choices a rookie cop might make when he confronts a ruthless killer on his first assignment. The film darts and weaves through action-packed streets of Mumbai, following policeman Adi (Vijay Varma, *Gang of Ghosts 2014*) and the aftermath of his choices. "[It's] *Dirty Harry* meets *Sliding Doors*," as The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw puts it. *Monsoon Shootout* is a cunning first feature from Amit Kumar that earned a Midnight Movie slot at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013.

MEDIA CONTACT

Virginia Kelly, V Kelly & Associates – 416-466-9799 – info@vkpr.ca
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