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AROUND THE WORLD IN 11 DAYS

Toronto, October 8, 2014 — The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, is proud to showcase a dynamic selection of highly anticipated premieres and international guests in attendance, including TBC (Hong Kong – guest for Midnight After), Umin Boya (Taiwan), Oh In-chun (Korea), Ursula Liang (USA), Patrick Epino and Stephen Dypiangco (USA), Amit Kumar (India), Vivek Kajaria (India), and Ryan Moore (USA). Reel Asian connects local audiences with internationally recognized directors and talent from abroad and guests will be in attendance to participate in Q&As with audiences after their film screenings. In addition, public talks will provide more insight into the making of some of these films. Please refer to Reel Asian's 2014 programme guide for more details on these events.

9-MAN (director Ursula Liang in attendance, USA 2014, International Premiere)
9-Man spotlights this uniquely Chinese-American sport, an older variant of volleyball popular in the southern Chinese city of Toisan and its surrounding region as well as in Chinatowns throughout North America. Since the 1930s, young men have played this competitive street ball game in the alleys and parking lots of Chinatown. *9-Man* is an entertaining, funny, and sharp conversation about contemporary Asian America, as players not only battle for a championship but fight to preserve a sport that reflects so much of their Chinese heritage.

AWESOME ASIAN BAD GUYS (directors Stephen Dypiangco and Patrick Epino in attendance, USA 2014, Canadian Premiere)
Based on the immensely popular Youtube series, this film features the Asian "bad guys" of our favourite childhood action movies in an action comedy that pays homage to the actors who played iconic yet nameless Asian villains on the silver screen. Featuring Tamlyn Tomita, Dante Basco, and Al Leong.

BEYOND BEAUTY: TAIWAN FROM ABOVE (director Chi Po-lin, Taiwan 2014, Canadian Premiere)
The first film documenting Taiwan from an aerial perspective, this documentary describes both the "beauty and sorrow" of Taiwan by juxtaposing awe-inspiring views of its rich biodiversity with images of industrial devastation wrought by human development.

BLUE BUSTAMANTE (director Miko Livelo, Philippines 2013, Canadian Premiere)
It starts out as a typical Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) story from the 90s, where George leaves his wife and son in the Philippines in search of a higher-paying career in Japan. Unfortunately, he only finds work as a stunt double in the famous TV series, Force Five. As the masked Blue Force, George can battle giant robots and lizards on screen without having to learn Japanese. It's not the greener grass that he's hoped for, but back home, his son has unwittingly chosen Blue Force as his all-time hero…

BRAHMIN BULLS (director Mahesh Pailoor, actor Sendhil Ramamurthy in attendance, USA 2013, Canadian Premiere)
Starring Sendhil Ramamurthy (*Heroes*), Roshan Seth, Academy Award winner Mary Steenburgen, Justin Bartha, and Academy Award nominated Michael Lerner, *Brahmin Bulls* is a story of a long overdue reunion between father and son, as they learn the truth about each other for the first time as adults.

THE CONTINENT (director Han Han, China 2014, Canadian Premiere)
Novelist-blogger and professional racecar driver Han Han makes his directorial debut with a road trip film about the dreams and confusion of modern Chinese youth. Wishing to explore the world outside, Ma Haohan (Feng Shaofeng, *Painted Skin 2*) leaves the small island he grew up on in search of an old friend, and gets more than he bargained for on the way. Starring Chen Bolin (*Buddha Mountain 2010*).

DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN (director John Pirozzi in attendance, USA / Cambodia 2014, Toronto Premiere)

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Combining interviews of Cambodian musicians with rare archival material and songs, *Don't Think I've Forgotten* tracks the twists and turns of Cambodian music as it morphs into rock and roll, blossoms, and is nearly destroyed along with the rest of the country.

FANDRY (director Nagraj Manjule, producer Vivek Kajaria in attendance, India 2014, Canadian Premiere)
While Jabya's parents are resigned to their station in life, Jabya wants to break free by living the life any teenager should be able to have, including being able to express his feelings for his classmate Shalu. Marathi poet and director Nagraj Manjule draws upon his own experiences growing up in a rural, lower caste upbringing, where he struggled against the caste system in order to gain opportunities for higher education. On the surface, *Fandry* is a heartbreaking coming-of-age story; but what emerges is a searing indictment of India's caste system that culminates in a climatic ending that is guaranteed to have you talking after the final frame. *Fandry* won the Grand Jury Prize at the Mumbai International Film Festival and has gained international much praise from several Bollywood actors including Aamir Khan.

FUKU-CHAN OF FUKUFUKU FLATS (director Yosuke Fujita, Japan 2014, Toronto Premiere)
This new film from Yosuke Fujita delivers all the idiosyncratic humour we can expect from a Fujita film, with an added layer of emotional complexity. Fuku-chan is kind, generous, and well-liked by everyone around him, but impossibly shy around women. When one day Fuku-chan's first love (Asami Mizukawa) turns up in Fukufuku Flats, he is forced to confront the one person responsible for his paralyzing fear of women.

HIMALAYA SONG (director Mridu Chandra and performers Gingger Shankar and Dave Liang in attendance, USA 2012, Toronto Premiere)
The Aga Khan Museum and Reel Asian co-present the Toronto premiere of *Himalaya Song* by Gingger Shankar (vocals/double violin), David Liang (piano/electronics), and Mridu Chandra (video and narration). Heralded by Rolling Stones magazine as one of the "10 Best Music Films at Sundance", this dynamic multimedia performance uses music, storytelling, and video to examine the Himalayas as they undergo major environmental and ecological change.

HUNTER x HUNTER: THE LAST MISSION (director Keiichiro Kawaguchi, Japan 2013, Toronto Premiere)
A film adaptation of the best-selling manga series, *The Last Mission* introduces surprising character twists as Hunters Gon and Killua battle against rogue Hunters who dabbled with the dark power "On."

KANO (director Umin Boya in attendance, Taiwan 2014, Canadian Premiere)
"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* is the directorial debut for Boya, most well-known for his leading role in *Seediq Bale (Warriors of the Rainbow 2011*).

MANNY (director Ryan Moore in attendance, USA / Philippines 2014, Canadian Premiere)
The life of internationally renowned Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao is a fantastic rags-to-riches story. Almost two decades after his first low-key boxing match, his country of 100 million people comes to a complete standstill to watch him fight. Narrated by Liam Neeson and co-directed by Academy Award winner Leon Gast (*When We Were Kings*).

MANSHIN: TEN THOUSAND SPIRITS (director Park Chan-kyong, South Korea 2013, Toronto Premiere)
An in-depth look at the indigenous religious belief of shamanism in South Korea, told through the famed shaman Kim Keum-hwa's life story. "Manshin" is a respectful term for a shaman, and in the documentary the audience is given access to rare footage of the rituals that Shaman Kim has performed throughout her spiritual life. Although class distinction was almost gone in Korea by the 20th century, shamans remained in low social status and were shunned and oppressed by society. Viewers are transported through past and present, with notable reenactments by actors Moon So-ri, Kim Sae-ron, and Ryoo Hun-kyung.

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MEMORIES TO LIGHT (Curator and narrator Stephen Gong in attendance, performer Casey Mecija in attendance, USA 2014, Canadian Premiere)
Memories to Light is an ode to the inexplicable power of the pre-digital, pre-video home movie. Moreover, seeing Asian Americans and Asian Canadians in these films serves as a crucial document for remembering our experiences and history in North America. Highlights from this presentation include family films from San Francisco's 1930s Japanese American community after internment, a Chinese family's relocation to newly integrated neighbourhoods in the 1950s, and a family trip to the legendary Expo '67 in Montreal.

THE MIDNIGHT AFTER (director Fruit Chan, actor TBC in attendance, Hong Kong 2014, Toronto Premiere)
This Berlinale gala film begins with a midnight bus ride to Taipo. When the bus arrives at its destination, its passengers discover they are the sole survivors of a strange pandemic. This genre-bending, action-packed film brings together well-known stars of Hong Kong cinema including Simon Yam, Kara Hui and Lam Suet, as well as top talents from the next generation of Hong Kong actors including Cherry Ngan, Wong You-nam, Janice Man and Chui Tien-you.

MONSOON SHOOTOUT (director Amit Kumar in attendance, India 2013, Toronto Premiere)
As heavy monsoon rains lash the badlands of Mumbai, Adi, a rookie cop out on his first assignment, faces a life altering decision when he must decide whether to shoot or not to shoot. Featured in the Cannes Midnight program, *Monsoon Shootout* is an innovative and gritty cop drama with choose-your-own-adventure style twists that keep you guessing. The film features the familiar faces of Tannishtha Chatterjee (*Siddarth* 2013), Geetanjali Thapa, and Nawazzudin Siddiqui (*Bombay Talkies* 2013) as the brooding axe-wielding hit man.

MOURNING GRAVE (director Oh In-chun in attendance, South Korea 2014, International Premiere)
In-su has the power to see ghosts. He returns to his hometown for a normal life, and ends up bonding with an unusual girl. When a mysterious ghost starts to hunt down and kill his classmates one by one, In-su is forced to reveal his supernatural sixth sense to save his classmates. Is there any time left for his burgeoning love life? Starring Kim So-eun from the *Boys Over Flowers* K-drama.

OVERHEARD 3 (directors Felix Chong and Alan Mak, Hong Kong 2014, Canadian Premiere)
Lau Ching Wan, Louis Koo, and Daniel Wu return for the third and final installment in the *Overheard* thriller series, directed by Hong Kong writers Felix Chong and Alan Mak, the same dynamic duo behind critically acclaimed trilogy, *Infernal Affairs*. Recently released from prison, Jau (Koo) leads an intricate plan to take down the Luk Brothers, who rule the villages with an iron grip, and Uncle To (Kenneth Tsang), the self-proclaimed godfather of the New Territories.

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