TORONTO reel asian INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL presented by NATIONAL BANK

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RICHMOND HILL

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INTERNATIONAL ASIAN STARS DESCEND ON RICHMOND HILL

Toronto, October 6, 2015 — The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, continues to reach audiences in their own neighbourhoods by presenting three screenings at the annual Richmond Hill weekend film festival from November 14 to 15 at SilverCity Richmond Hill. Reel Asian is the first international film festival to expand to the Richmond Hill and thanks to overwhelming support from the York Region community, the festival has presented 24 dynamic films to this community since 2010. We are grateful to the Richmond Hill Mayor's Endowment Fund for the Arts for their support of the festival for the 2nd year.

Reel Asian is thrilled to bring exclusive Hong Kong guests to Richmond Hill, including Lau Ho Leung (director, *Two Thumbs Up*) and Susan Shaw (actor, *Full Strike and Two Thumbs Up*). Reel Asian strives to connect local audiences with internationally recognized talent from abroad. Guests will be in attendance to participate in Q&As with audiences after their film screenings. We are grateful our Special Sponsor, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, for their support in bringing these Hong Kong guests to Canada.

RICHMOND HILL OPENING GALA: TWO THUMBS UP (director Lau Ho-leung in attendance, Hong Kong 2015, Canadian Premiere)
Sat Nov 14, 7:00 PM, SilverCity Richmond Hill
Richmond Hill Opening Gala Presenting Sponsor: Bell Media

Disguised as police, Hong Kong gangster Lucifer and his gang steal abandoned police vans in order to create the perfect heist vehicle. Unfortunately for them, another team of robbers has the same plan in mind. How will Lucifer and his brothers save the day? With Hong Kong favourites Francis Ng, Simon Yam and Patrick Tam, and the nostalgic aura of 90s action comedy movies, Two Thumbs Up is among this year's best Hong Kong films.

Lau Ho Leung is a prolific screenwriter in Hong Kong. He has written the screenplays of notable films including *Painted Skins* (2008), *The Great Magician* (2011), and *Kung Fu Killer* (2014). *Two Thumbs Up* (2015) is his directorial debut.

I AM SOMEBODY (director Derek Yee, China 2015, North American Premiere)
Sun Nov 15, 4:30 PM, SilverCity Richmond Hill

In this bittersweet dramatic feature, Derek Yee pays tribute to the thousands of Chinese young migrants who flock to Hengdian, the Hollywood of the East, to pursue their dream of "becoming somebody." The story follows protagonist Peng (Wan Guopeng), who arrives at Hengdian with high hopes for his acting career, only to find out the reality he must face is much harsher than that of his rural hometown. Featuring extras that Yee handpicked from Hengdian and trained over the course of three years, *I Am Somebody* is truly Yee's most passionate project to date.

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Derek Yee is a veteran Hong Kong director and screenwriter who achieved fame in the early nineties with films such as *C'est la vie, mon chéri* (1993), for which he won the Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

RICHMOND HILL CLOSING: FULL STRIKE (directors Derek Kwok and Henri Wong, Hong Kong 2015, Toronto Premiere)
Sun Nov 15, 7:30 PM, SilverCity Richmond Hill

Badminton. Underdogs. Kung fu. Ten years after her victory, former Hong Kong badminton champion Ng Kau-sau (Josie Ho) is serving tables at her brother's restaurant. Kau-sau, who once held the championship title seven years running, had been disqualified for her volcanic temper. One stormy night, in an abandoned sports centre, she crosses paths with three ex-cons who are hoping to redeem their criminal pasts. Badminton, they insist, is their only road to redemption and fate has brought them together to form a new, indestructible team—or so they hope. *Full Strike* is a hilarious sports comedy that combines all these three, and no sports knowledge is required to enjoy the film!

In attendance for the screening is actress Susan Shaw. Susan Yam-Yam Shaw is an actress and writer, known for *Run Papa Run* (2008), *Gallants* (2010) and *Chinatown Kid* (1977). A former singer, Shaw Yin-Yin expanded her repertoire into acting in 1972 and made her daring debut as a sexpot in *A Haunted House* in 1975. Shaw joined Shaw Brothers in 1976 and appeared in many of the studio's erotic films. Among the films she appeared in, most of them were Lu Chi's best hits, such as *The Mysterious Lady Killer and Starlets For Sale*. In the 1980's Shaw also started appearing in variety shows of Rediffusion TV. Shaw' daring performances brought her into international attention and received many offers from overseas directors.

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