# PRESS RELEASE

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**A SNEAK PEEK AT THE 19TH ANNUAL TORONTO REEL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:**

**NEW PROGRAMMING SECTIONS ANNOUNCED**
**HIGH-PROFILE INTERNATIONAL GUESTS ATTENDING**
**ARTIST RANDALL OKITA AWARDED THE CANADIAN SPOTLIGHT**

Toronto, September 29, 2015 – The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, celebrates its 19th annual edition from November 5 to 15, 2015.

Reel Asian is Canada's largest pan-Asian film festival dedicated to showcasing contemporary Asian films and work from the Asian diaspora, and is the only film festival in Toronto providing a dedicated forum for pan-Asian cinema. From November 5 to 13 (Toronto) and November 14 to 15 (Richmond Hill), the festival will present more than 70 films and videos from over 10 regions, including Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Canada and the USA. The two-week festival is expected to attract over 18,000 attendees this year.

**Introducing: Marquee, Vista, Pulse, X Sections**

In response to the growing spectrum of Asian cinema, festival programming has been divided into sections that highlight new genres, master works, and trailblazers that have influenced Asian film culture across the borders.

"We are excited to launch the programming sections this year, " says Interim Executive Director Kristine Estorninos. "It is a clear indication that, not only has the spectrum of Asian cinema grown, but so has our audience's interest in what Asian cinema has to offer."

**Marquee** titles spotlight gala presentations, featuring notable directors, actors, and writers who have traversed the international red carpet. The films in **Vista** introduce a fragment of critically acclaimed contemporary Asian cinema. **Pulse** features short films from around the globe, including the world premiere of films made through the Unsung Voices summer workshop. Finally, **Reel Asian:X** transcends media, genre, and form, introducing a new body of work that expresses the Asian diaspora beyond the traditional.

Confirmed guests include Lee Won-Suk (Director, *The Royal Tailor*), Frankie Chen (Director, *Our Times*), and Anucharan Murugaiyan (Director, *Kirumi*).

**Canadian Spotlight Artist: Randall Okita**

Reel Asian has followed Randall Okita's work as it is becoming progressively more ambitious, exhibited and awarded. Born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, Randall Okita has lived and worked in Japan, Vancouver and Toronto. His visual artworks have been commissioned and shown in group and solo exhibitions. His films have been awarded nationally and internationally, broadcast on television and screened at festivals and theatres around the world.

As this year's Canadian Spotlight Artist, and in partnership with the Robert Kananaj Gallery, Reel Asian is presenting *Things I Can't Tell You*, an exhibition featuring three artworks that correlate to three of Okita's short films.

Reel Asian is also hosting the spotlight screening of Okita's shorts, where the artist presents a series of short films and discusses the influences and processes involved in *Portrait as a Random Act of Violence, Machine with Wishbone, Fish in Barrel, No Contract,* and *The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer.*


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

Offering a balanced combination of highly anticipated premieres, award-winning international films, and contemporary independent work, Reel Asian has risen to become the leading exhibitor of coveted Asian films in Toronto. Asian filmmakers who have premiered their work at Reel Asian include Justin Lin, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, and Fruit Chan. With something guaranteed to please everyone, Reel Asian's 19th annual festival will be the ultimate destination where cultures meet and film fans unite.

**Reel Asian's full festival lineup, including the Opening Night Gala film, will be announced at the Official Press Launch on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at The Spoke Club, Toronto.**

## SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2015 LINEUP

**MARQUEE SECTION**
**The Royal Tailor**
Lee Won-Suk | South Korea 2014 | 127:00 | Toronto Premiere
A young designer has earned the queen's favour with his refreshing take on traditional garb, and the existing royal tailor feels his presence is threatening his long-awaited promotion. Stitch by stitch, the two tailors duel for the ultimate masterpiece - but beyond the clothing, a larger war is brewing between the two women in the king's life.

**MARQUEE SECTION**
**Our Times**
Frankie Chen | Taiwan 2015 | 134:00 | North American Premiere
It's Taiwan in the 1990s, and high school student Truly Lin is a plain, clumsy girl who spends her days goofing around with friends and fawning over the most popular boy in school. An unfortunate incident leads Lin to become an errand girl for the school's notorious troublemaker Taiyu. The pair soon form an unlikely friendship forged with a similar goal - break up the school's "perfect couple," so that Truly and Taiyu can win them over!

**VISTA SECTION**
**Siti**
Eddie Cahyono | Indonesia 2014 | 95:00 | Toronto Premiere
Siti, a young and beautiful woman, has to find means to care for her son, her paralyzed husband and her mother-in-law. By day, she sells snacks on the beach; by night, she sells herself in an illegal karaoke bar. Her encounter with a policeman, who falls in love with her, makes her life even more complicated. Will she be able to juggle it all?

**VISTA SECTION**
**Kirumi**
Anucharan Murugaiyan | India 2015 | 97:00 | International Premiere
Egotistical and unemployed, Kathir has no problem gambling away his family's hard-earned money, until he finds his calling as a secret police informant, capitalizing on his knowledge of Chennai's underground and his personal desire to rat on those who have embarrassed him. Success is swift as he becomes a favourite amongst officers, but his arrogance soon compromises his hidden identity, and Kathir learns there are consequences for tattling on the city's most ruthless gangsters.

**Canadian Spotlight Artist: Randall Okita**
***Randall Okita, Things I Can't Tell You***
Sat Nov 7, 4:00pm – AGO Jackman Hall (Shorts Presentation)
Director: Randall Okita | Canada | 70:00 | English


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A gallery exhibition featuring three large-scale artworks that correlate to the film work of Randall Okita. In the spotlight screening of Okita's shorts, the artist presents a series of short films and discusses the influences and processes involved in *Portrait as a Random Act of Violence, Machine with Wishbone, Fish in Barrel, No Contract,* and *The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer.*

**Exhibition Dates at Robert Kananaj Gallery 172 St. Helens Avenue, Toronto ON**

Saturday November 7th: Gallery Opening
Sunday November 8th -Saturday November 28th: Open Tues - Sat 11AM – 6PM

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