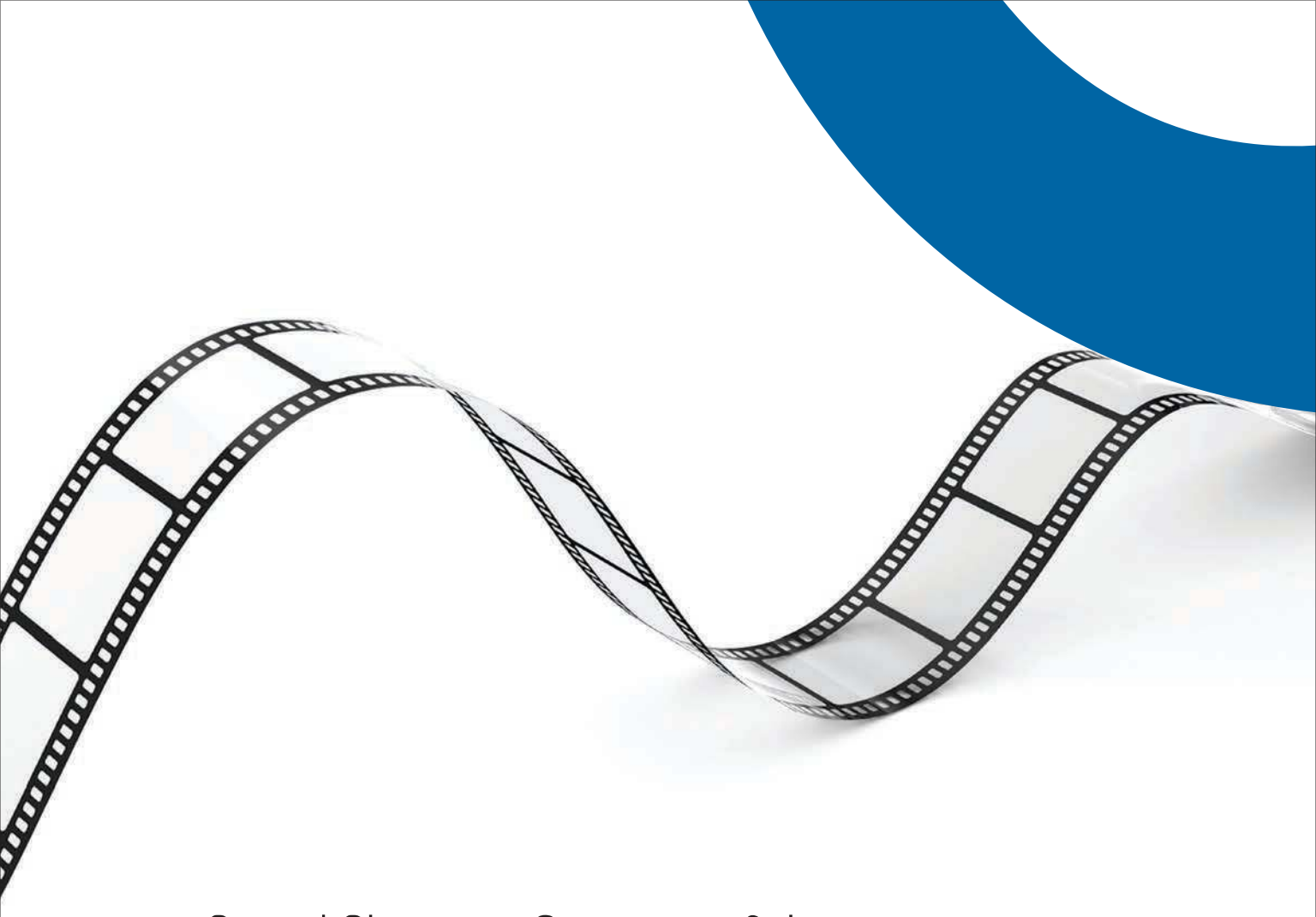

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REEL ASIAN
NOVEMBER 5-15, 2015 • REELASIAN.COM
TORONTO
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INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
presented by
NATIONAL BANK



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Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

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Toronto Reel Asian
International Film Festival
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Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
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info@reelasian.com

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* Rebecca Hong is an Arts Management student at the University of Toronto Scarborough supported in this internship by a bursary from the Equity, Diversity and the Arts Program in the Department of Arts, Media and Culture.

† Shehzeb Iftakhar's internship funded with the financial support of Service Canada's "Canada Summer Jobs" programme.

WELCOME

The festival has now turned 19, and our audience has grown with us in its appreciation for Asian cinema. This year we introduce our Marquee, Vista, Pulse, and X sections, as the scope of our programming expands along with the robust range of interest within the local diaspora.

We've scoured the world again to showcase the best in Asian cinema, and with a record number of submissions received worldwide — an astounding 200% increase — we are proud to present 72 films from more than 10 different regions.

In the heart of Toronto, we are showcasing 61 premieres, including: the International Premiere of *Kirumi,* an anti-hero Tamil movie by Anucharan Murugaiyan; the North American Premiere of Frankie Chen's *Our Times,* a coming-of-age romantic comedy that is sure to make you reminisce of high school; and the Canadian Premiere of *Initiation Love*, a "date movie" set in 80s Japan that is sure to leave you wondering about cassette tapes.

Our homegrown talent continues to astound international audiences by bringing Asian themes into the North American diaspora. Our Opening Night film *Driving With Selvi,* directed by Toronto documentarian Elisa Paloschi, follows a young Indian woman named Selvi, who overcomes an abusive, loveless marriage to become Karnataka's first female taxi driver. Canadian-born Benson Lee takes the audience to 1980's Korea for our Closing Night gala in *Seoul Searching,* a film where a government program that brings foreign-born Koreans to Seoul to learn about their motherland ends with hilarious results.

This year, the Canadian Spotlight Artist Award has been given to Randall Okita, who has established himself internationally as an Asian Canadian artist with a unique voice. Relive the creative process with Okita as he showcases the performance art and sculptures featured in his short films, having extricated them from the theatre screen to the gallery in his latest gallery exhibition, *Things I Can't Tell You.* Reel Asian is proud to have 42% of its lineup featuring Canadian works.

We travel once again to North York with premium screenings at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the Aga Khan Museum. Then, we return to Richmond Hill for the fifth year, bringing the best in Hong Kong cinema with *Two Thumbs Up* and *Full Strike*, which premiered earlier in the year in Asia.

This festival could not have lasted 19 years without the tireless efforts of its staff, international programming associates, committee members, and Board of Directors. Together, they have watched hundreds of films, rallied supporters at fundraisers, and engaged with the local and international community to celebrate the best in Asian cinema in ten jam-packed days of films, exhibits, and galas. I could not be more grateful and proud of all the support.

Welcome to the 19th annual edition of the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival, presented by National Bank!



—Kristine Estorninos

FESTIVAL MAP



SCREENING & INDUSTRY VENUES

1 Isabel Bader Theatre
93 Charles St W
416 585 4498
7♿ (⁝⁝) 2⚇

2 Jackman Hall
Art Gallery of Ontario
317 Dundas St W
(enter off McCaul)
416 979 6660 x 467
6♿ ⁝⁝ 6⚇

3 Weston Family Learning Centre
Art Gallery of Ontario
317 Dundas St W
(enter off Beverley)
416 979 6660 x 454
♿ ⁝⁝ ⚇

4 Kobayashi Hall Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Ct
416 441 2345
♿ ⚇

5 Aga Khan Museum
77 Wynford Dr
647 478 8650
6♿ 4⚇

6 SilverCity Richmond Hill
8725 Yonge St
905 709 3199
2♿ 2⚇

GALLERY, PARTY & EVENT VENUES

7 The Spoke Club
600 King St W
416 368 8448
(♿) ⚇

8 Art Square Café
334 Dundas St W
416 595 5222

9 Robert Kananaj Gallery
172 St. Helens Av
416 289 8855
♿ ⚇

10 Open Gallery Inclusive Design Institute
OCAD University
49 McCaul St
416 977 6000
♿ ⁝⁝ ⚇

11 Momofuku Daishō
190 University Av, 3rd Floor
647 253 8000
♿ ⚇

12 Luckee
328 Wellington St W
416 935 0400
(♿)

13 Mr. Congee Chinese Cuisine
9712 Yonge St
905 237 6862
♿ ⚇

ACCOMMODATIONS

14 Eaton Chelsea Hotel
33 Gerrard St W
416 595 1975
♿ (⁝⁝)

15 Super 8 Downtown Toronto
222 Spadina Av
647 426 8118
(♿)

16 Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Toronto Markham
10 East Pearce St
Richmond Hill
905 695 5990
♿

ACCESSIBILTY

4 ♿ fully accessible/4 seats available
2 (♿) partially accessible/2 seats available
⁝⁝ braille throughout venue
(⁝⁝) limited braille at venue
2 ⚇ seating available for 2 support persons

All our venues welcome service animals and guide dogs.

Films not in English are presented with English subtitles.

For more information on accessibility, please visit our website, email access@reelasian.com, or call 416 703 9333.

maps not to scale

FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE: TORONTO & RICHMOND HILL



BUYING TICKETS ONLINE

Online sales begin at 8:00PM on October 6 through **reelasian.com** (powered by Universe). Online sales continue during the festival until one hour before the show. Tickets will be emailed to you and you can display them on your mobile device to be admitted to the theatre.

Universe is compatible with Passbook and all major mobile devices. No mobile device? No problem, just print out your tickets at home and bring them to the theatre.

BUYING TICKETS IN PERSON

Walk-up sales are available from **venue box offices** starting one hour before the first show of the day at the following venues:

Isabel Bader Theatre, November 5 & November 13
Jackman Hall, November 6-11
SilverCity Richmond Hill, November 14 & November 15

Tickets are on sale until 20 minutes after the start of the last show of the day. Please note that the Isabel Bader Theatre only sells same-day tickets. In Richmond Hill, please see the Reel Asian Box Office in the lobby. Festival tickets are not available through Cineplex. Tickets will be instantly transferred to your mobile device via e-mail, or you can print them out at home.

For the special presentations on November 12 of *Initiation Love* at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and *Mina Walking* at the Aga Khan Museum, ticketing is being handled by our presentation partners. Tickets are not available through Reel Asian. Please visit our partners' websites at **www.jccc.on.ca** and **www.akdn.org/museum** for tickets to these presentations.

Visit **reelasian.com/ticketingFAQs** for more information.

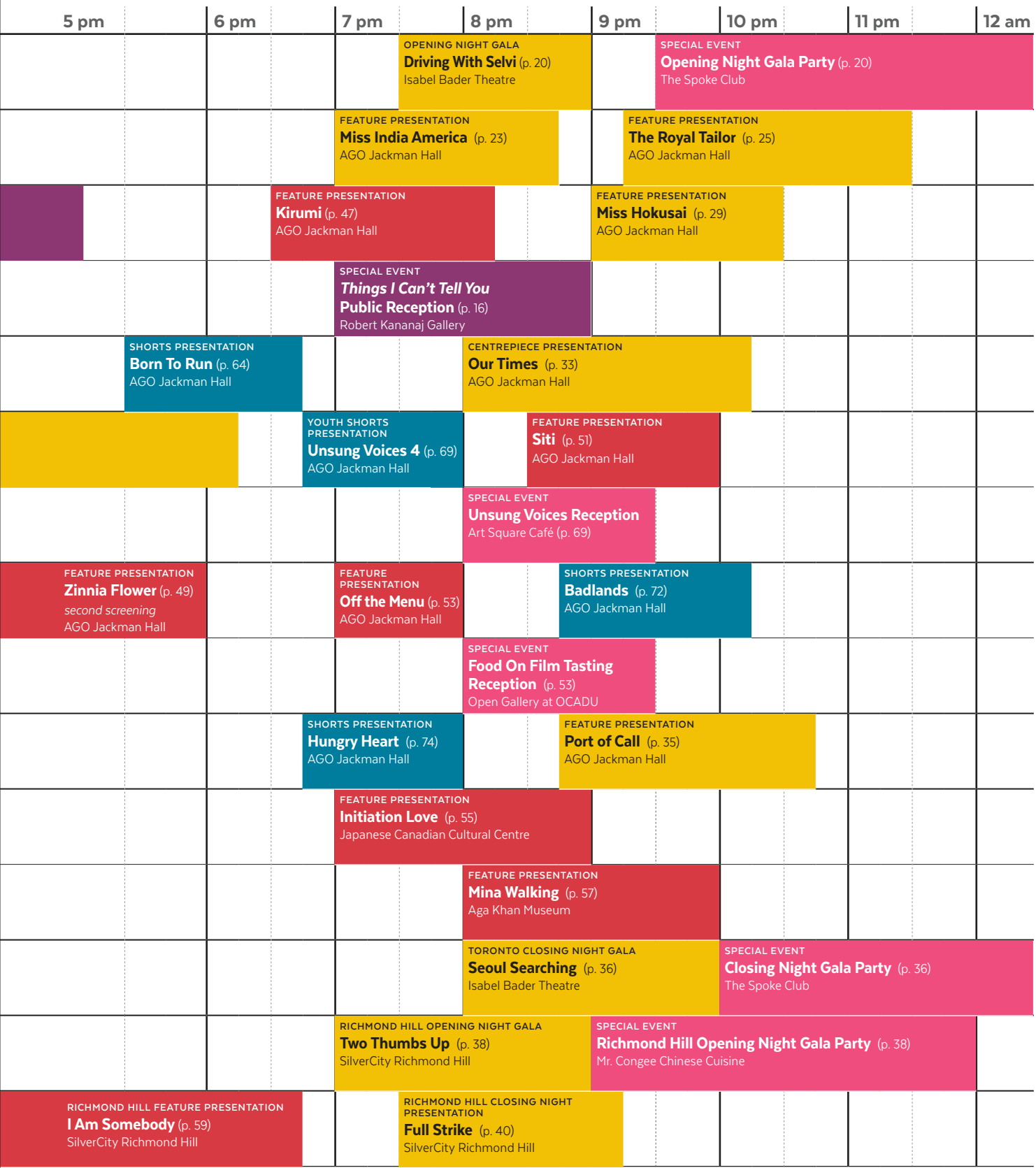
TICKET PRICES	REGULAR PRICE	DISCOUNT PRICE*
Regular & Youth Screenings	**$12**	**$10**
Opening & Closing Night Galas Includes parties	**$20**	**$15**
Opening & Closing Night Parties at the door	**$10**	**$10**
Centrepiece & Richmond Hill Closing Night Presentations	**$15**	**$12**
Canadian Spotlight Gala Incl. screening, shuttle, private reception	**$20**	**$15**
Canadian Spotlight Screening Only See pg 17 for full details and other pricing options	**$15**	**$12**
Canadian Spotlight Private Reception (at the door)	**$15**	**$10**
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Special Presentation JCCC members also eligible for discount pricing	**$12**	**$10**
Aga Khan Museum Special Presentation	**$15**	**$15**
Food On Film Special Presentation Includes screening & tasting reception	**$17**	**$14**
Food On Film Screening Only See pg 53 for full details and other pricing options	**$12**	**$10**

*Discount applies to students (with valid current ID), seniors over 65 (no ID required) or volume sales (more than 10 tickets to any one show). All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges. Admission to all events is subject to availability. For pass items, please see the back of the pass for additional terms & conditions specific to their use.

SCHEDULE

RA:X Canadian Spotlight | Vista Screening | Industry Series
Marquee Screening | Pulse Screening | Special Event

	10 am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm
THURS NOV 5							
FRI NOV 6				**Industry Series** *Visit our website for session details* AGO Weston Family Learning Centre			
SAT NOV 7			FEATURE PRESENTATION **McDull: Me & My Mum** (p. 27) AGO Jackman Hall		FEATURE PRESENTATION **Changing Season: On The Masumoto Farm** (p. 45) AGO Jackman Hall		SHORTS PRESENTATION **Retrospective on Randall Okita** (p. 15, 63) AGO Jackman Hall
				Industry Series *Visit our website for session details* AGO Weston Family Learning Centre			
SUN NOV 8	INDUSTRY SERIES EVENT ***So You Think You Can Pitch?* 2015 Live Finale** (p. 77) AGO Jackman Hall			FEATURE PRESENTATION **Bali Big Brother** (p. 31) AGO Jackman Hall		FEATURE PRESENTATION **Zinnia Flower** (p. 49) AGO Jackman Hall	
MON NOV 9				YOUTH SHORTS PRESENTATION **The World's a Stage** (p. 66) AGO Jackman Hall			CENTREPIECE PRESENTATION **Our Times** (p. 33) *second screening* AGO Jackman Hall
				Industry Series *Visit our website for session details* AGO Weston Family Learning Centre			
TUES NOV 10				YOUTH SHORTS PRESENTATION **Lucky Town** (p. 70) AGO Jackman Hall			
				Industry Series *Visit our website for session details* AGO Weston Family Learning Centre			
WED NOV 11				**Industry Series** *Visit our website for session details* AGO Weston Family Learning Centre			
THURS NOV 12							
FRI NOV 13							
SAT NOV 14							
SUN NOV 15							


5 pm
6 pm
7 pm
8 pm
9 pm
10 pm
11 pm
12 am
OPENING NIGHT GALA
Driving With Selvi (p. 20)
Isabel Bader Theatre
SPECIAL EVENT
Opening Night Gala Party (p. 20)
The Spoke Club
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Miss India America (p. 23)
AGO Jackman Hall
FEATURE PRESENTATION
The Royal Tailor (p. 25)
AGO Jackman Hall
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Kirumi (p. 47)
AGO Jackman Hall
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Miss Hokusai (p. 29)
AGO Jackman Hall
SPECIAL EVENT
Things I Can't Tell You
Public Reception (p. 16)
Robert Kananaj Gallery
SHORTS PRESENTATION
Born To Run (p. 64)
AGO Jackman Hall
CENTREPIECE PRESENTATION
Our Times (p. 33)
AGO Jackman Hall
YOUTH SHORTS PRESENTATION
Unsung Voices 4 (p. 69)
AGO Jackman Hall
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Siti (p. 51)
AGO Jackman Hall
SPECIAL EVENT
Unsung Voices Reception
Art Square Café (p. 69)
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Zinnia Flower (p. 49)
second screening
AGO Jackman Hall
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Off the Menu (p. 53)
AGO Jackman Hall
SHORTS PRESENTATION
Badlands (p. 72)
AGO Jackman Hall
SPECIAL EVENT
Food On Film Tasting Reception (p. 53)
Open Gallery at OCADU
SHORTS PRESENTATION
Hungry Heart (p. 74)
AGO Jackman Hall
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Port of Call (p. 35)
AGO Jackman Hall
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Initiation Love (p. 55)
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
FEATURE PRESENTATION
Mina Walking (p. 57)
Aga Khan Museum
TORONTO CLOSING NIGHT GALA
Seoul Searching (p. 36)
Isabel Bader Theatre
SPECIAL EVENT
Closing Night Gala Party (p. 36)
The Spoke Club
RICHMOND HILL OPENING NIGHT GALA
Two Thumbs Up (p. 38)
SilverCity Richmond Hill
SPECIAL EVENT
Richmond Hill Opening Night Gala Party (p. 38)
Mr. Congee Chinese Cuisine
RICHMOND HILL FEATURE PRESENTATION
I Am Somebody (p. 59)
SilverCity Richmond Hill
RICHMOND HILL CLOSING NIGHT PRESENTATION
Full Strike (p. 40)
SilverCity Richmond Hill

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FESTIVAL AWARDS

The 2015 Festival Awards will be presented as the Industry Awards Reception on Sunday, November 8.

Menkes Audience Award
All feature films are eligible for this prize
$2000 cash prize

Fasken Martineau Best Feature Film Award
All feature films are eligible for this prize
$2000 cash prize

CHCH Best Canadian Film or Video Award
All Canadian works are eligible for this prize
$500 cash prize

National Bank Best First Feature Film Award
All first feature films are eligible for this prize
$500 cash prize

Animasian Award
All animated films and videos are eligible for this prize
$500 cash prize

Air Canada Short Film or Video Award
All Canadian short films and videos are eligible for this prize
Opportunity to broadcast on Air Canada's in-flight entertainment screens on international flights

WIFT-T Award
All films made by female GTA-based artists are eligible for this prize
$1200 programming pass and one-year membership from WIFT-T

Truth to Power Documentary Award
All feature-length documentary films are eligible for this prize
$750 cash prize

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Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE)
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Canada Japan Society
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Chatime
Chinese Canadian Youth Athletic Association (CCYAA)
Chinese Cultural Centre Greater Toronto (CCCGT)
Cinema Studies Student Union (CINSSU)
Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)
Deloitte
Female Eye Film Festival
Feminist Arts Conference
Filmi Toronto South Asian Film Festival
Hallyu North
Hong Kong Canada Business Association (HKCBA)
Hot Docs
Images Festival
Inside Out
International Diaspora Film Festival
Japanada
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC)
Jayu (North Korean Human Rights Film Festival)
JETAA
Kapisanan Philippine Centre
KC Badminton
Korean Canadian Athletics Association (KCAA)
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Shorts Not Pants
South Asian Visual Arts Centre (SAVAC)
St. Kitts Music
Taiwan Republic of China Student Association (ROCSAUT UTSG)
Taiwanese Canadian Association of Toronto (TCAT)
Textile Museum of Canada
Times Physiotherapy
The Reel Thing
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Toronto Animation Arts Festival International (TAAFI)
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Terence Yoo
Tony Yu
Phil Yu
Loretta Yuen
Angel Zhang
Yang Zheng
Michelle Zikovitz
Eui Yong Zong



I am pleased to celebrate the filmmakers and films showcased at the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival.

Since its inception, this festival has been telling stories that bring people together, spark discussion and entertain. The impact of Reel Asian on the community is impressive, as it encourages Canadians to be proud of our storytellers and of our creative country. This year's entries will no doubt evoke a range of emotional responses from eager audiences, some of whom may be inspired to tell their own tales in the future.

Thank you and congratulations to all the organizers for giving artists a platform upon which they can explore themes and share their works with Canadians.



David Johnston
Governor General of Canada

LETTERS



On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the 2015 Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival.

As the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, I greatly appreciate the power of cinema to help us experience the world from new and different perspectives and strengthen the bonds to unite us.

Now in its 19th year, Reel Asian continues to be Canada's premier venue for pan-Asian contemporary cinema. Through screenings and events in Toronto and Richmond Hill, the festival showcases fascinating and thought-provoking works that reflect the richness and vitality of our communities.

Thank you to the hardworking staff and volunteers at Reel Asian for making this event possible, year after year. Your contributions are enhancing the cultural vibrancy of our province.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful 2015 festival!

Sincerely,

Michael Coteau
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport



I am pleased to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 19th edition of the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival.

Toronto is a wonderful venue for film and television production. It has set the stage for music videos, documentaries, award-winning feature films and a long-running, internationally acclaimed television series of which we are most proud of.

As one of the largest annual film festivals in Canada, the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival is dedicated to presenting pan-Asian contemporary cinema while showcasing works from South, East and Southeast Asian media artists including those working in the global Asian Diaspora.

Each year, the Festival places special emphasis on Canadian work and focuses on increasing an understanding and appreciation for our many diverse communities.

I would like to thank everyone involved in making this event possible and for allowing our city's residents and visitors to share in the wonderful culture of our Asian-Canadian communities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable festival and continued success

Yours truly,

Mayor John Tory
City of Toronto



On behalf of the members of Council for the Town of Richmond Hill, I am very pleased to bring greetings to everyone attending the 19th Annual Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. This festival aims to increase understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures and issues surrounding the Toronto area.

The Reel Asian International Film Festival places an emphasis on building community and provides a great opportunity to reflect on our community as we watch films from both emerging and veteran independent film makers of South, East and Southeast Asian descent.

We are delighted to see the festival returning to Richmond Hill. We are blessed with a rich diversity of ethnic cultures and celebrations. I am proud of the community we have built that embraces cultural traditions and allows all to live together in peace and prosperity.

Congratulations to everyone involved in coordinating this wonderful event. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening and for every success in the years to come.

Yours very truly,

Mayor Dave Barrow
Town of Richmond Hill



Dear Friends,

Artists, Honoured Guests, Cinephiles, and Neighbours it is with pleasure that I welcome you to the 19th annual Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. As you attend the screenings, galas, workshops and forums you will encounter some of the best contemporary Asian cinema and artists in the world. As Canada's largest Asian film event, the Reel Festival provides an incomparable opportunity to discover a diverse range of talent and creativity that will surely move and amuse.

In celebrating the diversity of international cinema, the Reel Asian Film Festival enriches both our local as well as the international Film community. It is truly an honour for our city to be host to the extraordinary work of among the finest film practitioners the world over.

I hope you will join me in thanking the hardworking artists, organizers, generous sponsors, and volunteers for their support of this festival, and congratulating them on another successful year. You are sure enjoy what is certain to be an unforgettable and stimulating festival!

Sincerely,

Joe Cressy
City Councillor, Ward 20 Trinity-Spadina

INTERNATIONAL JURY





James Heron has been the Executive Director of Toronto's Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre since 2000. He also founded and co-programs for the Toronto Japanese Film Festival and writes film reviews for Nikkei Voice and Bento Box Magazine. He is the president of the Chado Urasenke Tea Society of Toronto, holds a 2 dan in kendo and lived in Japan for 11 years. His wife Masayo is from Kagoshima and is still trying to forgive him for Canadian winters.

Nicole Mendes has spent the past six years working in Commissioned and Scripted Programming at the CBC. As Executive in Charge of Production for the Drama Department, she oversees projects in both production and development for dramatic one-hour series, limited series, miniseries, movies of the week and specials. She currently works on the beloved program *Murdoch Mysteries*, and most recently worked on the hit series, *The Book of Negroes*.

A producer that focuses on films with international appeal, **Sidney Chiu**'s credits include: *Coconut Hero, Three Days in Havana,* and *Bang Bang Baby*, which recently won the TIFF 2014 award for Best Canadian First Feature. Chiu also worked on Edko Film's Mandarin romantic comedy *Finding Mr. Right* starring Tang Wei with director Xue Xiaolu, and producers Mathew Tang and Shan Tam, which has grossed over US$80-million in China according to Hollywood Reporter.

DOCUMENTARY JURY





Karla Bobadilla is an entertainment and media lawyer, practicing primarily in film, television and new media rights acquisition, production and distribution/ exploitation. Previously, she worked at the Canadian Media Production Association providing policy, regulatory, government relations, strategic planning, advocacy and lobby work. Before the CMPA, Karla was in-house legal counsel at Astral Media's Harold Greenberg Fund. Karla is also the former Chair of the Board of Reel Asian and is currently a Board Member of WorkInCulture which supports the HR and development needs of Ontario's arts and cultural community.

Immanuel Lanzaderas is a bilingual criminal lawyer for Legal Aid Ontario. He currently works at various courthouses and locations around the city, providing support to the duty counsel program. Before moving to the public sector, Immanuel worked at a union-side labour and employment firm in downtown Toronto. He is a founding member of the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, and served on their board of directors for five years. In his spare time, Immanuel plays as much tennis as he can. He is a fan of Fifth Generation Chinese Cinema.

Victoria Shen is a human rights and labour lawyer. She has worked with a range of union, non-profit, advocacy, government, and arts organizations. She has volunteered extensively in the Asian community. Notably, she was a board member of the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival from 2008-2014. She is a current board member of the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, and previously President of the Chinese Canadian National Council, Toronto Chapter.

CANADIAN JURY





A graduate of the Canadian Film Centre's Producer's Lab, **Lea Marin** joined the National Film Board of Canada as a producer in 2006. Her recent film credits include *My Prairie Home* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2014 and was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award, and *The Portrait*, directed by Oscar® nominated filmmaker Hubert Davis, which premiered on the BBC and won Golden Sheaf awards for Best Director and Best Documentary (Arts & Culture) in 2012.

Elisha Lim is a queer and transgendered artist whose goal is to effect social change. Elisha works through printed matter and video. Their work strives to investigate social issues around race, gender and sexuality by popularizing creative alternatives (for example, the gender-neutral pronoun "they"). They have exhibited art and videos internationally, have lectured on race representation and gender neutral pronouns on panels, artist talks and United Nations conferences, and directed Montréal's first Racialized Pride Week in 2012.

A Canadian Screen Award nominee for Best Leading Comedic Actress, **Grace Lynn Kung** has studied in England and Canada. She is a graduate of the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama (Chancellor's Trophy recipient), York University (two time awardee – Award for Acting) and holds two Certificates of Distinction for Speech and Drama from Trinity College London in the United Kingdom.

PITCH JURY





Albert Shin graduated from York University with a B.F.A. in Film and Video Production in 2006 and directed his debut feature, *Point Traverse* in 2010. He returned to the director's chair for his second-feature, *In Her Place* (2014), which premiered at TIFF and went on to receive seven Canadian Screen Award nominations including Best Picture, Director, and Original Screenplay. Albert was the 2015 recipient of the Jay Scott Prize for Emerging Artist by the Toronto Film Critics Association. Albert was also a producer on Igor Drljaca's *Krivina* (2012) and *The Waiting Room* (2015).

Michael Fukushima is an award-winning filmmaker and producer at the National Film Board of Canada's world-renowned Animation Studio. He has been making films since 1984, which is a lot of water under the bridge. Fukushima co-founded the NFB's flagship emerging filmmaker program, Hothouse, in 2002. He was appointed executive producer of the NFB's fabled Animation Studio in 2013. He now mostly produces and offers up sagacity, but he continues to keep his hand in — this year with Oscar®-winners Alison Snowden and David Fine on their first short film in two decades, and on Oscar®-winner Torill Kove's next short film.

Lisa Valencia-Svensson is a Toronto-based documentary film producer. She has been working at the award-winning production company Storyline Entertainment since 2007. She has a background in finance, community media, and research. Her passion is for film projects which explore issues of inequality and social justice, and which encourage audiences to view their world through a constructively critical and creatively unique lens.

REEL ASIAN:X

Reel Asian X is the variable. The unknown quantity that escapes the constants of screen, time, and space. Everything that is not everything else, is X.

Randall Okita



Portrait As a Random Act of Violence

Reel Asian has followed Randall Okita's work as it has become progressively more ambitious, exhibited and awarded. Okita has established himself internationally as an Asian Canadian artist with a unique voice. His films and artworks are often intrinsically linked to one another, but each stands alone. In partnership with the Robert Kananaj Gallery, we are presenting *Things I Can't Tell You,* an exhibition featuring three artworks that expand on three of Okita's short films.

Things I Can't Tell You is a video loop related to Okita's 2014 short film *No Contract*. The sculpture *Portrait As a Random Act of Violence* is from the short film of the same name. The third work is a new media installation commissioned by Reel Asian and inspired by the layered visual explorations of Okita's latest award-winning short film, *The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer.* Evident throughout these three artworks is Okita's use of sculpture and performance to create experiences that are at once weighted in the real and transcendent in their rich imagery.

Be on the lookout for The Burn Suit *as featured in* No Contract *on display in the lobby of AGO Jackman Hall.*



No Contract

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. His work has been supported by industry and artistic leaders such as The National Film Board of Canada, The Harold Greenberg Fund, Telefilm Canada, Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council. Randall is a regular panelist and jury member for film festivals and arts organizations, has participated in the Directors Lab at the Canadian Film Centre, The Berlinale Talent Lab, and the National Screen Institute's Diverse Director Program. Okita is an active member of the film community dedicated to exposing youth and young adults to filmmaking and cultivating the advancement of fellow filmmakers at all levels of experience.

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GALLERY EXHIBITION

Things I Can't Tell You

A gallery exhibition featuring three large-scale artworks that expand on the film work of Randall Okita. Commissioned by the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival and presented in partnership with Robert Kananaj Gallery

NOV 8 – 28
11 AM – 6 PM
(TUES – SAT)
ROBERT KANANAJ GALLERY



Randall Okita working behind the scenes on Machine with Wishbone

Randall Okita's gallery exhibition, *Things I Can't Tell You* takes as its point of departure the performance art and sculptures featured in his short films, extricating them from the theatre screen to the gallery as a means to experience these works in their own right.

Okita often employs complicated and intricately built artworks as key characters in his films, exposing their construction as a metaphor for the complexity of how conflict and struggles build within us, and exploring our desire to understand how such complicated tensions come to be. Our curiosity in how the artworks in Okita's films are made reflects of our interest in understanding how our own challenging experiences form and emotionally manifest. The process of the artworks' manufacturing becomes a means for us to consider our internal experiences and their complexity. By taking these works into the gallery, the viewer is given an appreciation of the works' detail and has a unique opportunity to physically situate themselves inside the visually rich and emotional world of Okita's films.



Portrait as a Random Act of Violence

The title "*Things I Can't Tell You*" describes an inability to articulate something that wants to be communicated. Okita addresses the unspoken through spectacle as an alternate voice. His beautiful imagery, use of danger and violence, and the scale of his work all draw attention. They demand to be looked at. They are silent but still loud, mirroring the disparity between our desire and our ability to connect.

Given the multitude of platforms available to us to control what and how we choose to communicate, the list of things we can't tell each other would seem to be shrinking. What happens then, when we have thoughts and experiences we find unable to condense, package and share? Randall Okita's work offers some solutions by creating alternative experiences to our editorialized public lives that still allows us our fascination with media's spectacular images, motion and effects.

Things I Can't Tell You *is an exhibition by artist Randall Okita, curated by Tania Thompson, commissioned by the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival and supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.*

Robert Kananaj Gallery
172 St. Helens Avenue
416 289 8855
robertkananajgallery.com



No Contract



The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer

CANADIAN SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

SAT NOV 7

Canadian Spotlight Gala Package

4:00 PM | AGO Jackman Hall & Robert Kananaj Gallery | $20

Spend your afternoon and evening with us as we present a multi-event gala programme in celebration of Canadian Spotlight Artist Randall Okita.

The artist will present a series of short films, discuss the influences and processes involved, followed by a Q&A *(see page 63 for screening details).* Immediately following the Q&A, gala ticketholders join the artist aboard an exclusive shuttle bus that will whisk them across town to the reception venue.

Gala Package includes screening, shuttle bus & private reception from 6:00 pm. Shuttle Bus service is only available to Gala Package ticketholders.

"Retrospective on Randall Okita" Screening

4:00 PM | AGO Jackman Hall | $12 or included in Gala Package

The artist will present a series of short films, discuss the influences and processes involved, followed by a Q&A *(see page 63 for screening details).*

Ticket price includes screening plus a drink ticket for the public reception beginning at 7:00 pm.

Canadian Spotlight Gala Reception

6:00 PM | Robert Kananaj Gallery | $10 or included in Gala Package

Join the artist for a private vernissage & walk-through of the exhibition to discuss the works and answer questions.

Complimentary catered food and beverage is included with your admission.

Things I Can't Tell You Public Reception

7:00 PM | Robert Kananaj Gallery | Free

The public is invited to meet us at the Robert Kananaj Gallery in the heart of Bloordale Village, Toronto's burgeoning west-end arts enclave, to celebrate the opening of Randall Okita's new gallery exhibition *Things I Can't Tell You*.

Light refreshments will be served with a cash bar. Drink tickets will be accepted from ticket holders of the Canadian Spotlight screening.

Carranza LLP proudly supports the 2015 Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. We praise the continued efforts in sharing the richness of our diverse cultures through the art of cinematography.

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MARQUEE

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No matter who they are or what they've done, you are always entertained by their work. And really, it's because of you that they've made it to who they are today. So sit back and relax — this is as much your night as it is theirs!

OPENING NIGHT GALA PRESENTATION

Driving with Selvi

THU NOV 5
7:30 PM
ISABEL BADER THEATRE



A remarkable journey, captured by Canadian filmmaker Elisa Paloschi, on Selvi's escape from her troubled past, to her success in retransforming her life, becoming Karnataka's first female taxi driver.

OPENING NIGHT GALA PARTY

THU NOV 5
9:30PM – 12:30AM
THE SPOKE CLUB | 600 KING ST W
$10 at the door or **free** with Opening Night ticket stub

We're back at our new gala party home, Toronto's exclusive Spoke Club, to kick off Reel Asian's 19th year. Join us in the heart of the entertainment district to celebrate with the director of our opening night film, *Driving With Selvi*, and meet the remarkable Selvi in person!

*Opening night ticket holders can enjoy **complimentary valet parking** at the Isabel Bader Theatre courtesy of National Bank.*



Canada 2015
74:00
Kannada with English subtitles
Ontario Premiere | PG

DIRECTOR
Elisa Paloschi (in attendance)

CAST
Selvi Kunjigowda (in attendance)

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Edmonton International Film Festival 2015

Raindance UK 2015

Almost a decade ago, Selvi was forced to marry at the age of 14, and found herself in a violent and abusive marriage. In deep despair, she chose to escape, with the intention of throwing herself under the wheels of a bus on the highway. Instead she got on the bus, choosing to live... and went on to become Karnataka's first female taxi driver.

Canadian documentarian Elisa Paloschi follows Selvi as she navigates through the harsh realities that millions of women and girls in India face, breaking down the stereotypes too-often associated with those facing desperate circumstances. In a society where women are often considered expendable or worthless, Selvi refuses to accept this estimation for herself, moving beyond the pain she's experienced to create an entirely new life. Through Selvi's eyes, the audience is taken on an intimate journey of healing, overcoming obstacles, and fulfilling dreams. And throughout this journey, her unwavering spirit shines through.

Wildly charming (without even realizing it), remarkably strong, and utterly courageous, Selvi shares important, hard-won secrets about happiness and life. Her refusal to surrender offers hope and the clear message that real change is possible.

— KE

Elisa Paloschi is a documentary filmmaker, producer and cinematographer. She is the President of Eyesfull, a Toronto-based, independent production company, dedicated to making non-fiction films with social relevance that reflect the diversity of the human voice. With more than 25 years experience, Elisa's work has taken her around the globe, from Palermo Roma camps to deep under the Coral Sea of Australia. Her feature documentary *Embracing Voices* (2012) explores depression and the creative process as seen through the eyes of Canadian Jazz luminary Jane Bunnett. Elisa is working on an ambitious audience engagement and impact campaign in India for the film and developing an interactive documentary story site as a companion piece to *Driving with Selvi.*

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Miss India America

FRI NOV 6
7:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



USA 2014
98:00
International Premiere | PG

DIRECTOR
Ravi Kapoor

CAST
Tiya Sircar, Kosha Patel, Meera Simhan, Hannah Simone

OFFICIAL SELECTION
CAAMFest 2015
Cinequest 2015
Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2015
Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2015
New York Indian Film Festival 2015
Newport Beach Film Festival 2015
Silk Screen Film Festival 2015

AWARDS
Narrative Jury Award, CAAMFest 2015
Best Screenplay, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2015
Best Actress, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2015

Beauty or brains? Lily Prasad is gifted with both, and she's ambitiously planned out her life path, along with that of her boyfriend Karim's. But the plan is thrown into confusion when Karim becomes smitten by and runs off with the reigning Miss India National beauty queen.

Determined not to lose, Lily decides that she herself must become the new Miss India National. Ever calculating, she sizes up her competition, pegging Sonia for her top competitor in the field. If Lily is to triumph, however, she'll have to do more than simply outsmart the other girls to demonstrate her commitment to tradition — talents must be learnt, dresses must be stolen, lies must be told and the competition must be crushed!

Miss India America is a tale of ambition, and what it means to win in both the South Asian community and at large. In the end, Lily will discover you're not always a winner when you win, and there may be more to learn when you lose.

— KE

Ravi Kapoor was born and raised in Liverpool, England and studied at the East 15 Acting School in London. After graduating, he acted in film, TV, and theatre in England and as far Tokyo and Delhi. Ravi was series regular on ABC's *Gideon's Crossing* and NBC's *Crossing Jordan*, for which he also directed. His short films *Victor Ramirez, Asesino* and *The 5* have played and won awards at many national and international film festivals. *Miss India America* is his feature film debut.

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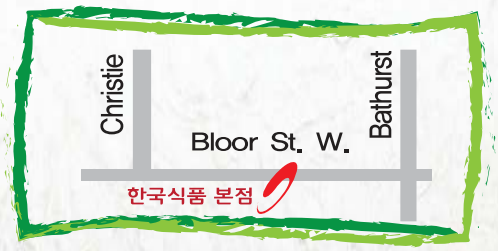


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FEATURE PRESENTATION

The Royal Tailor

상의원

FRI NOV 6
9:15 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



South Korea 2014
127:00
Korean with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Lee Won-suk

CAST
Han Suk-kyu, Ko Soo, Yoo Yeon-seok, Park Shin-hye

OFFICIAL SELECTION
New York Asian Film Festival 2015
Udine Far East Film Festival 2015
Fantasia International Film Festival 2015
Vancouver International Film Festival 2015

AWARDS
Audience Award, New York Asian Film Festival 2015
Crystal Mulberry Award, Udine Far East Film Festival 2015
Internet Award, Udine Far East Film Festival 2015

After 30 years of serving the king, Dol-seok, the royal tailor, only has a few months left until his expected promotion. When a new tailor, Gong-jin, a designer of *hanboks* (traditional garbs for courtesans), arrives at the palace and finds favor from the queen, Dol-seok is terrifed.

Gong-jin's avant-garde designs open the eyes of the royal family, and Dol-seok feels both envious and insecure. As the two tailors duel to create masterpieces for two rival queens vying for the king's favour, the audience is treated to a visual feast of gleaming golden embroidery and flowing gowns that bloom like flowers.

Unburdened by conventional historical elements, *The Royal Tailor* is a thrilling story of struggles foreign yet familiar, with a refreshing focus in style.

— JK

Lee Won-suk is a graduate of Boston University and Art Center College of Design. In 2013, his critically-acclaimed directorial debut *How to Use Guys with Secret Tips* appeared at Reel Asian and numerous other festivals. *The Royal Tailor* is his second film.

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

McDull: Me & My Mum

麥兜我和我的媽媽

SAT NOV 7
12:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



Hong Kong 2014
81:00
Cantonese with English subtitles
North American Premiere | G

DIRECTOR
Brian Tse

CAST
Sandra Ng, Anthony Wong, BabyJohn, Li Yundi, the pancakes, Zhang Zheng Zhong

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Hong Kong International Film Festival 2015

McDull (voiced by Zhang Zheng Zhong), Hong Kong's most beloved cartoon pig, is not the brightest kid on the block, but his mother, the sensible Mrs. Mak (voiced by Sandra Ng), won't let him off the hook.

McDull: Me & My Mum is McDull's story about his childhood and how his mother made him into who he is now — Bobby Mak, renowned detective and star in his own popular show.

As a child, McDull watched as Mrs. Mak tried to make ends meet by working countless jobs, including appearing as a superheroine in a traveling roadshow, where she dispensed handy lifehacks, and occasional suspicious trips to "astronaut training."

Of course, Mrs. Mak wasn't really slated for a space flight. It was a bittersweet game of "pretend" to prepare McDull for her imminent death. *Me & My Mum* is a charming and nostalgic look into the strength of maternal love.

— KE

Brian Tse is the original author, producer and creative director of the famous Hong Kong character *McDull*. Since 1990, Tse has been story writer, children magazine publisher, script writer and producer of *McDull* animation, and creative director of *McDull*'s gift items and TV commercials.

This is a special screening. Free entry for children under 12 years of age. $5 regular admission.

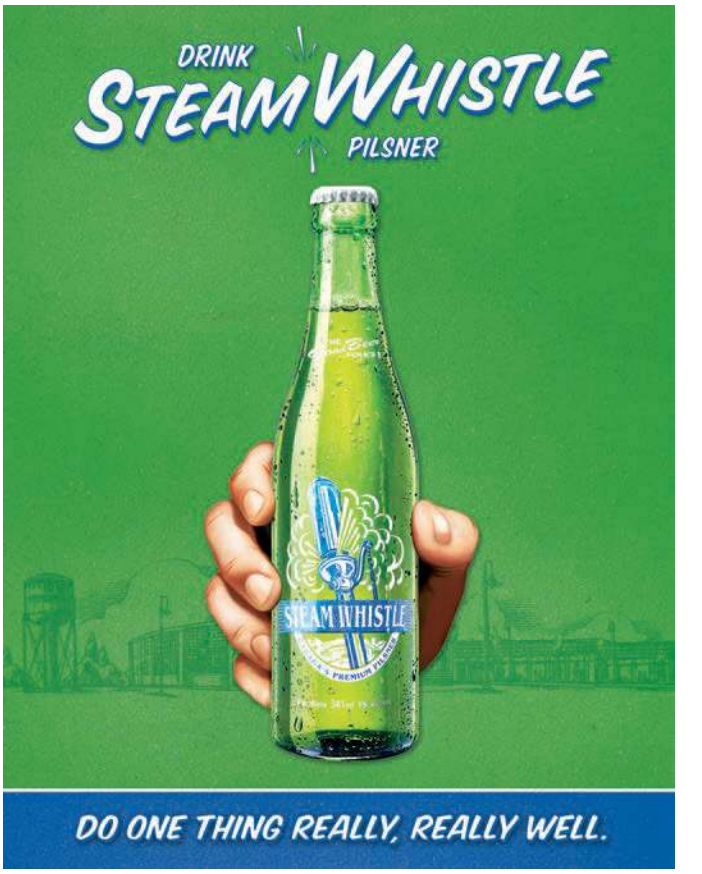
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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Miss Hokusai

百日紅

SAT NOV 7
9:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



Japan 2015
90:00
Japanese with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Keiichi Hara

CAST
Anne Higashide, Yutaka Matsushide, Gaku Hamada

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Fantasia Film Festival 2015
Sitges Fantastic Film Festival 2015

AWARDS
Jury Award, Annecy International Animation Festival 2015

It's 1814, and Edo is one of the most densely populated cities in the world, teeming with peasants, samurai, merchants, nobles, artists, and courtesans.

Accomplished artist Tetsuzo spends his days creating astounding works, from a giant Dharma portrayed on a 180-metre-wide sheet of paper to a pair of sparrows painted on a single grain of rice. Short-tempered and with no passion for saké or money, he charges a fortune for any job, and does it reluctantly.

Behind the scenes, his daughter O-Ei, who has inherited her father's talent and stubbornness, is often the real, uncredited painter behind his work.

Decades later, Tetsuzo will be known as Katsushika Hokusai and his work, including the renowned *The Great Wave off the Coast of Kanagawa,* will reach recognition far beyond what he could have imagined. However, few today are even aware of the woman who assisted him and contributed to his legacy.

Based on the manga *Sarusuberi* by Hinako Sugiura, *Miss Hokusai* is the untold story of O-Ei, aka Katsushika Oi, a free-spirited woman overshadowed by her larger-than-life father.

— KE

Keiichi Hara was born in 1959. He worked extensively on popular family and children's animated shows such as *Doraemon*. In 2015, he was awarded the Anime d'or at the Tokyo Anime Award Festival. As a great Sugiura fan, adapting *Sarusuberi* was a dream-come-true for Hara.

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Bali Big Brother

神様はバリにいる

SUN NOV 8
1:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



Japan 2015
107:00
Japanese with English subtitles
North American Premiere | PG

DIRECTOR
Toshio Lee

CAST
Shinichi Tsutsumi, Machiko Ono, Naoto Inti Raymi, Hiroshi Tamaki

"You lack cool. And you have that 'poor me' look on your face." When down-on-her-luck Shoko comes to Bali and encounters "Big Brother" Aniki, she thought he was an expatriate Japanese gangster. In reality, he's a middle school dropout who immigrated to Bali and worked to become a wealthy property magnate. His eccentric life philosophy and philanthropic projects have made him popular among the locals.

But to Shoko, Aniki is just a blustering fool, even though it is Aniki who calls out the flaws of the Japanese and what's really holding them back from success and happiness. Aniki has also been able to bring Japanese culture together with the warm, joyous nature and appreciative attitude of Indonesia.

Adapted from Sho Kuroiwa's best seller *If You Work Abroad You Can Become a Tycoon, Bali Big Brother* is a charming comedy with an all-star cast that transports the audience to the tropical paradise of Bali, while reminding everyone that wealth requires responsibility and happiness is simply a state of mind.

— KE

Toshio Lee was born in 1964 in Nishinari, Japan. He is a Japanese Korean director and producer, known for *Detroit Metal City* (2008), *Time Trip App* (2014) and *Box!* (2010).

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globeandmail.com/arts

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

CENTREPIECE PRESENTATION

Our Times

我的少女時代

SUN NOV 8
8:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

MON NOV 9
4:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



Taiwan 2015
134:00
Mandarin with English subtitles
North American Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Frankie Chen Yu-shan (in attendance)

CAST
Vivian Sung, Darren Wang, Dino Lee, Joe Chen

In present-day Taipei, Truly Lin (Joe Chen) is in her thirties and stuck in a dead-end job. She cannot help but recall her high school romance. The younger Lin (Vivian Sung), is a plain, clumsy girl who spends her days goofing around with friends and fawning over the most popular boy in school, Ouyang (Dino Lee). An unfortunate incident leads Lin to become an errand girl for the school's much-feared troublemaker Taiyu (Darren Wang). It doesn't take long, however, before Lin sees Taiyu for who he really is: a kind, smart, young man. As their friendship evolves, Lin and Taiyu both realize that something more than friendship is budding between them.

Nostalgic and genuine, *Our Times* is a love letter to everyone who forever cherishes the bittersweet taste of first love. The ensemble cast delivers an outstanding performance that takes us back to the days when our dreams are still young. After a decade of producing popular TV dramas, Director Frankie Chen stuns us with an instant classic on love and coming-of-age wonder.

— BX

Frankie Chen Yu-shan has produced over twenty hit Taiwanese dramas, including *Fated to Love You* (2008) and *Prince of Lan Ling* (2013). *Our Times* is her directorial debut and is the highest-grossing film of the year in Taiwan.

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Port of Call

踏血尋梅

WED NOV 11
8:45 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



Hong Kong 2015
121:00
Cantonese with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | 18A

DIRECTOR
Philip Yung

CAST
Aaron Kwok, Elaine Jin, Jessie Li, Patrick Tam

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Hong Kong International Film Festival 2015
Udine Far East Film Festival 2015
New York Asian Film Festival 2015
Fantasia Film Festival 2015

A sex worker is found brutally murdered, and Detective Chong (Aaron Kwok) is set to solve the mystery with his partner Smoky (Patrick Tam). Soon after, Chong identifies the dead as Jiamei (Jessie Li), a young migrant from Hunan who stumbled her way into prostitution. As the puzzle pieces start to come together, Detective Chong cannot deduce the killer's motivation. The deeper he digs, the more he becomes entangled in Jiamei's last days as a lost youth searching for a glimpse of hope on the streets of Hong Kong.

Loosely based on a real murder case, *Port of Call* is a crime thriller that underplays action in service of character development and social commentary. Stylized by the cinematography of Wong Kar Wai's favourite partner in crime, Christopher Doyle, the film seamlessly navigates the psyches of the cop, the victim and the killer, and exposes us to the darkest desires of human beings.

— BX

Philip Yung made his directorial debut in 2009 with *Glamorous Youth*. Previously, Yung worked as an assistant director, screenwriter and film critic in Hong Kong. He made his second feature *May We Chat* in 2014, and *Port of Call* is his latest effort to explore the theme of delinquent youth.

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TORONTO CLOSING NIGHT GALA

Seoul Searching

FRI NOV 13
8:00 PM

ISABEL BADER THEATRE





Close out Reel Asian in Toronto with the perms and punks of the hit film *Seoul Searching.*



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FRI NOV 13
10:00PM – 2:00AM

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After our raucous closing night screening of *Seoul Searching*, get on the **free shuttle bus** and Rock Down to Electric Avenue (aka King West) where our 80s-themed party will be going on All Night Long (All Night) at The Spoke Club. Dress You Up In Your Love alongside our special guests, actress Rosalina Leigh and director Benson Lee!

*Closing night ticket holders can enjoy **complimentary valet parking** at the Isabel Bader Theatre courtesy of National Bank.*



USA 2015
105 mins
English & Korean with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Benson Lee (in attendance)

CAST
Justin Chon, Jessika Van, Cha In-Pyo, Rosalina Leigh (in attendance), Esteban Ahn, Crystal Kay

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Sundance Film Festival 2015
Seattle International Film Festival 2015
Los Angeles Film Festival 2015

AWARDS
Audience Award - CAAMFest 2015
Futurewave Youth Jury Award, Seattle International Film Festival 2015

In the 1980s, the Korean government began a summer camp for *gyopo* (foreign-born) teenagers to visit the motherland. The government would re-establish ties with the diaspora, parents would get a sponsored trip, and teenagers would learn about Korean culture. What could possibly go wrong? While the intentions of the program were honourable, the activities of the teens were not. The program was eventually shelved after two years because the government could not control the teenagers. *Seoul Searching* is based on a true story of one of the summer camps that took place in 1986.

Canadian-born, Korean-American filmmaker Benson Lee (*Planet B-Boy*) returns to Toronto with *Seoul Searching*, a raucous Sundance Film Festival selection that had audiences laughing, crying, and cheering on their feet in 2015 (while rocking out to a stunningly comprehensive 80's soundtrack). Drawn from Lee's own experience in the summer camp and cast in the mold of a John Hughes coming-of-age teen comedy, *Seoul Searching* captures the painful and hilarious journey of overseas youth returning to an unknown land with both nostalgia and freshness. And unlike a certain Hughes movie, *Seoul Searching* delivers a cast of global Asian characters that are complex and funny. The film's archetypical characters — the punk, the adoptee, the tomboy, and the preacher's daughter aren't just familiar to us — they were us as we navigated our teen years, that time when we were all searching.

— AC

Benson Lee is an award-winning Korean-American filmmaker who has worked in drama, documentary, and commercial production for over 15 years. In 1998, with his first feature film *Miss Monday*, Lee became the first Korean-American filmmaker to be accepted into the Dramatic Competition of the Sundance Film Festival where his film was awarded a Special Grand Jury Prize for Best Actor. His first documentary, *Planet B-Boy*, was one of the top-grossing theatrical documentaries of 2008 in the US. His work has aired on HBO, MTV, the Sundance Channel, and has been theatrically distributed to over 100 countries worldwide. In 2013, Lee directed the 3D Hollywood adaptation of *Planet B-Boy*, titled *Battle of the Year* for Sony Pictures.

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RICHMOND HILL OPENING NIGHT

Two Thumbs Up

衝鋒車

SAT NOV 14
7:00 PM

SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL



Hong Kong screenwriter Lau Ho-leung makes his directorial debut with an action comedy of one big heist gone wrong.

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9:00PM – 12:00AM

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Hong Kong 2015
103:00
Cantonese with English subtitles
Canadian Premiere | PG

DIRECTOR
Lau Ho Leung

CAST
Francis Ng, Simon Yam, Patrick Tam, Leo Ku, Susan Shaw (in attendance)

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Hong Kong International Film Festival 2015

New York Asian Film Festival 2015

Following a sixteen-year stay in a Malaysian prison, Hong Kong gangster Lucifer (Francis Ng) gathers his old crew together for one last big heist. Disguised as police, Lucifer and his gang of four steal unused parts from abandoned police vans in order to create the perfect heist vehicle. Unfortunately for them, another team of robbers has the same plan in mind. When two fake police vans accidentally get into each other's way, crossfire is inevitable. Brotherhood is also at stake, since Lucifer and his most trusted brother Chow Tai-po (Simon Yam) cannot agree on how to proceed. Will the gang of four save the day, or will their friendship falter in the face of danger?

Featuring our favourite Hong Kong actors Francis Ng, Simon Yam and Patrick Tam, *Two Thumbs Up* takes us for a wild ride and embodies the unique charm of Hong Kong action comedies. Get ready to be captivated by the chase, the suspense, and the ridiculous humour.

— BX

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.

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RICHMOND HILL CLOSING NIGHT PRESENTATION

Full Strike

全力扣殺

SUN NOV 15
7:30 PM

SILVERCITY
RICHMOND HILL



Badminton. Underdogs. Kung fu! Get ready to exercise your laugh muscles with Derek Kwok and Henri Wong's *Full Strike*.





Hong Kong 2015
108:00
Cantonese with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | PG

DIRECTORS
Derek Kwok, Henri Wong

CAST
Josie Ho, Ekin Cheng, Ronald Cheng, Andew Lam, Susan Shaw (in attendance)

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Osaka Asian Film Festival 2015
New York Asian Film Festival 2015
Fantasia Film Festival 2015

AWARDS
Best Asian Film, Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival 2015

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, no longer competes after being 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.

Stirring up more hysteria is "Suck Nipple Cheung," Kau-sau's cousin and a local bully, who's so bent on beating Kau-sau's new team that he hires Kau-sau's ex-teammate Lung as his coach. With the help of coach Champion Chik and the silver-haired manic jogger matron Aunty Mui (Susan Shaw), will Kau-sau's team of misfits be able to reawaken a master and take home the new championship?

Reminiscent of Kwok's action-packed *Gallants* (2010), *Full Strike* is sure to leave your laugh muscles fully exercised. No sports experience or knowledge needed.

— KE

Derek Kwok is one of Hong Kong's most acclaimed young directors. In 2008, he made his name in his first film *The Pye Dog* which won him the Best New Director award at the Hong Kong Film Awards. In 2011, he won Best Film at the Hong Kong Film Awards for his action comedy *Gallants*. In 2013, he co-directed *Journey to the West* with Stephen Chau. He was most recently nominated in 2014 for Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Born in 1979, **Henri Wong** is one of Hong Kong's new generation young directors. Between 1999 to 2002, he studied at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong. He is the Artistic Director of Parabucks Co., specializing in action image, film production, advertising animation, and music videos. He has been nominated for Best Visual Effects for his work on *Ip Man* and *Ip Man 2*. Wong began directing in 2013, with his first feature *Hardcore Comedy*.

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Changing Season: On the Masumoto Family Farm

SAT NOV 7
2:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



USA 2015
57:00
English
International Premiere | G

DIRECTOR
Jim Choi

CAST
David 'Mas' Masumoto (in attendance), Nikiko Masumoto, Marcy (Thieleke) Masumoto, Korio Masumoto

At the heart of this documentary are peaches and a family that has grown them for generations. In California's Central Valley, the Masumotos grow fruit with their own brand of resilience and dedication; as David 'Mas' Masumoto says: "we plant stories." Originally arid and bought dirt cheap by Mas' parents upon their release from WWII internment camps, the farm today is 80 acres of Certified Organic land, famed for its sustainability, social responsibility, and magnificent heirloom harvest. But the farm is undergoing major changes as drought looms, Mas' 60th birthday approaches, and daughter Nikiko returns from college to learn the ropes and take over from her father.

Changing Season follows Mas and Nikiko over the course of this pivotal year, as knowledge and memory pass from father to daughter. Far from Eden, this is the story of a family braving social injustice and the uncertainties of health and climate, and their celebration of labour, food, and home.

— SL

Jim Choi is a 1.5 generation Korean-American. Choi's most recent directorial credit is *Don't Lose Your Soul* (2012), an intimate profile of Anthony Brown and Mark Izu, the founders of the Asian American Jazz Festival. He served as the Director of Photography on the IFP Gotham Audience Award-winning documentary *Jake Shimabukuro: Life On Four Strings* (2012). His work on *Lost and Found: Legacy of USS Lagarto* (2009) garnered an Emmy nomination in Cinematography.

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If I Were Julius Tiangson . . . I'd Rather Not Have a Jinx
By ROMEO P. MARQUEZ pages 4 & 5

Lessons from Taste of Manila Street Festival
By ROMEO P. MARQUEZ page 13



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Watch the Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe in the McIntyre Performing Arts Center, Mohauk College in Hamilton on September 19th. See ad on page 35







FEATURE PRESENTATION

Kirumi

SAT NOV 7
6:30 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



India 2015
97:00
Tamil with English subtitles
International Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Anucharan Murugaiyan (in attendance)

CAST
Kathir, Charlie, Reshmi Menon

PRECEDED BY:

Sudden Master

Canada 2015 | 6:00
World Premiere | PG

DIRECTOR
Romeo Candido (in attendance)

When Alex Cheng reluctantly inherits her estranged father's Martial Arts school, it is up to her to defend the family legacy in an underground competition. *Sudden Master* is a story about tradition, vengeance and love.

Chock full of get-rich-quick ideas, but lacking in follow through, Kathir is an irresponsible young man, stumbling through life in Chennai's underworld supported by his loving wife and enabler friends. After a night in jail that leads him to a new career as a top police informant, Kathir's ego soars to new heights, until it lands him and his loved ones in danger.

Combining elements of a commercial Indian action flick with a surprisingly deplorable protagonist and rare narrative on the hush-hush world of police informants, *Kirumi* is a complex, gritty, and refreshing film. Featuring strong performances from both new faces and veterans, director Anucharan has shunned conformity and chosen to show you the gray area outside of conventional villains and heroes.

Kirumi embodies the new wave of South Indian independent cinema that is expanding notions of archetypal Tamil movies and attracting new international audiences.

— DR

A design engineer, **Anucharan Murugaiyan** left for Australia to study filmmaking from the masters at Pixar. His first short *Infinity* (2010) played at Tropfest Sydney and sparked a stream of commercial work. He returned to Chennai in 2013 to collaborate with friends on his feature debut *Kirumi*.

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Zinnia Flower

百日告別

SUN NOV 8
3:15 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

TUES NOV 10
4:30 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



Taiwan 2015
96:00
Mandarin with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Tom Lin Shu-yu

CAST
Karena Lam, Stone, Nana Lee

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Taipei Film Festival 2015
Vancouver International Film Festival 2015

On the same day, in the same accident, twin tragedies: Wei (Stone) loses his pregnant wife while Ming (Karena Lam) loses her fiancé. Intercutting between two parallel storylines, the film follows the one hundred day journey that Wei and Ming each embark on to mourn for the dead. Sharing unbearable pain, Wei and Ming each have their own ways of saying goodbye and coping with loneliness. Through virtuosic cinematography and set to the timeless rhythms of Chopin, the film invites us to meditate on life, loss and death.

Karena Lam, acclaimed Hong Kong actress, and Stone, member of the popular Taiwanese rock band *Mayday*, deliver heartbreakingly tender performances, allowing us to have an intimate encounter with those who have lost their loved ones.

— BX

Tom Lin Shu-yu is regarded as one of the most promising new filmmakers emerging from Taiwan. After receiving his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 2002, Lin started working in the Taiwanese Film industry. His previous titles include *Winds of September* (2008) and *Starry Starry Night* (2012) which screened at Reel Asian.

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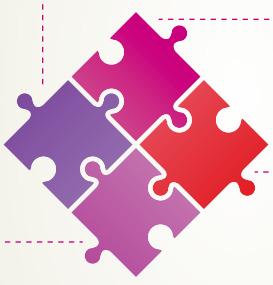
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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Siti

MON NOV 9
8:30 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



Indonesia 2014
88:00
Javanese with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Eddie Cahyono

CAST
Sekar Sari, Bintang Timur Widodo, Ibnu Widodo, Titi Dibyo

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Rotterdam International Film Festival 2015
Udine Far East Film Festival 2015
Taipei Film Festival 2015

AWARDS
Best Performance Award, Singapore International Film Festival 2014

Siti, a young and beautiful woman, must find a way 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.

There are no clear villains in the film — even the landlord demanding the overdue rent seems to be justified in demanding what he's owed. Instead, the camera focuses on Siti's internal struggle and subsequent meltdown, which began a year before, when an accident at sea left her fisherman husband paralyzed and mute.

Shot in black and white, we see Siti up close, and search for the small pockets of light as darkness slowly consumes the frame. When Siti's world turns to darkness, we can only sit and wait — which way shall she turn?

— KE

Eddie Cahyono was born in Jogjakarta in 1977. He graduated from the Television Department of the Indonesian Institute of Art in 2007 and founded Fourcolours Films. He directed a number of short films, which won numerous awards both at home and abroad. *Siti* is Cahyono's debut feature film.

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Off the Menu: Asian America

TUE NOV 10
7:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



USA 2015
55:00
English
Canadian Premiere | PG

DIRECTOR
Grace Lee

PRODUCER
Eurie Chung

OFFICIAL SELECTION
CAAMFest 2015
Chicago Asian American Showcase 2015
Wisconsin Film Festival 2015
Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival 2015
Asian CineVision 2015
Milwaukee Film Festival 2015

"I can't speak the language, but I know the flavour," declares Chinese-American star chef Jonathan Wu, a sentiment echoed throughout this fascinating documentary on the tastes and textures of Asian American food and identity. What does it mean to 'eat local'? How does 'hometown' taste? How can the growing and sharing of food ensure the evolution of a culture and the future of a people? We follow award-winning Korean-American filmmaker Grace Lee as she savours courses, coast to coast: from Texan tofu tamales to octopus hunt-and-grill, the Hawaiian way. On her tour of mind-melting fusions, farms, and kitchens, Lee meets a diverse slate of Asian Americans who devote some aspect of their lives to cuisine, and explores how authenticity, assimilation, and cultural memory surface and blend in the melting pot of contemporary American society.

Off the Menu: Asian America is a co-production between the Center for Asian American Media and KQED and is part of a larger multi-media project that includes original stories and web content that explore the connections between Asian American culture, geography, and food.

— SL

Born in Columbia, Missouri, and currently based in L.A., **Grace Lee** is a Korean-American director and producer. Lee's feature film, *Janeane From Des Moines* premiered at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. Lee's documentary *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs* screened at Reel Asian in 2013.

FOOD ON FILM TASTING RECEPTION

TUE NOV 10
8:00 – 9:30PM
OPEN GALLERY AT OCADU
49 MCCAUL ST

Hungry for more? Buy a **$17 "combo" ticket** in advance — includes both screening and a tasting reception! Sample food & drink from local exhibitors showcasing innovative cuisine for every appetite.

Limited number of reception tickets available separately from the Jackman Hall box office for $10 before the screening or $15 at the door. Visit our website for details about the food exhibitors being showcased.

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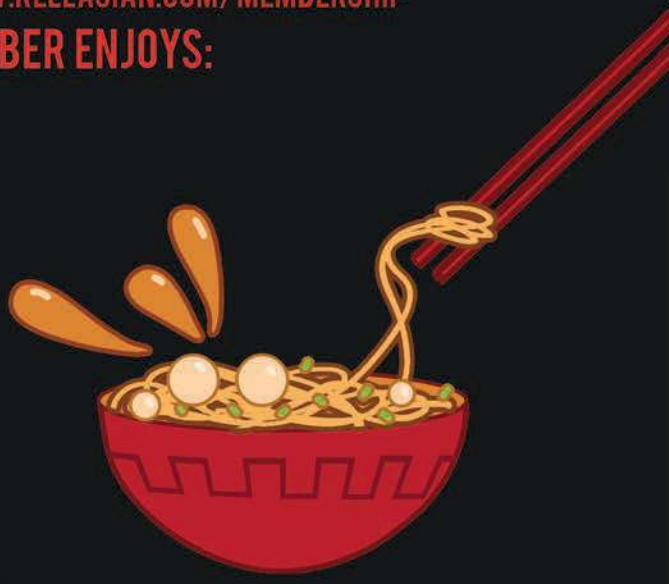
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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Initiation Love

イニシエーション・ラブ

THURS NOV 12
7:00 PM
JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE



Japan 2015
110:00
Japanese with English subtitles
Canadian Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Tsutsumi Yukihiko

CAST
Maeda Atsuko, Matsuda Shota, Kimura Fumiko

OFFICIAL SELECTION
New York Asian Film Festival 2015
Japan Film Festival of San Francisco 2015

Set in Shizuoka City in the 80s, *Initiation Love* tells the story of awkward and overweight Yuki Suzuki. Invited as a filler on a konpa group date, he meets the pretty and disarmingly forthright Mayu (Maeda Atsuko). After Mayu gifts him a pair of Nikes, Yuki promises to take up running and get in shape.

The newly fit and confident Yuki — who now goes by Takkun — is transferred to Tokyo, where he soon finds his allegiance to Mayu seriously tested by sophisticated coworker Miyako (Kimura Fumiko). Takkun becomes torn between the woman who made him who he is and the woman his new self wants.

Kurumi Unui's novel was a publishing phenomenon when first released in 2004. The book was considered un-filmable until director Tsutsumi Yukihiko (*Trick, 20th Century Boys*) took up the challenge. He delivers a stunning, off-kilter love triangle.

— JH

Tsutsumi Yukihiko was born in Mie Prefecture in 1955. Before starting his own production company, Office Crescendo, he directed commercials and music promotion videos at Nihon Television. A prolific director across platforms, his work includes the *Trick* series, *20th Century Boys* series, and *The Mourner* (2015).

Tickets for this screening are sold through the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.
Visit jccc.on.ca

Sushi bentos may be purchased and enjoyed prior to the screening. Sushi courtesy of Sushi Marché.

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TORONTO JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

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Abbas Kiarostami: Doors Without Keys
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Monsoon—Music
Showcase Performance, Saturday, November 7, 8 pm.



Spoken Word with Sheniz Janmohamed
Thursday, December 10, 8 pm.

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FEATURE PRESENTATION

Mina Walking

THURS NOV 12
8:00 PM
AGA KHAN MUSEUM



Afghanistan/Canada 2015
110:00
Dari with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere | 14A

DIRECTOR
Yosef Baraki (in attendance)

PRODUCERS
Andrew Korogyi (in attendance), Asef Baraki

CAST
Farzana Nawabi, Qadir Aryie, Safi Fanaie, Massoud Fanaie, Hashmatullah Fanaie, Marina Gholbahari

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Berlin International Film Festival 2015
Montreal World Film Festival 2015
Mumbai International Film Festival 2015

AWARDS
Jury Special Mention, Zlin International Film Festival 2015
Best Actress Award, SAARC Film Festival 2015

Mina is a typical 12-year-old girl — feisty and energetic. But Mina lives in modern day Kabul, Afghanistan, and her circumstances are anything but typical. After losing her mother to a Taliban attack, Mina is left alone to take care of the household, looking after her senile grandfather, while her drug-addicted father wastes away. Eager to learn, Mina must skip school in order to earn a meager living for the household, peddling souvenirs on the street.

Premiering at the Berlin Film Festival in 2015 where it was nominated for a Crystal Bear, Best First Feature Award, and the Amnesty Film Prize, *Mina Walking* is a remarkable feature debut from Toronto filmmaker Yosef Baraki inspired by street children of Kabul. Shot guerilla-style on city streets with mostly non-actors utilizing improvisation, first-time director Baraki has crafted an immense achievement, telling a story that is both timeless and timely about the lasting effects of the Taliban era and Coalition war from the perspective of a shattered Afghan family.

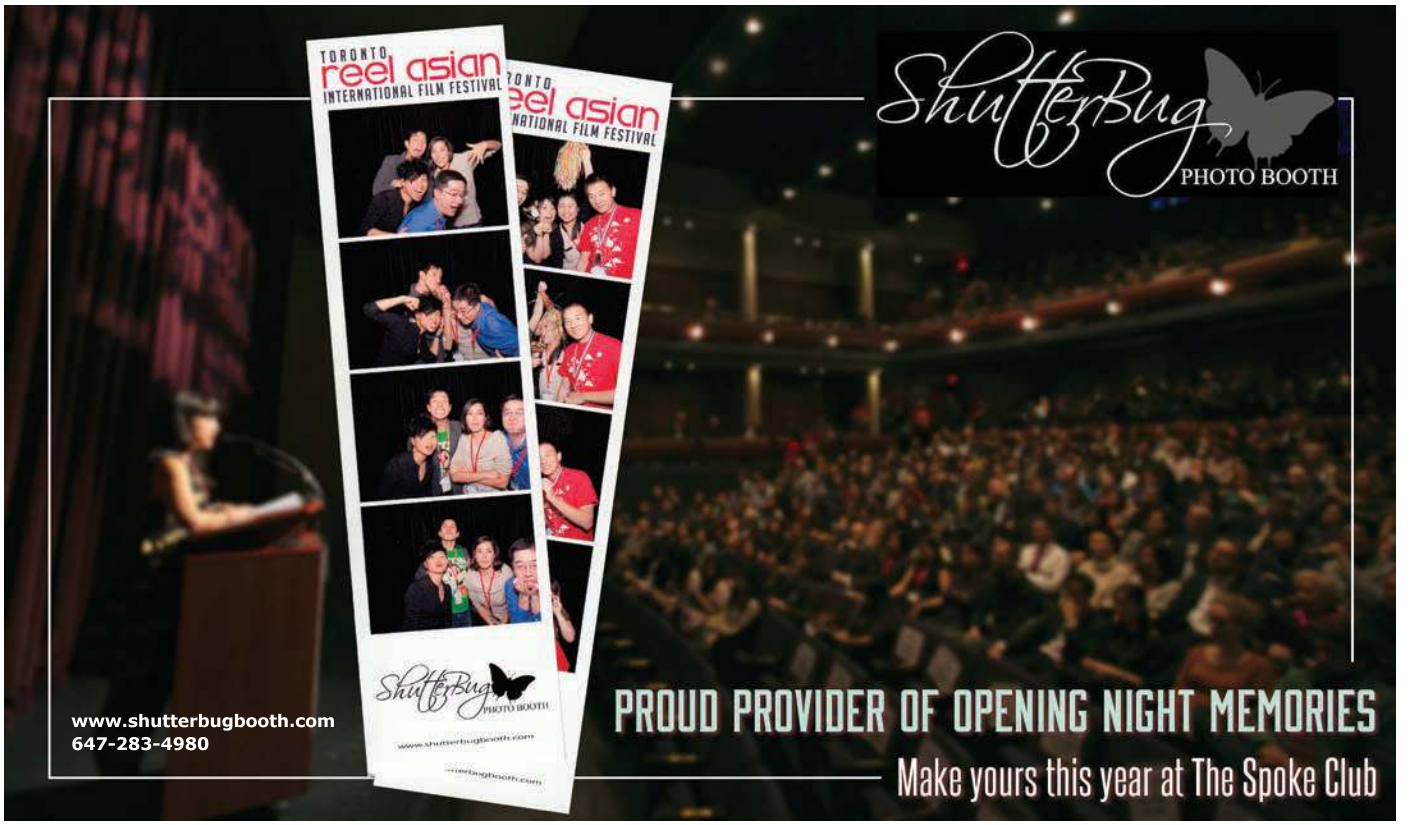
— AC

Yosef Baraki's exposure to filmmakers like Kiarostami and the Dardenne brothers gave him the understanding that cinema does not have to be driven by entertainment, but also by realistic portraits of a particular society and culture. Following his studies at York University and Humber College, Baraki wrote and directed his fifth short film *Der Kandidat*, recipient of the prestigious Norman McLaren Award at the Montreal World Film Festival in 2013.

Tickets for this screening are sold through the Aga Khan Museum.
Visit www.akdn.org/museum

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WOMEN ON SCREEN

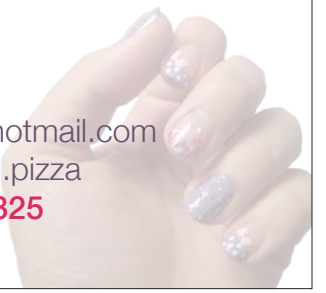


STAY ANGRY TORONTO

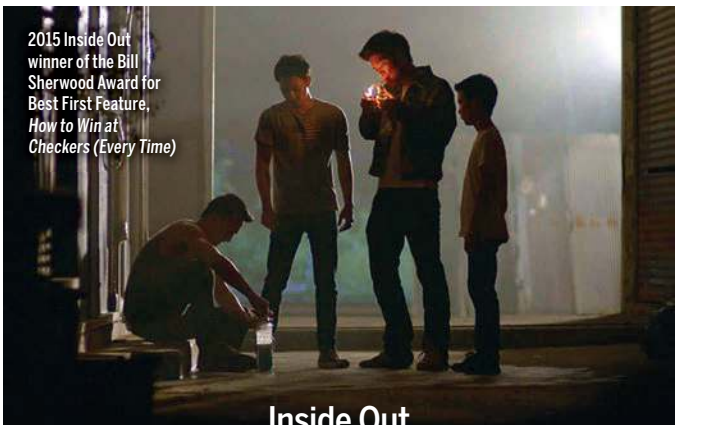
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FEATURE PRESENTATION

I Am Somebody

我是路人甲

SUN NOV 15
4:30 PM
SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL



Hong Kong/China 2015
134:00
Mandarin with English subtitles
North American Premiere | PG

DIRECTOR
Derek Yee

CAST
Wan Guopeng, Wei Xin, Wang Zhao

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Shanghai Film Festival 2015

When we talk about Chinese cinema, megastars like Maggie Cheung or Chow Yun Fat immediately come to mind. But do we ever remember the extras acting in the background of every film we love? 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 a reality much harsher than that of his rural hometown. The path to stardom is filled with uneasy laughter and joyful tears. As Peng encounters like-minded friends, the film moves from character to character to highlight each individual's unique experience in Hengdian. The episodic depiction of these *HengPiaos*' (migrant workers in Hengdian) everyday struggles poignantly reflects the fragility of dreams in contemporary China. 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.

— BX

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. In recent years, Yee has worked in both Hong Kong and mainland China, continuing to make films in a wide range of genres and styles.

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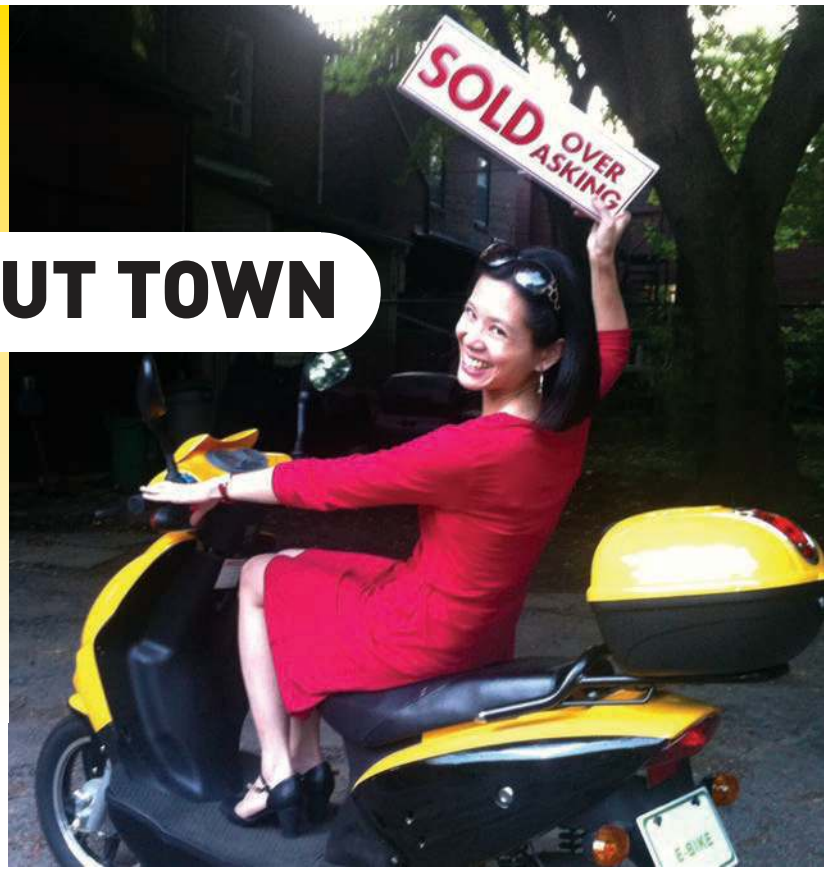
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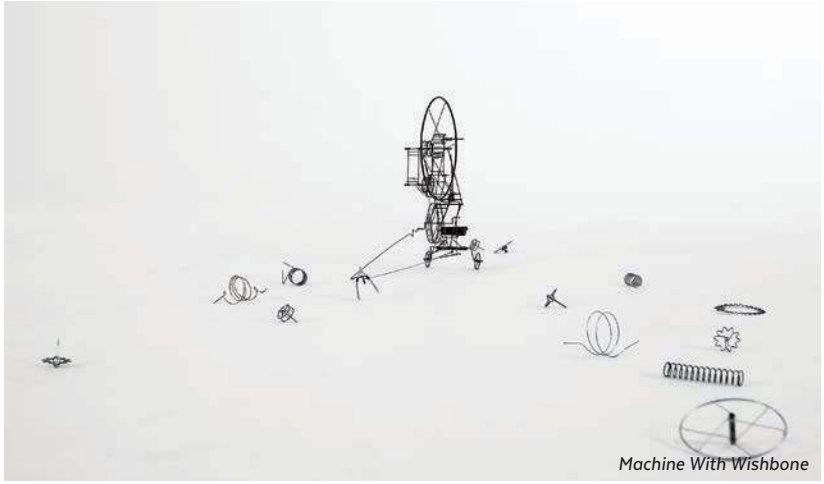

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SHORTS PRESENTATION

Retrospective on Randall Okita

SAT NOV 7
4:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

See page 17 for more details about our Canadian Spotlight events.


Machine With Wishbone


No Contract


Portrait as a Random Act of Violence

Machine With Wishbone

Randall Okita | Canada 2008 | 7:30

Machine with Wishbone is an entirely live action movie shot without special effects, featuring the work of internationally celebrated artist Arthur Ganson. Using innovative camera choreography, photo sculpture, and kinetic sculpture, *Machine with Wishbone* tells the tale of a stoic mechanical wishbone on its journey through a world of snoring beds, paper birds, and places you have to see to believe.


Fish in Barrel

No Contract

Randall Okita | Canada 2011 | 8:20

Combining elements of performance, sculptural cinema and documentary, this work explores themes of urgency, isolation and escape, as well as the notions of torment and renewal, desire and destruction.


The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer

Fish in Barrel

Randall Okita | Canada 2009 | 8:23

Fish in Barrel depicts a young man facing his demons as his struggle erupts into visions that question what lies below the surface.

Portrait as a Random Act of Violence

Randall Okita | Canada 2013 | 4:23

Portrait as a Random Act of Violence incorporates performance and sculpture to examine themes of harm, protest, and destructive and restorative transformations.

The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer

Randall Okita | Canada 2014 | 9:44

This short animation presents the haunting story of two brothers who share the scars, though not the memories, of an untold history that has driven them to existential extremes. Combining high-speed camerawork, striking art direction and intricate animation sequences, Okita crafts a poetic elegy to connectedness and survival.

***Director Randall Okita in attendance**

SHORTS PRESENTATION

Born to Run

SUN NOV 8
5:30PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

All films rated G



Two Dosas

What's the first thing you throw in your suitcase? Spanning continents and genres, this buffet of stories is a smiling wink and a knowing nod to cities, cultures, and creatures on the move.
— SL


Balikbayans

Balikbayans

Alex Humilde | Canada 2015 | 18:12 English/Tagalog/Cebuano with English subtitles | North American Premiere

This documentary shares the experiences of three Filipinos living in Ontario who have acquired "VIP" status as *balikbayans* — those who have moved abroad with aspirations, and return to the Philippines to share their fortunes and experiences.

Alex Humilde graduated from Sheridan College in Television and Film. He is currently developing his next documentary and continues to address contemporary, Philippine-related issues.

Two Dosas

Sarmad Masud | United Kingdom 2014 15:41 | English | Canadian Premiere

Geeky Pavan takes his 'English Rose' on a date to the most authentic Indian restaurant in the city. To his horror, she goes off-menu, in Hindi...

Sarmad Masud studied film at the Hull School of Art & Design in the UK. He previously made films in Kashmir and Cambodia, winning awards at the Angel and Leeds International Film Festival, and was nominated twice for the Satyajit Ray Short Film Award.


Giap's Last Day At The Ironing Board Factory


A Rose, a Fisheye, and a Line


Go For Broke



NU-LIFE

A Rose, a Fisheye, and a Line

Rekha Ramachandran | Canada 2015
3:46 | World Premiere

This Canadian filmmaker focuses on her own name and those of her grandmothers, exploring their symbolism and significance in relation to place and identity, and her own mixed-race family.

Rekha Ramachandran is an artist based in Toronto. She holds an MA in Communication and Culture from York and Ryerson Universities, and a BFA from Ryerson University.

Giap's Last Day At The Ironing Board Factory

Tony Nguyen | United States 2014
25:29 | English | Canadian Premiere

In 1975, a young, pregnant Vietnamese refugee, Giap, escapes Saigon in a boat and, within weeks, finds herself working on an assembly line in Seymour, Indiana. Thirty-five years later, her son, a filmmaker, documents her final day of work at the last ironing board factory in America.

Tony Nguyen is a Vietnamese-American filmmaker based in California. He made his directorial debut with *Enforcing The Silence*, a 2011 feature documentary about the first Vietnamese-American to be reportedly assassinated in the United States.

NU-LIFE

Lynn Kim | USA 2015 | 4:30
Toronto Premiere

Through stunning experimental animation, *NU-LIFE* takes a vividly intimate look at the family dry cleaner.

Lynn Kim is a Korean-American animator and filmmaker from Queens, New York. She is a dedicated fan of breakfast foods, good literature, and peculiar collisions between art and history.

Go For Broke

Aram Collier* | Canada 2015 | 23:00
English | World Premiere

Les Lee is a die-hard collector who never misses the annual red envelope convention. But this year, he needs to sell his entire collection. *Go For Broke* is an Altman-esque look at red envelopes, the world and characters that circulate them, and material culture in Chinese diaspora.

Filmmaker **Aram Collier** works across multiple genres including fiction, vérité documentary, and multi-media. Collier studied film production at the University of California at Santa Cruz (BFA) and York University (MFA).

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YOUTH SHORTS PRESENTATION

The World's A Stage

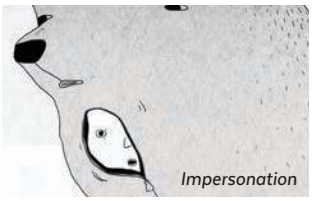
MON NOV 9
1:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

All films rated PG

The curtains part, and you find yourself in need of a performance. Are you ready to deliver? Check out these shorts as a source of inspiration!
— KE


The Lobster Kid


Agos: The Manila Dream


Impersonation

The Lobster Kid

Joseph Chen-Chieh Hsu | Taiwan 2015
20:00 | Mandarin | Canadian Premiere

13-year-old con artist Siang partners with a silent monk, hoping that today is finally the day she earns enough money for a train ticket to Taitung. Who is the greater con — Siang or the Monk?

Joseph Chen-Chieh Hsu was born and raised in Taiwan. He is currently pursuing MFA in film production at NYU Tisch Asia.

Impersonation

Boyoung Kim | South Korea 2013 | 3:22

Impersonating someone or something may lead us to what we desire — but be careful what you wish for!

Boyoung Kim is a Korean animator, graphic designer and independent filmmaker. Her works include animated shorts *Replacement, Impersonation, Prey,* and *The Heads.*

Agos: The Manila Dream

Lyka Gonzalez | Philippines 2015 | 10:00
Tagalog with English Subtitles
North American Premiere

Set in the rural Philippines, Nina's mother recounts her bygone ambition of moving into the city. The film explores the plight of fulfilling fantasies through the surge of diaspora and urban migration.

Lyka Gonzalez is a 21-year-old photographer, videographer and filmmaker from the Philippines. She is currently in finishing her BA in Communication Arts at Ateneo de Manila University.

Way's Favourite Machine

Gian-Paolo Mendoza and Chris Cheung
Canada 2015 | 8:15 | English
Toronto Premiere

When Wayland Chin first started playing Dance Dance Revolution at the arcade ten years ago, he made a group of close friends. Today, the group has scattered, but dancing still gives him the same joy, and fond memories of days past.

Gian-Paolo Mendoza is a documentary filmmaker and journalist, currently working as a producer at CBC Television in Vancouver. He has had work published on CBC.ca, Al-Jazeera America, and the Tyee.

Christopher Cheung is journalist and photographer in Vancouver. He has written for places like the Vancouver Courier and The Tyee.ca. He is finishing his second year at the University of British Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.


Tanabata


Undernourished?


Way's Favourite Machine


Sumo Road: The Musical


Flamenco

Tanabata

Annie Amaya | Canada 2014 | 2:44
English

Based on a Japanese legend, this animated short tells the story of two star-crossed lovers who unite once a year on July 7th.

Annie Amaya is a student filmmaker, currently studying at Concordia University for a BFA in Film Animation. Her short films have screened internationally at festivals including Fantasia, Toronto Youth Shorts, Animafest Zagreb, and Athens Animfest.


BAM

Undernourished?

Judy Chu | Hong Kong 2015 | 17:12
Cantonese | North American Premiere

Summer's parents lost their eyesight when they were young, but they filled Summer's childhood with happiness, wit and confidence. Armed with her parents' positive attitude towards life, Summer is able to view the world with a unique perspective.

Judy Chu graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2005. She has written a few plays. *Undernourished?* is her directorial debut.

Flamenco

Gloria Ui Young Kim* | Canada 2015
12:00 | World Premiere

Sparks fly between dance partners and lovers Camilla and Alexander, as they prepare to perform Bizet's famous work *Carmen*. Winner of the 2013 Reel Asian *So You Think You Can Pitch?* Competition.

Gloria Ui Young Kim was born in Seoul. Her works have been awarded at numerous film festivals. Her latest script *Debra and Mona* won the 2013 Telefilm New Voices Award.

BAM

Howie Shia | Canada 2015 | 6:00

A young boxer struggles to contain the rage that roils inside him.

Howie Shia is a Toronto-based illustrator, animator, writer, and director. His short films have won several awards, including the 2007 Grand Prix at the Tokyo Anime Fair. He combines a love for ancient mythologies with modern urban environments.

Sumo Road: The Musical

Ken Ochiai | Japan 2015 | 25:00
Japanese with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere

A lonely, heavyset exchange student decides to join the sumo team at a Japanese university. But he must first face the team leader in the ultimate sumo match.

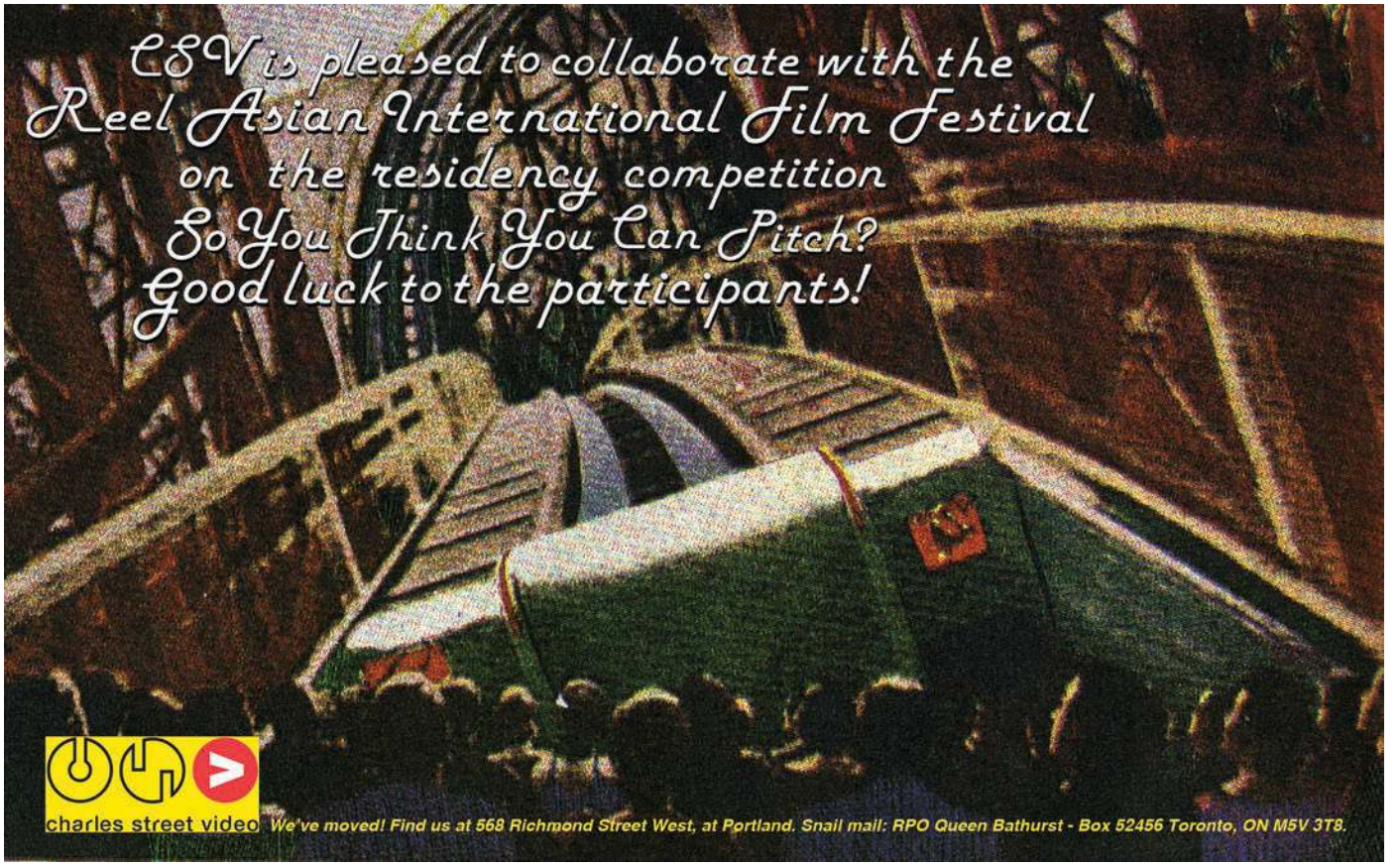
Ken Ochiai is an award-winning filmmaker who has directed three theatrical features and over 30 short films, commercials, and music videos.

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YOUTH SHORTS PRESENTATION

Unsung Voices 4

2015 first-time filmmakers • All films rated 14A

MON NOV 9
6:45 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL



UNSUNG VOICES RECEPTION

MON NOV 9
8:00PM – 9:30PM
ART SQUARE CAFÉ
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Free for *Unsung Voices* ticketholders

Meet this year's cohort of Unsung Voices filmmakers after the screening! We'll be across the street from the Art Gallery of Ontario at the Art Square Café, raising a glass and enjoying some tasty nibbles to celebrate the world premieres of these bright young minds.

PULSE

Ayano In The Forest

Ammar Keshioda* | Canada 2015 | 8:00

A young woman awakens in the forest, confronted by a stranger. Can he help her find out how she got there?

Originally from Pakistan, **Ammar Keshodia** is a Political Science graduate from the University of Toronto.

Adult Children

Camille Bertrand-Morel*, Veronica Tsui*, Natalie Yiu* | Canada 2015 | 3:00

A daughter's relationship with her father is strained when he can't let go of work in this short animated film.

Camille Bertrand-Morel, **Veronica Tsui**, and **Natalie Yiu** are students at Seneca College, currently in their first and second years.

Teaching Taboo: Sex Ed and the South Asian Diaspora

Lakshya Dhungana* | Canada 2015 | 10:00

In 2015, Ontario proposed changes to its sex education curriculum for the first time in years. *Teaching Taboo* looks at the issue from inside the South Asian community.

Lakshya Dhungana graduated from the International Development Studies Program at U of T, and is involved with the Toronto Nepali Film Festival.

I'm Afraid Of You Leaving

Iris Ni* | Canada 2015 | 10:00

Two cousins left alone in a Chinese megacity deal with their feelings of abandonment.

Iris Ni is a graduate of University of Windsor and writes for stage and online.

Ntervw

Melissa Tran* | Canada 2015 | 6:00

Sometimes life feels like all preparation and no action, but what would that actually look like?

Melissa Tran is a fourth year high school student in Toronto.

"Cindy"

Anthony Tran* | Canada 2015 | 2:00

A young queer Asian Canadian woman navigates her multiple identities in this delightful stop-motion animation.

Anthony Tran is a Toronto-based young queer artist and muse to the Gods.

Door To Door

Bruce Ravichandran* | Canada 2015 9:00

The sort-of true-life story of two bumbling door-to-door salesmen who must train a pair of newbies, or else lose their jobs.

Bruce Ravichandran was named after Bruce Lee and loves action movies.

Liquid Beings

Seden Lai* | Canada 2015 | 9:00

He wakes up. He doesn't know who He is. He creates Her. But who created Them?

Seden Lai is a recent graduate of OCAD, and is interested in understanding the world through spaces, objects, sounds, and experiences.

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University of Windsor Department of Communication, Media and Film

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REEL CANADA
TORONTO YOUTH SHORTS

* in attendance

YOUTH SHORTS PRESENTATION

Lucky Town

TUES NOV 10
1:00 PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

All films rated G

Across the street, across the ocean, key in hand or hand in hand, these films ask 'in whose footsteps do you follow; what kind of world will you create?'
— SL


Nayan and the Evil Eye


Goong Goong


Golden Bird

Goong Goong

Chloe Booher | USA 2015 | 3:38 | English
Canadian Premiere

A short documentary about a grandfather's immigration from China to the United States, this familiar story is animated with elegance and charm.

Chloe Booher is an animator and designer based out of Los Angeles. She completed her MFA in Animation at UCLA in 2015. She enjoys motion graphics and breakfast.

The Ghost of Grandpa Tong

Celeste Koon* | Canada 2015 | 10:40
English | World Premiere

Family pressure goes beyond the grave in this comical tale of growing up between cultures.

Celeste Koon is a Toronto-based writer, director, and production designer who works in children's film and television. *The Ghost of Grandpa Tong* is Celeste's winning Emerging Filmmaker pitch at Reel Asian's 2014 *So You Think You Can Pitch?* competition.

Nayan and the Evil Eye

Shaleen Sangha* | Canada 2014 | 7:35
English

The Evil Eye is a superstition held by people of many cultures. It is believed that if someone looks at you with envy, they can cause you harm. A young boy finds a mysterious glass eye and discovers its strange power.

Shaleen Sangha is a writer, director, development executive and video artist. She has had a passion for storytelling, no matter the form, throughout her life.

Golden Bird

Debraj Sarkar | India 2014 | 10:40
Bengali | North American Premiere

A grandmother's story of her childhood days in her Indian village contrasts sharply with her grandson's urban loneliness, in this beautifully illustrated animation.

Debraj Sarkar holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Indira Kala Sangeet University in India. He has screened films internationally and is based in West Bengal.


The Ghost of Grandpa Tong


Tadaima


Frank and Kass


Chopping Onions

Chopping Onions

Adinah Dancyger | United States 2015 15:39 | English/Korean with English subtitles | Canadian Premiere

A six-year old girl spends the summer with her Korean grandmother in New York City. Cultural and language barriers complicate matters in this honest and compelling portrait.

Adinah Dancyger holds a BA in film production from Bard College. She is currently in pre-production for her first feature film, *Girl Props*, a collaborative project which she will perform in.


Ah Poh


Mattress

Frank and Kass

Norbert Shieh | United States 2015 | 6:30 English | International Premiere

Frank returns to his parents' home after recently being laid off, with his young daughter in tow. With their lives packed up in a pickup truck, they drive across the California desert, hoping to make it to their destination in one piece.

Norbert Shieh is a Taiwanese American filmmaker based in Los Angeles. His films and cinematography work have screened internationally at festivals.

Tadaima

Robin Takao D'Oench | United States 2015 15:25 | English/Japanese with English subtitles | Canadian Premiere

After the closure of the U.S Internment Camps at the end of World War II, a Japanese American family returns home and must find the strength to rebuild both their house and family amidst the emotional and physical destruction caused by the war.

Robin Takao D'Oench is a writer, director, and producer working in film and television in New York City and Los Angeles area. *Tadaima* is Robin's first short film.

Ah Poh

Kendra Legault* | Canada 2015 | 3:47 English | World Premiere

Filmmaker Kendra Legault explores both her relationship with her Hakka grandmother and a family history she never knew about.

Kendra Legault is a film student in Toronto.

Mattress

Michelle Kee | Canada 2014 | 9:47 English/ Mandarin with English subtitles | Toronto Premiere

After Little Boy Lee and his family dump an old mattress in a dirty Strathcona alley, the mattress sparks an all-out suburban war.

Michelle Kee lived in Singapore, the UK and the USA before laying down roots in Vancouver. She has directed four short films and has several awards under her belt. *Mattress* was made in eight days for the Crazy8s Film Society.

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SHORTS THAT ARE NOT PANTS
TORONTO YOUTH SHORTS

* in attendance

SHORTS PRESENTATION

Badlands

TUE NOV 10
8:45PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

All films rated 14A



Vishal

Vishal

Sumit Judge* | Canada 2015 | 9:30
Punjabi with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere

Vishal, a 22-year old international student, finds himself in a dingy, crowded basement, trying to balance work and school. While working at an Indian restaurant, both the cultural familiarity and hard labour exacerbate the doubts he has of studying in Canada.

Sumit Judge is a first-time filmmaker who incorporates his political science background with film to create works that introduce mainstream audiences to under-represented issues.

Chasing after street-smart kids and wind-swept survivors, these films steer us through global junctions of hardships and dreams, where traffic flows without stop signs and there is barely a road to follow.

— SL



Wallas on Velos



Sun City

Sun City

Qi Dong Peng | Taiwan 2015 | 3:06
World Premiere

Sun City is an absurd and poetic tale of dystopian development, where enlightenment is not a way forward, but rather a blinding cycle.

Qi Dong Peng is a Visual Communication Design major at Chaoyang University of Technology. He is a fan of science fiction and his favourite movie is *The Truman Show*.

Wallas on Velos

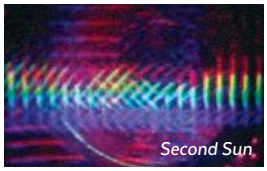
Alton Valadares | Belgium 2014 | 23:00
Hindi with English subtitles | Canadian Premiere

Sabir sharpens knives (*churi walla*), Abdul is a milkman (*doodh walla*), Namdeo is a lunch box deliveryman (*dabba walla*), and Imran sells cold drinks (*cold drink walla*). A vivid portrait of Mumbai, India painted through the daily patterns of four men who make their living on bicycles.

Alton Valadares was born in Mumbai. He studied Zoology, worked in Lakshadweep at a scuba diving center, and taught English in China. He currently lives in Antwerp, Belgium; this is his first film.


Paradise Island


Lucky Irani Circus


Second Sun


Lifelines

The Animals

Mark Wee | Singapore 2014 | 6:18
Canadian Premiere

Influenced by early 20th century German Expressionist woodcut prints and films by Lotte Reiniger, Mark Wee retells the classic tale of disfigurement and alienation, *The Elephant Man*, in this short animation.

Mark Wee is an aspiring animator who graduated in 2014 from the Nanyang Technological University School of Art, Design and Media in Singapore.

Lucky Irani Circus

Anam Abbas* | Pakistan 2015 | 17:15
Punjabi/Urdu with English subtitles
Canadian Premiere

This short documentary offers a glimpse of the raw yet whimsical off-stage lives of child stars and struggling families, and the ups and downs of circus life in Pakistan.

Anam Abbas studied Cinema at the U of T and Sheridan College. Her first feature documentary, *Zunn: Showgirls of Pakistan* will be released in 2016.


The Animals

Paradise Island

Kat Jayme | Canada 2015 | 25:53
English/Tagalog | World Premiere

Filmmaker Kat Jayme travels to her family's favourite vacation spot in the Philippines, but instead of holidaying, she documents the everyday lives of local children who make sandcastles for money.

Kathleen Jayme is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker based in Vancouver, BC. She is a Production Coordinator at the NFB's Pacific & Yukon Studio and a graduate of the Film Production Program at the University of British Columbia.

Second Sun

Leslie Supnet | Canada 2014 | 3:04

The rising sound of drums emphasizes flashes of lights, images of the solar system and a post-apocalyptic imagining of the birth of our Second Sun.

Leslie Supnet is a Montreal-based moving image artist, originally from Winnipeg. Leslie's work has screened internationally including at the Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, and Images Festival.

Lifelines

Jane Dyson and Ross Harrison
United Kingdom 2014 | 15:59 | Hindi with English subtitles | Toronto Premiere

Life under the towering peaks of Nanda Devi is one of hard agricultural labour. In a village 2500 metres high in the Indian Himalayas, many of the younger generation seek to chart a new course. This is one man's story of juggling responsibilities and fighting for dreams, both for himself and for his community.

Ross Harrison is an independent filmmaker who is passionate about using documentaries for social justice, climate change (*Beyond the Brink*, 2010), and the rainforest of Borneo (*Sunset over Selungo*, 2014).

Jane Dyson is an anthropologist at the University of Oxford who has worked for over a decade in the village featured in *Lifelines*. She has also written an academic book based on her work in the village.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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*** in attendance**

SHORTS PRESENTATION

Hungry Heart

WED NOV 11
6:45PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL

All films rated 14A



Sun

Incisive films that have the effect of acupuncture: pin-pointing invisible tensions, and different weights of gravity on powerful characters and relationships.

— SL



L'Envol

L'Envol

Hajime Kimura | France 2014 | 4:20
Canadian Premiere

"In its cage, the bird dreams of clouds."
This film by Japanese director Hajime Kimura is composed of 2400 images, created one by one with a digital brush.

Sun

Eui Yong Zong* | Canada 2015 | 11:04
Korean with English subtitles
World Premiere

Sun works at a hair salon at the mercy of the salon owner. One day, she finds out the man she has been secretly in love with is going back to Korea for military service.

Toronto filmmaker **Eui Yong Zong** was born in South Korea, raised in China, and came to Canada at 16. His film *My Grandpa* won the Allan King Memorial Prize and screened at the 2012 Reel Asian Film Festival.


This Home is Not Empty


Three Brothers


Bound


Man on the Chair


Quyen

Man on the Chair

Dahee Jeong | France 2014 | 6:55
Korean with English subtitles
Toronto Premiere

Evocative and humourous, *Man on the Chair* is an exquisitely rendered rumination on existence.

Dahee Jeong has a BA in Visual Communication from Hongik University in Seoul, and an MA in Animation from Ecole nationale supérieure des arts décoratifs in Paris.

Bound

Philip K. Liao | United States 2015 | 11:30
Taiwanese with English subtitles

In rural Taiwan, a man comes to terms with Confucian filial piety as he and his father work on an orchard, grafting the scion of a Japanese pear tree to the stock of a Taiwanese pear tree.

Philip K. Liao is a Taiwanese American writer, director, and cinematographer. He studied film at New York University Tisch School of the Arts Asia in Singapore. His work has been screened at film festivals.

This Home is Not Empty

Carol Nguyen | Canada 2015 | 3:30

The camera wanders through a miniature house that has been painstakingly constructed out of white paper; the family is absent, questions linger.

Carol Nguyen is a 17-year-old filmmaker who is a student at Etobicoke School of the Arts. Her films have screened internationally and have received numerous awards.

Quyen

Lucretia Stinnette | United States/ South Korea 2014 | 17:00
Korean/Vietnamese with English subtitles | Canadian Premiere

After the first week of her arranged marriage in a foreign land, Quyen must decide how the next chapter in her life will be written.

Lucretia Stinnette was born and raised in Chicago and is currently pursuing her MFA at UCLA. While teaching English in South Korea, Lucretia began working for an organization that provides resources to marriage migrants; their stories inspired *Quyen*.

Three Brothers

Aleem Khan | United Kingdom 2014
16:29 | English | Canadian Premiere

Hamid struggles to care for his younger brothers when their father abandons them for Pakistan. A story inspired by true events.

Writer-director **Aleem Khan** graduated in Film from the University of Westminster. *Three Brothers* was commissioned by Film London and the BFI, and was nominated for a BAFTA for Best British Short Film this year.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SHORTS THAT ARE NOT PANTS

*** in attendance**

INDUSTRY

Welcome to the 2015 Industry Series, where creative and industry minds come together.

For more information on this year's Industry Series sessions visit **reelasian.com/industryevents**

2015 Industry Programme

NOV 6 – 11
VARIOUS LOCATIONS



Industry Series Pass

$45 (regular)
$35 (students with valid student ID)

Industry Series passes will be available for sale online at **reelasian.com** beginning **October 6th**

Use your Industry Series Pass to:

- Attend and network during all Industry-designated sessions and events
- Redeem up to four screening tickets (one ticket per film; excludes special presentations)

For more information visit **reelasian.com/industryseriespass**

Unless otherwise noted, all Industry Series events are free admission for Industry Pass holders, Festival Pass holders, and Reel Asian Members.

Complete Industry Series guest speakers listing and bios available at **reelasian.com.**

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SUN NOV 8 | 10:00AM – 12:00PM
AGO JACKMAN HALL | FREE & open to the public

The 10th annual Pitch Competition goes live as finalists duel for incredible prize packages to finish their short films. A launching pad for emerging Asian Canadian talent, this popular showcase is not to be missed!

So You Think You Can Pitch? Awards

EMERGING FILMMAKER CATEGORY

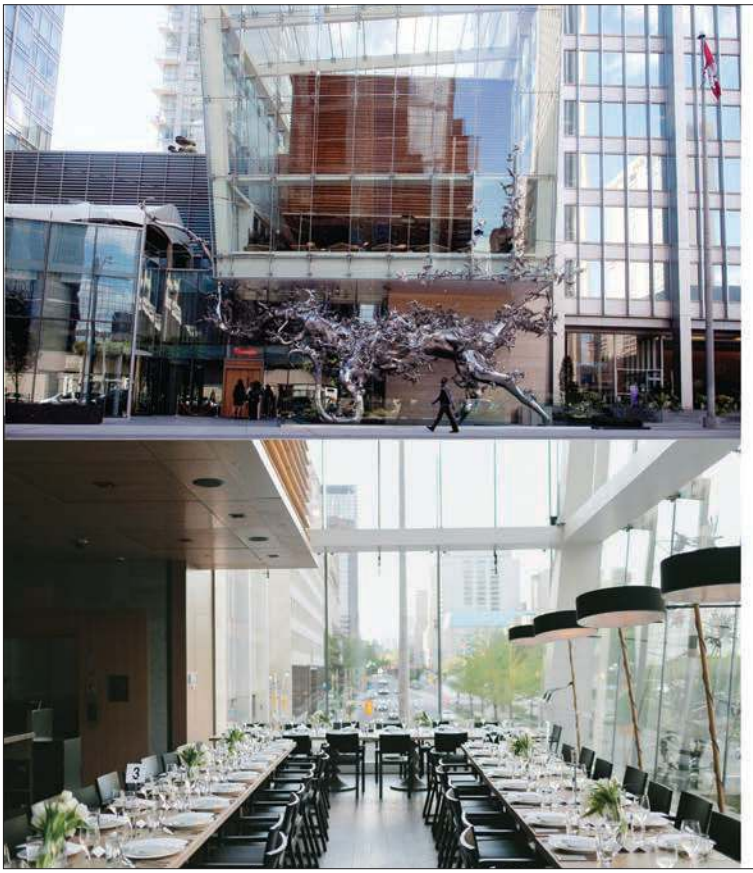
- This award has a $3,000 value (a $10,000 value at Industry rental rates)
- Business affairs & legal consultation with Behind The Scenes Services
- Acting support (if applicable) from ACTRA Toronto including consultation, coaching, and more
- Opportunity to screen work at the 2016 Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival with full festival accreditation
- $2,000 cash
- Digital film and festival consultation with CineSend including 1 DCP and festival strategy consultation and inclusion in CineSend's next beta registration
- A production workflow consultation with Charles Street Video, which includes:
  - $1,400 in edit suite access and/or production equipment rentals (including Red Epic camera).
  - $250 artist fee
  - 2 sessions with Charles Street Video's in-house editor
  - One-year membership with Charles Street Video

ESTABLISHED FILMMAKER CATEGORY

- This award has a $5,000 value (a $18,000 value at Industry rental rates)
- Business affairs & legal consultation with Behind The Scenes Services
- Acting support (if applicable) from ACTRA Toronto including consultation, coaching, and more
- Opportunity to screen work at the 2016 Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival with full festival accreditation
- $2,000 cash
- Digital film and festival consultation with CineSend including 1 DCP and festival strategy consultation and inclusion in CineSend's next beta registration
- A production workflow consultation with Charles Street Video, which includes:
  - $2,700 in edit suite access and/or production equipment rentals (including Red Epic camera)
  - $400 artist fee
  - 2 sessions with Charles Street Video's in-house editor
  - One-year membership with Charles Street Video

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ASIAN INSTITUTE PRESENTATION

Sacred Mountains

TUES NOV 17
6:30 PM
INNIS TOWN HALL



China 2014
English
14A

DIRECTOR
Ryan Pyle (in attendance)

Join adventurer and renowned photographer, Ryan Pyle, as he spends months exploring and photographing Western China's remote Sacred Mountains in an effort to better understand these Tibetan regions. His human-powered adventure is "one of the ages" as he explores the remote provinces of Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan and Yunnan.

Born in Toronto, Canada, **Ryan Pyle** spent his early years close to home. After obtaining a degree in International Politics from the University of Toronto in 2001, Ryan realized a lifelong dream and travelled to China on an exploratory mission. In 2002 Ryan moved to China permanently and in 2004 he became a regular contributor to the New York Times. In 2009 Ryan was listed by PDN Magazine as one of the 30 emerging photographers in the world. In 2010 Ryan began working full time on television and documentary film production and has produced and presented several large multi-episode television series for major broadcasters in the USA, Canada, UK, Asia, China and continental Europe.

Free admission for screening, but guests must register for the event through Asian Institute at ***sacredmountains.eventbrite.ca***

The screening is to be followed by a Dim Sum Reception.

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