



Vancouver Asian Film Festival Accepting Film Submissions for Their 21st Year

Vancouver, BC – March 21, 2017 – The Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is currently accepting open call submissions for film entries to commemorate their 21st year. The annual four-day festival is set for November 2-5, 2017 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 West Pender St., in Vancouver's historic Chinatown district.

The theme for this year's VAFF is VISUAL LANDSCAPES. This year we explore the sensory relationship between the observer and the landscape, the psychological response to, and bond between images of places and the self-definitions of the communities that inhabit them. This theme celebrates our historical and contemporary experience of cultural and geographical place in the landscape of Canada.

We call out to both Canadian and International filmmakers to submit their creations. VAFF is accepting entries between March 15 and May 31, 2017. The early bird submissions end on April 30, 2017. Regular submissions must be done by May 15, 2017. The final call for entries is on May 31, 2017.

VAFF accepts:

- Independently produced films and videos by Asian North American artists (including Asian-Canadian or Asian-American artists), or
- Films or videos produced in East Asia (including People's Republic of China [incl. Hong Kong], Macao, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan), Southeast Asia (including Myanmar [Burma], Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Timor-Leste), or South Asia (including Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh), in English or with English subtitles, or
- Films or videos produced internationally where at least one member of the creative team (director, writer or producer / production company) or one of the lead Actor(s) / subjects (if documentary) must self-identify as being of Asian or part-Asian heritage.

ARTISTS

Visiting Artists have included Justin Lin, Benson Lee, Evan Jackson Leong, Jessica Yu, Tze Chun, Quentin Lee, Michael Kang, and Frieda Lee Mock, as well as Canadian / BC filmmakers Julia Kwan, Mina Shum, Ann Marie Fleming, Nilesh Patel, and Jeff Chiba Sterns. Attending performers have included Tzi Ma, Edison Chen, Sarita Choudhury, and Rizwan Manji.



AWARDS

Available awards include a juried award for Best Canadian Short, presented by the National Film Board of Canada; a juried award for Best Canadian Feature, presented by the Directors' Guild of Canada; audience-voted People's Choice Awards for best Overall Feature, Overall Short, Overall Performance; and a curated award for Outstanding Contribution: Diversity in Film.

PROGRAMMING / INDUSTRY

Programming at the four-day November festival includes 10-13 film programs incorporating feature length and short films and videos featuring an Artist / Concept Spotlight, International Spotlight, International and Canadian Shorts, Q&A sessions, panel discussions, networking, and gala events.

VAFF 21 Open Call guideline is available at <http://vaff.org/2017-open-call-submission.php>

Follow the festival as it unfolds at:

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ABOUT THE VANCOUVER ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival is the longest running Asian film festival in Canada. Founded by independent filmmaker and writer Barbara K. Lee in 1995 to celebrate diversity in film, the festival has grown to provide an engaging platform for Asian filmmakers to showcase their talents. The VAFF is run by The Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society, a not-for-profit organization comprised of a group of dedicated volunteers. Sponsors and community partners alike also contribute to the success of the organization. Now on its 21st year, the event only expects to grow even bigger. Close to 4,000 people are expected to attend the festival.

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