



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Vancouver Asian Film Festival Accepting Film Submissions for their 22<sup>nd</sup> Year**

**Vancouver, BC – March 15, 2018** – The Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is currently accepting submissions in its open call for film entries to commemorate their 22<sup>nd</sup> year. The annual four-day festival is set for November 1-4, 2018, and has traditionally been held at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 West Pender St., in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown district.

**Festival Director Lynne Lee** and **Marketing Director Vincent Wong**, both new to the roles, are very excited to kick off the **2018 season and festival**. Lynne said “I am so honoured and thrilled to become part of the VAFF family and look forward to sharing Asian cinema with more Vancouverites out there.” Vincent said “For over two decades, VAFF has built a community of filmmakers, professionals and enthusiasts dedicated to a vision of diversity on-screen and behind the camera. It is a vision I believe in because, in our interconnected world, what and who individuals see on screen influences their expectations for society and can help create diversity in the communities they build.”

The VAFF theme in 2018 is **INFUSIAN**, which shines a spotlight upon the vibrant and diverse artists, agitators, thinkers, and innovators who shape the living experience of contemporary Canadians and the array of influences that inform their work. INFUSIAN is the act of creation that helps form an endlessly complex, rich and vigorous society: it tells the stories of individuals and communities blending together old and new, East and West, classic and cutting-edge, myriad ways of living and thinking that draw out the strengths and unique flavours from many different ingredients. It also reflects the undeniable hybridity of modern Canada, with multiple heritages, histories, and cultures both within and outside of the Asian diaspora coming together in countless combinations.

The Festival seeks film submissions from Canadian and International filmmakers to be screened at its annual November festival. VAFF is accepting entries between March 15 and May 31, 2018. Early bird submissions end on April 30, 2018. Regular submissions close on May 15, 2018. The final call for entries is on May 31, 2018.

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

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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 Telefilm 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 22 Open Call guideline is available at [VAFF.ORG/open-call-submission/](http://VAFF.ORG/open-call-submission/)

Follow the festival as it unfolds at:

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Instagram/[vaffvancouver](https://www.instagram.com/vaffvancouver)

YouTube/[VAFFVancouver](https://www.youtube.com/VAFFVancouver)

## **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

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alike also contribute to the success of the organization. Now on its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the event only expects to grow even bigger. Close to 4,000 people are expected to attend the festival.

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