20th AnnualGala Screening & Awards Presentation



MIGHTY ASIAN MOVIE MAKING MARATHON

August 30, 2025 at 6 PM (Doors open at 5pm)

Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, BC

Afterparty at 9:30 PM

Gorg-O-Mish, 695 Smithe St, Vancouver, BC V6B 2C9



MAMM20

MIGHTY ASIAN MOVIE MANAING MARATION



HOSTED BY VANCOUVER ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

VAFF

VANCOUVER ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

We are grateful to live and work on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x™mə θk™əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank the First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities that have cared for Turtle Island since time immemorial. With this acknowledgment, we remind ourselves of discriminatory, racist and colonial practices that have and continue to create barriers for Indigenous peoples and communities across Turtle Island.

THANK YOU SPONSORS

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SHORT FILM FESTIVAL







Save the Date

The 29th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival will take place from November 6-16, 2025



The "Super Early Bird" VAFF Festival Premier Pass & 6-Pack tickets is on sale till Sept. 17, 2025



Join the conversation

@mamm_vaff #mamm20 @vaffvancouver #VAFF #VAFFIndustry #BeyondAsian | www.vaff.org

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF)'s Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon

celebrates its 20th year of supporting and showcasing emerging local filmmakers.

Come see what the 21 teams of MAMM20 finalists made in 10 days!

Join us as we screen the MAMM20 finalists in the 10-minute Short, 1-minute Ultra Short, and Vertical Series categories.

Find out which teams from each category will win the Best Film and other adjudicated awards, and help us select the People's Choice Awards, Overall Shorts and Overall Performance!



INNOVATION AWARD



Leon Ng Filmmaker. Founder

The Innovation in Storytelling Award recognizes emerging filmmakers who are reimagining how stories are told by embracing new formats, technologies, or creative approaches. From vertical video to immersive storytelling, the award celebrates bold, forward-thinking creators who are shaping the future of film.

The Innovation in Storytelling Award was established with the generous support of Leon Ng, a longtime supporter and Lifetime Benefactor of VAFF, to encourage emerging filmmakers to push the boundaries of how stories are told using innovative thinking and techniques. As a filmmaker and founder of LNG Studios, Leon has built a career at the intersection of innovation and creativity.

Through this award, Leon aims to empower a new generation of storytellers to innovate fearlessly, experiment with form, and shape the future of film.

MAMM20

SHORT FILM COMPETITION TEAMS

L10 MIN



TAPEWORM DIARIESby Team
Tapeworm Diaries

(BY SCREENING ORDER):

On the night of her breakout film premiere, a rising Chinese-Canadian actress and her mother navigate 10 tense minutes of love, sacrifice, and miscommunication before leaving the house.

TEAM LEADER: **Kayla Cao** DIRECTOR: **Kayla Cao**

PRODUCER(S): Noa Wang, Mia Hsu, Seby Cerani

WRITER(S): Kayla Cao

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Krystal Chan LEAD ACTOR(S): Suani Rincon, Jenny Zhou

@TAPEWORMDIARIES.FILM

1 MIN



CHOPSTICKS by Team Mise-En-Chefs

During a team dinner filled with cultural expectations and etiquette, a young intern must impress his co-workers by proving that he is 'Asian' enough to fit in.

TEAM LEADER: Josephine Ryu
DIRECTOR: Josephine Ryu
PRODUCER(S): Ryan Anthony Kwok, Sherry Zhuo
WRITER(S): Sherry Zhuo
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Daniel Xue
LEAD ACTOR(S): Trevor Lim
@CHOPSTICKS_SHORTFILM

I 10 MIN



IT'S NOT YOU by Team Yoasobi

A young woman asks her introverted crush out, only to be rejected because they're dating a chatbot.

TEAM LEADER: Tristan Ramos DIRECTOR: Tristan Ramos

PRODUCER(S): Chelsea Urquhart, KJ Nayak

WRITER(S): **Tristan Ramos**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Ngaire L.E.
LEAD ACTOR(S): Kai Kuwakawa. Medha Gautham.

Adrienne Tan
@ITSNOTYOU FILM2025



At a dimsum table where food meets kink, the queer friends push intimacy to its sticky, steamy edges—until a sudden interruption challenges who gets to claim pleasure.

TEAM LEADER: Soya Wu 吳倩蓉 DIRECTOR: Soya Wu 吳倩蓉

PRODUCER(S): Alger Ji-Liang 梁家傑

WRITER(S): Sova Wu 吳倩蓉

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Rashi Sethi राशी सेठी LEAD ACTOR(S): Kamiya Iwamoto かみや岩本, Anjalica Solomon, Kevyn Hu 沈海闻, Cai Feng Zhang 張彩鳳 @SOYASABI

A fleeting encounter on a train forces a carefree teenage boy to confront what he never expected to feel at fifteen: the quiet fear of a forgotten life.

1 MIN



by Team Osaka boys

TEAM LEADER: Lilia Miki DIRECTOR: Lilia Miki

PRODUCER(S): Asuka Otaki, Kasho Iizuka, Michie Asai

WRITER(S): Lilia Miki

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Yosuke Sumi

LEAD ACTOR(S): Riku Tsuji

@LILIAMIKI

I 10 MIN



SANJEEVANI by Team Payasam

In a quiet Kerala home, a young woman grieving in silence crosses paths with a mysterious woman and through their brief connection, finds a small moment of strength she didn't know she needed to change her life.

TEAM LEADER: Neetha John
DIRECTOR: Neetha John
PRODUCER(S): Jibin Mathew, G Amarnath Sankar,
Siddharth Ganesh
WRITER(S): Neetha John

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Joel Kundu

LEAD ACTOR(S): Kavya Suresh, Manju Koruthu, Kiran George, Siya Antu, Deepthi Harindran

@THESANJEEVANIFILM



What begins as an interruption to a grandmother's prayer becomes a quiet act of love and unexpected connection with her interfaith grandson.

TEAM LEADER: Matthew Jin DIRECTOR: Matthew Jin

PRODUCER(S): Sofia Gonzalez-Bonnett

WRITER(S): Matthew Jin

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Joshua Brad-Lee Garrido

LEAD ACTOR(S): Marcus Su, Yuzu Kingma

@GRANDMAISPRAYING

I 10 MIN

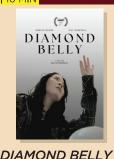


When a proud Chinese grandma tries to reconcile with her granddaughter the only way she knows how— by cutting her an apple— she ends up in an all-out Kung Fu brawl at the market over the last one.

*Eligible only for People's Choice Awards

TEAM LEADER: William Yao, Andrew Ha
DIRECTOR(S): William Yao, Andrew Ha
PRODUCER(S): William Yao, Aileen Wu, Christian
Lagasse, Tom Wang, Adamas Kou, Sunny Liu
WRITER(S): William Yao, Andrew Ha
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: KOYA
LEAD ACTOR(S): Geling Jiang, Jamie Luk
@CROUCHINGGRANDMAHIDDENAPPLE

I 10 MIN



by Team DoCap

Alex's grandfather is dying of stomach cancer. But when the old man starts claiming those aren't tumours, but pilfered diamonds from a heist gone wrong in the old country, Alex starts seeing mysterious signs that this tall-tale might actually be true.

TEAM LEADER: Kyle D'Odorico
DIRECTOR: Kyle D'Odorico

PRODUCER(S): **Donal Thoms Cappello, Evelyn Tran**

WRITER(S): **Kyle D'Odorico**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Sally Zori
LEAD ACTOR(S): Marlene Ginader, Paul Moniz de Sa

@KYLEDODORICO



When a young Asian man performs a heel dance in front of an unsuspecting audience, he's stunned to find his conservative parents in the front row—forcing a silent confrontation between self-expression and generational tradition.

TEAM LEADER: Christina Wang DIRECTOR: Christina Wang

PRODUCER(S): Christina Wang, Regina Zhang, Peter Yu

WRITER(S): Christina Wang

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Marc Yungco

LEAD ACTOR(S): Vince Jason, Vincent Ross, Lin Miada

@INFULLHEELS





SAHANA

by Team Otso Otso

Sahana, a young 10 year old dancer, is expecting her father's attention in the crowd of her tap dance recital, but instead sees a disfigured version of him wearing a mask that hides his facial features.

TEAM LEADER: Nushi Sharma DIRECTOR: Nushi Sharma PRODUCER(S): Stella Merkel WRITER(S): Nushi Sharma

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: **KR Gonzales** LEAD ACTOR(S): **Elena Bañares, Carlo Fortin**

@SAHANASHORT

I 1 MIN



THE LATE SHIFT
by Team Lunchbox Films

An immigrant mother's voicemail guides her son through making dinner alone, revealing the quiet sacrifices made on both ends of a long workday.

TEAM LEADER: Pamath Vinlaka
DIRECTOR: Pamath Vinlaka
PRODUCER(S): Crystal Lau
WRITER(S): Pamath Vinlaka
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Saarthak Taneia

LEAD ACTOR(S): Shreshta Sri Gunawardena, Manisha Silva

@SYKADAS



WITHOUT A SMILE! by Team Without a Smile!

A woman can't stop smiling when she goes to get her passport photo taken.

TEAM LEADER: Nina Zarabi
DIRECTOR: Nina Zarabi

PRODUCER(S): Nina Zarabi, Kenneth Seto Tynan, Lissa

Neptuno

WRITER(S): Nina Zarabi

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Arsalan Neshan LEAD ACTOR(S): Tanaz Roudgar, Kian Lahour Pour

@ZARABI.NINA





ONE LAST WALK
by Team Walks-a-lot

Two lonely, non-english speaking grandmas from two different cultures share their last walk together.

TEAM LEADER: Andrea Bang, Diana Bang DIRECTOR(S): Andrea Bang, Diana Bang

PRODUCER(S): Andrea Bang, Diana Bang, Mik Narciso,

Mengzhu Nhi, Willan Leung, Sungha Kim WRITER(S): Andrea Bang, Diana Bang

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Rachel Chen

LEAD ACTOR(S): Hyechun Emma Chung, Cai June Wu

@ANDREA.BANG

I 1 MIN



A young woman's meditative retreat unravels when eerie birdlike sounds in the woods hint at a presence she can't explain.

TEAM LEADER: Cynthia Zhou DIRECTOR: Cynthia Zhou PRODUCER(S): Cynthia Zhou WRITER(S): Cynthia Zhou

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Jun PoChun Chen

LEAD ACTOR(S): Cynthia Zhou

@CYNZYY

To ally Some

LOCALLY SOURCED by Team The Fang Gang

When a couple's "locally sourced" dinner turne into an unexpected ted-talk about their divided community, sinking their teeth into common ground proves to be a challenge.

TEAM LEADER: **Zaarin Bushra** DIRECTOR: **Zaarin Bushra**

PRODUCER(S): Zaarin Bushra, Praneet Akilla, Lea

Geronimo

WRITER(S): Zaarin Bushra

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Issa Shah LEAD ACTOR(S): Zaarin Bushra, Praneet Akilla

@ITSZAARINB

MAMM20 VERTICAL SERIES TEAMS

VERTICAL



HALFWAY HOME by Team Mustard Seeds

(BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

This is a coming-of-age story about Jay, a Korean-Canadian who starts working at Kai's suspicious immigration office and, while scamming the Korean families he meets, gradually comes to realize the importance of family and the weight of his own choices.

TEAM LEADER: Dahye Chang DIRECTOR: Dahye Chang

PRODUCER(S): Robin Jung, Soomin Park

WRITER(S): Dahye Chang

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Junho Ahn LEAD ACTOR(S): Andrew Woo

@MUSTARDSEEDSFILM

VERTICAL



A covert agent sent to erase a rogue hacker must choose: follow the mission- or join him in crashing the system that killed both their families.

TEAM LEADER: **Chhavi Disawar** DIRECTOR: **Elizabeth Ababio**

PRODUCER(S): Chhavi Disawar, Shrey Vyas, Amit Dhuga

WRITER(S): Chhavi Disawar

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: **Apurv Swami** LEAD ACTOR(S): **Chhavi Disawar, Shrey Vyas**

@PROTOCOLDUSKLIGHT



In search of a cure to lift the curse fallen on hiskingdom, the Prince of Ellandria has to face the treacherous, monstrous, and soul-crushing challenges of modern Vancouve

TEAM LEADER: Raphael Jazin DIRECTOR: Aldrin Palaming

PRODUCER(S): Raphael Jazin, Taitania Higuchi

WRITER(S): Raphael Jazin

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Berkeley Reyes
LEAD ACTOR(S): Ian Kim, Leona Khong, Mariel Olaguer

@PRINCEINVANCOUVER

VERTICAL



by Team Lee-enfield

A high-achieving cadet faces her biggest challenge, a bunch of losers and the need to work with them.

TEAM LEADER: Justin F. Lee DIRECTOR: Justin F. Lee

PRODUCER(S): Justin F. Lee, Steven Hu, Sammy Vu

WRITER(S): Justin F. Lee

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Rob Zastre

LEAD ACTOR(S): Brianna Kim, Luis Carbajal, Thomas

Beag, Sarah Maguire, Dorien Van @SUMMERIFOUNDMYSELF

VERTICAL



by Team For the Win

After a father catches his teenage son self-pleasuring, an attempt to give "the talk" spirals into a hilariously awkward but unexpectedly heartfelt conversation that challenges cultural taboos, masculinity, & emotional vulnerability.

TEAM LEADER: James Okubo DIRECTOR: James Okubo

PRODUCER(S): Stephen Fallis, Duncan Carr, Graham

Heathfield, Charlie Nesbitt WRITER(S): James Okubo

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Sebastian Marin

LEAD ACTOR(S): Ryan Ahn, Ryan Mah

@THETALK.SERIES

MAMM20 GALA SCREENING SCHEDULE

PROGRAM START (6:00 PM) Tapeworm Diaries by Team Tapeworm Diaries (Kayla Cao) 10 MIN

Chopsticks by Team Mise-En-Chefs (Josephine Ryu) | 1 MIN
It's Not You by Team Yoasobi (Tristan Ramos) | 10 MIN
Egg Yolk Custard Bun by Team Queer Dimsum (Soya Wu) | 1 MIN
Anohi by Team Osaka boys (Lilia Miki) | 1 MIN
Sanjeevani by Team Payasam (Neetha John) | 10 MIN
Grandma's Praying by Team Richmond (Matthew Jin) | 1 MIN
Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple by Team Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple
(William Yao & Andrew Ha) | 10 MIN

INTERMISSION (15 MINS)

Diamond Belly by Team DoCap (Kyle D'Odorico) | 10 MIN
In Full Heels by Team Jellyfish (Christina Wang) | 1 MIN
Sahana by Team Otso Otso (Nushi Sharma) | 10 MIN
The Late Shift by Team Lunchbox Films (Pamath Vinlaka) | 1 MIN
Without a Smile! by Team Without a Smile! (Nina Zarabi) | 1 MIN
One Last Walk by Team Walks-a-lot (Andrea Bang & Diana Bang) | 10 MIN
Hollowbone by Team Two Women Crew (Cynthia Zhou) | 1 MIN
Locally Sourced by Team The Fang Gang (Zaarin Bushra) | 10 MIN

2ND INTERMISSION (5 MINS)

VERTICAL SERIES TEAMS (BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Halfway Home by Team Mustard Seeds (Dahye Chang) | Vertical Protocol Dusklight by Team The Fifth Key (Chhavi Disawar) | Vertical The Prince in Vancouver by Team Red Case (Raphael Jazin) | Vertical The Summer I Found Myself by Team Lee-enfield (Justin F. Lee) | Vertical The Talk by Team For the Win (James Okubo) | Vertical

AWARDS PRESENTATION

AFTERPARTY

(Gorg-O-Mish, 695 Smithe St, Vancouver, BC V6B 2C9)



MAMM20 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

SCAN and VOTE



https://bit.ly/mamm20pca







MAMMENTORSHIP

BEHIND THE SCENES



















MAMM20 BEHIND THE SCENES

















MAMM20 BEHIND THE SCENES





MAMM20 BEHIND THE SCENES













JUDGES | MAMM20

Thank you, MAMM JUDGES FOR 1 MIN AND 10 MIN FILMS



Filmmaker, Producer



Mayumi Yoshida Actor, Writer, Director



Nelu Handa Writer, Actor, Showrunner



Jerome Yoo Writer, Director



Jay Vaidya Writer, Producer

Thank you, MAMM JUDGES **FOR VERTICAL SERIES**



Soma Helmi Director, Writer



Osric Chau Actor, Producer



Patrick Do Writer, Producer, Chef



Jon Taylor Media executive, Producer, Entrepreneur & CEO



Barbara Lee MAMM Co-Founder & Vertical Series Lead

Thank you, MAMM LECTURERS-



Nimisha Mukerji
Director



Allen Xu Media Producer, Director



Mojeb Jindran Actor, Producer



James Matagne Film Producer



Raugi Yu Actor, Director, Instructor



Brian CheungCinematographer, Director



Shakil Jessa Writer, Producer



MIGHTY ASIAN MOVIE MAKING MARATHON

Thank you, MAMM VERTICAL SERIES PRODUCING AND MENTORSHIP TEAM



Barbara LeeMAMM20 Vertical Series
Lead



Osric Chau MAMM20 Vertical Series Producer



Patrick Do MAMM20 Vertical Series Producer

Thank you, MAMM MENTORS



Jenny Lee-Gilmore

Actor, Filmmaker



Allen Xu Media Producer, Director



Shakil Jessa Writer, Producer



Shubham ChhabraDirector



Hannah Yang Writer, Director, Producer



Sebastian Ortiz Wilkins Filmmaker, Director



NightingaleMultidisciplinary Artist,
Mental Health Advocate



Ava SafaiDirector,
Multidisciplinary artist

Thank you, CO-FOUNDERS



Barbara Lee MAMM Co-Founder & Vertical Series Lead



Peter Leung MAMM Co-Founder

I MAMM20

Thank you, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Clement Lau | Vice-President
Edmond Ng | Treasurer
Justin Park | Member at Large
Jacqueline Lee | Member at Large
Jason Dang | Treasurer
Emily Kwan | Member at Large

MAMM20 PRODUCTION



Lynne LeeMAMM Director & Producer



Joshua Lam Lead Creative Producer



Panta Mosleh Creative Producer



Moheb Jindran Creative Producer



Regina Leung MAMM Producer / Director of VAFF Industry



Shanthini BalasubramanianJunior Creative Producer



MAMM20 PRODUCTION

MAMM PRODUCTION TEAM

Celine Ho MAMM Admin Assistant

Althea Alabat Marketing & Events Manager

Revy Ma-Barber Social Media & Branding Manager

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Rachel Kim Graphic Designer

Sienna Yoon Graphic Designer

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Ray Ho Web Design / Admin

Luis Baptista Web Design / Admin

Jeremy Chen Social Media & Gala Awards Video Editor

Shastina Kumar MAMM Producing Support

MAMM20 OPENING FILM



Granddaughter | RAJASHREE IYENGAR
Grandma | CHANDNI APPADURAI
Young Grandma | RAAGINI APPADURAI
Young Boy | JOON LEEWOOD
Barbara Lee | BARBARA LEE
Peter Leung | PETER LEUNG
Lynne Lee | LYNNE LEE
Regina Leung | REGINA LEUNG
Joshua Lam | JOSHUA LAM
Panta Mosleh | PANTA MOSLEH
Moheb Jindran | MOHEB JINDRAN
2005 Crew Member #1 | SODAM HONG

MAMM20 OPENING FILM

♦ CREW♦

Director, Writer, Producer

Boom Op & Composer | HARLEY

SHANTHINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

MARANAN

Producer | LYNNE LEE

Colourist | SHAN UGALINO
Storyboard Artist |

Producer | REGINA LEUNG
Producer | JOSHUA LAM

KEERTHANA KASINATHAN

Producer | MOHEB JINDRAN

Steadicam & Camera Operator

Producer, Directing Mentor

LEO LEINER

PANTA MOSLEH

1st Assistant Camera

Director of Photography | PATRICIO OSEGUERA

AGUSTIN SILVA OCAMPO

2nd Assistant Camera |

Production Designer | SODAM HONG

ASHE ALEXANDRIA SABONGUI

Post-Production Supervisor & Editor |

itor | DIT | JOSHUA LAM

YASH AHUJA

DIT | MOHEB JINDRAN

1st Assistant Director | JAMIE LAM

Gaffer | GENKI GOTO

Script Supervisor | KRIS MAKI
VFX Supervisor | KIRAN ADITHYA K

Key Grip/Swing | BRUNO PETER PUENTE

Grip & LX | MARKUS LEE

Grip & LX | GERALD NG

Co-Art Director and Set Dresser | ALYSSA MAWJI

Compositor | PRAKASH REDDY TALLA
Compositor | NATHAN HAWES

Key Hair/Make Up Artist |

Compositor | GIL KIM

LOIS THORP

VFX Mentor | KARLA VASQUEZ

Assistant Editor | NEGAR IPAKCHIAZIMI

Henrique Andrade

VFX Mentor | NICK WHITELEY

NEGAR IPAKCHIAZIMI

VFX Advisor | PATRICIA PALACÍN

Post Sound Editor & Sound Mixer

LAFUENTE

Lead Compositor | KIRAN ADITHYA K

VFX Advisor | SHREYA SONEGRA

Grip & LX Truck Driver | REGINA LEUNG

Lead Compositor | KIRAN ADITHYA K | Compositor |

Still & BTS Photographer,

SHANTHINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

Craft Services | JOSHUA LAM

- Thank you to our Opening Film Sponsors! -















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