



Can You Keep Your Soul Climbing the Career Ladder?

A LEADING MAN Closes Out VAFF 2014

Vancouver, BC—October 11, 2014— The Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is proud to present the Canadian premiere of **A LEADING MAN** at this year's 18th annual celebration of diversity in film. The feature writing and directorial debut of Taiwanese American talent Steven J. Kung, **A LEADING MAN** plays at Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W. Pender, Vancouver on Sunday, November 9th at 7PM closing the four-day film festival which runs from November 6th.

After being fired from the episodic TV gig of his dreams for refusing to portray a racial stereotype, Guoquiao (played by Canadian Jack Yang) finds himself blacklisted in LA and potentially out of an acting career. Fine, frisky and frustrated, GQ fights to salvage what's left of his career in the only way he thinks he can... by sleeping his way to the top. As pressures from work, love and family come to a head, Guoquiao must confront the hard question: How much of himself will he compromise for professional success?

A career in television writing and production inspired Steven Kung to write **A LEADING MAN** after witnessing systemic stereotypical and two-dimensional depictions of Asian North Americans in film and television. Art imitates life; casting by the colour numbers, and the casting couch, remain familiar scenarios. Although this film is set in the LA film industry, parallels are all too easily drawn with Vancouver and elsewhere.

"Audiences are going to learn a great deal from this behind-the-scenes look at the film industry, especially at the unsavoury aspects of exclusion and stereotyping that are still systemic to this day," stated Grace Chin, festival director. "Even though **A LEADING MAN** is a fictional account, I believe many contemporary actors, filmmakers, and creative talent in this city will be able to identify with the story. And everyone can identify with the character's struggle to succeed while the industry, family, and society all seem pitted against him."

"This year's VAFF aims to be thought-provoking," emphasizes Chin. "The theme, *What's Your Perspective?*, challenges our audience to examine the lens with which they look inward, as well as outward at the world - similar to how filmmakers bring their unique perspectives to their work." The VAFF 2014 lineup includes an impressive 9 world premieres, 2 North American premieres, 3 Canadian premieres and 2 Vancouver premieres.

After the film, audiences are welcome to attend the VAFF's Closing Night Party at The Abbey, 117 West Pender St., Vancouver, BC.

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Tickets are available online at www.vaff.org, or at the VAFF table located in the foyer of the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas starting November 6th. There will also be VIP passes available online for \$88 in advance of the festival or \$150 during the festival. All VAFF VIP pass holders will receive complimentary, priority access to all film screenings and special events at the festival and have the chance to mingle with filmmakers, actors and other industry guests. Visit www.vaff.org or email info@vaff.org for more information. Screeners are available upon request.

Follow the festival as it unfolds at:
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About the Vancouver Asian Film Festival

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society (VAFF) is a not-for-profit organization that celebrates diversity in film by providing a forum for independent Canadian and American Asian filmmakers to showcase their work to Asian and non-Asian audiences in Vancouver. The oldest Asian film festival in Canada, it was founded by independent filmmaker and writer Barbara K. Lee in 1995 and debuted in September 1997. VAFF is entirely organized and produced by a group of dedicated volunteers, and is made possible through support from community partnerships and generous financial support from corporate sponsors, public funders and private donors. Organizers are expecting close to 4,000 audience members over the four-day festival.

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