



18th Annual Festival Showcases Homegrown Animation and the Best of the Web

Festival Runs November 6-9, 2014 at the Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas

Vancouver, BC—October 15, 2014—The Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is proud to bring audiences two special programs within their much anticipated 18th Annual celebration of Asian filmmaking at Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W. Pender from November 6th to 9th, 2014. The best of North American Asian web videos will be shown on the big screen in **ONLINE INVASION** on Saturday, November 8th at 3:30PM. Local filmmakers are highlighted in the program **VANIMASIAN RETROSPECTIVE** which plays on Sunday, November 9th at 4PM. Panel discussions will follow the screenings giving audiences a chance to learn and ask questions of these talented filmmakers.

Provocative. Punny. Profitable. Asian North American artists may not always be represented in the mainstream entertainment industry, but in the rapidly evolving web production and distribution environment these artists are generating hits, collecting fans, and making a killing. VAFF is proud to present Vancouver's first ever Asian Web Fest program in partnership with Vancouver Web Fest, featuring a slice of the funniest hit-generating web content creators and producers this side of the Pacific: Vancouver YouTube sensation Linda Dong of **LeendaDProductions**, the action comedy web series **AWESOME ASIAN BAD GUYS** celebrates unsung Asian villains and their contribution to pop culture history, **LITTLE RAM MEDIA**, the producers of Ultra Rich Asian Girls (otherwise known as HBICtv), and **NICE GIRLS CREW** shows the dark side of book clubs. Web Fest Director Suzette Laqua will be moderating a panel discussion and Q&A following the screening on "How to Make Major Money as a Minority" online - covering concept, production, monetization and distribution with some of the featured producers and a special guest, entertainment lawyer Jeff Young of Altman & Co.

The VANIMASIAN RETROSPECTIVE is curated by VAFF alumnus and Webby award-winning, Emmy® nominated animation and documentary filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns. The 14 animations feature Vancouver-based Asian and Asian Canadian animators spanning the past 18 years. A panel discussion moderated by Jeff Chiba Stearns follows the screening and audiences will hear about independent and commercial animation in Vancouver as well as festival distribution strategies for animation with some of the retrospective's filmmakers.

"This year's VAFF aims to be thought-provoking," stated Grace Chin, festival director. "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. This year, we have 40 films that include feature-length films, documentaries and shorts produced by Vancouver, Canadian, American and international

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filmmakers.” The VAFF 2014 lineup includes an impressive 9 world premieres, 2 North American premieres, 3 Canadian premieres and 2 Vancouver premieres.

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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