

###

## AWARD-WINNING ASIAN CANADIAN SHORT FILMS TOUR FOUR CITIES THIS MAY 2010 Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver

Toronto, April 26, 2010 - In celebration of Asian Heritage Month, Reel Asian's presents its first cross-Canada tour SENSE OF WONDER, a dynamic selection of thought-provoking Asian Canadian shorts from across the country. This program will be seen in four different cities this May including Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa, and Vancouver, thanks to four presenting partners: Winnipeg Film Group, Accès Asie, Ottawa Asian Heritage Month, and ExplorAsian.

Reel Asian is Canada's premier pan-Asian international film festival, fostering the exchange of cultural and artistic ideals between east and west. It provides a public forum for homegrown Asian media artists and their work, and fuels the growing appreciation for Asian cinema in Canada. The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival is a unique showcase of contemporary Asian cinema and work from the Asian diaspora. Founded in 1997 by producer Anita Lee and journalist Andrew Sun, this non-profit community-based festival has grown into an eagerly anticipated annual event that attracts thousands of attendees to 6 exciting days of screenings, industry sessions and special events. The 2010 festival will take place from November 9-14 in Toronto.

### SENSE OF WONDER

Inspiring our imaginations in the darkest of moments, this year's selection of the best Asian Canadian shorts invokes a playful outlook on tragedy. Guest directors will be visiting each city for screenings and Q&As.

SENSE OF WONDER includes three of the 2009 festival's award-winning shorts, including:

**REX VS. SINGH** (Canada 2009) by Richard Fung, John Greyson and Ali Kazimi

This four-part drama, documentary, musical and conceptual video provides an insightful perspective on the history of homophobia and racism towards Sikhs in Vancouver, Canada. The video won the *NFB Best Canadian Film Or Video Award* at Reel Asian in 2009 "for the artful mining of archival material, for great cast and production, and for the inspired multi-POV structure that looks at how history is interpreted and then re-interpreted."

*Ali Kazimi was born and raised in India and is an internationally acclaimed documentary filmmaker. He currently teaches film and video at York University in Toronto. His documentary Continuous Journey is a provocative and multilayered film essay that interweaves photographs, newsreels, home movies and official documents.*

*John Greyson is a prolific video artist, filmmaker and writer whose work has been screened in numerous international festivals and venues. Greyson currently teaches film and video at York University and recently completed his new feature, Fig Trees.*

*Richard Fung is a Trinidad-born, Toronto-based video artist and cultural critic whose work deals with the confluence of race and queer sexuality and with issues of post-colonialism, diaspora and family. Winner of the Bell Canada Award for Outstanding Achievement in Video Art, Fung currently teaches at the Ontario College of Art & Design.*

**Richard Fung will be in attendance in Montreal and Ottawa for a Q&A following the screenings.**

**FOUND** (Canada 2009) by Paramita Nath is about Toronto poet Souvankham Thammavongsa, who was born in a Lao refugee camp in Thailand. Nath beautifully brings together Thammavongsa's words and her father's abandoned scrapbook into a moving visual poem. *Found* was awarded the *TSV Visionary Video Award* at Reel Asian 2009 for being "a memoir film done exceptionally well and for its haunting poetry."

*Paramita Nath was born in India and moved to Canada 12 years ago to pursue studies in music. She received a BA in music from Memorial University of Newfoundland and an MA in interdisciplinary fine arts from York University in Toronto.*

**Paramita Nath will be in attendance in Montreal and Ottawa for a Q&A following the screenings.**

**FISH IN BARREL** (Canada 2009) by Randall Okita. In a stunning cinematic exploration of a young man's internal struggle, director Okita questions what lies below the surface. *Fish In Barrel* won the *Centennial College @ Wallace Studios Most Innovative Film Production Award*, where it was described as "brilliantly shot, with a potent and evocative integration of music and sound with image."

*Randall Okita was born in Calgary, lived in Vancouver for a number of years and is currently a director-in-residence at the CFC in Toronto. Fish In Barrel screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and has screened internationally. The Vancouver screening will be the Vancouver premiere of FISH IN BARREL.*

**Randall Okita will be in attendance in Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver for a Q&A following the screenings.**

The tour will also include Q&A's with the following directors:

**Leslie Supnet** (*A SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING*, Canada, 2008) is a Filipino illustrator and animator from Winnipeg, who imparts a touch of whimsy in an exploration of isolation, nostalgia, place and identity in a humorous animation about a hungry bird.

**Leslie Supnet will be in attendance in Winnipeg and Montreal for a Q&A following the screenings.**

**Yung Chang** (*ALI SHAN*, Canada, 2009) is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who graduated in film production from Montreal's Concordia University. His work *Up the Yangtze* recently won best documentary at the Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan. His short film *Ali Shan* is poetic voyage inspired by childhood memories that takes viewers across the ocean to Taiwan and a breathtaking sunrise at the peaks of a historical mountain.

**Yung Chang will be in attendance in Montreal for a Q&A following the screenings.**

**Lydia Fu** (*PERMUTE*, Canada, 2008) is a Vancouver-based filmmaker. She graduated in chemistry at the University of Chicago and in media arts at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design. Her short tells the story of existential heroine Lulu who is caught in a film-noir cityscape fraught with mystery, anxiety and apprehension.

**Lydia Fu will be in attendance in Vancouver for a Q&A following the screenings.**

**Victoria Cheong** graduated from Ryerson University's film school. Her recent work includes a VHS music video for Toronto musician *Gentleman Reg* and a video-dance integration (with dancer *Allison Peacock*). Her film *NOCTURNE FOR THE FIREFLIES* (Canada 2009) takes place in the dark of the night, where a parade of little girls travel through the forest, bringing to life the magic of folk tales and children's lullabies.

**Victoria Cheong will be in attendance in Ottawa for a Q&A following the screenings.**

**Sense of Wonder** also includes:

**IRMA VEP** (Dir. Jong Wook Choi, Canada 2009).

City, Province	Date & Time	Host Organization	Location	Address	In Attendance
Winnipeg, MB	Thu May 13, 7:00pm	Winnipeg Film Group <a href="http://winnipegfilmgroup.com">winnipegfilmgroup.com</a>	WFG's Cinematheque	100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, MB	Randall Okita Lesley Supnet
Montreal, QC	Sun May 16, 1:00pm	Accès Asie <a href="http://www.accesasie.com">www.accesasie.com</a>	NFB ONF	1564 St-Denis, Montreal, QB	Richard Fung Paramita Nath Randall Okita Lesley Supnet
Ottawa, ON	Tue May 18, 7:30pm	Ottawa Asian Heritage Month <a href="http://www.asianheritagemonth.net">www.asianheritagemonth.net</a>	Library & Archives Auditorium	395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON	Victoria Cheong Richard Fung Paramita Nath Randall Okita
Vancouver, BC	Tue May 25, 7:00pm	ExplorAsian <a href="http://www.explorasian.org">www.explorasian.org</a>	Pacific Cinematheque	1131 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC	Lydia Fu Randall Okita

For more information contact

Heather Keung, Artistic Director

[programming@reelasian.com](mailto:programming@reelasian.com)

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

401 Richmond Street West, Suite 309 Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

T 416-703-9333 F 416-703-9986

[www.reelasian.com](http://www.reelasian.com)

**This program is generously supported by the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario.**

**Host presenters:** Winnipeg Film Group, Accès Asie, ExplorAsian, Ottawa Asian Heritage Month

**Community Partners:** Schema, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada 25@25, Winnipeg Asian Heritage Month, SAW Video

The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm, OMDC, Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

Reel Asian Charitable # 87002 1383 RR 0001