

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival Youth Programme
Presented by Canwest
National Film Board Mediatheque - November 12th and 13th, 2009

Dear teachers,

We're gearing up to launch our 13th annual festival November 11th to the 15th, and wanted to let you know about this year's exciting programme. The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival is a unique showcase of contemporary Asian cinema and work from the Asian diaspora. The festival 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.

This year, we are happy to once again provide screenings for students in conjunction with the National Film Board Mediatheque (150 John Street, 2nd Floor, at Richmond St. W). They will be held on **Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 13th from 1pm to 3pm.**

Exploring diverse Asian cultures through documentary, dramatic and experimental shorts, our youth programme connects students to a broad range of social issues. Thursday's programme showcases humorous animations, comedies and experimental films and videos by and/or about young Asian women. These films delve into issues of gender identity and stereotypes in innovative and entertaining ways. The moving films making up Friday's programme exhibit the creativity and strength drawn upon by a series of inspiring characters working to carve out their own place in society.

After the screenings, students will engage with select directors in a Q&A session. This is a unique opportunity to interact with emerging filmmakers about their films and motives. It is also a chance for students to learn about the path that led them to independent filmmaking, which university programs are available, what challenges they face, and how they have been able to carve out a career.

In addition to the screening programme, **NFB Mediatheque** will be offering an innovative, hands-on production workshop for teens entitled '**Animate the Issues**'. In this workshop, students will be challenged to take on social issues and explore them through the medium of stop-motion animation. After learning the basics of animation and brainstorming ideas, students will work in teams to create their own animated public service announcements (PSAs). The PSAs created by the students will be screened as part of the Reel Asian Youth Presentations on November 12th and 13th.

Two registration options are therefore provided:

Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 13th: Workshop (9:30am – 12:30pm) & Screenings (1pm – 3pm)

Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 13th: Screenings (1pm – 3pm)

Admission for the screenings is \$5.00, with the workshops free of charge. There is a limited capacity for both workshops and theatre seating, so please reserve in advance with **Merrill Matthews, Team Leader, NFB Mediatheque, at 416-973-7114 or m.matthews@nfb.ca**. With questions in regards to lesson plans and the film & video programming please contact me at CarlyWhitefield@gmail.com.

Best,

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