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**AWARD-WINNING FEATURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD:
FROM A MUSICAL JOURNEY AND POLITICAL SEX COMEDY
TO AN EPIC ANIME AND ACTION THRILLER**

Toronto, October 8, 2013 — The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, is proud to showcase a dynamic selection of highly anticipated premieres and international guests in attendance, including filmmakers Grace Lee (USA), Charlie Yeung (Hong Kong), Jeong Byeong-gil (South Korea), Ramona Diaz (USA), Meera Menon (USA), Nikohl Boosheri (USA), Zero Chou (Taiwan), and Cary McClelland (USA). Reel Asian has a strong emphasis on connecting local audiences with internationally recognized directors and talent from abroad. Guests will be in attendance to participate in Q&As with audiences after their film screenings. In addition, public talks will provide more insight into the making of some of these films. Please refer to Reel Asian's 2013 programme guide for more details on these events.

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS (director Grace Lee in attendance, USA 2013, Canadian Premiere)

What does it mean to be an American revolutionary today? Grace Lee Boggs is a 98-year-old Chinese American woman in Detroit whose vision of revolution may surprise you. In an age where we face seemingly insurmountable injustices and contradictions each day, *American Revolutionary* inspires concerned citizens and dreamers of all ages to engage and join the struggle to make change. Grace Lee is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker of both fiction and documentary films. Her most recent feature film about the 2012 U.S. presidential campaign, *Janeane From Des Moines*, premiered at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. Prior to that, she wrote and directed *American Zombie*, which premiered at Slamdance and SXSW before being released by Cinema Libre. She also produced and directed *The Grace Lee Project* (Reel Asian 2005), a feature documentary on Asian American identity and stereotypes.

CONFESSION OF MURDER (director Jeong Byeong-gil in attendance, South Korea 2012, Toronto Premiere)

A serial killer who terrorized a nation reveals his identity after 15 years in a tell-all biography. With his dashing good looks and well-mannered charm, he is an instant hit with the media. Detective Choi doesn't buy the reformed image and sets out to settle the score once and for all. Jeong Byeong-gil made his debut with the documentary *Action Boys* (2008), a film about stunt men who dream of becoming action stars. *Confession of Murder* is Jeong's first feature film.

DON'T STOP BELIEVIN': EVERYMAN'S JOURNEY (director Ramona Diaz in attendance, USA 2012, Canadian Premiere)

When American band Journey went in search of a new lead singer, they happened upon YouTube clips of an unknown Filipino singer with a voice of gold, belting out cover tunes in an obscure Manila bar. Reel Asian is pleased to present the Canadian theatrical premiere of Ramona Diaz's thrilling portrait of Arnel Pineda, an intimate look into the whirlwind life of a man whose sudden immersion into rock-and-roll fame is a culture shock he could not have foreseen. Ramona Diaz is an award-winning, Baltimore-based filmmaker. Her previous films, *The Learning* (2011), *Imelda* (2003) and *Spirits Rising* (1996), examine the Philippines' history and diaspora.

FARAH GOES BANG (director Meera Menon, producer Liz Singh in attendance, actress Nikohl Boosheri in attendance, USA 2013, International Premiere)

Farah is a 20-year-old, fun-loving, Bush-hating, Iranian American virgin. With her two besties, she sets off to campaign for US presidential candidate John Kerry and get laid in this fresh take on young American feminism. Winner of the inaugural Nora Ephron Prize for Best Female Film at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival.

RIPPLES OF DESIRE (director Zero Chou in attendance, Taiwan 2012, Canadian Premiere)

Zero Chou's big-budget period drama features Taiwanese pop idols Ivy Chen and Michelle Chen as talented courtesans caught in a web of love and betrayal. *Ripples of Desire* is the most ambitious (?) period drama to emerge from Taiwan in more than 15 years, and features an all-star cast (Jerry Yan, Simon Yam, Sandra Ng). For her most ambitious film to date, Chou maintains a special sympathy for those who exist on society's margins, while working her distinctive allusive style that shifts seamlessly between realism and fantasy. Chou started her career as a journalist and has won numerous awards for her films chronicling the Taiwan LGBT community. Her recent works include *Drifting Flowers*, *Splendid Float* (winner of three Golden Horse Awards, including Best Taiwanese Film 2004), and *Spider Lilies* (winner of the Teddy Award at Berlin International Film Festival 2007).

WITHOUT SHEPHERDS (director Cary McClelland in attendance, co-director Imran Babur, USA/Pakistan 2013)

"What is the meaning of Pakistan?" cricket star-turned-opposition leader Imran Khan asks the crowd at a political rally. This sprawling documentary follows six very different Pakistanis trying to define their dynamic but misunderstood country. Winner of the Best Documentary and Grand Chameleon (Best Overall Film) awards at the Brooklyn Film Festival 2013.

EVANGELION: 3.0 YOU CAN (NOT) REDO (directors Hideaki Anno, Kazuya Tsurumaki, Masayuki, Mahiro Maeda, Japan 2012, Toronto Premiere)

The long-anticipated third installment of Hideaki Anno's epic anime saga begins with Shinji returning to Earth after 14 years of hibernation, only to discover a new world order and a home he barely knows. Earth lies in ruins and those he once fought valiantly to protect have cruelly turned against him. Based on the anime series *Neon Genesis Evangelion* that has generated over \$2 billion dollars in revenue, the series has risen to cult status in the anime community.

THE KIRISHIMA THING (director Daihachi Yoshida, Japan 2012)

On Friday afternoon, star athlete Kirishima quits the volleyball team, sending his teammates, girlfriend and classmates into an anxious, bewildered tailspin. Based on the best-selling novel *Kirishima, Bukatsu Yamerutteyo* by Ryo Asai (2010), *The Kirishima Thing* tackles the subject of high school hierarchies and the experience of living in a tightly controlled social environment. Beautifully acted, written and directed, the film is certainly deserving of the accolades it has received. Winner of the Best Film of the Year and Best Director at the 2012 Japanese Academy Awards and Best Film and Best Director at the 2012 Mainichi Film Awards.

THE GREAT PASSAGE (director Yuya Ishii, Japan 2013, Toronto Premiere)

Japan's 2013 Oscar entry for Best Foreign Language Film is a gentle love story about awkward linguist Majime (Ryuhei Matsuda) and his landlady's daughter (Miyazaki Aoi), as Majime takes on the momentous task of editing a new dictionary and defining the word "love". Based on Shion Miura's best-selling novel, this gently absorbing drama—with its all-star cast and healthy undercurrent of quirky humour—celebrates ordinary people locked in a glorious endeavour. Yuya Ishii (*Sawako Decides* 2010) is one of Japan's most renowned young directors. This is the newest work from Ishii, known for his honest depiction of the peculiarities and passion of his very human characters.

HOW TO USE GUYS WITH SECRET TIPS (director Lee Won-Suk, South Korea 2013, Toronto Premiere)

Choi Bo-na (Lee Si-young) spends her days on movie sets in a baggy hoody, hiding in the shadow of her sexist boss. When she stumbles upon a secret instructional video, she suddenly gets more romantic attention than she bargained for. A battle-of-the-sexes comedy that doesn't stoop to clichés, the film is a fun ride, with plenty of visual flair and an awesome soundtrack. Winner of audience awards at the 2013 Udine Far East Film Festival, 2013 New York Asian Film Festival and 2013 Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival.

THE ROCKET (director Kim Mordaunt, Laos/Australia 2013, Toronto Premiere)

Following in the steps of *Whale Rider* and *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, this coming-of-age story from the lush and seldom-seen country of Laos has captivated critics and audiences around the world. *The Rocket* tells the story of a spirited boy's quest to break free from his ill-fated destiny. Performed by mostly non-professional actors, it is one of the first internationally released feature films from Laos, the most bombed country in the world. Winner of the Crystal Bear for Best Feature (Generation KPlus section) at the 2013 Berlin International Film Festival, and Best Narrative Feature Film, Heineken Audience Award and Best Actor in Narrative Feature Film (Sithiphon Disamoe) at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival.

THE SILK ROAD OF POP (director Sameer Farooq in attendance, Canada/China/Holland/Belgium 2012, Canadian Premiere)

A documentary about young Uyghur Muslims living in China who express their cultural identity through traditional, hip-hop, and hard rock punk music. Sameer Farooq is a Pakistani Canadian born in Nova Scotia. Originally trained as a cultural anthropologist, he has lived and worked in China on and off for the last thirteen years, and is now based in Toronto and Rhode Island, where he is completing his MFA.

ZONE PRO SITE: THE MOVEABLE FEAST (director Chen Yu-Hsun, Taiwan 2013, Canadian Premiere)

This Taiwanese box-office comedy hit serves up gut-busting laughs as Wan (played by Kimi Hsia), daughter of banquet caterer Master Fly Spirit, teams up with her mother to bring catering honour back to their family name. The resourceful cooking team discovers a wide selection of magnificent mouth-watering dishes, and more importantly, personal satisfaction when their food is truly enjoyed. *Zone Pro Site: The Moveable Feast* is the highly anticipated feature from master of comedy Chen Yu-Hsun, and one of the biggest box-office hits in Taiwan this season.

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