



REEL ASIAN KEEPS FAMILY CLOSE WITH OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHT GALAS: *DEAR ETRANGER* AND *STAND UP MAN*

Festival runs November 9 to 18, 2017

Public tickets on sale on October 12 at reelasian.com

(TORONTO – October 4, 2017) The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), Canada's premier Pan-Asian festival today announced the Opening and Closing Night Galas for its 21st edition. The festival will open with Yukiko Mishima's moving family drama ***DEAR ETRANGER*** and will close with ***STAND UP MAN***, a Korean Canadian comedy written and directed by Toronto-based filmmaker Aram Collier. The Reel Asian Film Festival will take place **November 9 to 18, 2017**.

"Given the significance of family within the Asian community, we feel that this year's Opening and Closing Gala films will resonate strongly with Reel Asian audiences," said Savine Wong, Interim Executive Director, Reel Asian. "Both of these films explore the joys and pains of familial relationships through two distinctly different filmmaking voices and we look forward to sharing them with festival goers."

Opening Night Gala (November 9)

DEAR ETRANGER - Ontario Premiere

Director: Yukiko Mishima

Dear Etranger takes a hard look at a complicated family unit, headed by the 40-year-old Makoto Tanaka (Tadanobu Asano). A man with two families, Makoto tries to lead as ordinary a life as possible—he maintains a bond with his daughter from his first marriage, but he also tries to keep her away from his second wife, Nanae, and his two step daughters. When Nanae becomes pregnant, however, the fissures around the seemingly happy family begin to widen. And this news has come at the worst time—when career ruin, fatal disease, and other events befall Makoto's kin.

Yukiko Mishima is expected to be in attendance for a Q&A.



Click on image to watch the trailer.

Closing Night Gala (November 17)

STAND UP MAN - Toronto Premiere

Director: Aram Collier

Forced to move back to hometown Windsor, wannabe comedian Moses Kim finds his dreams derailed in his family restaurant. Life gets more complicated when Moses' teenage cousin from Korea unexpectedly shows up.

Aram Collier, Tony Lau, Daniel Jun, Deagun Daniel Lee and Rosalina Lee are expected to be in attendance for a Q&A.



Click on image to watch trailer.

Reel Asian celebrates 21 years of showcasing the best in contemporary Asian cinema, providing a public forum for Asian media artists and inciting the growing appreciation for Asian cinema in Canada. **Tickets go on sale October 12 on reelasian.com.**

This year's festival programme will be announced at Reel Asian's launch event on October 12, 2017.

About Reel Asian

The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, is a unique showcase of contemporary Asian cinema and work from the Asian diaspora. As Canada's largest pan-Asian film festival, Reel Asian® provides a public forum for Asian media artists and their work, and fuels the growing appreciation for Asian cinema in Canada. This year's festival runs in November 2017 in Toronto and North York. Reel Asian will be showcasing special projects featuring prominent artists, content creators, up-and-coming filmmakers and will also include the "Reel Ideas" program for creative minds in the industry to connect. Works presented at Reel Asian include films, videos, and presentations by East, South and Southeast Asian artists in Canada, the U.S., Asia and all over the world.

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