
OVER \$46,000 IN AWARDS OFFERED TO MOVIEMAKERS

Toronto, October 8, 2014 – Winners of the 2014 awards will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, November 9 at a private festival reception. An independent jury of distinguished media arts community members will select the award-winning films. Reel Asian is pleased to welcome back returning Awards Sponsors National Bank, CHCH, Fasken Martineau, WIFT-T and new sponsors Menkes Developments and Air Canada. Over \$45,000 in cash and in-kind services will be awarded to this year's films and filmmakers in selection.

2014 FESTIVAL AWARDS

MENKES AUDIENCE AWARD:

All feature films are eligible for this prize.
\$2,000 cash prize

FASKEN MARTINEAU BEST FEATURE FILM AWARD:

All feature films are eligible for this prize.
\$2,000 cash prize

CHCH BEST CANADIAN FILM OR VIDEO AWARD:

All Canadian works are eligible for this prize.
\$500 cash prize

NATIONAL BANK BEST FIRST FEATURE AWARD:

All first feature films are eligible for this prize.
\$500 cash prize

ANIMASIAN AWARD:

All animated films and videos are eligible for this prize.
\$500 cash prize

AIR CANADA BEST SHORT FILM OR VIDEO AWARD:

All short films and videos are eligible for this prize.
Opportunity to broadcast on Air Canada's in-flight entertainment screens on international flights in 2015

WIFT-T AWARD:

All films made by female GTA-based artists are eligible for this prize.
\$1,200 programming pass and one-year membership from WIFT-T

2014 INTERNATIONAL JURY

Samuel Jamier is the co-director of the New York Asian Film Festival, conceived and produced by Subway Cinema. Until 2013, he was senior film programmer and curator at Japan Society, responsible for the selection and organization of all films, series and festivals. Previously, he was senior program officer at The Korea Society, where he designed and executed cultural programming initiatives including an annual program of 60 public lectures and workshops on topics ranging from foreign policy and corporate symposia to Korean cinema and traditional performing arts.

Danish Vahidy is currently the Director of Marketing at Mongrel Media, one of Canada's leading film distribution companies and home to some of the very best films made in Canada and specializing in art house, foreign and independent feature films as well as documentaries. Danish is a veteran of the film industry with over 20 years of experience in Canadian theatrical distribution and has worked on the campaigns for numerous highprofile films including *Water*, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, and *Boyhood*. Danish also sits on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, an organization dedicated to the welfare of all members of the motion picture industry in Canada.

Thom Ernst is a Toronto based film critic and writer and an active member of the (TFCA) Toronto Film Critic's Association. Currently he is the regular Friday night film critic on CTV National News. He is also well known to CBC Radio listeners as a frequent contributor to CBC Radio Fresh Air with Mary Ito, as well as the fill-in critic on CBC Radio Syndication. Thom has served on the FIPRESCI international film jury for the TIFF Discovery program and has served twice as a jury member for the Italian International Film Festival. He was also the on-air reviewer film for CBC's *PLAY* with Jian Ghomeshi and appeared as a regular film critic and commentator on TVO's *More To Life*, *Studio 2*, and *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*.

Rupal Shah is the producer at Nightswimming, a company focused on commissioning and developing new Canadian theatre work. Most recently, she produced the world premiere and Canadian tour of Carmen Aguirre's *Blue Box*. Upcoming is the world premiere of Anita Majumdar's *The Fish Eyes Trilogy*, playing this season in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Victoria and Banff. Currently, she sits on the board of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) as the Chair of the Cultural Diversity Committee and she is a member of the Creative Strategies Incubator Advisory at the Metcalf Foundation. Rupal is also the Chair of the Board of Directors at the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP).

A producer that focuses on films with international appeal, **Sidney Chiu's** credits include: *Coconut Hero* (dir. Florian Cossen), *Three Days in Havana* (dir. Tony Pantages and Gil Bellows), and *Bang Bang Baby* (dir. Jeffrey St. Jules), which recently won the TIFF 2014 award for Best Canadian First Feature. Chiu also worked on Edko Film's Mandarin romantic comedy *Finding Mr. Right* starring Tang Wei with Director Xue Xiaolu, and Producers Mathew Tang and Shan Tam, which has grossed over US\$80-million in China according to Hollywood Reporter.

Brad Horvath is a producer, sales executive, and content rights strategist. He has managed international film acquisitions and North American sales for Toronto-based film distributor Ouat Media and was the North American Sales and Acquisitions Executive for London-based Cineflix Rights. Recently, he joined the sales team at BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of British Broadcasting Corporation. Brad has contributed to Indiewire's blog network and is a frequent speaker and jury member at international film festivals. He has a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) degree from Dalhousie University, with concentrated studies in film

2014 PITCH JURY

Stephen Gong is the Executive Director of the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM). Stephen has been associated with CAAM since its founding in 1980, and has served as Executive Director since 2006. He has been a lecturer in the Asian American Studies program at UC Berkeley, where he developed and taught a course on the history of Asian American media. Stephen is the Board Chair of the Center for Rural Strategies and serves on the Advisory Board of the San Francisco Silent Film Society.

Michael Fukushima is an award-winning filmmaker and producer at the National Film Board of Canada's world-renowned Animation Studio. Two of his most recent productions, *The End of Pinky* (Claire Blanchet) and *Impromptu* (Bruce Alcock), had their world premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2013.

Jennifer Chen is the Vice President of Programming managing acquired content and original productions for multiple Canadian television networks: CHCH in Toronto-Hamilton-Niagara region, Rewind—the Gen X movie channel, Silver Screen Classics and the new Halla Bol!—the only network dedicated to children's programming in the Hindi language. She was formerly the General Manager of Ouat Media, managing one of the largest distribution companies specializing in world sales of short form content including Oscar-winning short films in live action and animation. Jennifer has shared her knowledge of the film and television industry with audiences at film festivals around the world, consulted on distribution strategies for award-winning shorts, and published papers on the subject. She currently serves on the Board of the Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival and loves it!

2014 INDUSTRY SERIES AWARDS

The 2014 ***SO YOU THINK YOU CAN PITCH?*** competition includes up to 10 teams of filmmakers competing for over \$35,000 in prizes.

Emerging Filmmaker Category

This award comprises:

- \$2,000 cash prize
- Two-hour business affairs and legal consultation with Behind The Scenes Services
- Opportunity to screen work at the 2015 Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival
- Acting support from ACTRA:
 - Consultation with ACTRA Independent Production Steward
 - 2-hour Acting Coach Session
 - Audition space, access to CastingDiversity.ca and access to ACTRA Toronto members for casting (conditional on working with ACTRA members)
- A production package from Charles Street Video worth \$3,000 (\$10,000 at industry rental rates):
 - \$1,400 in edit suite access and/or production equipment rentals
 - Two sessions with Charles Street Video's in-house editor
 - One-year membership with Charles Street Video

Established Filmmaker Category

This award comprises:

- \$2,000 cash prize
- Two-hour business affairs and legal consultation with Behind The Scenes Services
- Opportunity to screen work at the 2015 Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival
- Acting support from ACTRA:

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- Consultation with ACTRA Independent Production Steward
 - 2-hour Acting Coach Session
 - Audition space, access to CastingDiversity.ca and access to ACTRA Toronto members for casting (conditional on working with ACTRA members)
 - A production package from Charles Street Video worth \$5,000 (\$18,000 at industry rental rates):
 - \$2,700 in edit suite access and/or production equipment rentals
 - Two sessions with Charles Street Video's in-house editor
 - One-year membership with Charles Street Video

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