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**OPENING, CENTERPIECE & CLOSING:
GALAS ATTRACT HIGH-PROFILE INTERNATIONAL GUESTS TO TORONTO**

Toronto, October 6, 2015 — This year, Reel Asian's Gala presentations feature veteran documentarian Elisa Paloschi's decade long chronicle in India, the film directorial debut of notable Taiwanese television producer Frankie Chen, and a delightful romp back to 1980s South Korea from Canadian-born Benson Lee.

TORONTO OPENING NIGHT GALA: DRIVING WITH SELVI

(director Elisa Paloschi in attendance, Selvi Kunjigowda in attendance, Toronto Premiere)
Thu Nov 5, 7:30 PM, Isabel Bader Theatre

An inspiring documentary spanning over a decade, the film follows Selvi, who ran away from an abusive child bride marriage and changed her life to become Karnataka's first female taxi driver.

Canadian documentarian Elisa Paloschi follows Selvi as she navigates through the harsh realities that millions of women and girls in India face. In a society where women are often considered expendable or worthless, Selvi refuses to accept this estimation for herself. Through Selvi's eyes, the audience is taken on an intimate journey of healing, overcoming obstacles and fulfilling dreams.

With more than 25 years of experience, **Elisa Paloschi** is a documentary filmmaker, producer, cinematographer, and president of Eyesfull, a Toronto-based independent production company dedicated to diverse and socially relevant documentary films. Elisa is also working on an interactive documentary story site and audience engagement and impact campaign in India as companion pieces for the film.

CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION: OUR TIMES

(director Frankie Chen in attendance, Taiwan 2015, North American Premiere)
Sun Nov 8, 8:00 PM, AGO Jackman Hall
Mon Nov 9, 4:00 PM, AGO Jackman Hall

Reel Asian is proud to present the North American Premiere of *Our Times*, the film directorial debut of TV veteran Frankie Chen.

It's Taiwan in the 1990s, and high school student Truly Lin is a plain, clumsy girl who spends her days goofing around with friends and fawning over the most popular boy in school. An unfortunate incident leads Lin to become an errand girl for the school's notorious troublemaker Taiyu. Nostalgic and genuine, *Our Times* is a love letter to everyone who forever cherishes the bittersweet taste of first love. After a decade of producing popular TV dramas, Director Frankie Chen stuns us with an instant classic on love and coming-of-age wonders.

Frankie Chen Yu-shan has produced over twenty hit Taiwanese drama shows, including *Fated to Love You* (2008), *Autumn Concerto* (2009) and *Prince of Lan Ling* (2013). *Our Times* is her directorial debut.

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TORONTO CLOSING NIGHT GALA: SEOUL SEARCHING

(director Benson Lee and actress Rosalina Leigh in attendance, USA 2015, Toronto Premiere)
Fri Nov 13, 8:00 PM, Isabel Bader Theatre

Canadian-born, Korean American filmmaker **Benson Lee** (*Planet B-Boy*) returns to Toronto with *Seoul Searching*, a raucous Sundance Film Festival selection that had audiences laughing, crying, and cheering on their feet in 2015 (while rocking out to a stunningly comprehensive 80s soundtrack). In the 1980s, the Korean government began a summer camp for gyopo (foreign-born) teenagers to visit the motherland. The camp would help the government re-establish ties with the diaspora, parents would get a sponsored trip, and teenagers would learn about Korean culture. What could possibly go wrong? *Seoul Searching* is based on a true story of one of the summer camps that took place in 1986.

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