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**REEL ASIAN CELEBRATES 17TH YEAR
WHERE CULTURES MEET AND ASIAN FILM FANS UNITE**

Toronto, October 8, 2013 — The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, celebrates its 17th annual edition from November 5 to 16, 2013 with more screenings, high-profile guests from across North America and Asia, an exciting expansion to include films from across South Asia, an energy-driven collaboration between Toronto's hottest up-and-coming dancers and filmmakers and 60 films from 14 countries including Hong Kong, India, Japan, Laos, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Canada and the United States.

Founded in 1997, Reel Asian began as a 3-day event established in response to meet the needs of an existing demand for Asian films in Toronto, and has since grown to a 12-day multi-city annual event attracting over 12,000 people each year. Reel Asian strives to develop programming that reflects the cultural diversity of Canada and increases public understanding and appreciation of the artistic, social and cultural contributions of those of Asian heritage through film. This year's festival will take place November 5 to 16, 2013 in Toronto and Richmond Hill. Highlights include:

- **TORONTO OPENING NIGHT GALA:** BOMBAY TALKIES (directors Karan Johar, Dibakar Banerjee, Zoya Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap, India 2013, Canadian Premiere)
- **CENTREPIECE PRESENTATION:** TALES FROM THE DARK 1 (directors Simon Yam (in attendance), Lee Chi Ngai, Fruit Chan, Hong Kong 2013, Toronto Premiere)
- **TORONTO CLOSING NIGHT GALA:** LINSANITY (director Evan Jackson Leong in attendance, USA 2013, Toronto Premiere)
- **RICHMOND HILL OPENING GALA:** to be announced
- **RICHMOND HILL CLOSING:** RIPPLES OF DESIRE (director Zero Chou in attendance, Taiwan 2012)

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES:

- AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS (director Grace Lee in attendance, USA 2013)
- CONFESSION OF MURDER (director Jeong Byeong-gil in attendance, South Korea 2012)
- DON'T STOP BELIEVIN': EVERYMAN'S JOURNEY (director Ramona Diaz in attendance, USA 2012)
- FARAH GOES BANG (director Meera Menon, producer Liz Singh in attendance, actress Nikohl Boosheri in attendance, USA 2013)
- WITHOUT SHEPHERDS (director Cary McClelland in attendance, co-director Imran Babur, USA/Pakistan 2013)
- EVANGELION: 3.0 YOU CAN (NOT) REDO (director Hideaki Anno, Japan 2012)
- THE GREAT PASSAGE (director Yuya Ishii, Japan 2013)
- HOW TO USE GUYS WITH SECRET TIPS (director Lee Won-Suk, South Korea 2013)
- THE KIRISHIMA THING (director Daihachi Yoshida, Japan 2012)
- THE ROCKET (director Kim Mordaunt, Laos/Australia 2013)
- ZONE PRO SITE: THE MOVEABLE FEAST (director Chen Yu-Hsun, Taiwan 2013)

CANADIAN PROGRAMMING:

- Canadian Artist Spotlight with director Richard Fung in attendance
- *Sprung*: Live Presentation (Dance & Film) with directors Sonia Hong, Emily Law, Diana Reyes, Shasha Nakhai, Catherine Hernandez, Tad Hozumi, Mark Cabuena, Andrea Nann, Dean Vargas, Lauren Cook, Alias Dance Project, and Tom Kuo in attendance
- *Silk Road Of Pop*: director Sameer Farooq in attendance

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- *Farah Goes Bang*: actress Nikohl Boosheri in attendance
- *Counter Move*: Shorts Presentation with producer Arthur Yeung, and directors Casey Mejica, Randall Okita, Eui Yong Zong, and Grace Wang in attendance
- *Paper Trace*: Shorts Presentation with directors Elaine Poon and Jason Lee in attendance
- *Come Together*: Shorts Presentation with directors Lillian Chan and Leslie Supnet in attendance
- *On the Subject of Ghosts*: Installation with artists Cindy Mochizuki and Ed Pien in attendance
- *Brown Globe*: Installation with artist Kristina Lee Podesva in attendance

PITCH COMPETITION

Reel Asian's 7th annual *So You Think You Can Pitch?* competition is back for 2013. A collaboration between Reel Asian and Charles Street Video, this competition features prizes worth a combined value of more than \$35,000. Teams of filmmakers will have six minutes each to pitch their projects to vie for \$2,000 in cash from National Bank, a brand new Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 8.0, and \$10,000 (emerging category) and \$18,000 (professional category) worth of equipment and production services from Charles Street Video.

REEL ASIAN IN RICHMOND HILL

As part of our continuing initiative to reach new audiences beyond the downtown core, Reel Asian returns to the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts for its 3rd annual Richmond Hill weekend film festival. We will be closing with the Canadian premiere of *Ripples of Desire* with Taiwanese award-winning director Zero Chou in attendance. The Richmond Hill Opening Night film will be announced shortly.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE (chronologically by date)

TORONTO

Opening Night Gala: Tue Nov 5, 7:00 PM, Isabel Bader Theatre

BOMBAY TALKIES (directors Karan Johar, Dibakar Banerjee, Zoya Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap, India 2013, Canadian Premiere)

Celebrating 100 years of Indian cinema, this Cannes Film Festival Gala film showcases the power of storytelling by four of Mumbai's hottest independent filmmakers. Featuring Bollywood stars Rani Mukerji and Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

Shorts Presentation: Wed Nov 6, 1:00 PM, AGO Jackman Hall

PAPER TRACE

Paper Trace follows funny, dark and personal stories from the heart, from a search for family roots in North Korea to a life story told on a car window.

Shorts Presentation: Wed Nov 6, 6:30 PM, AGO Jackman Hall

UNSUNG VOICES 2

Six fearless first-time filmmakers embarked on an intensive six-week video production workshop this summer and now show off their chops in this year's presentation of *Unsung Voices 2*.

Feature Presentation: Wed Nov 6, 8:30 PM, AGO Jackman Hall

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. A poignant look at the fragile and irrational nature of high school social dynamics.

Shorts Presentation: Thu Nov 7, 1:00 PM, AGO Jackman Hall

COME TOGETHER

An assortment of shorts featuring the young and young at heart – from animations about noodles coming together to serious dramas about children facing political unrest and poverty.

Shorts Presentation: Thu Nov 7, 6:00 PM, AGO Jackman Hall

COUNTER MOVE

This year's Best of Canadian Shorts program broadens perspectives on history and memory and offers a wide range of well-crafted animations, performing arts on screen and music-inspired videos.

Feature Presentation: Thu Nov 7, 8:30 PM, AGO Jackman Hall

HOW TO USE GUYS WITH SECRET TIPS (director Lee Won-Suk, South Korea 2013, Toronto Premiere)
Choi Bo-Na spends her days on movie sets hiding in her baggy hoodie and the shadow of her sexist boss. When she stumbles upon a secret instructional video, she suddenly gets more romantic attention than she bargained for.

Feature Presentation: Fri Nov 8, 6:00 PM, The Royal

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.

Centrepiece Presentation: Fri Nov 8, 8:00 PM, The Royal

CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION: TALES FROM THE DARK PART 1 (directors Simon Yam in attendance, Lee Chi Ngai, Fruit Chan, Hong Kong 2013, Toronto Premiere)

From grave-digging and ghost-hunting to revenge-seeking and demon-exorcising, directors Simon Yam, Lee Chi Ngai and Fruit Chan create three distinct tales of Hong Kong horror to chill your bones, make you sweat and keep you hearing the whispers in the night.

Feature Presentation: Fri Nov 8, 11:15 PM, The Royal

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.

Feature Presentation: Sat Nov 9, 1:00 PM, The Royal

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

"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.

Feature Presentation: Sat Nov 9, 4:00 PM, The Royal

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.

Feature Presentation: Sat Nov 9, 7:00 PM, The Royal

EVERYMAN'S JOURNEY: DON'T STOP BELIEVIN' (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 a Filipino singer with a voice of gold, belting out cover tunes in an obscure Manila bar. A modern day rags-to-riches tale.

Feature Presentation: Sat Nov 9, 9:45 PM, The Royal

CONFESSION OF MURDER (director Jeong Byeong-gil in attendance, South Korea 2012, Toronto Premiere)
Fifteen years after a serial killer terrorized the nation, he reveals his identity in a tell-all biography. Fueled by a desire for vengeance, Detective Choi comes face-to-face with the murderer to settle the score once and for all

Feature Presentation: Sun Nov 10, 2:00 PM, The Royal

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.

Feature Presentation: Sun Nov 10, 5:30 PM, The Royal

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.

Closing Night Gala: Sun Nov 10, 8:00 PM, The Royal

LINSANITY (director Evan Jackson Leong in attendance, USA 2013, Canadian Premiere)
The meteoric rise of Jeremy Lin, from NBA benchwarmer to worldwide phenomenon, inspired the term "Linsanity" and has become one of the most unforgettable stories in sports and Asian American history.

Feature Presentation: Tue Nov 12, 7:00 PM, Ryerson University, Image Arts Building

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.

Live Presentation Film & Dance: Wed Nov 13, 8:00 PM, Innis Town Hall

SPRUNG

This dance-themed commission project brings together the collaborative efforts of talented filmmakers and dynamic performers in a range of fringe styles including waacking, poppin', Filipino folk, athletic, conceptual and contemporary.

Feature Presentation: Thu Nov 14, 7:00 PM, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Kobayashi Hall

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".

RICHMOND HILL

Richmond Hill Opening Gala: Fri Nov 15, 7:00 PM, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
To be announced.

Feature Presentation: Sat Nov 16, 4:30 PM, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
LINSANITY (director Evan Jackson Leong, USA 2013, Canadian Premiere)
The meteoric rise of Jeremy Lin, from NBA benchwarmer to worldwide phenomenon, inspired the term
“Linsanity” and has become one of the most unforgettable stories in sports and Asian American history.

Richmond Hill Closing: Sat Nov 16, 7:00 PM, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
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.

SCREENING VENUES

Isabel Bader Theatre 93 Charles St. W.
AGO, Jackman Hall 317 Dundas St. W.
The Royal 608 College St.
Ryerson University, Image Arts Building Rm 307 122 Bond St.
Innis Town Hall 2 Sussex Ave.
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Kobayashi Hall 6 Garamond Ct.
Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts 10268 Yonge St., Richmond Hill

INDUSTRY SERIES VENUES

AGO, Weston Family Learning Centre 317 Dundas St. W.
Beit Zatoun 612 Markham St.

TICKET PRICES	Regular Price	Discount Price*
Regular screenings (Toronto & Richmond Hill)	\$12	\$10
Toronto Opening Night Gala (includes party)	\$20	\$15
Centrepiece Presentation	\$15	\$12
Toronto Closing Night Gala (includes party)	\$15	\$12
Richmond Hill Opening Night Gala (includes reception)	\$15	\$12
Richmond Hill Closing Night (includes reception)	\$12	\$10

* Discount applies to students (with valid current ID), seniors over 65 (no ID required), and volume sales (10+ tickets to any one screening)

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

Tickets for Toronto screenings go on sale October 8 at reelasian.com.

Buying Tickets for the Toronto Festival In Person

- October 9 – November 2 at T.O. Tix at Yonge-Dundas Square
- November 5 at Isabel Bader Theatre
- November 6 – 7 at Jackman Hall,
- November 8 – 10 at Royal Cinema
- November 13 at Innis Town Hall

Note: Isabel Bader Theatre and Innis Town Hall only sell same-day tickets.

Special Ticketing for November 12 & November 14

- November 12 - **AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS** is free and open to the public. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- November 14 - **THE GREAT PASSAGE** tickets will be sold through the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

Tickets for Richmond Hill screenings go on sale October 8 at reelasian.com.

Buying Tickets for the Richmond Hill Festival In Person

- October 9 – November 14 at RHCPA Box Office
- November 15 – 16 at the Reel Asian Box Office in the lobby of the RHCPA

The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Presenting Sponsor National Bank, and government funders the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm, the Province of Ontario through the Celebrate Ontario Program and Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario Media Development Corporation, Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, and the Town of Richmond Hill through the Mayor's Endowment for the Arts.

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 Visit www.reelasian.com for further press information, digital images, press releases, and accreditation.

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