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INTERNATIONAL STARS AND LINSANITY DESCEND ON RICHMOND HILL

Toronto, October 8, 2013 — The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, continues to reach audiences in their own neighbourhoods by presenting three screenings at the 3rd annual Richmond Hill weekend film festival from November 15 to 16 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Last year's Richmond Hill event attracted 1,000 people over two days. This event would not be possible without the ongoing support and warm reception the festival has received from the Town of Richmond Hill (with support from the Mayor's Endowment Funds for the Arts), the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, business leaders, community organizations and arts groups.

Reel Asian is thrilled to bring exclusive Asian guests to Richmond Hill, including Zero Chou from Taiwan. Reel Asian strives to connect 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 as part of the Industry Series will provide more in-depth insight into the making of some of these films. Please refer to Reel Asian's 2013 programme guide for a full schedule of events.

RICHMOND HILL OPENING GALA

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

LINSANITY (director Evan Jackson Leong in attendance, USA 2013, Toronto Premiere)
Sat Nov 16, 4:30 PM, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

The meteoric rise of Jeremy Lin, from an NBA benchwarmer to a worldwide phenomenon, inspired the term "Linsanity" and has become one of the most unforgettable stories in sports and Asian American history. In 2010, director Evan Jackson Leong approached a relatively unknown Harvard University Taiwanese American basketball player seeking to document his life on film. Little did he and the rest of the world know that Jeremy Lin would soon become a legend. Featuring rare home footage and interviews with Lin's family and friends, *Linsanity* is more than just a film for sports fanatics. It's a story of how race is perceived in the media and an inspirational account of the importance of a strong work ethic and devotion to faith and family in the midst of fan hysteria and fame. Leong is a director and documentary filmmaker based in New York City. He has worked with director Justin Lin on *Better Luck Tomorrow* (2002) and *Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* (2006). He was also co-producer of Justin Lin's *Finishing the Game*, which opened Reel Asian in 2009.

RICHMOND HILL CLOSING: RIPPLES OF DESIRE (director Zero Chou in attendance, Taiwan 2012, Canadian Premiere)
Sat Nov 16, 7:00 PM, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

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 biggest period drama to emerge from Taiwan in recent history, and features an incredible 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. Zero 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* (2008), *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).

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