

november 23-26 2000

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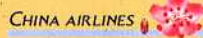
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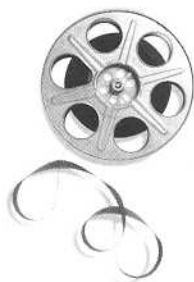
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REEL ASIAN

the fourth annual toronto international film festival

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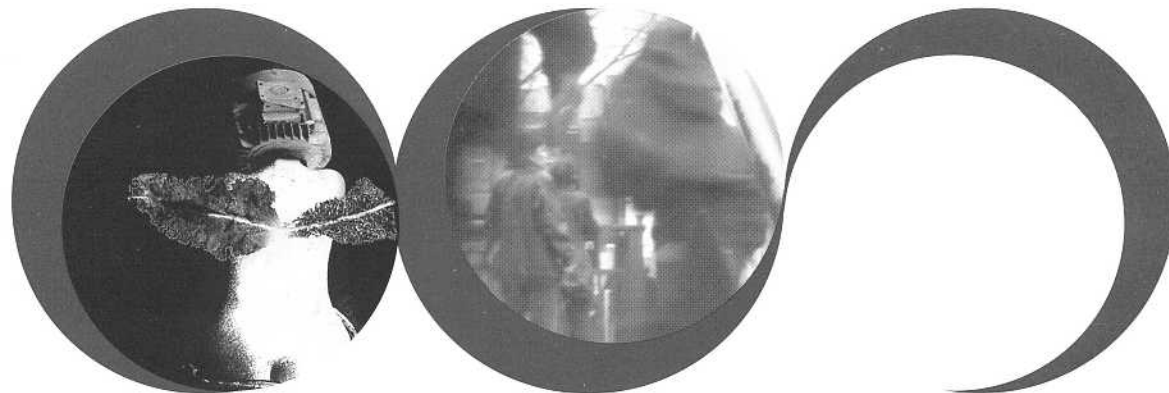
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WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. 2000 marks several important milestones for Reel Asian. For the first time, we are both opening and closing with films by Canadian filmmakers. Our opening night presentation is the Toronto premiere of the brilliantly irreverent feature film, *Post Concussion*. Directed and produced by first-time filmmaker Daniel Yoon, who also stars in his film, *Post Concussion* has been thrilling audiences at festivals around the world with its offbeat humour and winning performances. Our closing night presentation, *Vile Bodies*, features the work of Toronto filmmakers Jane Kim, Richard Fung, Siu Ta, Gloria Kim and Helen Lee, whose short films close the festival with a series of beautiful, moving and sometimes funny images that will haunt you with their power and vitality.

We are also introducing a Diasporic Spotlight this year, featuring the cinema of Asian Australia. The Spotlight is curated by Annette Shun Wah — actor, director, producer, author and arts advocate, who so kindly and diligently worked with us to bring a selection of the best new and emerging Australian films and videos to Toronto. Most of the films in the shorts programme are North American or world premieres of work that is not widely, if at all, available to Canadian audiences. The Australian shorts are followed by a special screening of veteran filmmaker Clara Law's second Australian feature, *The Goddess of 1967*, a road movie that seamlessly incorporates elements as diverse as Japanese pop culture and the work of Roland Barthes into a stunning tour-de-force.

Our International Spotlight is curated by Teresa Huang of the Chinese Taipei Film Archive and features a selection of shorts and features by the emerging generation of Taiwanese filmmakers. The short films feature a wide range of subjects and styles that are held together by the filmmakers' desire to challenge and explore the conventions of filmmaking and film viewing through experimentation and technology. The first Taiwanese feature film, Tai Tai-lung's *So-called Friends* is a world premiere and features an award-winning script by co-director Lien Chin-hua. The second feature, *About July*, is directed by Wei Te-shen, who has won numerous awards for his work and is widely considered to be one of the most promising directors of his generation.

In addition to our International and Diasporic spotlights, we are also featuring an Artist Spotlight on the wild and wonderful work of Vancouver-based animator and filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming, curated by Toronto filmmaker Helen Lee; several shorts programmes featuring the new work of Asian North American filmmakers; a beautiful and meditative new feature film from Hong Kong director Kwok Wai-lung; a workshop on animation led by Ann Marie Fleming; a Director's Forum on the topic of Asian North American filmmaking; and, as always, a series of parties and receptions to celebrate the festival and our visiting filmmakers.

A warm thank you to the programming committee and guest curators, and to the many, many who helped put the festival together. Enjoy!

Caroline Sin, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Caroline Sin

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR Thé Tieu **CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT** Elizabeth Kerr

PUBLICITY Jennifer Chan **GRAPHIC DESIGN** claman **WEBSITE** Damian Tran and Thé Tieu **CATALOGUE EDITOR** Caroline Sin

PROGRAMME NOTES Keith Lock, Helen Lee, Tina Hahn, Teresa Huang, Annette Shun Wah, Caroline Sin

TELEVISION COMMERCIAL Tina Hahn **MUSIC FOR TV COMMERCIAL** Britt Besson

MUSIC FOR RADIO AD Martin Gwynn Jones and Peter Olsen

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE Tammy Chan, Kwoi Gin, Tina Hahn, Keith Lock, Caroline Sin, Andrew Sun, HK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Anita Lee, Helen Lee, Keith Lock, Kwoi Gin, Nobu Adilman, Carolynne Hew

ARTISTIC ADVISORY Richard Fung, Paul Lee, Bennett Lo, Jean Yoon

GUEST CURATORS Teresa Huang, Taiwan; Helen Lee, Canada; Annette Shun Wah, Australia

SPECIAL THANKS

Marc Glassman and Pages Books and Magazines, Steven Leung, Xiaoping Li, Chart Magazine, Cahoots Theatre Projects, Andrew Austin and Seville Pictures, Michael Malone and Trinity Square Video, Matt Fisher, Bill Malcolm, Robin Rhodes, Shelly Hong, Edward Chu, Alka Sharma, Germaine Wong, David Lee, Sandra Porter, Joseph Wan, Cecilia Cheong, Eddie Huang, June Chan, David Bowen, Jimmy Lam, Ken Wong, Cameron Heaps, Mike Acheson, Dermot Brennan, Joe Carubba, Bowie Li, Ronald LeBlanc, and to Leon, Sandy and Aaron.



Mel Lastman



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A Message from Mayor Mel Lastman

It is my pleasure to send greetings and warm wishes, on behalf of Toronto Council and the 2.4 million people of our great City, to everyone attending the fourth annual Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival.

Toronto is the third largest entertainment centre in North America, and we are extremely fortunate to live in a city where people can experience and enjoy an incredible wealth of world-class entertainment and cultural events that enrich our lives.

This important and popular event attracts a diverse audience, and has grown to become the largest, most prominent and highly regarded Asian film festival in Canada. It promotes the integrity and diversity of Asian cinematic culture, and nurtures the excellence and exceptional talent of new and emerging artists.

I congratulate the organizers of this event, and thank you for the tremendous contribution the Film Festival makes to the economic growth and prosperity of our great city. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event, and many years of continued success.

Cordially,

Mel Lastman
 Mayor

November 2000



I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 4th annual **Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival**. This event is a great showcase for the best in independent Asian North American and Diasporic film and video, and a great opportunity for its growing audience to discover and appreciate the diversity and the originality of the works of many talented filmmakers. It is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the contributions to our heritage from people of all backgrounds that have made Canada a more culturally diverse and open society.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I am proud to support the **Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival** in their efforts to promote the talent of new and emerging Asian artists from all parts of the world and to foster exchanges of cultural and artistic ideals between east and west. Thanks to your hard work and your commitment to the integrity and the diversity of Asian cinematic culture, you have helped to make this event the most prominent and highly regarded Asian film festival in Canada. Congratulations and best wishes to all for the success of this year's edition!

Sheila Copps



Steam Whistle Brewing
 Pleased to support this year's Reel Asian International Film Festival

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NOW AUDIENCE AWARD

For the film critic hiding in all of us. Reel Asian is pleased to announce its first Audience Award, sponsored by NOW Magazine. All shorts and features are eligible. Ballots available in the lobby of the Royal Theatre and Innis Town Hall. Please take a moment to make your selection!

POST CONCUSSION

OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION

"Poignant and funny ... Likely to leave a lasting impression on all who see it. This film is turning heads everywhere" (*Westword*). "*Post Concussion* represents a new phase of Asian American comedic cinema – irreverent, organic and completely independent. Made by a first-time filmmaker with no formal training and who often functioned as the sole crew member, actor and editor, it embodies a do-it-yourself aesthetic and natural charm rarely seen since Wayne Wang's *Chan is Missing*, one that's as liberating as it is entertaining" (Jason Saunders, *Pacific Film Archive*).

Semi-autobiographical, *Post Concussion* tells the funny and hilariously offbeat tale of Matthew Kang, a corporate suit out of touch and in a dead-end relationship. After a brain-altering car accident that leaves him unable to continue his work, Matthew is forced to take stock of his life. With the help of a host of militantly positive new-age gurus and a sympathetic (former) East German Physics post-doctoral student, he embarks on an arduous yet rewarding journey to rediscover himself, regain his sense of humour, and find true love, all against the backdrop of the new-age movement in San Francisco.

Daniel Yoon was struck by a car several years ago while crossing the street in Berkeley, California. He sustained a serious head injury and, as a result, lost his girlfriend as well as his position as a management consultant to U.S. Fortune 1000 companies. During the long recovery, he taught himself the technical aspects of filmmaking from books and wrote several short and feature length screenplays, including *Post Concussion*. Because his condition only allowed him to film one or two days a week, it was difficult to retain a crew for the entire shoot. Out of necessity, he became the cinematographer and main camera operator, in addition to playing the leading role. After shooting, the film was then edited by Daniel, with a home computer set up at his parents' house in Toronto. *Post Concussion* has screened at numerous film festivals around the world and has recently been picked up for distribution.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23
8 PM, Royal Theatre

Dir. **Daniel Yoon**
1999, 16 mm, colour, 82 min
TORONTO PREMIERE
Director in attendance

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followed by the Opening Night Gala, 10 PM at the Coloured Stone, 205 Richmond St West @ Duncan



