

27 NOV | 20 DEC
02 01

THE 6TH ANNUAL

toronto

reelAsian

international film festival

NOVEMBER 27 — DECEMBER 1 2002


THE CANADA COUNCIL
FOR THE ARTS
SINCE 1957


LE CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU CANADA
DEPUIS 1957



TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE TORONTO

torontoartscouncil
An arms-length body of the City of Toronto

 Telefilm Canada

เทศกาลภาพยนตร์ไตรภพแห่งชาติ

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



THE CANADA COUNCIL
FOR THE ARTS
SINCE 1957

LE CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU CANADA
DEPUIS 1957



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

torontodartscouncil
An arm's length body of the City of Toronto

Telefilm Canada

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Dynamix
solutions



ColorShadow Communications, Inc.
Web Development & Management



FESTIVAL SPONSORS

THE INDEPENDENT
FILM CHANNEL



una
mas

AVIS
We try harder.

AWARD SPONSORS

@Wallace
STUDIOS



CO-PRESENTERS

The Japan Foundation



hot docs
Canadian International Documentary Festival



insideout
Toronto Lesbian and Gay
Film and Video Festival



Pleasure **Dome**

Worldwide Short Film Festival

IMAGES FESTIVAL

MEDIA SPONSORS

TAKE ONE
FILM & TELEVISION IN CANADA

TELEVISION
城市電視



新時代電視
FAIRCHILD TELEVISION

AM1430
FM88.9

all tv
The Spirit of Kuyun

星島
日報

eye
WEEKLY

EXCLAIM!

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

na@ap
TORONTO
North American Association
of Asian Professionals

EKO



V tape

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SALLY LEE



WELCOME to the 6th Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. The staff and screening committee have created an action-packed schedule of screenings, panels and special events to bring together a Reel Asian community that will gather over the course of the festival's five days to fête the best in contemporary Asian independent cinema.

From the subcultural to the sublime, the selected works combine to showcase the ever-widening ground covered by Asian film- and video-makers from all over the world. This year, audiences may find themselves stumbling across an exquisite corpse in a Thai village or meeting a hilarious posse of Filipino-Canadian aunts at a wake. Check out a new breed of woman, holding her own in the Vegas drag-racing scene; or roll your eyeballs while secretly cringing with self-recognition at a charming group of art-damaged 20-somethings in San Francisco. It is even possible to journey to a Korean island where sorrows are left behind, or share in the story of another in the Caribbean where they are brought to bear.

It is the special privilege of Reel Asian to be able to introduce new faces to the public. Romeo Candido, whose debut feature *Lolo's Child* opens the festival, is a unique homegrown talent, and we are pleased to be hosting his Toronto premiere. Our International Spotlight on Thailand includes a number of features as well as short films and videos that have never been screened for local audiences. We are particularly excited to be hosting the Toronto premiere of *Mysterious Object at Noon* by the acclaimed director Apichatpong Weerasethakul in a special co-presentation with *Pleasure Dome*. Closing out the 2002 edition of the festival is the Canadian premiere of *Flower Island*, the award-winning debut feature by Korean director and Reel Asian regular Ilgon Song, who has already been acknowledged by the press in his home country as a "junior master." Speaking of which, we are also especially delighted to introduce Max Chan, the 16-year-old director of *All American Meal* to Reel Asian audiences. Mr. Chan is the youngest-ever artist to have work screened at Reel Asian, and his video will screen as part of our Bent programme of shorts.

We also have the opportunity to turn audiences on to older works and established artists in the spirit of revival and rediscovery. We are certain that contemporary audiences will find *The Offering*, made in 1966 by David Sexter (director of the Canadian classic *Winter Kept Us Warm*), a fascinating viewing experience. And we are especially pleased to place this year's Artist Spotlight on Mary Stephen, a hidden Canadian gem who has been working with French master Eric Rohmer as his editor and composer for two decades while making her own work. Ms. Stephen will be in attendance at the festival and will discuss her films with writer and film critic Cameron Bailey (please see programme guide for details). She will also participate in an intergenerational Lazy Susan Round Table, also including emerging artists, that will be moderated by film- and videomaker Richard Fung.

For everyone here at Reel Asian, the primary joy in putting the festival together is the idea that we are introducing new sights, sounds and ideas to festival-goers. I invite you to join our Reel Asian community and take in as many films and events as possible.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JANE KIM**

WELCOME to the 6th year of celebrating independent Asian film and video at the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. One of the greatest things about this festival is the range of cultures, continents and generations represented in the work we screen. We are able to honour the accomplishments of established Asian North American filmmakers such as Mary Stephen (Canada/France) and Robert Nakamura (USA), and also recognize debut feature filmmakers like Toronto's own Romeo Candido and Mingmongkol Sonakul from Thailand.

Reel Asian is continually establishing its importance in the international film community and this is reflected in the record number of submissions we received this year from all over the world. *Pyongyang Robogirl*, a Finnish film shot in North Korea, surreal fantasy films from Japan and Thai features and shorts are all part of this year's selection. We are proud to present 50 films and videos, many with premiere status (3 World premieres, 6 North American premieres, 20 Canadian premieres, and 10 Toronto premieres!) and a number of award-winning films such as *Mysterious Object at Noon*, *Flower Island* and *Barrier Device*. Thanks to co-Artistic Director, Nobu Adilman, and the dedicated screening committee who helped programme an incredible festival.

Chalida Uabumrungjit, Project Director of the Thai Film Foundation and co-programmer of *Thai Tales*, has been especially helpful with our Spotlight on Thailand. I'd like to also thank Keiko Watanabe from the Yubari International Adventure Fantastic Film Festival and Helmut Kruttsch from CineAsia in Germany for helping us present *The View From Yubari*. These programmes could not have happened without their generous assistance.

This year, we are proud to introduce the first TSV award. What better way to celebrate the spirit of independent filmmaking than to present one emerging artist with a TSV membership and use of their equipment and facilities. Congratulations to Ruthann Lee, director of *Ohm-ma* on being the first-ever recipient of the Reel Asian Trinity Square Video Emerging Artist Award. Also, Wallace Street Studios is back again with the gift of a studio space package to be presented to a deserving Toronto film-filmmaker. This year, the gift goes to Romeo Candido, director of our opening night presentation, *Lolo's Child*. Thank you to TSV and Wallace Studios for their generous and inspiring support of Reel Asian filmmakers.

Along with showcasing films, this year's Reel Asian includes a special spotlight on live music. Check out three super bands at our rock show, *Lock 'n' Loll at Lee's*. And if that's not enough, there'll be wicked DJ's spinning at all of our parties. It's a great week in Toronto. Let's celebrate.

Enjoy the festival!



