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A SNEAK PEEK AT THE 19TH ANNUAL TORONTO REEL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Toronto, September 22, 2015 – The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, celebrates its 19th annual edition from November 5 to 15, 2015.

Reel Asian is Canada's largest pan-Asian film festival dedicated to showcasing contemporary Asian films and work from the Asian diaspora, and is the only film festival in Toronto providing a dedicated forum for pan-Asian cinema. From November 5 to 13 (Toronto) and November 14 to 15 (Richmond Hill), the festival will present more than 70 films and videos from over 10 regions, including Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Canada and the USA. The two-week festival is expected to attract over 14,000 attendees this year.

Confirmed guests include Lee Won-Suk (Director, *The Royal Tailor*), Frankie Chen (Director, *Our Times*), and Anucharan Murugaiyan (Director, *Kirumi*).

Offering a balanced combination of highly anticipated premieres, award-winning international films, and contemporary independent work, Reel Asian has risen to become the leading exhibitor of coveted Asian films in Toronto. Asian filmmakers who have premiered their work at Reel Asian include Justin Lin, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, and Fruit Chan. With something guaranteed to please everyone, Reel Asian's 19th annual festival will be the ultimate destination where cultures meet and film fans unite.

Introducing: Marquee, Vista, Pulse, X Sections

In response to the growing spectrum of Asian cinema, festival programming has been divided into sections that highlight new genres, master works, and trailblazers that have influenced Asian film culture across the borders. *Marquee* titles spotlight gala presentations, featuring notable directors, actors, and writers who have traversed the international red carpet. The films in *Vista* introduce a fragment of critically acclaimed contemporary Asian cinema. *Pulse* features short films from around the globe, including the world premiere of films made through the Unsung Voices summer workshop. Finally, *Reel Asian:X* transcends media, genre, and form, introducing a new body of work that expresses the Asian diaspora beyond the traditional.

Reel Asian's full festival lineup, including the Opening Night Gala film, will be announced at the Official Press Launch on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at The Spoke Club, Toronto.

SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2015 LINEUP

MARQUEE SECTION

The Royal Tailor

Lee Won-Suk | South Korea 2014 | 127:00 | Toronto Premiere

A young designer has earned the queen's favour with his refreshing take on traditional garb, and the existing royal tailor feels his presence is threatening his long-awaited promotion. Stitch by stitch, the two tailors duel for the ultimate masterpiece - but beyond the clothing, a larger war is brewing between the two women in the king's life.

MARQUEE SECTION

Our Times

Frankie Chen | Taiwan 2015 | 134:00 | North American Premiere

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. The pair soon form an unlikely friendship forged with a similar goal - break up the school's "perfect couple," so that Truly and Taiyu can win them over!

VISTA SECTION

Siti

Eddie Cahyono | Indonesia 2014 | 95:00 | Toronto Premiere

Siti, a young and beautiful woman, has to find means to care for her son, her paralyzed husband and her mother-in-law. By day, she sells snacks on the beach; by night, she sells herself in an illegal karaoke bar. Her encounter with a policeman, who falls in love with her, makes her life even more complicated. Will she be able to juggle it all?

VISTA SECTION

Kirumi

Anucharan Murugaiyan | India 2015 | 97:00 | International Premiere

Egotistical and unemployed, Kathir has no problem gambling away his family's hard-earned money, until he finds his calling as a secret police informant, capitalizing on his knowledge of Chennai's underground and his personal desire to rat on those who have embarrassed him. Success is swift as he becomes a favourite amongst officers, but his arrogance soon compromises his hidden identity, and Kathir learns there are consequences for tattling on the city's most ruthless gangsters.

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