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REEL ASIAN CELEBRATES ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH WITH SCREENINGS, SCHOOL TOURS, AND IN-FLIGHT PROGRAMS

Toronto, May 6, 2016 - the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), presented by National Bank, celebrates Asian Heritage Month with a series of film screenings hosted at select venues. Screenings include Academy Award winner Ruby Yang's latest documentary from Hong Kong, a popular Bollywood classic featuring Shahrukh Khan, and a Korean coming-of-age teen comedy from last year's festival.

HONG KONG SPIRIT FILM SHOWCASE

Reel Asian proudly presents the Hong Kong Spirit film showcase, featuring notable Hong Kong works that highlight the formidable spirit of educators in Hong Kong. This event is proudly supported by Presenting Sponsor, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO). The Hong Kong Spirit Film Showcase will spotlight the Toronto premieres of **LITTLE BIG MASTER** and **MY VOICE, MY LIFE**. The films will be presented on Saturday, May 21, at AGO Jackman Hall. All screenings are free and open to the public.

Miriam Yeung stars in **LITTLE BIG MASTER** as Lui Wai-hung, a highly-paid headmistress of an international kindergarten, who quits her job and reignites her passion in teaching by taking on the Yuen Tin Kindergarten, which is on the verge of closure with only five students remaining. **LITTLE BIG MASTER** was a critical and commercial success, becoming the highest-grossing domestic film of 2015 in the Hong Kong territory.

Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Ruby Yang's newest film, **MY VOICE, MY LIFE**, follows a group of misfit high school students from Hong Kong cast together for a musical theater performance. Each student confronts unique personal challenges in the process of developing his or her character. **MY VOICE, MY LIFE** was listed among "Hong Kong's 5 Most Essential Films of 2014" in the Wall Street Journal.

Director Ruby Yang will be in attendance on May 21, along with one of the film's subjects, Tabitha Chan.

FILM SCREENING DATES & TIMES:

LITTLE BIG MASTER

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
AGO Jackman Hall – 317 Dundas Street West (@ McCaul)
Cantonese with English subtitles

MY VOICE, MY LIFE (director in attendance)

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 7:45 p.m.
AGO Jackman Hall – 317 Dundas Street West (@ McCaul)
Cantonese with English subtitles

Open to the public – free admission.



REEL ASIAN IN SCARBOROUGH

Reel Asian continues its ongoing support of the South Asian community with **BOLLYWOOD IN THE BLUFFS**, an afternoon-to-evening outdoor community fair and film screenings event. Held in partnership with the Scarborough Arts Council, the free family-friendly event will take place on the grounds of the Bluffs Gallery and adjoining Harrison Estates Park at 1859 Kingston Road on Saturday, May 28, 2016. The Bluffs Gallery will be open for visitors and representatives of the Scarborough Arts Council will be on hand to explain their programmes and activities. We thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the office of Councillor Gary Crawford for their support of this event.

Screenings during the day will include the animated feature film, **SONS OF RAM**, and Tamil title **O KADHAL KANMANI**. The event ends with an outdoor evening screening of the popular Bollywood classic, **KUCH KUCH HOTA HAI**. All screenings are free and open to the public.

FILM SCREENING DATES & TIMES:

SONS OF RAM

Saturday, May 28, 2016, repeat screenings starting from 2:00pm – 6:00pm.
Indoor Screening – Bluffs Gallery, 1859 Kingston Road

O KADHAL KANMANI

Saturday, May 28, 2016, 4:00pm and 6:30pm.
Indoor/Garage Screening – Bluffs Gallery, 1859 Kingston Road
Tamil with English subtitles

KUCH KUCH HOTA HAI

Saturday, May 28, 2016, 8:00 p.m.
Outdoor Screening – Harrison Estates Park, 1859 Kingston Road
Hindi with English subtitles

Open to the public – free admission.

REEL ASIAN ON AIR CANADA

Reel Asian is pleased to announce that, for a second year, it will be presenting its best movies in-flight to Air Canada passengers. **REEL ASIAN PULSE** features award-winning titles from the 19th annual edition of the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. Be sure to look for the program in the World Movies category on the Air Canada enRoute In-Flight Entertainment system to view these award-winning titles from Reel Asian.

Short Films included in REEL ASIAN PULSE:

THE LOBSTER KID (Director Joseph Chen-Chieh Hsu, Taiwan 2015)

Mandarin with English subtitles, 20 min

13-year-old con artist Siang partners with a silent monk, hoping that today is finally the day she earns enough money for a train ticket to Taitung. Who is the greater con though – Siang, or the Monk?

NU-LIFE (Director Lynn Kim, USA 2015)

No dialogue, 5 min



Through stunning experimental animation, NU-LIFE takes a vividly intimate look at the family dry cleaner.

SUN (Director Eui Yong Zong, Canada 2015)

Korean with English subtitles, 11 min

Sun works at a hair salon at the mercy of the salon owner. One day, she finds out the man she has been secretly in love with is going back to Korea for military service.

VISHAL (Director Sumit Judge, Canada 2015)

Punjabi with English subtitles, 10 min

Vishal, a 22-year-old international student, finds himself in a dingy, crowded basement, trying to balance work and school. While working at an Indian restaurant, both the cultural familiarity and hard labour exacerbate the doubts he has of studying in Canada.

THREE BROTHERS (Director Aleem Khan, United Kingdom 2014)

English, 17 min

Hamid struggles to care for his younger brothers when their father abandons them for Pakistan. A story inspired by true events.

SUMO ROAD THE MUSICAL (Director Ken Ochiai, Japan 2015)

Japanese with English subtitles, 25 min

A lonely, heavyset exchange student decides to join the sumo team at a Japanese university. But he must first face the team leader in the ultimate sumo match.

REEL ASIAN IN GTA SCHOOLS FOR ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Since 2010, Reel Asian has been working with schools in the Greater Toronto Area to bring filmmakers together with youth in schools during Asian Heritage Month. We are excited to provide programs where Asian Canadian filmmakers Shaleen Sangha, Alex Humilde, Howie Shia, Casey Mecija, and Sumit Judge will present their films, and also speak about a variety of social issues and filmmaking approaches such as documentary, drama, and animation.

As part of its ongoing commitment to South Asian expansion, Reel Asian has partnered with MonstrARTity, producer of Bollywood Monster Mashup -- the largest South Asian festival in Canada -- to extend its geographic reach by providing school tours in Mississauga and Brampton.

In addition to showcasing the diversity of Asian and Asian Canadian culture, the program introduces youth to film as vehicles for artistic expression, and social and cultural advocacy. This is a unique opportunity for students to interact with filmmakers about their creative process and thematic interests, and to demonstrate that the film industry presents viable career opportunities for students.

REEL ASIAN SCREENING PARTNERSHIPS: DONNIE YEN AT THE ROYAL

On May 7th, international superstar **Donnie Yen** (the IP MAN trilogy, HERO, ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY) is coming to The Royal to meet his fans for an unforgettable afternoon of kung-fu chaos.

Donnie Yen will introduce a screening of his acclaimed martial arts epic **WU XIA** (2011). Fans will also have a chance to hear Yen discuss his long career during an onstage Q&A with Colin Geddes,



programmer of The Royal and of TIFF's Midnight Madness selection. A portion of the event's proceeds will go to support the Reel Asian's 20th anniversary programming.

REEL ASIAN SCREENING PARTNERSHIPS: HALLYU NORTH

Thanks to the support of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Reel Asian will be screening **SEOUL SEARCHING**, directed by Benson Lee, on May 7th at Hallyu North, Canada's largest Hallyu expo with an expected attendance of up to 4,000 participants.

SEOUL SEARCHING follows a group of *gyopo* (foreign-born) teenagers to visit Korea, as part of the Korean government's summer camp initiative to re-establish ties with the motherland. Featuring popular hit songs from the 80s, this nostalgic comedy brought audiences to its feet at its Toronto premiere last November, with a standing ovation for its Canadian-born director, Benson Lee.

Presented by Hallyu North Entertainment, the two day convention will take place on May 6 and 7 at the Enercare Centre (Canadian Exhibition Place) in Toronto, Canada. Tickets and two-day passes for Hallyu North 2016 are currently on sale on TicketLeap. For more information on Hallyu North 2016 in Toronto, visit www.hallyunorth.com.

FILM SCREENING DATES & TIMES:

SEOUL SEARCHING

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 4:00pm
Salon 103, Enercare Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd #1

REEL ASIAN SCREENING PARTNERSHIPS: ROM FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

ROM Friday Night Live, presented by Ford of Canada, is back this Spring with a fresh line up of themes, DJs, and a slew of fantastic food vendors to choose from. The theme for May 27 is "Asia Forever," and the ROM will be hosting a free screening of the Japanese animation **MISS HOKUSAI** in partnership with Reel Asian.

Based on the manga Sarusuberi by Hinako Sugiura, **MISS HOKUSAI** is the untold story of O-Ei, often the real, uncredited painter behind her famous father's work. Her father, more renowned now as Katsushika Hokusai, is most known for such works as The Great Wave off the Coast of Kanagawa.

FILM SCREENING DATES & TIMES:

MISS HOKUSAI

Friday, May 27, 2016, 6:00pm
Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 7, 2016 – Hallyu North: **SEOUL SEARCHING**

May 7, 2016 – Kung Fu Fridays: **Donnie Yen live with WU XIA**

May 21, 2016 – Hong Kong Spirit: **LITTLE BIG MASTER, MY VOICE, MY LIFE (director in attendance)**

May 27, 2016 – ROM Friday Night Live: **MISS HOKUSAI**

May 28, 2016 – Bollywood In the Bluffs: **SONS OF RAM, O KADHAL KANMANI, KUCH KUCH HOTA HAI**

Month of May – AHM School Tour in Toronto, Scarborough, Mississauga, Brampton

Month of May – Reel Asian shorts program on in-flight entertainment in Air Canada

Reel Asian® is Canada's premier pan-Asian international film festival, showcasing contemporary film and videos from East, South and Southeast Asia. This year's 20th anniversary festival takes place November 10-19 in downtown Toronto, North York, and Richmond Hill.

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