



## MEDIA KIT

### The 24th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Begins

*October 31 - November 8, 2020, Vancouver hosts the best of Asian Filmmaking from around the World*

**Vancouver, BC – October 6, 2020** – The Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is pleased to announce the countdown to its much anticipated 24th annual celebration of diversity in film and the Asian diaspora, brought to you **virtually (#VAFFVIRTUAL)** from October 31 to November 8, 2020 in the comfort of your home, with a few surprises in store. This year's festival will run for twice as long as past festivals, allowing us to bring you more exciting content than ever before.

This year, with everyone having such a challenging year, VAFF wanted to break the mould and bring some fun to the community by presenting a Halloween Screening on Opening Night, October 31, 2020, live at the Cineplex Odeon International Village, adhering strictly to CoVid-19 protocols of no more than 50 people. This festival will offer the largest program we have ever presented and bonus content exclusive to VAFF, as we take advantage of the flexibility of video-on-demand programming.

We are pleased to introduce our theme of the year, **“What’s Your 20?”**, the radio code widely used in the film industry that means “where are you?” or “what’s your location?”. In the year 2020, we play on the numbers to pose this question, which can be interpreted physically, intellectually and philosophically. No one could have predicted the unprecedented global transformation that 2020 would bring. This year, we zoom in on the filmmaker’s psyche, and explore the monumental impact of global change on storytellers of Asian heritage, and the issues that matter to them.

We are delighted to have [Jenny Lee-Gilmore](#), [Moheb Jindran](#) and [Nikki Chohan](#), three very talented Asian-Canadian actors, as the 24th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival Brand Ambassador. Through film, they unveil their perspectives on the ongoing global crisis and social movements and help us answer the question, “What's Your 20?”

VAFF’s programming continues to showcase the breadth and depth of Asian diaspora filmmaking beyond mainstream film festival offerings, with expanded programming that reflects relevant, pressing issues faced by immigrants, women, and marginalized individuals. The VAFF

2020 lineup showcases 18 film programs of industry panels plus 46 feature-length and short films of all genres, in English and/or with English subtitles, from the local and international Asian diaspora. Highlights from the festival with mostly films never before seen in Canada or Vancouver include:

- **The Opening Film** is the **North American premiere** of the Korean box-office hit, “**The Closet**”, by **Kim Kwang-bin**, starring big Korean stars **Ha Jung-woo** (The Handmaiden), and **Kim Nam-gil** (Pandora), as well as **Heo Yul**. The horror mystery explores parental issues through the story of a missing child. The Opening Night is a celebration of excellence in Korean cinema and Halloween fun when the audience can compete for best costume in theatre or at home.
- All Spotlight Features have not been seen in Canada with most being **North American premieres**. To help drown out some pandemic woes, we bring two **comedic features** that explore real universal issues. “**Secret Zoo**” by **Jae-gon Son** is an unexpected tale about a young lawyer being suckered into running a zoo that has sold most of its animals. “**Little Miss Period**” by **Shunsuke Shinada** takes a refreshing yet insightful look at how women deal with their monthly visitor.
- Two **documentaries** are included in the **Spotlight Series**, namely **The Canadian Spotlight**, “**Ketchup & Soya Sauce**” by **Zhimin Hu** which is a study of five couples whose relationships are shaped by the history of mixed relationships in Canada since the 1930’s, and **The Documentary Spotlight**, “**The Donut King**” by **Alice Gu** about the unlikely rise of Cambodian immigrants building a donut empire in the US.
- **The Closing Film** is a live virtual screening of “**Beyond the Dream**” by **Kiwi Chow**, starring rising stars **Terrence Lau** and **Cecilia Choi** which is a thoughtful Hong Kong film about the unlikely relationship between a recovering schizophrenic who yearns for love and a counselor with hidden secrets.
- **The Features Series** shed light on identity and self discovery of a range of Asian diaspora, from South Asians Canadians in “**White Elephant**” by **Andrew Chung**, Korean diasporic expats in “**Gyopo**” by **Samuel Kiehoon Lee**, to a Thai teenager attempting to live abroad in “**Where We Belong**” by **Kongdej Jaturanrasmee**.
- **The Documentary Series** feature two American films, one just in time for the US elections, “**First Vote**” by **Yi Chen** following a diverse cross section of politically engaged Chinese Americans first-time voters during the 2018 midterm elections and “**Curtain Up!**” by **Hui Tong, Kelly Ng** about Asian-American elementary kids breaking stereotypes as they break a leg putting on a national debut production of “Frozen Kids”.
- **The Shorts Series** showcase many award winning works and an unprecedented number of films totalling 35 to create **3 International Shorts Programs** and **4 Canadian Shorts Programs** which include a special presentation of winners to our **15<sup>th</sup> Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM15)**. Vancouver audiences will see a vast range of International Shorts for the first time with most of them being Canadian or North American premieres, including a **Spotlight on South Korea Shorts**.
- Many **Video-on-Demand** programs will feature **exclusive interviews** with filmmakers, while our live scheduling will give audiences a chance to meet filmmakers live in Filmmaker Talks.

VANCOUVER ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL | 1350 BURRARD STREET—# 367 VANCOUVER B.C. V6Z 0C2

EMAIL: [info@vaff.org](mailto:info@vaff.org) | WEB: [vaff.org](http://vaff.org)

We continue our **VAFF Industry Panel Series** with “how to” panels under **VAFF I<sup>2</sup>** in **Who Wants to be a Talent to Watch? & Elimin8Hate** that challenge us with burning questions on **Model Minority Myth on Film** and **Elevating Underrepresented Voices in Film, Television and Media**. In addition to the **Best Canadian Director Award** sponsored by the Directors Guild of Canada, and **Best Canadian Film Award** sponsored by Telefilm, we will be awarding **Best Canadian Cinematographer awards**; as well as the various audience favourite **People’s Choice Awards**, all to be presented during the festival.

With our lifetime patron, **Richard K. Wong** generous support, we launch “**RICHARD K WONG FILM FUND (RWFF)**”, aimed to support talented Asian Canadian filmmakers and TV producers, to develop, produce, and finish creative projects that raises the profile of Asians in Canada. Our stories are important and we want to give you a chance to tell it. The Film Fund will be available in 2021.

We are proud to bring Vancouver audiences 5 World premieres, 12 North American premieres; 13 Canadian premieres, and an additional 7 films that are Vancouver premieres, and even more excited to announce that close to 60% of all films are directed by women. Organizers anticipate 4,000 audience and industry members over the extended eight days festival.

**The entire festival program and tickets are available online from October 5 till November 8, 2020 at [www.vaff.org](http://www.vaff.org).**

**Please email [media@vaff.org](mailto:media@vaff.org) to inquire Individual Films’ EPK & Screener links for review and editorial.**

### **About the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF)**

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival is the longest running Asian film festival in Canada. Founded by independent filmmaker and writer Barbara K. Lee in 1995 to celebrate diversity in film, the festival has grown to provide an engaging platform for Asian filmmakers to showcase their talents. The VAFF is run by The Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society, a not-for-profit organization comprised of a group of dedicated volunteers. Sponsors and community partners alike also contribute to the success of the organization. Now on its 24th year, the event only expects to grow even bigger. Close to 4,000 people are expected to attend the festival.

### **Follow the festival as it unfolds at:**

Facebook/VAFFVancouver

Twitter/@VAFFVancouver/ #VAFF

Instagram/vaffvancouver

YouTube/VAFFVancouver

### **Media Contact:**

Media Relations, VAFF

Email: [media@vaff.org](mailto:media@vaff.org)

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## VAFF 2020: BOILERPLATE

### One-liner:

Vancouver, BC—The Vancouver Asian Film Festival celebrates its 24th year **virtually (#VAFFVIRTUAL)** of showcasing the best of independent Asian international diaspora cinema in English, and with English subtitles, October 31 - November 8, 2020. Tickets and passes are available online at [www.vaff.org](http://www.vaff.org) from October 5 till November 8, 2020.

### Two-liner:

Vancouver, BC—The Vancouver Asian Film Festival showcases the best of independent Asian international diaspora cinema in English, and with English subtitles, including feature-length and short films in all genres. This 24th annual festival brought to you **virtually (#VAFFVIRTUAL)** from October 31 to November 8, 2020 in the comfort of your home, with a few surprises in store. This year's festival will run for twice as long as past festivals, allowing us to bring you more exciting content than ever before. Line up with 18 film programs plus 4 industry panels, 9 special presentations and 46 feature-length and short films of all genres, with English language and/or English subtitles, from the local and international Asian diaspora. Tickets and passes are available online at [www.vaff.org](http://www.vaff.org) from October 5 till November 8, 2020.

### Paragraph:

Vancouver, BC—The Vancouver Asian Film Festival showcases the best of independent Asian international diaspora cinema in English, and with English subtitles, including feature-length and short films in all genres (narrative, documentary, animation, experimental). This 24th annual festival brought to you **virtually (#VAFFVIRTUAL)** from October 31 to November 8, 2020 in the comfort of your home, with a few surprises in store.

In 2020, VAFF continues to showcase the breadth and depth of Asian diaspora filmmaking beyond mainstream film festival offerings, with expanded programming that reflects relevant, pressing issues faced by immigrants, women, and marginalized individuals. The VAFF 2020 lineup showcases 18 film programs of industry panels plus 46 feature-length and short films of all genres, in English and/or with English subtitles, from the local and international Asian diaspora.

We are proud to bring Vancouver audiences 5 World premieres, 12 North American premieres; 13 Canadian premieres, and an additional 7 films that are Vancouver premieres, and even more excited to announce that close to 60% of all films are directed by women. Organizers anticipate 4,000 audience and industry members over the extended eight days festival.

Tickets and passes are available online from October 5 till November 8, 2020 at [www.vaff.org](http://www.vaff.org). For more information, please email [info@vaff.org](mailto:info@vaff.org).

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## **VAFF: BEST CANADIAN FEATURE / SHORT AWARD 2020**

Sponsored by **Telefilm Canada**, the VAFF Best Canadian Feature Award & Best Canadian short Award is presented annually to a qualifying Canadian independent short film/filmmaker in the current year's festival. An average of 3–6 films per year are eligible for this award nomination. The annual winner is determined by a three-member film industry adjudication panel. The award will be presented during the festival.

<https://festival.vaff.org/2020/vaff-award/>

**Three (3) Nominees for 2020 Best Film for Canadian Feature Award Nominees** (in film's title by alphabetical order):

- Gyopo, Director Samuel Kiehoon Lee
- Ketchup & Soya Sauce, Director Zhimin Hu
- White Elephant, Director Andrew Chung

**Twelve (12) Nominees for 2020 Best Film for Canadian Short Award Nominees** (in film's title by alphabetical order):

- A-Yi, Director Martyna Czaplak
- And Now This?, Director Theo Kim
- Cacti and Weed, Director Zoe Ho
- Christopher Kim, Director Joshua Maikawa
- Deeper I Go, Director Michael P. Vidler
- Hayashi Studio, Director Hayley Gray
- Laura, Director Kaayla Whachell
- Nene, Director King Louie Palomo
- Serious Lees, Director Krista Jang
- Songbird, Director Heather Hawthorn Doyle
- The Star of Therapy, Director Bryce Iwaschuk
- We the West, Director Kathleen Jayme

Please email [media@vaff.org](mailto:media@vaff.org) or visit <http://vaff.org/press-media/> for media accreditation and other information.

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## **VAFF: BEST DIRECTOR FOR CANADIAN FEATURE / SHORT AWARD 2020**

Sponsored by the **Directors Guild of Canada**, the VAFF Best Director for Canadian Feature Award VAFF Best Director for Canadian Short Award is presented annually to a qualifying Canadian independent feature film/filmmaker in the current year's festival. 3 Canadian feature films 12 Canadian Short films are eligible for the nomination. The winner is determined by a three-member film industry adjudication panel. The award will be presented during the festival.

<https://festival.vaff.org/2020/vaff-award/>

**Three (3) Nominees for 2020 Best Director for Canadian Feature Award Nominees** (film's title by alphabetical order):

- Gyopo, Director Samuel Kiehoon Lee
- Ketchup & Soya Sauce, Director Zhimin Hu
- White Elephant, Director Andrew Chung

**Twelve (12) Nominees for 2020 Best Director for Canadian Short Award Nominees** (in film's title by alphabetical order):

- A-Yi, Director Martyna Czaplak
- And Now This?, Director Theo Kim
- Cacti and Weed, Director Zoe Ho
- Christopher Kim, Director Joshua Maikawa
- Deeper I Go, Director Michael P. Vidler
- Hayashi Studio, Director Hayley Gray
- Laura, Director Kaayla Whachell
- Nene, Director King Louie Palomo
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## **VAFF: BEST CANADIAN CINEMATOGRAPHY OF CANADIAN FEATURE / SHORT AWARD 2020**

Sponsored by **International Cinematographer's Guild 669 (ICG 669)**, the VAFF Best Cinematography of Canadian Feature Award and Best Cinematography of Canadian Short Award is presented annually to a qualifying Canadian independent short film/filmmaker in the current year's festival. An average of 3–6 films per year are eligible for this award nomination. The annual winner is determined by a three-member film industry adjudication panel. The award will be presented during the festival.

<https://festival.vaff.org/2020/vaff-award/>

**Three (3) Nominees for 2020 Best Cinematography of Canadian Feature Award Nominees**  
(in film's title by alphabetical order):

- Gyopo, DP, Samuel Kiehoon Lee
- Ketchup & Soya Sauce, DP Michel Desilets, Guillaume Meloche, Frederic Segard, Alain Bisson, Dominic Dutil, ZhiMin Hu, David Soucy
- White Elephant, DP Dave Lam

**Twelve (12) Nominees for 2020 Best Cinematography of Canadian Short Award Nominees**  
(in film's title by alphabetical order):

- A-Yi, DP Gregory Czaplak
- And Now This?, DP Angelica Perez Anzures
- Cacti and Weed, DP Marc Yungco
- Christopher Kim, DP Ibrahim Issa
- Deeper I Go, DP Leonardo Harim
- Hayashi Studio, DP Kaayla Whatchell
- Laura, DP Diana Parry
- Nene, DP Brian Patrick Lim
- Serious Lees, DP Andrew C
- Songbird, DP Brandon Y Lee
- The Star of Therapy, DP Collin Morrison
- We the West, DP Michael Dinsmore

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## #VAFFVIRTUAL MEDIA ROOM

### #VAFFVIRTUAL Media ROOM

We would arrange interviews opportunities From October 5, 2020 - October 31, 2020

Please email [media@vaff.org](mailto:media@vaff.org) to inquire Individual Films' EPK & Screener links for review and editorial or visit <http://vaff.org/press-media/> for other information.

Please visit the link below for update information:  
(Festival Trailer, Programs Trailers, Targeted Release)  
<https://festival.vaff.org/2020/media/>

Social Media Toolkit

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VAFFvancouver>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/vaffvancouver/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VAFFvancouver>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/vaffvancouver>

Hashtags: #VAFF | #VAFFVIRTUAL | #Whatsyour20 | #diversityinfilm

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## VAFF 2020: ATTENDING FILMMAKERS - LIVE VIRTUAL Q&A

Attending Filmmakers / Panelists (As of October 6, 2020)

Sorted out by Date:

Date	Films / Panels	Filmmaker / Panelists name
Oct 31, 2020	Opening Night Spotl, The Closet <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/the-closet/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/the-closet/</a>	Kwang-bin Kim
Nov 1, 2020	Canadain Spotlight, Ketchup & Soya Sauce <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/ketchup-soya-sauce/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/ketchup-soya-sauce/</a>	Zhimin Hu
Nov 1, 2020	Filmmakers Talk: Canadian Shorts: Life & Death <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-life-death/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-life-death/</a>	
Nov 4, 2020	Filmmakers Talk: Canadian Shorts: Deep in Your Mind <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-deep-in-your-mind/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-deep-in-your-mind/</a>	
Nov 5, 2020	Documentary Spotlight, The Donut King <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/the-donut-king/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/the-donut-king/</a>	Alice Gu
Nov 7, 2020	Filmmakers Talk: Canadian Shorts Docs <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-docs/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-docs/</a>	
	International Spotlight, Little Miss Period <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/little-miss-period/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/movies/little-miss-period/</a>	Shunsuke Shinada
Nov 8, 2020	Filmmakers Talk: Canadian Shorts, MAMM Winners <a href="https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-mamm-winners/">https://festival.vaff.org/2020/programs/canadian-shorts-series-mamm-winners/</a>	

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