

AMÉRASIA

FILM FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

AmérAsia Film Festival

Ciné-Asie is proud to present the 2nd edition of **AmérAsia** Film Festival in Montreal.

It will be held over two weekends, from March 3rd to 13th 2011 at Cinémathèque Québécoise, National Film Board of Canada, J.A. de Sève Cinema. This film festival celebrates the diversity of Asian and Canadian culture and its integration in Canada.

Major cities in North America have already established a long history of holding 'Asian-film festivals', except for Montreal. Ciné-Asie believes it's time for Montréal to be part of this movement since our city is so multicultural with a large growing Asian population.

AmérAsia welcomes everyone to discover the artistic growth of the Asian diaspora and the groups of media artists in film and video. It is not only a new platform for networking and for discovering Asian-Canadian independent film/video and Asian inspired media art works; it is also open to encourage the unique Montreal art scene, where French and English are immersed in a creatively experimental hub in North America. AmérAsia focuses on two components, screenings and seminars/workshops.

The festival will present more than 20 international films and videos from 10 countries, with this year's highlight on South Korean cinema, and 5 special film events comprising meaningful practical workshops and seminars for film professionals and for the general public.

We hope you all enjoy AmérAsia!

Bon cinema!

Film Highlights:

ONE BIG HAPA FAMILY

Winner Best Short Documentary at Trail Dance Film Festival.

Winner NFB Best Canadian Film/Award Video at Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival

"With intermarriage on the rise, people of multiethnic decent are becoming the fastest growing demographic in North America, thus changing the landscape of Canadian identity and multiculturalism, as we know it. One Big Hapa Family, is one of the first documentaries to explore these topics in depth." By Jason Whyte, www.efilmcritic.com

THE CLONE RETURNS HOME

Best Visual Achievement - New York Asian Film Festival

Best Cinematography at Fantasia 2009

Nominee for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival

BARKING DOGS NEVER BITE

Nominated for a Golden Precolumbian Circle Award - Best Film at Bogota Film Festival in 2001.

Nominated for a Best Film Award at Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema in 2001.

Nominated for a Grand Jury Prize at at Slamdance Film Festival in 2001.
Won FIPRESCI Prize at Hong Kong International Film Festival in 2001.
Won High Hopes Award at Munich Film Festival in 2001.
Won Excellence in Editing Award at Slamdance Film Festival in 2001.
International Film Critics Federation Award of Young Asian filmmakers at the 25th Hong Kong International Film Festival.

A BRAND NEW LIFE – Directed by Ounie Lecomte
Best Asian-Middle Eastern Film Award - 2009, Tokyo International Film Festival
Best Children's Feature Film Award - 2009, Asia Pacific Screen Awards
Korean International Critics Award - 2010, Critics Choice Awards
Festival de Canne 2009
San Francisco International Film Festival 2010

A heart-tugger rather than a full-on tearjerker, A Brand New Life is a sure-footed story of a childhood abandoned, and a striking debut by Korean-born French director Ounie Lecomte. Loosely autobiographical, Lecomte's film is produced by director – and Cannes competition juror – Lee Chang-dong, and while it lacks the harder edge of Lee's own films, Lecomte's restrained and intimate drama is an assured and highly appealing debut that seems highly likely to achieve international art-house sales -By Jonathan Romney, 21 May, 2009 for Screendaily.

THE MOUNTAIN THIEF – Directed by Gerry Balasta
A gripping story based on the largest dumpsite town in the world. And yes, it's in the Philippines!
Special Award Jury at San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival
EMERGING FILMMAKER AWARD of GEORGE C. LIN, 2010, Washington D.C.
PRIX DU PUBLIC (Audience Award) at CciiFF, Lempaut, France

DON'T CRY FOR ME, SUDAN - Directed by Goo Soo-hwan

The late priest Lee Tae-seok won the grand prize at the "Touching Awards" first tried out by KBS last year.
Academy Award Nominee in documentary section for Korean film

HARMONY – Directed by Kang Dae-Gyu; Starring: Yunjin Kim (Sun) from the critically acclaimed series LOST!

2010 (5th) The London Korean Film Festival - November 5-23

OLD PARTNER – Directed by LEE Chung-Ryoul

Nominated for a Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival
Awarded best director at the 45th Baeksang Arts Awards.
Awarded best documentary at 2008 Pusan International Film Festival

“Lee Chung-ryoul’s *Old Partner* became one of the most successful indies in Korean film history, playing on more than 150 local screens and drawing 1 million viewers on word-of-mouth buzz alone. It went on to jostle for the Grand Jury Prize in world documentary at Sundance last January, the first time a Korean documentary has been entered in the Park City competition.” - By Damon Smith, *Filmmaker magazine*

WATER – Directed by Deepa Mehta. *Starring:* Rishma Malik, and Seema Biwas
Nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film of the Year at the Academy Awards
Best Feature Film at BANGKOK FILM FESTIVAL WINNER
6TH ANNUAL VANCOUVER FILM CRITICS AWARD WINNERS; Best Canadian Film, Best Director of a
Canadian Film , Best Performance
INTERNATIONAL PRESS ACADEMY – SATELLITE AWARD NOMINEE
Motion Picture, Foreign Language Film
Humanitarian Award – Deepa Mehta

Best Foreign Film at WOMEN FILM CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS WINNER

Special Events Highlights:

3rd National Video Portrait Competition

A selection of independent Canadian films and videos, submitted by artists working across Canada, featuring Asian content and/or themes

Panel Discussion

“Blending Generations - Did you say *inter-marriage*?! ”

The Director of “One Big Hapa Family” *Jeff Chiba Stearns* with lecturers from the University of Montreal and two Japanese-Canadian couples will discuss the sensitive topic of inter-marriage in Canada

Double Screening

“Hollywood Chinese” by Arthur Dong (starring Nancy Kwan) and “Suite Suite Chinatown” by Asian-Canadian Directors, followed by artists talk

The audience will participate by making sounds for the film, *Suite Suite Chinatown*, with papers, balloons or cups. For *Hollywood Chinese*, the audience is invited to discover how the images of the Chinese fit within an entertainment industry in Hollywood

Industry Seminar

Introductory Asian Canadian Co-Production Summit/ Financial management and legal document negotiation in filmmaking



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Bollywood Night

Screening of “Bollywood Dream” directed by Beatriz Seigner and produced by Ram Devineni followed by Bollywood Dance Soirée (Performance & Workshop) by local Bollywood dance troop

INFORMATION:

SCREENING AND INDUSTRY SERIES VENUES

Cinémathèque Québécoise, 335 Boulevard de Maisonneuve Est

Cinéma ONF, 1564 rue St-Denis

J.A. Salle De Sève Concordia, in J.W. McConnell Building (Library), local LB-125, 1400 de Maisonneuve West

TICKETS & PASSES: Regular Price/Discount Price*

Screenings: \$8 (regular) /\$6(Student and elderly*)

Special Events: \$8

Bollywood Night: \$12

*Discount applies to students (with valid current ID)

Cinémathèque québécoise prices:

\$7 (regular)/\$6(Student and elderly)/\$4 (Children 6-15 years)/Free (Children 0-5 years)

Contact

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Visit www.amerasiafestival.com for further information.

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