

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Asian American International Film Festival 2016
Presents a fantastic group of Chinese and Chinese American Films**

NEW YORK - Like years prior, AAIFF 2016 will be featuring a plethora of Chinese and Chinese American films from both young and experienced filmmakers and actors. This year, the Centerpiece presentation of A TALE OF THREE CITIES, Closing Night presentation FRONT COVER, as well as narrative features IN THE ROOM and documentaries like BREATHIN: THE EDDY ZHENG STORY. AAIFF is also proud to present ten short films with Chinese directors, actors, and settings that are in every shorts programs, which represents both the complexity and variety of Chinese and Chinese American artists and stories.

FEATURE FILMS

A TALE OF THREE CITIES

Based on the true story of Jackie Chan's parents and brought to the screen by two of Asia's biggest stars, Sean Lau (MY NAME IS FAME, LIFE WITHOUT PRINCIPLE, OVERHEARD 3) and Tang Wei (LUST, CAUTION; FINDING MR. RIGHT; THE GOLDEN ERA; BLACKHAT), director Mabel Cheung tells a story about love that reflects a generation's strength in a time of despair, and a country's hope for a brighter future.

FRONT COVER

AAIFF 2016 will be closing with FRONT COVER, which tells the story of Ryan Fu, a gay Chinese American who rejects his Asian heritage and has learnt to suppress it to climb up the social ladder. Through talent and hard work, he has attained his dream job as an assistant to a celebrity fashion stylist, Francesca. One day Francesca assigns Ryan to style Ning, an actor who has just arrived from Beijing, for a top magazine photo shoot. Ning dismisses Ryan's initial Western styling and demands Ryan to create an image for him which represents the power of the new China. Their egos and opinions clash resulting in a strained and difficult working relationship. However, over the following days, they discover that they share a lot in common and a mutual attraction begins to develop. As they fall in love, a Chinese tabloid magazine exposes Ning as gay. Terrified of the impact it will have on his career, Ning begs Ryan to lie for him at a press conference. Ryan must now decide whether to help Ning or stay true to himself. Directed by Ray Yeung (CUT SLEEVE BOYS), starring New York natives Jake Choi (WOLVES, MONEY MONSTER) and James Chen (WATCHING TV WITH THE RED CHINESE, WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN), FRONT COVER is a "bittersweet dramatic comedy that looks at the Asian American experience with humor, irony, and insight."



IN THE ROOM

Eric Khoo's latest film, *IN THE ROOM*, is a tapestry of stories, all of which unfold in a hotel room over several decades. The hotel room is Room 27 at the Singapura Hotel, which starts as a ritzy establishment in the 1940s but has, over the decades, lost its sheen of respectability. Room 27 has felt and experienced - through the individuals who have passed through its doors and made love on its bed - all facets of the human condition: joy, love, fear, compassion, cruelty, depravity, and redemption.

THE DOG

Director Lam Can-zhao leads a small film crew as they shoot a film about a stray dog in the streets of Guangzhou, leading the viewer into an unpredictable, peculiar and incredible journey. Shot documentary-style while employing characteristics of hybrid cinema, *THE DOG*'s low-tech, casual style reveals a wealth of stories that reflects both the authenticity and occasional absurdity of the living situations of migrant workers and of those who otherwise live "below the line." As the debut feature film directed by Lam, *THE DOG* reads more like a lonely rebel's exploration and revelation to the world.

TPE-TICS

Huang Dawang is an eccentric musician, noise performer, music aficionado, and a pillar of Taiwan's underground music scene but also denies himself as an artist and refuses to define what art is. *TPE-TICS* is an intimate look into his way of life – incredibly different from the norm, largely incompatible with society. As links between Huang's past trauma and present creations are revealed, his psychological anxiety is at once enlightening and heartbreaking. Despite his bouts of depression, Huang's humour and witty introspection relieves the melancholy. More than merely music, the film examines human experiences and nuanced values that are precious yet rarely accessible.



BREATHIN: THE EDDY ZHENG STORY

Arrested at 16 and tried as an adult for kidnapping and robbery, Eddy Zheng served over 20 years in California prisons and jails. Ben Wang's *BREATHIN': THE EDDY ZHENG STORY* paints an intimate portrait of Eddy—the prisoner, the immigrant, the son, the activist—on his journey to freedom, rehabilitation and redemption.

JOLIN

Dongguan is simultaneously the manufacturing hub and inadvertent sex capital of China; it is home to 1.7 million female factory workers, 300,000 of which comprised of former factory girls turned sex workers. It is here that 22-year-old country girl, Jolin, has worked for the past five years, and where her story begins. *JOLIN* is a documentary that focuses on a former factory girl, 22-year-old Jolin, who is the only child of her family and has found work as a stripper in Dongguan. She undergoes risky plastic surgery to look more 'sexy' and tries to find her estranged father for reasons that go beyond healing her fractured family. She hopes to leave Dongguan behind and become a famous actress in Shanghai. Jolin's story depicts a young girl's "Chinese Dream" and the sadness of China's loneliest generation.



TYRUS

TYRUS is about the unlikely and untold story of 105-year old Chinese-American artist Tyrus Wong, who overcame poverty and racism to become a celebrated modernist painter, Hollywood sketch artist, and 'Disney Legend' for his groundbreaking work on the classic animated film, Bambi. Tyrus's incredible rise to acclaim shines against a common backdrop in the story of Chinese-Americans in the 20th century.

SHORT FILMS

We are Beautiful (如果你喜欢怪人，其实我很美)

FAIRYTALES

Fairy Wang may be a working-class girl from rural China, but she thinks she's the next Coco Chanel. After posting her eccentric designs on Weibo, China's largest social media site, Fairy becomes an overnight internet celebrity. But fame comes at a price for the misunderstood fashion misfit. Filmmaker Rongfei Guo befriends Fairy and walks in the unlikely designer's very first fashion show.

Made in NY



PARACHUTE GIRLS

Two estranged sisters, self-proclaimed “parachute girls,” who were essentially abandoned as children by their parents are reunited when Ellie, the younger sister, crashes older sis Evelyn's dinner party. Ellie begins to destroy Evelyn's suburban illusion of the perfect family.

Rooted: Removals and Returns

ALICE'S MIRROR

Ai Li, an adopted child from China, has been living in Paris since the age of five. Twenty years later, with only the clues of a name and address found on the back of an old photograph, she flies to Shanghai in search of her mother.



FATA MORGANA

Inspired by true events, Fata Morgana tells the story of a Chinese couple who must examine their relationship's fractures — and future — after they arrive in the United States to organize the funeral rites for their only child.

MIDNIGHT DANCE

After being fired from her restaurant job, Qin-Qin, a 30-year-old beer girl, feels lost and tries to get drunk. She wanders through the darkened lanes by a fishing harbor searching for meaning in her life. When she walks into a late night seafood stand, Qin-Qin finds what she has long been missing.

Finding Love



METAMORPHOSIS

In director Elaine Xia's first independent short, METAMORPHOSIS, a woman in 1990s Hong Kong kills her alcoholic husband in self-defense and to protect her daughter. In order to cover up the murder, she finds a very unique way to dispose of the evidence.

LGBTQ BALLOT

BALLOT features Christine Feng, an out lesbian to her friends but not her family. When the time comes to voting Prop-8 (Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry, a statewide ballot proposition in California), she argues with her mother over voting legalizing for gay marriages, and that both Christine and her mother are forced to face their own fears and the ironic behavior of being in denial.

LIKE HOPE

LIKE HOPE explores the notion of how a moment in time can freeze one's state of living in sometimes a haunting way. It tells the story about a Chinese foreign exchange student in America named Harry who falls in love with his good friend Timothy. One night, Harry asks Timothy whether he likes him romantically, only to be told that Timothy merely wants to stay friends. They continue to hang out with each other as Harry's heart stays stuck in the few seconds before he asked and received the answer to Timothy's feelings for him--The moment where Harry still felt hopeful, and the few seconds where love still seemed possible.

For Youth By Youth

BE WITH THE MOUNTAINS

In the 1950's, leprosy was prevalent in Guangnan County, Yunnan Province. At that time due to poor medical conditions, patient treatment was poor, most were expelled from the village. In order to avoid the spread of the disease, the local government moved the patients to Luosongdi village in Guangnan County to treat, and isolated. By the 1980's, the village no longer had contagious patients and the quarantine was lifted. This a story about the villagers who stayed and longed for their family.

MOMMY GOODBYE

This is a typical Chinese family film. A standard Chinese family is made up of an anxious mom, a rebellious child, and an absent father. The director wanted to discuss a mother-son mode in the children's development, which is the mom tries to get a sense of existence to vent their emotions and sexuality by the son's presence somehow. Due to his father's concubinage, his mom Wang Juan asks for a divorce in a rage and thus, the 17-year-old son Ding Xiaoyang starts living alone with his mom. With mom's menopause and his own rebellious age coming along, both of them have entered an endless and fierce confrontation.

17 year old Ding struggles with identity and loyalty in a family broken by marital strife and infidelity.

For a copy of the press kit please contact Nicole Bae at press@asiancinevision.org

To learn more about the full schedule of events, visit <http://aaiff.org/2016>.

Festival Ticket Information

Tickets for general admission are \$15. Tickets for seniors (65+), students and handicapped (must present valid ID) are \$11. Tickets for ACV members and Community Partners are \$11. Tickets are available for purchase on AAIFF's website. For Opening, Centerpiece, and Closing Night Events, please check website for ticket details.

General Festival Information

The Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF) is a presentation of Asian CineVision. The festival is a celebration of inspiring Asian and Asian American works in film and video from innovative artists around the world. AAIFF 2015 takes place July 21- July 30, 2016 in Manhattan and Queens. Manhattan venues include: Village Cinema East (181-189 2nd Avenue); Asia Society (725 Park Avenue); Museum of Chinese in America (215 Centre Street); and the Writers Guild of America (250 Hudson Street) Queens venues include: Museum of the Moving Image (36-01 35th Ave, Astoria); and Flushing Town Hall (13735 Northern Boulevard, Flushing).

About Asian CineVision:

Asian CineVision (ACV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit media arts organization devoted to the development, exhibition, promotion, and preservation of Asian and Asian American film and video.

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