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**Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF) 2016 Presents
An Array of Korean and Korean-American Stories**

NEW YORK, NEW YORK - For the 39th Asian American International Film Festival is pleased to screen films that not only feature up and coming Korean-American and Korean actors and artists, but also a wide variety of stories. From a short film about appreciating the sacrifices that immigrants parents to one about three young filmmakers in pursuit of an interview with their idol, this year, the stories that are being told come from different lenses and perspectives while staying true to Korean culture.



SPA NIGHT

In his feature debut, Andrew Ahn shares the Korean-American immigration story with homage to Korean spas, which often serve as a meeting place and bridge between cross-generations of immigrant families. Following the lives of one struggling family, SPA NIGHT explores the complexities and realities when personal desire, disillusionment, and sense of tradition overlap with one another.

SPA NIGHT is the Opening Night presentation and will screen on Thursday, July 21st at 7:00pm at Asia Society. Director Andrew Ahn and lead actor Joe Seo will be in attendance.



FRONT COVER

FRONT COVER 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."

FRONT COVER is the Closing Night presentation and will screen on Saturday, July 30th at 7:00 pm at the Museum of Moving Image. Director, producers, and more will be in attendance.



I HATE BIG PHONY

For all intents and purposes, 2015 was seemingly a banner year for singer/songwriter Bobby Choy (aka Big Phony). His melodic and quiet songs had garnered him a following as he performs at SXSW while also starring in his first feature film. However, returning back to the States from living abroad in South Korea – has he made the right decisions in life? Is he his own worst enemy?

I HATE BIG PHONY will screen in the “We Are Beautiful” shorts program on Saturday, July 22nd at 7:00 pm at Village East Cinema. Director Milton Liu will be in attendance.



CALL TAXI

Jason gets in a Korean taxi to catch a 6:30 AM flight from JFK. To his surprise, his father is the driver. The father makes an unwelcomed pit stop at a 24-hour Korean supermarket to buy snacks for Jason. When the father and son get back in the car, the car fails to start and their relationship unravels and then folds back up again.

CALL TAXI will screen in the "Made in NY" shorts program on Saturday, July 23rd at 6:00 pm at Village East Cinema. Director Julian Kim and actor Yun Jeong will be in attendance.



COMING FULL CIRCLE

Pauline Park, a transgendered activist based in New York City, embarked on her first visit back to native Korea more than half a century after she was adopted and brought to the United States by white parents when she was only 7 months old.

COMING FULL CIRCLE will screen in the “LGBTQ” shorts program on Sunday, July 24 at 1:00 pm at Village East Cinema. Director Larry Tung and Pauline Park will be in attendance.



SEARCHING FOR BONG

Seeking inspiration in a difficult industry, three student filmmakers in South Korea go on a desperate search to locate and interview their idol, famed Korean film director, Bong Jun Ho.

SEARCHING FOR BONG will screen in the “For Youth, By Youth” program on Saturday, July 23 at 2:00 pm at MoCa.