



TORONTO
reel asian
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival
presents

SENSE OF WONDER / À LA RENCONTRE DU PAYSAGE QUÉBÉCOIS



Sunday May 16, 2010

1:00 pm Sense of Wonder

Best of Asian Canadian Shorts of 2009

2:30 pm À la rencontre du paysage québécois

A Special Selection from Quebec

Double presentation followed by discussion

CineRobotheque of NFB

1564 St-Denis

514.496.6887 – www.onf.ca/cinerobotheque

Cost : \$ 7

Photos (clockwise) : Lan & Léa; Mon nom est Tuan (My Name Is Tuan); Ali Shan

Festival Accès Asie is proud to collaborate with the **Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival** in welcoming **Sense of Wonder**, selected as Reel Asian's Best Short Asian-Canadian Films that premiered in Toronto. **Sense of Wonder**, a special selection of Asian Canadian films, is presented by the **Toronto Reel Asian Festival** to celebrate Asian Heritage Month of May, and will be presented as part of a cross-Canada tour through Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Montreal. The program for Montreal's Asian Heritage Festival, Accès Asie, will include **À la rencontre du paysage québécois**, a special compilation that was made especially for Montreal, which comprises of works by Quebecois artists.

This original and diversified program highlights the particular talents of Asian artists throughout Canada. With formats ranging from fiction and animation to experimental art, these creators, each in their own voice, evoke their cultural identities vis-à-vis their country of origin or adoption.

'Inspiring our imaginations in the darkest of moments, this year's selection of the best Asian Canadian shorts invokes a playful outlook on tragedy.' - Heather Keung, Artistic Director of the Reel Asian Festival

SENSE OF WONDER

Best of Asian Canadian Shorts of 2009 :

A SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING

Leslie Supnet | Canada 2008 | 1m

IRMA VEP

Jong Wook Choi | Canada 2009 | 4m

ALI SHAN

Yung Chang | Canada 2009 | 7m

NOCTURNE FOR THE FIREFLIES

Victoria Cheong | Canada 2009 | 7m45s

PERMUTE

Lydia Fu | Canada 2008 | 4m30s

FOUND

Paramita Nath | Canada 2009 | 6m19s

FISH IN BARREL

Randall Okita | Canada 2009 | 7m

REX VS. SINGH

Richard Fung, John Greyson et Ali Kazimi | Canada 2009 | 29m38s

À LA RENCONTRE DU PAYSAGE QUÉBÉCOIS

A Special Selection from Quebec :

SUNBATHING WITH PARROTS

Joanne Hui | Canada 2008 | 6m25s | Animation, no dialogue

MON NOM EST TUAN (MY NAME IS TUAN)

Nguyen-Anh Nguyen | Canada 2008 | 6m30s | French with English s.t.

LAN & LÉA

Khoa Lê | Canada 2008 | 7m30s | French with English s.t.

TRANSFER POINT

Jenny Lin | Canada 2007 | 5m23s | Animation, no dialogue

THE CONTEST

Naoko Kumagai | Canada 2007 | 12m43s | English

LES RABIBOCHÉS (THE PLAYGROUNDED)

Anh Minh Truong | Canada 2007 | 17m30s | French with English s.t.

Over the course of 14 years, the **Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival** has become a unique and radiant platform for contemporary Asian cinema. Their program carries films and videos realized by artists of Asian origin established not only in Asia but also in Canada, the USA and the world over.

Founded in 1997 by producer Anita Lee and journalist Andrew Sun, **Reel Asian** is the first Canadian festival dedicated to the development of Asian cinema. It favours notably the cultural and artistic exchanges between the different realities from the West and the East. Benefiting from a growing public interest, this festival contributes largely to the emergence of local talents.

www.reelasian.com

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PROGRAM AND SUMMARY OF FILMS

SENSE OF WONDER, Best of Asian Canadian Shorts Program :

A SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING

A hungry bird mistakes a piece of yarn for a worm entangled in the hair of a young man, which leads to a terrible accident in this humorous animation.

Leslie Supnet, a Filipino illustrator and animator from Winnipeg, imparts a touch of whimsy and the surreal in her humorous animations that explore isolation, nostalgia, place and identity.

IRMA VEP

Mad pursuit for the wild life leads to an outrageously messy story about a cover girl who encounters dangerous magazine cut-outs. This wicked stop-motion animation was influenced by Frances Leeming, Choi's teacher at Queen's University.

Jong Wook Choi spent his childhood in England, Korea, Hong Kong and Canada. His work is characterized by an almost schizophrenic referencing of various cultural codes. Choi graduated in film studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

ALI SHAN

A poetic voyage inspired by childhood memories takes director Chang across the ocean to Taiwan and a breathtaking sunrise at the peaks of a historical mountain, Ali Shan.

Yung Chang is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who graduated in film production from Montreal's Concordia University. His work *Up the Yangtze* recently won best documentary at the Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan.

NOCTURNE FOR THE FIREFLIES

In the dark of the night, a parade of little girls travel through the forest, bringing to life the magic of folk tales and children's lullabies.

Victoria Cheong graduated from Ryerson University's film school. Her recent work includes a VHS music video for Toronto musician Gentleman Reg and a video-dance integration (with dancer Allison Peacock).

PERMUTE

Existential heroine Lulu is caught in a film-noir cityscape fraught with mystery, anxiety and apprehension.

Lydia Fu is a Vancouver-based filmmaker. She graduated in chemistry at the University of Chicago and in media arts at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

FOUND

Found is about Toronto poet Souvankham Thammavongsa, who was born in a Lao refugee camp in Thailand. Nath beautifully brings together Thammavongsa's words and her father's abandoned scrapbook into a moving visual poem.

Paramita Nath was born in India and moved to Canada 12 years ago to pursue studies in music. She received a BA in music from Memorial University of Newfoundland and an MA in interdisciplinary fine arts from York University in Toronto.

FISH IN BARREL

In a stunning cinematic exploration of a young man's internal struggle, director Okita questions what lies below the surface.

Randall Okita was born in Calgary and is currently based in Vancouver. His 2008 short film *Machine with Wishbone* has screened internationally and won the Reel Asian Most Innovative Production award. Okita is now completing *A World Outside*, a feature-length documentary about residential schools in northern India.

REX VS. SINGH

In 1915, two Sikh mill workers, Dalip Singh and Naina Singh, were entrapped by undercover police in Vancouver one year after the infamous Komagata Maru ship, which was carrying immigrant passengers from British India, was stranded at the Vancouver harbour. This experimental video reveals an untold piece of Canadian history through four different interpretations of the court trial: a period drama, documentary, musical and conceptual deconstruction.

Richard Fung is a Trinidad-born, Toronto-based video artist and cultural critic whose work deals with the confluence of race and queer sexuality and with issues of post-colonialism, diaspora and family. Winner of the Bell Canada Award for Outstanding Achievement in Video Art, Fung currently teaches at the Ontario College of Art & Design.

Ali Kazimi was born and raised in India and is an internationally acclaimed documentary filmmaker. He currently teaches film and video at York University in Toronto. His documentary *Continuous Journey* is a provocative and multilayered film essay that interweaves photographs, newsreels, home movies and official documents.

John Greyson is a prolific video artist, filmmaker and writer whose work has been screened in numerous international festivals and venues. Greyson currently teaches film and video at York University and recently completed his new feature, *Fig Trees*.

À LA RENCONTRE DU PAYSAGE QUÉBÉCOIS, Special Selection of Quebec Short Films :

SUNBATHING WITH PARROTS

A delightful exploration of sound and shapes in this colourful animation.

Joanne Hui is based in Montreal and currently a Ph.D. candidate, Doctorate in Philosophy (Humanities), Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec.

MON NOM EST TUAN (MY NAME IS TUAN)

A young Vietnamese boy adjusting in very subtle ways to Western life meets a young girl at his new school and befriends her.

Nguyen-Anh Nguyen, who was born in Saigon and arrived in Quebec at the age of six, completed a doctorate in dental medicine at l'Université de Montréal. His interest in nostalgia led him to a love for film.

LAN & LÉA

Waiting for a bus on a rainy day, Lan and her teenaged daughter Léa find themselves distanced by bananas, black clothing and, ultimately, their generational differences.

Khoa Lê studied film directing at l'Université du Québec in Montreal and film production at l'Institut national de l'image et du son. Lan & Léa won the prize for Best Canadian Short Film and the Audience Favourite Award in Radio Canada International's Migrations short-film competition.



Nocturne for the Fireflies

TRANSFER POINT

This quirky, animated work looks at the unique fashion and character of daily commuters in an urban transit system. Using rhythmic repetition and humour, Lin takes everyday observations and turns them into a dreaming state of mind.

Jenny Lin is a Montreal-based multidisciplinary artist who works with video, drawing, installation, and print media. She completed a BFA degree at the University of Calgary and an MFA at Concordia University. She is currently teaching at Concordia University as a medical illustrator.

THE CONTEST

Trapped in a stilted marriage, a young Japanese woman finds an avenue for escape through her dreams to meet the legendary Montreal Canadiens star, Guy Lafleur. Set in 1978 and inspired by her mother's past, Kumagai tells the sweet story of a young immigrant who finds her place through the great Canadian game of hockey.

Naoko Kumagai received the CFC's WWSFF award for her screenplay *The Contest* and was nominated for Best Feature Writing by the BC Press Council. She has been a journalist for media outlets such as the Canadian Press and works as a Senior Communications Coordinator for the Toronto International Film Festival Group.

LES RABIBOCHÉS (THE PLAYGROUNDED)

When 40-something Jerome starts to blend in with his office decor, an old friend unexpectedly appears to remind him to live a little. This film recounts a bittersweet trek through mid-life malaise, nostalgia, and the Quebecois winterscape.

Anh Minh Truong started directing films at age 17 and graduated from Concordia University (Montreal) in film production. Now 25, he has won over 20 awards for his varied roles as director, producer, editor, and director of photography. Recently, he was a contestant on FAIS ÇA COURT! a Canadian TV show about young filmmakers.