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**NEW YORK ASIAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
CELEBRATES 30 YEARS JULY 19-28, 2007**

June 11, 2007 (New York, NY) — Presented by Asian CineVision, in association with the Asia Society, the 30th New York Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF) will run from July 19–28, 2007, at the Asia Society (725 Park Avenue, at 70<sup>th</sup> Street).

As the longest-running Asian American film festival, AAIFF has established itself as the premier venue for filmmakers of Asian descent, providing a platform for the latest and best in Asian and Asian American cinema. For three decades, the festival has sought out innovative works by emerging filmmakers and Asian directors, often introducing their films to American audiences for the first time. Festival organizers have planned an exciting and diverse roster of films – a total of 25 new features including one International Premiere, one U.S. Premiere, four East Coast Premieres, and 17 New York Premieres – and events to honor the festival’s 30th anniversary.

“We are proud to be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New York Asian American International Film Festival,” said Acting Executive Director John Woo. “As the longest-running festival devoted to screening the works by and about the Asian and Asian American communities, we have been able to introduce audiences to many highly regarded directors, and our mission is to remain one of the premier festivals for spotlighting the work of rising filmmakers.”

“Asian CineVision is marking its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a phenomenal line-up of cutting edge films,” said Rachel Cooper, Asia Society’s Director of Cultural Programs. “The Asia Society is thrilled to continue our longstanding partnership and congratulate Asian CineVision on this milestone anniversary.”

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary festival will open with the New York Premiere screening of *Finishing the Game*, directed by Justin Lin (*The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift*, *Better Luck Tomorrow*). Starring Roger Fan and James Franco, the film is a comedic faux documentary about the search by opportunistic Hollywood film producers to replace martial arts star Bruce Lee, following his death on the set of *Game of Death*. The AAIFF will close with director Gina Kim’s Sundance Film Festival critically acclaimed hit *Never Forever*. Starring Vera Farmiga, Jung-woo Ha, and David McInnis, the film follows an American woman, married to a successful but sterile Korean American lawyer, who

begins an affair with an undocumented Korean immigrant in order to have a child. The festival will also feature a Centerpiece Presentation of the film debut of renowned theater and opera director Chen Shi-Zheng's *Dark Matter*, starring Meryl Streep, Aidan Quinn, and Liu Ye. Based on true events, the film follows a Chinese university student studying for his Ph.D. at a top American university who enacts a violent revenge when his career ambitions are crushed by his departmental colleagues.

The AAIFF will also present a retrospective of the works of acclaimed Hong Kong New Wave director Patrick Tam, as well as a One on One discussion with the renowned director. The retrospective will feature four rarely seen films, including Tam's first feature in 17 years, *After this Our Exile* (winner of 5 Hong Kong film awards including Best Film and Best Director, and 3 Golden Horse awards). Also included are *The Sword* (1978), one of the films that launched the Hong Kong New Wave; *Nomad* (1982); and *Seven Women* (1976), an early TV movie directed by Tam.

The AAIFF will also celebrate its momentous anniversary with a program of short films selected from its 30-year history, as well as a program curated by partner organization Women Make Movies, which is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As the festival continues to grow, it is committed to offering a fresh and innovative take on Asian and Asian American film. In that spirit of renewal, the festival would like to announce staff changes. John Woo is now Acting Executive Director, and Sonjia Hyon and Jef Castro are the Festival Co-directors. William Phuan is the AAIFF's Program Director. "As we move into the fourth decade of the AAIFF, we will continue to be a resource for both established and emerging filmmakers, and we hope to seek out and foster new talent in Asian and Asian American film," stated Hyon and Castro.

Asian CineVision, founded in 1976, is a nonprofit media arts organization dedicated to promoting and preserving Asian and Asian American media expressions. ACV is committed to developing and supporting both emerging and experienced Asian American film and video makers and other media artists working in a range of genres and styles; and to ensure that the full spectrum of Asian and Asian American media works reach diverse audiences in Asian American communities and beyond. For more information, visit [AsianCineVision.org](http://AsianCineVision.org).

Asia Society is the leading global organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States. We seek to enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of policy, business, education, arts, and culture. Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.AsiaSociety.org](http://www.AsiaSociety.org).

For a complete schedule of films and showtimes, please visit [AAIFF.org](http://AAIFF.org).

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