2nd Annual Asian World Film Festival Opens in Culver City October 24

LOS ANGELES, August 17, 2016 — The Second Annual Asian World Film Festival will run from October 24 to November 1 in Culver City, it was announced today by the festival’s Executive Director, Georges N. Chamchoum. Films from 51 countries are eligible.

All films selected by their countries as Oscar® or Golden Globes® contenders are automatically invited. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association recognizes these showings as the required official screenings for their members who vote on the Golden Globes®. At last year’s inaugural event some 30 films from 27 countries participated. This is the first festival of its kind to play in the United States, giving audiences the unique opportunity to see films from Japan and Turkey and everywhere in-between. The festival is held at the height of the awards season to give these Asian filmmakers maximum exposure.

The closing night film will be South Korea’s Operation Chromite, starring Liam Neeson as General Douglas MacCarthur.

A number of special awards will be handed out during the festival, including the Cinematic Achievement Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award and a Rising Star Award. These are in addition to the jury awards.

The films will be screened at the Arclight Cinema in Downtown Culver City, with the opening night reception and dinner to be held at the Culver Hotel. Sponsors include the above-mentioned Arclight and the landmark Culver Hotel, as well as the city of Culver City, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions.

Honorary Board members include actor, writer, producer Kevin James who is director and chief liaison for the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Film and Television; Amin Maalouf, French/Lebanese best selling author; George Ovashvili, filmmaker from the Republic of Georgia; Antonio Villaraigosa, former
L.A. Mayor; Vladimir Menshov, an Oscar®-winning director from Russia and Bobby Moresco, Oscar®-winning writer and director.

Among the Advisory Board members are Imran Khan, the American/Indian actor; Jeremy Kagan, Emmy®-winning TV and film director and Sydney Levine, columnist (sydneysbuzz) and international film consultant.

AWFF was founded by its chairman, Kyrgyzstan filmmaker and public figure Sadyk Sher-Niyaz.

**About the Asian World Film Festival**
The Asian World Film Festival (AWFF) brings the best of a broad selection of Asian World cinema to Los Angeles in order to draw greater recognition to the region’s wealth of filmmakers, strengthening ties between the Asian and Hollywood film industries. Uniting through cross-cultural collaboration, our festival champions films from 51 countries across Asia spanning from Turkey to Japan and Russia to India and the Middle East. All films that participate in the Festival will have a unique chance to be guided through the challenging awards season, showcasing their foreign films to the Motion Picture Academy, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and all Guilds for enhanced exposure, media attention and awards consideration. AWFF is a non-profit organization under Aitysh USA.

[www.AsianWorldFilmFest.org](http://www.AsianWorldFilmFest.org)

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