



# explorASIAN

For festival information, please visit

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

## May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada

Celebrate Pan Asian Canadian arts and culture at various events throughout Metro Vancouver

Experience diverse multidisciplinary arts including dance, visual arts, music, literature, poetry, theatre and film.

### Many cultures    Many languages    One celebration

Did you know that Vancouver's explorASIAN Festival is the second oldest Asian Heritage Month Festival in Canada?

Learn about the long and rich history of Asian Canadians and their contributions to Canada through educational programs and lectures. There's something for everyone to enjoy during the month long celebration.

Since 1996, the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society's "explorASIAN" Festival has endeavoured to explore the diversity of Asian Canadian life and culture and promote the discussion of relevant issues and concerns within and beyond the Asian Canadian community.

It is a volunteer organization that helps promote local emerging and established Pan Asian Canadian artists to the community.

#### •••WHO IS OF ASIAN DESCENT?•••

The definition of "Asian" may be inclusive and broad, and applies to people who come from or whose ancestors come from areas including:

#### East Asia

- China
- Hong Kong, S.A.R.
- Japan
- Mongolia
- Korea
- Taiwan

#### Central Asia

- Iran/ Persia
- Afghanistan
- Kazakhstan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

#### South Asia

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

#### Southeast Asia

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Vietnam

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# Filmmakers showcase

Sunday May 11

9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

## Exploring Identity

Personal & cultural journeys



A Bad Hair Day



A Girl Named Kai

Sunday May 18

9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

## The Ties That Bind

Themes of family & community



Chun Yet Eh Len (Spring Water)

Sunday May 25

9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

## Roots & Passages

Perspectives on  
past, present & future



Broken Family

### 1 What Are You Anyway?

Filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns explores his cultural background growing up a mix of Japanese and Caucasian in a small 'whitebread' Canadian city. This animated adventure is a humorous yet serious story of struggle, love and finding one's own identity when growing up.

(10:30) English

### 4 An Offer

Rob Lee, a martial arts movie fanatic and lackadaisical husband, opens his front door to find his idol – movie star Ringo Lee – with a life-altering offer in his hand.

(13:00) English

### 7 The King of Hearts

After seven years of marriage, Glenn and Helen's sparkling relationship has dimmed. As their anniversary looms, and their lives diverge, it comes down to advice from the King to keep them off the lonely street to the Heartbreak Hotel.

(10:00) English

### 2 Blue Bird of Happiness

An impassioned Asian-Canadian political activist makes it his duty to investigate the cultural upbringing of a 7-year-old Asian girl being raised by Caucasian parents.

(10:00) English

### 5 Finding Robot

A rash woman throws away her boyfriend's most prized possession, only to discover that it means more to her than she ever realized.

(9:00) English

### 8 S/He

S/He deftly illuminates the struggle of a 12-year-old girl to follow the expected gender and cultural roles in conflict with her exploration of an emerging masculine nature.

(12:00) English, some subtitles

### 3 No One Ever Suspects the Chinese Guy

Usually a mild-mannered insurance salesman, Jonny Chan snaps and goes on a killing rampage when confronted by racism in this dark comedy about the death of stereotypes.

(23:00) English

### 6 Out for Bubble Tea

Three queer women of colour meet to talk about their coming-of-age issues. May struggles to come out to her family, Kim has a crush on the Bubble Tea waitress and Ling's family have matchmaking on their minds.

(16:00) English

### 9 A Girl Named Kai

Using Super-8 and 16mm footage, filmmaker Kai Ling Xue opens her personal diary to reveal a journey about relationships, self-discovery, passion, secrets and dreams.

(8:30) English

### 1 Lily's Crickets

Lily is a competent executive living in the city, but when she receives a call that her father has died, she must return to her hometown to help her mother with arrangements. As she reconnects with her former life, Lily learns to forgive her family and let go of the past.

(45:00) English, some subtitles

### 3 A Bad Hair Day

Shot in the first 24 hours of Meesoo Lee's visit to Seoul Korea to see his parents, this home-movie-styled documentary explores family dynamics through a conflict that is quintessentially generational and cultural.

(7:30) English

### 4 Plum Sauce

Plum Sauce is part of a series of videos that describe the preparation of North American/Chinese Canadian specialties as demonstrated by filmmaker Karen Tam's father, showing another side of a Chinese restaurant.

(9:00) English, some subtitles

### 5 A Tribe of One

A Tribe of One is the story of Canadian Rhonda Larrabee, and her quest to discover and receive recognition for her heritage. Although she grew up as part of a large Chinese-Canadian family in Vancouver, Rhonda discovers that her mother's "Chinese" ancestry was actually First Nations.

(39:00) English

### 1 Journey for Lotus

Filmmaker Eunhee Cha sets out on a quest to unravel the animosity between the Korean and Japanese peoples, telling a tale of human courage and sacrifice in dramatic times.

(59:00) English

### 3 Broken Family

Broken Family documents one family's experience with the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act in this story of separation and tragedy.

(8:30) English

### 2 Food for the Gods

A deep-space human settlement established by an advanced Asian civilization 20,000 years ago is rediscovered by a NASA expedition in 2057 AD. When the mission's purpose becomes clear, a woman must choose between the destiny of her people and the man she has come to love.

(10:00) English

### 4 Shan Xia Di: Under the Mountain

Filmmaker Wayne Yung is the first Canadian grandchild to visit his grandfather's village in this exploration of family and roots.

(38:00) English subtitles