

[press release]

A Fast Track Between Vancouver and Hong Kong

***Hong Kong Express* & *Lunch with Charles* featured at the New Asia Film Series in November**

The last screening of the New Asia Film Festival program this year will feature two films produced by the Vancouver-based film production company, Holiday Pictures Ltd. Their films will give audiences a fresh look at the lives of new immigrants in Canada. The event will be on November 20 at 7pm at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

Featuring past winners from the Chinese Beauty Contest in the City of Richmond, the documentary *Hong Kong Express* is an exploration of the current phenomenon of Chinese-Canadian women becoming overnight celebrities after sweeping the awards at the International Chinese pageant scene. After witnessing their crowning, one billion Asians become loyal fans who cheer on their subsequent meteoric rise to fame as film and television stars - while in Canada they remain relatively anonymous. In many instances, these women don't speak Chinese, and are often unfamiliar with Chinese customs and culture. But, it seems the less they know, the better they do.

Filmed at a various locations in Vancouver, Banff and Asia, *Lunch with Charles* is a co-production of Hong Kong and Canada. A comedy of two couples, struggling between love and career, on a fated journey from Hong Kong to the Canadian Rockies, the film was nominated for 7 Leo Awards and Winner of Best Director, Best Screenwriter and Best Musical Score.

Holiday Pictures Ltd. is a local independent production company focusing on cross-cultural stories. Michael Parker, the director of both films, will be attending the screening. His wife Shan Tam, an accomplished Chinese Canadian filmmaker, is the producer of the two films.

The New Asia Film Festival Monthly Film Series program is free with a one-time annual membership fee of \$5.

For event details, please check: www.vnaff.ca.

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