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AUGUST 4, 2017 BY JMINTER

Vancouver Queer Film Festival starts August 10, 2017

Vancouver Queer Film Festival (VQFF), the city's second largest film fest gets under way in one week. Running August 10 to 20, 2017, VQFF brings 11 days of award winning films, talkbacks, performances and parties.



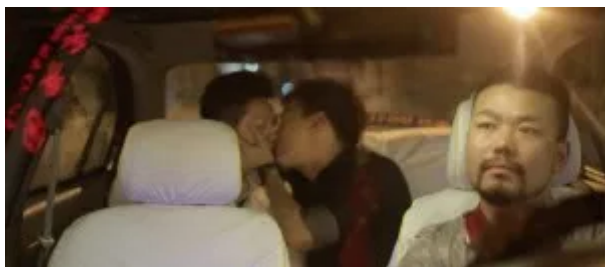
I Dream In Another Language

The Festival opens at the Vancouver Playhouse with the 2017 Sundance Award-winning film, *I Dream in Another Language* (*Sueño en Otro Idioma*). Following the screening the Festival's Opening Gala Party, a celebration under the stars at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza.

The VQFF Artist in Residence for 2017 is the prolific and multi-talented Vivek Shraya. The filmmaker, visual artist, musician, and author will spend the Festival's opening weekend with audiences at events featuring a breadth of work from her diverse portfolio.

"We're thrilled to be bringing audiences and artists together for once in a lifetime connections at our Festival," said Artistic Directors Anoushka Ratnarajah and Amber Dawn. "The caliber of talent and diverse perspectives of our visiting and local filmmakers are sure to challenge and delight our highly intelligent and invested audiences. We look forward to the time we will share together."

Some of the artists in attendance at VQFF include;



Taxi Stories

– Doris Yeung, writer, director and executive producer of *Taxi Stories*, the most

ambitious film of the Festival, filmed in three countries and featuring a mostly non-actor cast.

– Philippines filmmaker Samantha Lee, whose film, *Maybe Tomorrow (Baka Bukas)*, won the Audience Choice Award at the Cinema One Originals Festival in Manila.

– New York City poet and author, t'ai freedom ford, whose work is featured in *The Revival: Women and the Word*.

– Pakistani-Canadian film and television actress, writer and producer, Fawzia Mirza, for the screening of *Signature Move*.

– Emerging filmmaker Francis Luta, will speak with audiences after his film *Project Gelb*.

– Award-winning writer, playwright, performer and filmmaker, Steen Starr, whose short documentary *Older than What?* tells the story of twelve queer and trans elders responding to ten questions about aging, visibility, and social change.



VQFF Artistic Directors Amber Dawn & Anoushka Ratnarajah

One of the festival's fan favourite events, *The Coast is Queer*, an evening dedicated to local talent, will screen on Friday, August 18 at the York Theatre. Featuring nine stellar short films from some of BC's most standout emerging and established filmmakers, our annual local programming covers documentaries, romance, fantasy, and drama.

The Festival closes August 20th at the Vancouver Playhouse with the Closing Gala screening of 2016 Dublin Film Critics Circle Award winner *Handsome Devil* by Irish director John Butler. Following the screening the annual Closing Party at The Junction wraps another VQFF.

For full Vancouver Queer Film Festival line-up and tickets visit queerfilmfestival.com



Handsome Devil

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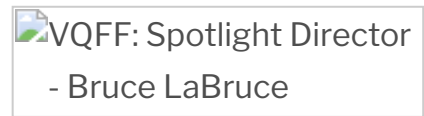
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