



## ***Eighteen* wins VIFF Dragons & Tigers Award for Young Cinema**

**Vancouver, BC** (October 8, 2009) – The Vancouver International Film Festival is pleased to announce that **EIGHTEEN** directed by **JANG Kun-Jae** of **South Korea** has won the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Dragons & Tigers Award for Young Cinema and a cash prize of \$10,000. The winner was announced prior to the Dragons & Tigers Award Gala screening of Gama No Abura's **TOAD'S OIL** in the Granville 7 Visa Screening Room today. Donors Brad Birarda and Robert Sali generously sponsor the award.

The distinguished jury was comprised of Mr. Johnny Ray HUSTON, arts and entertainment editor of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*; Mr. IKEDA Hiroyuki, who has introduced experimental film to Asian audiences through *Image Forum*; and Mr. Noel VERA, who has contributed to *Cinemaya*, *Cahiers du Cinema*, the Hong Kong Film Festival, the Singapore Film Festival, programmed at Rotterdam, and written a screenplay and the book *Critic After Dark: A Review of Philippine Cinema*.

**EIGHTEEN** will receive another screening on **Saturday, October 10, at 4 p.m. at Pacific Cinémathèque**, code <EIGHT>.

The award goes to a new director from the Asia-Pacific region for a creative and innovative film, made early in the director's career, which has not yet won significant international recognition. The jurors looked at a line-up of eight features by new directors. Because the award rubric states that the prize should go to a film "which has not yet won significant international recognition," they decided to put Chris Chong's excellent film **Karaoke** to one side, because it has recently won prizes elsewhere.

The jury has decided to give a **Special Mention** to the Filipino film **BAKAL BOYS**, directed by Ralston JOVER. The jury was impressed by the contrast between cement landscape and filthy water in a unique depiction of scrap metal scavengers and extreme poverty in the Philippines.

The 2009 Dragons and Tigers Award goes to:

**EIGHTEEN (HWIORIBARAM)** written and directed by JANG Kun-Jae from South Korea. The jury was impressed by the film's structure – its beginning is also its ending – and by the direction and camerawork, which leave the viewer with a fresh, clean feeling. All of the characters are very alive and real, from the central young couple to those who appear only briefly. The film conveys the pressure society inflicts on the characters who are screaming inside. To convey all this in a film is a measure of Jang Kun-Jae's talent and speaks to his promise. The jury looks forward to his next film.

This year's eight nominees were:

- **ADRIFT** (Bui Thac Chuyen), Vietnam
- **BAKAL BOYS** (Ralston G. Jover), Philippines, *International Premiere*
- **CATS** (Kim Ji-Hyun), South Korea, *Canadian Premiere*
- **EIGHTEEN** (Jang Kun-Jae), South Korea, *World Premiere*
- **KARAOKE** (Chris Chong Chan Fui), Malaysia
- **KUN 1: ACTION** (Wu Haohao), China, *World Premiere*
- **LEFT OUT** (Sasaki Omoi), Japan, *International Premiere*
- **YELLOW KID** (Tetsuya Mariko), Japan, *International Premiere*

The Vancouver International Film Festival acknowledges the generous support of Telefilm Canada. Major corporate partners are Rogers Communications and Visa Canada.

---

#### ABOUT VIFF

The Vancouver International Film Festival [VIFF] is among the largest film festivals in North America and is one of the largest cultural events in Canada. A fall fixture on the international film festival calendar, this festival is a microcosm of its home city: cosmopolitan, innovative, friendly, culturally complex and very accessible. The 2009 festival takes place October 1 to 16 and 150,000 people are expected to attend approximately 640 screenings of 377 films from more than 70 countries. Founded in 1982, the festival's mandate is to encourage the understanding of other nations through the art of cinema, to foster the art of cinema, to facilitate the meeting in British Columbia of cinema professionals from around the world, and to stimulate the motion picture industry in British Columbia and Canada.

---

For previous releases from VIFF 2009, please see <http://www.viff.org/09media/releases.htm>

Media contacts at VIFF Sutton Place Hotel office: 604.568.9412, [media@viff.org](mailto:media@viff.org)  
Andrew Poon, publicist for *Dragons and Tigers*, 778.389.5340 cell, 604.568.9420 desk,  
[andrew@viff.org](mailto:andrew@viff.org)  
Ellie O'Day, Media Director, 604.568.9419, [ellie@viff.org](mailto:ellie@viff.org)