



Press Release
For immediate release

Chinese Restaurants / Epitaph / The Day My God Died

Montreal, March 23, 2006 — Festival Accès Asie in collaboration with the National Film Board (NFB) is proud to present as a Montreal premiere, the documentary film *Chinese Restaurants* by Cheuk Kwan, at 1pm on May 7, and both shocking documentaries *The Day My God Died* by Andrew Levine co-presented with Asha for Education Canada, and *Epitaph* by Iranian director Moslem Mansouri, at 3pm on May 7.

Cheuk Kwan was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. After earning his master's degree in systems engineering in the U.S., he immigrated to Canada in 1976 where he embarked upon a successful career in information technology. Back home in Canada, the community activist founded *The Asianadian*, a magazine dedicated to the promotion of Asian Canadian arts, culture and politics in 1978. The following year, he helped lead a nation-wide fight for equality for Chinese Canadians. Kwan took a film workshop at New York University in 1998 before establishing his own production company, **Tissa Films**. *Chinese Restaurants* is a documentary series which bring together his personal experiences, love of travel and appreciation of Chinese culture worldwide. *Chinese Restaurants: Latin Passions* just won the Special Jury Prize at the **24th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival**.

Moslem Mansouri was born in 1964 in Iran. In 1981, because of his political views against the tyrannical regime of Iran, he was arrested and imprisoned for two years. He began working in Iranian cinema magazines in 1991, and published a book, "Cinema and literature". In the same year he studied film studies in the Faculty of Art, Azad University, for one year. From 1994 to 1998, Mansouri, under the pretext of media work and outside the control of the Iranian regime, **secretly produced eight documentary films** about the lives of the **people in the theocratic rule of Iran**. Moslem Mansouri came to the United States in 1999 and sought political asylum there. He has been active in these years to organize and form underground cinema in Iran. *Epitaph* is a striking documentary about prostitution in Iran today. Many married women, widows, young and underage girls, and even female university students have to sell their bodies to make a living. While the religious government in Iran is stoning women to death for sex out-of-marriage and imposing compulsory veiling or 'Hejab', medias talk about a lucrative sex trade market for the authorities in place.

Director and producer **Andrew Levine** has traveled the world and spent the past three years working on *The Day My God Died*. Andrew has worked in **Hollywood with Norman Lear, Once Upon A Time Film Productions and at the Sundance Film Festival** in Park City, Utah. *The Day My God Die* is a shocking documentary about the infantile prostitution, filmed in the streets of Bombay, the queen city known for its sexual tourism. It is a shocking documentary on the daily sexual constraint of girls extirpated from their village and sold like Gina or Anita at the age of 7 and 12 years to satisfy the phantasms of a perversion without name.

At National Film Board (ONF), May 7 at:
1pm: *Chinese Restaurants* / 3pm: *Epitaph* and *The Day My God Died*
1564 St. Denis, Montreal
Information: (514) 523-1047 www.accesasie.com
Tickets: \$5 (tickets go on sale just before the screenings)

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