



VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FOUNDATION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### ***The Hanji Box*, Nora Jacobson's new film to open the 2016 Vermont International Film Festival**

Burlington, VT: (September 16, 2016): VTIFF is thrilled to announce that Vermont filmmaker Nora Jacobson's new film *The Hanji Box* has been selected to open the 2016 Vermont International Film Festival. The film will be screened Friday, Oct 21 at 7pm at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center – Film House, and will be its World Premiere.

Nora Jacobson as well as *The Hanji Box* stars Suzanne C Dudley and Natalie Kim, will attend the screening.

#### About the film:

A tense cross-cultural love story, inspired by Meg Dean Daiss's essay about her own experiences. Hannah, a recently divorced art historian has decided to downsize and her adopted daughter Rose helps pack the house but resists clearing out her own room. The tension between mother and daughter escalates until finally, an item of great importance to both of them gets broken: Rose's Hanji box—made from traditional Korean paper—that Hannah and her husband had bought for Rose years ago in Koreatown. Or did they? Determined to prove a point, Hannah takes the train to Koreatown to find the store where she bought the box, in the process of which she meets a Korean artist and compulsively spends time with him and his friends. The encounter leads to a mental journey of cultural discovery and a kind of reverse adoption: her desire to be adopted by her daughter's birth culture. On another level, through its narrative of inter-racial adoption, *The Hanji Box* magnifies familiar and complex mother-daughter relationships.

#### About the Director:

Nora Jacobson was this year's recipient of the Herb Lockwood Prize. She is one of Vermont's most prolific and gifted filmmakers.

Her films include *Delivered Vacant* (an eight year project about gentrification in Hoboken, NJ which the NY Times called “an urban epic”), *My Mother’s Early Lovers*, *Nothing Like Dreaming*, *Tremors in the System*, *Sun and Moon Were Children* and *Lived on the Earth*, and *Habits and Choices: Living with HIV*. Nora’s signature work is the 2014 film series, *Freedom and Unity: The Vermont Movie*. Nora is currently working on a biographical film of the Vermont poet Ruth Stone.

Nora’s works have won wide acclaim, including the Golden Gate Award, the Best Independent Film Award at the Ajjic Festival Internacional de Cine, the Audience Award at the Maine International Film Festival, Best of Fest at the Lake Placid Film Forum, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

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The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to present the 2016 Vermont International Film Festival, October 21st to October 30th in Downtown Burlington. This 10-day celebration of cinema and community takes place at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center with screenings in both the Black Box Theater and the Film House and events in the Lobby and Atrium on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Main Street Landing. Other locations include The BCA Center on Church Street with Lunchtime Shorts screenings during the weekdays at noon. The full schedule will be available online Oct 5<sup>th</sup> for viewing and ticket purchase at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org). The printed festival program will be inserted in every issue of Seven Days on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, then available at the Festival Box Office at the Festival itself. The Printed program will be available on site during the festival.

VTIFF 2016 is sponsored by Green Valley Media, Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Community Fund, Grace Jones Richardson Trust, Physicians Computer Company (PCC), Dealer.com, Champlain College, UVM, Northfield Savings Bank, Urban Rhino Visual, Burlington City Arts, Ben & Jerry’s.

**The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF)** is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film. VTIFF operates year-round and showcases community film screenings, supports programming like the Global Roots Film Festival, the VTIFF Monthly Film Screenings and VTIFF For Schools, as well as supporting Vermont filmmakers. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival, best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont. The festival also includes the Vermont Filmmakers’ Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. The 2016 festival runs October 21st –October 30th, at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, and The BCA Center. More information at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org).

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