

For immediate release:

## AWARD-WINNING COMEDIAN FRANCO NGUYEN'S FRINGE HIT RETURNS TO TORONTO AT THE NEXT STAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

**Toronto, ON – November 23, 2017:** The 2017 Toronto Fringe hit play *soaring in liquid skies* by **Franco Nguyen** returns to Toronto with the new title ***Good Morning, Viet Mom*** and a revamped production at the Next Stage Theatre Festival. Dora-award winning actor, **Byron Abalos**, takes the helm as director with design by **David DeGrow** (lighting), **Miquelon Rodriguez** (sound) and **Christine Urquhart** (costume and set). The production is presented by the **Soaring Skies Collective** (Byron Abalos, **Darrel Gamotin** and Franco Nguyen) in association with **Cahoots Theatre** and is produced with the support of the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council and the Ontario Arts Council.

In *Good Morning, Viet Mom*, a young filmmaker goes to Vietnam looking for inspiration for his first feature film and finds an unexpected subject for his new film – his mom. Part stand-up comedy, part storytelling and part documentary film, Franco takes center stage to share stories about growing up, living with mom and Vietnam. The show's 2017 Toronto Fringe Festival iteration sold out its entire run.

Playwright, performer and Vietnamese-Canadian Franco Nguyen is a rising comedic star. His ascent through the comedy ranks started when he was featured in the Second City Tim Sims Cream of Comedy showcase. His sketch troupe TALLBOYZ II MEN won the producers pick at the 2017 Toronto SketchFest and the Best Newcomer Award at the 2017 Montreal SketchFest. A recent graduate of the Second City Bob Curry Fellowship, he was featured in the 2017 NBC UNIVERSAL Breakout Festival in Chicago and was a semi-finalist for StandUp NBC Chicago. He is currently finishing his Masters in Film at York University and is part of The Second City's House Co.

Soaring Skies Collective in Association with Cahoots Theatre  
***Good Morning, Viet Mom***  
By Franco Nguyen  
Directed by Byron Abalos  
Stage Managed by Ana-Marija Stojic  
Factory Theatre Studio (125 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON)

### Performances:

Thursday, January 4, 5:15PM  
Friday, January 5, 7:15PM  
Saturday, January 6, 6:30PM  
Sunday, January 7, 2:00PM  
Tuesday, January 9, 9:30PM  
Thursday, January 11, 9:45PM  
Friday, January 12, 6:30PM  
Saturday, January 13, 7:45PM  
Sunday, January 14, 2:30PM

Tickets: \$15

Purchase online: [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com) By phone: 416-966-1062 In Person: During the festival  
**Next Stage Publicity Manager:** Tessa Cernik, [communications@fringetoronto.com](mailto:communications@fringetoronto.com), 416-966-1062 X 225

**For interviews, photos and information about *Good Morning, Viet Mom*, contact:**

Byron Abalos, [soaringskiescollective@gmail.com](mailto:soaringskiescollective@gmail.com), 647-787-9694