From October 14-18, 2020, CAAMFest FORWARD brought the best in Asian and Asian American film, music, and food through a newly reimagined and mostly virtual festival experience. Building on our first foray into the digital festival space in May, we took CAAMFest to new heights with two special drive-in experiences, more than a dozen live virtual programs, and over 40 films and Q&As available to watch on our on-demand channel.

As our lives continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our hope was to provide a platform for the many stories and filmmakers that keep us moving forward:

Starting at the first Fort Mason Drive-In on October 14, we found joy in music and community through two world premieres from Filipina musical icons, Lea Salonga and Ruby Ibarra. In the CAAM-produced US premiere of Coming Home Again, we explored caregiving and familial duty, issues particularly relevant to many Asian American communities. During our Documentary Symposium, esteemed filmmakers shared the ways Asian American mediamakers can continue to explore the vital issues that face their communities. With our First Looks programs, we continued our legacy of being a festival where the next generation of filmmakers and stories are discovered. Through our On-Demand Programs, we paid tribute to the unsung heroes fighting for justice across the country, highlighted new and exciting voices from the Pacific Islands to Japan, and showcased the humor, beauty, and struggles of growing up, finding identity, and recovering lost histories and restoring community. We closed things off with a reflection on our current moment with the documentary 76 Days, an intimate look at the fight against the pandemic in Wuhan.

We are proud to share that our festival lineup included eight World Premieres, nearly two-thirds of featured filmmakers identified as female, and the slate of films reflected many themes and partnerships with other BIPOC creative communities.

We are grateful to our many friends and supporters who continue to invest in our work. Thank you for believing in the value of diversity, storytelling, and bringing Asian American stories light.

With appreciation,
CAAM

VIEW OUR 2020 CAAMFEST AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS HERE.
VIEW OUR WRAP-UP BLOG POST HERE.
VIEW ALL OF OUR Q&A'S ON YOUTUBE HERE.
FESTIVAL NUMBERS

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 2,000+ REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

53 FILMS AND PROGRAMS

35 EXCLUSIVE PANELS AND Q&A’S

88K+ VIEWS ON CAAMFEST FORWARD WEBSITE

340K+ IMPRESSIONS ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM)

30+ PRESS OUTLETS (PRINT, BROADCAST, ONLINE)

25K+ CAAM CONNECT AND BLOG VIEWS
CAAM was thrilled to present our first slate of in-person experiences since the pandemic started. Working closely with Fort Mason Center and following San Francisco’s city health guidelines, our programs included an energetic, honk-filled Filipino American History Month Celebration on Night 1, and an ode to Hong Kong cinema, new and old, on Night 2.

Excited audience members snag socially distanced front row seats.

Ruby Ibarra and Evelyn Obamos (Dir.) pose in front of the screen at the world premiere of 7000 Miles: Homecoming.

CAAM staff safely pose for the camera. (L-R: Festival Director Masashi Niwano, Board Co-chair Dipti Ghosh, and Executive Director Stephen Gong).

Audiences watching My Prince Edward and A Simple Life at the Hong Kong Showcase.

World premiere of the CAAM-produced Lea Salonga in Concert with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

A packed house of CAAM supporters and movie lovers at San Francisco’s Fort Mason Flix.
CAAMFest On-Demand featured nearly 50 films and shorts programs available for people to watch at their own convenience during our festival.

The crew of *Far East Deep South*, winner of the CAAMFest Documentary Audience Award. View Q&A

Filmmakers and community leaders come together to share how we can better address caregiving and aging at this AARP-sponsored Panel. View Q&A

CAAM’s Executive Director, Stephen Gong interviews Lisette Marie Kaulena Flanary, Seiko Kaleinani Okamoto, and Beth Cary from *Tokyo Hula*. View Q&A
Our 10 virtual, live programs included our **FORWARD Symposium** that brought together the Asian American documentary community, previews of up-and-coming storytellers’ work through **First Looks**, and live conversations from our friends at the Asian Art Museum and the NBC hit comedy series, *Superstore*.

CAAM’s Festival Director, Masashi Niwano, interviews the cast and crew from CAAMFest Narrative Award Winner *Definition Please*: Sujata Day, Anna Khaja, and Ritesh Rajan.

View [Q&A](#)

Access Hollywood’s Sibley Scoles and Nico Santos, Rene Gube, and Heather Jack from NBC TV show *Superstore* discuss representation on-screen and in the writer’s room, and their shared love of the Filipino dish dinuguan.

View [NBCU Panel](#)

CAAM’s Festival Director, Masashi Niwano, talks with Director Wayne Wang after the US premiere of *Coming Home Again*

View [Q&A](#)

"(Coming Home Again) made me reflect on what it means to bear witness—not only to suffering—but to the roles and lived experience of Asian women."
- Sophia R.

“(Definition Please + Q&A) had a great dialogue on pushing diversity in front of and behind the camera.”
- Victor Y.
Wayne Wang has another San Francisco film of family and food at CAAMFest FORWARD

"Few festivals anywhere have embraced change—nay, reinvention—in recent years like the Center for Asian American Media."
- Michael Fox

Asian Journal
San Francisco's CAAMFest FORWARD presents Fil-Am films during drive-in, virtual experiences

"Salonga (is) in peak performance at the Sydney Opera House"
- Asian Journal Press

[MY FAVORITE MOMENT WAS] HANGING OUT WITH FAMILY, GIVING [MY] KIDS INSIGHT INTO THE DIVERSITY OF ASIAN AMERICANS IN ARTS AND FILM INDUSTRY. YES! IF YOU WANT TO DO THIS, GO FOR IT. THERE ARE OTHER ASIANS AMERICANS DOING THIS WORK.
- Vonnie C., Audience Member

I REALLY ENJOYED HEARING FROM THE FILM CREATORS...DURING THE Q&A. THIS REALLY ENHANCED MY UNDERSTANDING OF AND APPRECIATION FOR EACH FILM. THANK YOU!
- Mae G., CAAM Member

I LOVED THE DRIVE-IN EXPERIENCE! ONE ASPECT THAT STOOD OUT WAS WHEN EVERYBODY HONKED AS A FORM OF APPLAUSE. DOING SOMETHING TOGETHER AS A LARGE CROWD EVEN WHILE STAYING SAFE IN OUR OWN CARS MADE THE EVENT FEEL LESS ISOLATED... IT WAS REALLY HELPFUL IN FEELING AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT CONNECTED DURING THIS TRYING YEAR.
- Malissa K., Audience Member

THIS WAS A GREAT ALTERNATIVE FOR SOMEONE STUCK AT HOME WITH A KID!
- Julia Y., Audience Member
Thank you for helping make CAAMFest FORWARD possible. Your support made this a truly special and unforgettable CAAMFest for our team and our community of filmmakers, special guests, supporters, and partners, especially during these challenging times.

Now, more than ever, we look to the power of storytelling to bring us together, and we are deeply grateful for your belief in the impact of our work.

We look forward to finding new and creative ways to partner with you again in the years ahead.

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