



## CAAMFest 2021 Features Over 40 Female Mediamakers and Spotlights Margaret Cho

**SAN FRANCISCO, April 29, 2021** - The [Center for Asian American Media](#) enthusiastically announces a program slated with over 40 women-helmed projects as part of [CAAMFest 2021](#). Beginning with Opening Night drive-in screening of director Debbie Lum's TRY HARDER! at Fort Mason Flix on Thursday, May 13 and concluding with a virtual presentation of AMERICANISH, directed by Iman Zawahry, on Sunday, May 23 - CAAMFest 2021 celebrates the richness of the female lens.

Features, Spotlights, and Special Presentations include:

### OPENING NIGHT

#### TRY HARDER!, directed by Debbie Lum

*Thursday, May 13, 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. at FORT MASON FLIX*

At San Francisco's Lowell High School—where cool kids are nerds, nearly everyone has an amazing talent, and the majority of the student body is Asian American—the things that usually make a person stand out can feel not good enough, even commonplace.

### CLOSING NIGHT

#### AMERICANISH, directed by Iman Zawahry

*Sunday, May 23, 5:00 p.m. on CAAMFest.com*

In Jackson Heights, Queens two sisters and their fresh off the boat cousin try all the conventional ways to earn the love and respect of the matriarch of their family only to learn that life works out in the most unconventional ways.

### SPOTLIGHT: MARGARET CHO

#### IN CONVERSATION WITH MARGARET CHO AND PREMIERE OF KOREATOWN GHOST STORY

*Sunday, May 16, 4:00 p.m. on CAAMFest.com*

A live conversation with Spotlight Honoree Margaret Cho who stars in and produced KOREATOWN GHOST STORY. Filmmaker duo Minsun Park and Teddy Tenenbaum will also participate.

### CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION, DOCUMENTARY

#### MANZANAR, DIVERTED: WHEN WATER BECOMES DUST, directed by Ann Kaneko

*Sunday, May 16, 6:00pm on CAAMFest.com*

In this poetic documentary, we meet an intergenerational community of women as they fight for their land and their rights. They know that when they can align their diverse groups together, including Native Americans, Japanese Americans and environmentalists, their voice is amplified.

**[THE DONUT KING, directed by Alice Gu](#)**

*Wednesday, May 19, 4:00 p.m. on ITVS*

THE DONUT KING is Ted Ngoy's rags-to-riches story of a refugee escaping Cambodia, arriving in America in 1975, and building an unlikely multimillion-dollar empire baking America's favorite pastry, the donut.

**[SEE YOU THEN, directed by Mari Walker](#)**

*Friday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. on CAAMFest.com*

Filmmaker Mari Walker masterfully directs this grounded and touching story of two individuals, who have felt pain in the past. Actors Pooya Mohseni and CAAMFest favorite Lynn Chen showcase their talent with two outstanding and brave performances.

**[IN THE SAME BREATH directed by Nanfu Wang](#)** More than one year since the world's sudden screeching to an unsteady halt by the COVID-19 pandemic, Nanfu Wang's In The Same Breath delves deep into the earliest days of the coronavirus' spread.

**[BECAUSE WE ARE GIRLS, directed by Baljit Sangra](#)** BECAUSE WE ARE GIRLS explores the impact of sexual abuse on a traditional Punjabi family and shines a light on the nuances of gendered violence and the cultural systems that reinforce and perpetuate the trauma of abuse.

Preceded by **[HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME, directed by Baljit Sangra](#)** In this emotionally compelling short, acclaimed director Baljit Sangra shines light on North American's oldest running Sikh Temple and the struggle it represents.

**[ONE VOICE, directed by Lisette Marie Flanary](#)** Every year in Hawai'i, 2000 high school students compete in the Kamehameha Schools Song Contest where young leaders direct their peers in singing Hawaiian music in four-part harmony.

**[INBETWEEN GIRL, directed by Mei Makino](#)** When she's blindsided by her parents' sudden divorce, teen artist Angie Chen turns to secret hook-ups with Liam, the heartthrob of her private school. Angie's set on a journey of sexual awakenings, racial insecurities, and artistic expression as she comes to discover what she wants—and who she wants to be.

Shorts:

**AT THE DINNER TABLE:**

**[PHOENIX BAKERY: SWEETS FOR THE SWEET, directed by Janet Chen](#)**

**[LUNAR: THE JEWISH-ASIAN FILM PROJECT EP. 1: THE TASTE OF CONNECTION,](#)**

**[co-directed by Jenni Rudolph](#)**

**[KOTO: THE LAST SERVICE, directed by Joella Cabalu](#)**

**[HAVE YOU EATEN?, directed by Lina Li](#)**

**CROSSCURRENTS:**

**[NICEVILLE, directed by Bree Nieves](#)**

**[BUT YOU DON'T LOOK BLACK, directed by Danielle Ayow](#)**

**HE(ART)BEATS:**

**[BREATHE \(HINGA\), directed by Sammay Dizon](#)**

**[CITRIC ACID, directed by Elenie Chung](#)**

**HINDSIGHT:**

**[WE STAY IN THE HOUSE, directed by Kiyoko McCrae](#)**

**LIFE, INTERRUPTED:**

[COVID AND WHO I AM NOW](#) directed by Diana Dai

[OFF DUTY](#) directed by Aizzah Fatima

[FRESH PEACHES](#) directed by Lana Nguyen

[RADICAL CARE: THE AUNTIE SEWING SQUAD](#) directed by Valerie Soe

**OUT/HERE:**

[DUET](#), directed by Shae Xu

[LOVE X BITES](#), directed by M. Noe, Yupar Momo

[CLUB QUARANTINE](#), directed by Aurora Brachman

**PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS:**

[DISTANT LEARNING](#), directed by Elena GK Rapu, Sergio M. Rapu

**SHAKE IT OFF:**

[HIGH STRUNG](#), directed by Melissa Kan

[FITNESS! OR A STORY ABOUT SWEAT](#), directed by Kana Hatakeyama

[MAHĀLANG](#), co-directed by Caili Quan

[13 MILES FOR TOILET PAPER](#), directed by Chalisa Phiboolsook

[YUAN YUAN AND THE HOLLOW MONSTER](#), directed by Catherine Chen

**SELF | PORTRAITS SHORTS:**

[IN THE SHADOWS OF THE PINE](#), directed by Anne Koizumi

[CHIMERA](#), directed by Eileen Yoon

[SYNCHRONIZED](#), directed by Corinne Manabat Cueva

[THE BOAT NO. 5](#), directed by Reyhane Kavosh

[WHEELCHAIR WENDY](#), directed by Shaina Ghuraya

[DANNY, DANNY](#), directed by Huan Cheng

[CHÁ SĪ / CHASM](#), directed by Waeli Wang

**WE LIVE HERE:**

[TO LIVE HERE \(sống ở đây\)](#), directed by Melanie Ho

[83 AND ALONE](#), directed by Alina Peng, Charles Zhang

[STAND UP](#), directed by Dasha Masaltina, Kitty Hu

Unless noted, screenings are part of CAAMFest on demand. For more information and to purchase tickets for CAAMFest, please visit [www.caamfest.com](http://www.caamfest.com).

**About CAAMFest**

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), celebrates the world's largest showcase for new Asian American and Asian film, food, and music programs.

**About CAAM**

For 40 years, the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) has been dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible. As a nonprofit organization, CAAM funds, produces, distributes, and exhibits works in film, television, and digital media. For more information about CAAM, please visit [www.CAAMedia.org](http://www.CAAMedia.org).

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