

Media contact: Larsen Associates  
(415) 957-1205 or [publicity@larsenassoc.com](mailto:publicity@larsenassoc.com)  
This is not the public information number, do not publish it.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## CAAMFest 2023 Announces Special Showcases Featuring Dynamic Stories from Polynesia and Hong Kong

**SAN FRANCISCO, April 26, 2023** - The Center for Asian American Studies (CAAM) is thrilled to have CAAMFest 2023 return fully in person, with our beloved special showcases to continue. We are excited to collaborate with our National Multicultural Alliance (NMCA) partner, Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) once more to bring forth the PBS series, *Family Ingredients*, which beautifully integrates Hawai'i's culture and genealogy through food! Additionally, CAAM is proud to present a contemporary narrative film from Hong Kong with support from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in San Francisco (HKETO). CAAMFest will run from **May 11-21, 2023** at key locations throughout San Francisco and Oakland. All details for the Pacific Showcase and the Hong Kong Cinema Showcase can be found below.

### PACIFIC SHOWCASE

#### ***Family Ingredients***

**Friday, May 19, 6:00 PM | New Parkway Theater**

Emmy Award-winning *Family Ingredients* is a first-of-its-kind series that celebrates Pacific Islanders' stories through food, connecting our genealogy to what we eat. A cinematic beautyscape, *Family Ingredients* showcases Hawai'i's small town communities and highlights untold stories and exhilarating experiences that cross the Pacific Ocean. The show is a joyful ode to farmers, food producers, and families. Guests in attendance: Producers Heather Giugni and Renea Gavrilov Stewart; Co-host and Grammy-nominated female vocalist Raiatea Helm. Brief performance to

follow.

### **EP 303: MOLOKA'I - POKE**

Moloka'i. It's quiet. No traffic. Few tourists. Minimal development and the least populated of all the Hawaiian Islands. 38 miles long and 10 miles wide, rough around the edges but that's how the community likes it. Fiercely independent and sustainable, they will fight like hell to protect their island lifestyle. They fish, hunt deer, plant kalo, raise pua'a and tend to their gardens, proudly continuing their practices from one generation to the next. This is the island where Raiatea Helm was born and raised, created a hit song and began her musical career - never forgetting her roots.

### **EP 304 KAUA'I - PA'AKAI (SALT)**

From Moloka'i to Kaua'i we follow Raiatea to the island where her maternal roots are deeply connected to the salt ponds of Hanapēpē, one of the most preferred natural salts in the world. What is revealed in this episode is a love story of broken hearts, a royal scandal, and a family secret. Raiatea's family genealogy becomes the well from which springs her passion for music, love of the land, and activism that she is committed to share.

***Kāinga*, directed by Michelle Ang, Ghazaleh Golbakhsh, HASH, Nahyeon Lee, Angeline Loo, Asuka Sylvie, Yamin Tun, and Julie Zhu.**

**Saturday, May 13, 3:15 PM | Roxie Theater**

*Kāinga* navigates the thorny terrain of home in Aotearoa New Zealand from the perspectives of 11 Pan-Asian women. Writers and directors from Māori-Chinese Aotearoa, China, Philippines, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Tamil Eelam, explore the historical connection to tangata whenua, feelings of isolation, community support in lieu of family, home precarity, excitement about making a home, longing to be "back home", being othered at home, and finally claiming home. Each 10-minute story, set in the same house across several decades, honors these experiences one brick at a time.

## **PACIFIC VOICES SHORTS PROGRAM**

**Sunday, May 21, 12:00 PM | New Parkway Theater**

Forget pineapples and palm trees. These are the real stories from and about Hawai'i and its people. From the housing crisis to conservation to loss of land to water population, these films reflect the issues they face and the hopes and struggles of their daily lives and the future of their communities.

***After The Endling*, directed by Daniel A. Kelin, II**

Presented with the vibrant shadow puppet of Kānaka Maoli artist Meleana Meyer, Hawaiian tree snail Lonely George struggles to survive invasive threats as the very last of his species.

\*screener available

***E Mālama Pono, Willy Boy*, directed by Scott W. Kekama Amona**

A Native Hawaiian police officer is caught between supporting his family, his orders, and his principles when he is sent to evict a settlement of unhoused Kānaka Maoli.

\*screener available

***Pō'ele Wai (As The Water Darkens)*, directed by Tiare Ribeaux**

Told through visual metaphor and poetic homage, a weaver experiences a transformation when she realizes her drinking water has been poisoned by petroleum leaking into O'ahu's watersheds.

\*screener available

***The Last Rodeo*, directed by Alison Week & Liz Barney**

At the final rodeo competition of the season, a fifth-generation wahine paniolo (Hawaiian cowgirl) and her daughter question what is the best path forward - maintaining traditions or new opportunities on the Mainland

\*screener available

## HONG KONG CINEMA SHOWCASE

With support from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in San Francisco (HKETO), CAAMFest 2023 presents the following romantic-dramedy from veteran filmmaker Aubrey Lam.

***Twelve Days*, directed by Aubrey Lam**

**Friday, May 19, 8:30 PM | SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater**

A spiritual and thematic sequel for writer-director Aubrey Lam's debut feature, TWELVE DAYS depicts the rise and fall of Jeannie (Stephy Tang) and Simon's (Edward Ma) marriage from its blissful beginning through its bitter collapse. Over 12 increasingly heartbreaking vignettes, we see the cracks forming and the issues, both big and small, that slowly eat away at their relationship. Expected guest in attendance: Filmmaker Aubrey Lam

###

### TICKET INFORMATION

General admission tickets for screenings and panels range from complementary to \$15. Special presentations and events range from \$20 - \$135. Tickets for students, seniors, and people with disabilities are at reduced prices for most events. For more information, please visit the box ticketing information page at: [CAAMFest.com](https://www.caamfest.com)

### CAAMFest COVID-19 POLICY

Masks are recommended for indoor events and venues and when not eating or drinking. This policy may change depending on each host venue's policy as well as any changing local and federal guidelines.

### About CAAMFest

Celebrating its 41st year in 2023, CAAMFest is the nation's leading showcase for Asian and Asian American talent in film, food, music, and arts. CAAMFest takes place May 11-21, 2023. Check CAAMFest.com for more programming and ticketing details.

### About CAAM

For over 40 years, CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) 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).