

Media contact: Larsen Associates  
(415) 957-1205 or [publicity@larsenassoc.com](mailto:publicity@larsenassoc.com)  
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## Centering Asian American Youth at CAAMFest 2023

**SAN FRANCISCO, April 11, 2023** - CAAMFest 2023 is excited to announce works in our lineup that focus on the narratives of Asian American youth. These stories give us a nuanced look into the lives of children and young adults from all over and call attention to them. From finding a Princess Charming to stressing about college applications, these films are must-sees. The fully in-person festival, taking place **May 11-21, 2023**, provides an adventure through film, music, and food. All films highlighting stories on youth can be found below.

### FEATURES

***B-Side For Taylor*, directed by Christina YR Lim**

*Narrative Feature*

**Sunday, May 21, 3:00 PM | New Parkway Theater**

A year after the sudden death of her mother, Taylor, a 14-year-old Korean-American adoptee becomes increasingly desperate to find her birth parents, especially as her relationship with her father grows more estranged. But when a Korean family unexpectedly immigrates to her all-white neighborhood, she befriends a new maternal figure who connects her to her roots and helps her uncover the truth about her birth family's whereabouts.

\*screener available

***Jamojaya*, directed by Justin Chon**

*Narrative Feature*

**Saturday, May 13, 9:00 PM | Castro Theatre**

A father-son relationship is put to the test when an up-and-coming rapper at the crossroads of his career decides to let go of his manager, who is also his father. This decision forces them to confront the past and figure out what they want from each other  
\*screener available

***Last Summer of Nathan Lee, directed by Quentin Lee***

*World Premiere - Narrative Feature*

**Sunday, May 14, 6:30 PM | Castro Theatre**

18-year-old Nathan Lee finds out he has brain cancer and asks his best friend Dash to document his remaining life which he vows to live with passion.

\*screener available

***Strawberry Fields, directed by Rea Tajiri***

*Narrative Feature*

**Saturday, May 13, 12:15 PM | Roxie Theater**

Set in 1971, against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, "Strawberry Fields," tackles the minefield between cultural history and personal memory. After a visitation from the ghost of her sister, a rebellious 16-year-old Japanese-American girl hits the road with her boyfriend in search of a better life. Hooking up with activist friends along the way, Irene comes to an important realization about her past; her parents were incarcerated in an internment camp during WWII. She detours her road trip, ditches her boyfriend, and drives off into the Arizona desert in a determined search for the truth that will set her free. With music from Chicago Indie bands: SEAM, Veruca Salt, Tortoise, Squash Blossom, and others.

\*screener available

***Topline, directed by Romeo Candido***

*Narrative Series*

**Sunday, May 21, 3:30 PM | New Parkway Theater**

Topline is a musical dramedy about the world of professional songwriters for young adults. It is a series about growing up. About how relationships can bend and break in the wind of ambition. About finding the strength to overcome obstacles and finding the true value of your own voice.

\*screener available

***Waiting For The Light To Change, directed by Linh Tran***

*Narrative Feature*

**Sunday, May 21, 6:00 PM | New Parkway Theater**

Over the course of a week-long beachside getaway, Amy, having recently undergone traumatic weight loss, finds herself wrestling between loyalty to her best friend Kim, and her attraction to Kim's new boyfriend.

\*screener available

## SHORTS

***All I Ever Wanted, directed by Erin Lau***

*Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE*

**Sunday, May 14, 12:30 PM | Castro Theatre**

A rom-com obsessed teen longs for the picture-perfect romance but must face the fact that her ideal Prince Charming might actually be a Princess Charming instead.

\*screener available

***Here, Hopefully*, directed by Hao Zhou**

*Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE*

**Sunday, May 14, 12:30 PM | Castro Theatre**

A non-binary international nursing student from rural China seeks to build a sustainable and gender-affirming life in the Midwest.

\*screener available

***Lahi*, directed by Reina Bonta**

*Part of the Shorts Program: THE MOURNING AFTER*

**Saturday, May 20, 9:00 PM | Roxie Theater**

While visiting O'ahu to sell her late Grandmother's house, a young Filipina American woman must confront her disconnection from her cultural identity.

\*screener available

***Luv, Me*, directed by Yen Dinh & Nicolas Jara**

*Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE*

**Sunday, May 14, 12:30 PM | Castro Theatre**

A K-drama obsessed young woman and her asexual friend butt heads over the importance of romantic love.

\*screener available

***Say Something*, directed by Jiin Oh**

*World Premiere - Part of the Shorts Program: RITES & WRONGS*

**Sunday, May 21, 12:30 PM | New Parkway Theater**

Fresh from Seoul, a teen girl struggles to find a connection in her new home until she sees the church band's floppy-haired drummer and strikes up a daring idea to get his attention.

\*screener available

***Shallots And Garlic*, directed by Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto**

*Part of the Shorts Program: ALL YOU CAN EAT (AYCE)*

**Sunday, May 14, 6:15 PM | Roxie Theater**

Tensions simmer as two diametrically different sisters prepare their grandparents' wedding anniversary dinner.

\*screener available

***Skin Can Breathe*, directed by Chheangkea Ieng**

*Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE*

**Sunday, May 14, 12:30 PM | Castro Theatre**

Having to constantly negotiate his identity, a queer Cambodian American teenager finds a home inside the water of his high school pool.

\*screener available

***Still Queer*, directed by Yuele Song**

*Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE*

**Sunday, May 14, 12:30 PM | Castro Theatre**

After a long period away, asexual T struggles to maintain their strained friendship with Gwin, as they find themselves monitored by a persistent disembodied voice demanding an answer.

\*screener available

***Team Choi, directed by Sangsun Choi***

*Opener for Documentary Feature, Jeanette Lee vs.*

**Sunday, May 14, 12 PM | Great Star Theater**

With the loving support of her parents, 12-year-old Hayun Choi aims to qualify for the U.S. Archery Team.

\*screener available

***Teen Troubles In Dirty Jersey, directed by Waley Wang***

*Part of the Shorts Program: JAM SESH*

**Saturday, May 20, 3:30 PM | Roxie Theater**

Based on the music and memories of indie musician Bryan Cho, a 17-year-old Korean punk enjoys a carefree summer with this group of delinquent friends in 90's New Jersey.

\*screener available

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

*Part of the Pacific Shorts Program made possible with support from Pacific Islanders in Communications*

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

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

***The Last September, directed by Sophia Shi***

*World Premiere - Part of the Shorts Program: COMPANION PASS*

**Thursday, May 18, 5:30 PM | Roxie Theater**

Under the stress of applying to college, an Asian American high schooler begins to see himself—and his Black best friend—in a whole new light.

\*screener available

***When You Left Me On That Boulevard, directed by Kayla Abuda Galang***

*Part of the Shorts Program: COMPANION PASS*

**Thursday, May 18, 5:30 PM | Roxie Theater**

Teenager Ly and her cousins get high before a boisterous family Thanksgiving at their auntie's house in southeast San Diego in 2006.

\*screener available

## YOUTH FESTIVAL INVOLVEMENT

On May 13 at the Castro screenings, the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) will present a trailer of works done by a youth-centered program we are championing. We are proud to serve for a second year as a worksite for the Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program (MYEEP), offering both creative and workforce development opportunities inspired by

storytelling, Asian American history, and CAAM-funded projects. From building out their own short documentary concepts to analyzing the storytelling within "Fanny" lyrics, these youth have spent their 2023 immersed in the vibrant and varied world of CAAM, now ready to experience CAAMFest to its fullest!

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### **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://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](https://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](https://www.CAAMedia.org).