

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This is not the public information number, do not publish it.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Filipinx Talent Coursing Through CAAMFest 2023 Lineup

SAN FRANCISCO, April 11, 2023 - The Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) is excited to spotlight Filipinx films and filmmakers, including our music showcase, Fanny and Friends, that is full of Filipinx talent. CAAMFest 2023 takes place **May 11-21, 2023**, and will be a fully in-person celebration of Asian and Asian American stories in gathering. All programming with Filipinx talent can be found below.

FOOD PROGRAMMING

FUTURIST FLAVORS: ABACÁ x ANIMAE

Tuesday, May 16, 5:00 PM / 8:00 PM | Abacá

An interstellar collaboration with these two chef-visionaries is serving all the stars in our eyes and the stories of a familiar future on a plate with a fork and spoon. Executive Chef Tara Monsod of Animae and James Beard nominated Chef-Owner Francis Ang of Abacá's menu promises unique untold flavors of possibility, designed to transport us into and beyond diaspora, time, and place.

Gone are the days of punching down flavors to appease the unseasoned palette. We'll be calling these culinary wayfinders in for a spirited conversation, learning firsthand how chefs are paving the way towards a future that's rich in collaboration, bold profiles, and unapologetic swag. Our chefs will be dishing up indulgent courses family-style amidst the backdrop of sonic beats so pull up a chair, we want you there! *This program is made possible in part by Dave Liu and Lauren Wu.*

- **Chef Francis Ang is Filipino American**
- **Chef Tara Monsod is Filipino American**

- **Abacá restaurant specializes in Filipino cuisine**

MUSIC PROGRAMMING

DIRECTIONS IN SOUND: FANNY AND FRIENDS

Saturday, May 20, 1:00 PM | Yerba Buena Gardens

Directions in Sound, CAAMFest's fresh music showcase, returns once more to the SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Heritage District for a renewed collaboration with the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. Tearing up the stage will be the legendary Fanny, the first all-female rock band – co-founded by two Filipina American sisters – to release an LP with a major record label in the US. They will be joined by Ruby Ibarra and Peaboo and the Catz. *Directions in Sound is made possible with support from AARP.*

- **Fanny Band Members Jean Millington, June Millington, and Brie Darling are Filipinx**
- **Artist Ruby Ibarra is Filipinx**
- **Peaboo is Filipina**

LARRY THE MUSICAL

Sunday, May 14, 6:00 PM | Great Star Theater

Set to premiere at the Brava Theater in October 2023, CAAMFest audiences will get a sneak peek of LARRY THE MUSICAL, based on the book, *Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong* by Dr. Dawn Mabalon and Gayle Romasanta. Join members of the production team as they take us through the journey of bringing to life the story of Filipino labor organizer, Larry Itliong, who fought for dignity in the fields and united for the first time with the Mexican community in Delano, California.

- **The following featured production team is Filipinx**
 - **Gayle Romasanta, Writer and Executive Producer**
 - **Bryan Pangilinan, Composer, and Executive Producer**
 - **Billy Bustamante, Director**
 - **Sean Kana, Co-Composer and Music Director**
 - **Melvign Badiola, Producer**
 - **Christopher Sotelo, Director of Film & Photography**
 - **Kevin Camia, Writer**

FEATURES

***Fanny: The Right To Rock*, directed by Bobbi Jo Hart**

Documentary

Friday, May 19, 5:30 PM | SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater

Fanny: The Right to Rock is about a band formed by Filipina Americans from the Central Valley in the 1960s. The film explores Fanny's uphill battle to complete and release their new album, with the fascinating herstory of the band's improbable journey during their 70s heyday. *This screening is made possible with support from Mona Lisa Yuchengco.* Expected guests: Filmmaker Bobbi Jo Hart and Fanny members Brie Darling, Alice De Buhr, Jean Millington, June Millington, and Patti Quatro.

- **Film subjects/Band Members Jean Millington, June Millington, and Brie Darling are Filipino.**

*screener available

***Kapwa Texas*, directed by PJ Raval**

Documentary, Part of the Program: COMMUNITY CARE

Saturday, May 13, 11:00 AM | San Francisco Public Library (Main)

As the world grapples with an emerging global pandemic, three young Filipino women forge unexpected connections with their families and discover themselves in the process. A self-documented time capsule during turbulent times, *Kapwa Texas* captures the unbreakable bond between Filipino family and community.

- **Director PJ Raval is Filipino**

*screener available

***Nurse Unseen*, directed by Michele Josue**

Documentary

Friday, May 12, 7:15 PM | Great Star Theater

Nurse Unseen explores the little-known history and humanity of the unsung Filipino nurses risking their lives on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic while facing a resurgence of anti-Asian hate in the streets.

- **Filmmaker Michele Josue is Filipino American.**

*screener available

***This Time*, directed by Sebastien Tobler**

Narrative Feature

Sunday, May 21, 6:30 PM | New Parkway Theater

Long lost high school sweethearts, Laela and Colin, unexpectedly reunite in Los Angeles 23 years after being separated during the 1998 riots in Jakarta, where they were torn apart without notice, unable to say goodbye, and flown away to different countries. When they see one another again, the temptation to reconnect with a kindred spirit is irresistible despite Laela's looming deadline and Colin's impending move to Pennsylvania. As the star-crossed lovers examine the choices that led them down their separate paths and back again, Laela and Colin must decide if they're still in love or just nostalgic for the past.

- **Director Sebastien Tobler is Filipino Swiss**

***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.

- **Director Romeo Candido is Filipino Canadian.**

*screener available

***Unseen*, directed by Set Hernandez**

Documentary

Sunday, May 14, 12:15 PM | Roxie Theater

Most people dream of a better future. Pedro, an aspiring social worker, is no different. But as a blind, undocumented immigrant, Pedro faces political restrictions to obtain his college degree, secure a job in his field, and support his family. As he finally graduates, uncertainty looms over Pedro. What starts as a journey to provide mental health care for his community ultimately transforms into Pedro's path toward his own healing. Through experimental cinematography and sound, "unseen" reimagines the accessibility of cinema, while exploring the intersections of immigration, disability, and mental health.

- **Director Set Hernandez identifies as Pilipino**

*screener available

SHORTS

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.

- **Director Reina Bonta is Filipino American.**

*screener available

Overdue, directed by Abigail Pañares

World Premiere - Part of the Shorts Program: MAMA TRAUMA

Sunday, May 14, 3:15 PM | Roxie Theater

Left to her own devices a week before her c-section, a first-time mother begins to spiral when confronted with the impending change.

- **Director Abigail Pañares is Filipino American.**

*screener available

Perry And A Pause, directed by Tess Paras

Part of the Shorts Program: COMPANION PASS

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

A divorced gig worker gets a new lease on life when she is sent to assist a free-spirited elder who lives life by her own rules.

- **Director Tess Paras is Filipino American**

*screener available

Reality Dad, directed by Charlene deGuzman

Part of the Shorts Program: REALITY BITES

Thursday, May 18, 8:30 PM | Roxie Theater

Obsessed with finding love on reality tv, a single father must explain to his young daughter why he hasn't found her a "new mommy."

- **Director Charlene deGuzman is Filipino American**

*screener available

The Resemblance, directed by Derek Nguyen

Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE

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

A grieving couple hires an actor to role-play their dead son only to discover their evening of remembrance is more than they bargained for.

- **Producer Ernesto Foronda is Filipino**

*screener available

***The Van*, directed by Bernard Badion**

Part of the Shorts Program: THE MOURNING AFTER

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

A man has trouble moving his stubborn father unless a broken-down van comes with him.

- **Director Bernard Badion is Filipino American**
- **Actor Eugene Cordero is Filipino American**
- **Actor Raul Aranas is Filipino**

*screener available

***When You Left Me On That Boulevard*, directed by Kayla Aduba 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.

- **Director Kayla Galang is Filipino**

*screener available

***Winston*, directed by Melanie Lim**

Part of the Shorts Program: JAM SESH

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

A prolific composer of Philippine cinema, septuagenarian Winston Raval continues to strive for brand new sounds, for musical perfection, and for MORE.

- **Director Melanie Lim is Filipino**

*screener available

###

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

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.