

Media contact: Larsen Associates  
(415) 957-1205 or [publicity@larsenassc.com](mailto:publicity@larsenassc.com)  
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## CAAMFest 2023 Lineup Fashioned with LGBTQIA+ Films and Filmmakers

**SAN FRANCISCO, April 11, 2023** - CAAMFest 2023 is proud to announce a slew of LGBTQIA+ filmmakers and films that explore their multifaceted stories. The diverse themes of the films showcase the complexities of identity, grief, family, friendship, and romance. We also have music and food programming that highlights queer individuals that bring their talent either through tunes or culinary tastings! CAAMFest 2023 will take place **May 11-21, 2023**, encompassing programs that celebrate Asian and Asian American stories. All programming along with LGBTQIA+ filmmakers and films on the LGBTQIA+ experience are listed below.

### Films on the LGBTQIA+ Experience

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

*Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE*

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

Rom-com obsessed teen Christine has always longed for the picture-perfect romance - but she's soon confronted with 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

**Joy Ride, directed by Adele Lim**

*Narrative Feature*

**Thursday, May 11, 6:30 p.m. at the Castro Theatre**

The hilarious and unapologetically explicit story of identity and self-discovery centers on four unlikely friends who embark on a once-in-a-lifetime international adventure. When Audrey's (Ashley Park) business trip to Asia goes sideways, she enlists the aid of Lolo (Sherry Cola), her irreverent, childhood best friend who also happens to be a hot mess; Kat (Stephanie Hsu), her college friend turned Chinese soap star; and Deadeye (Sabrina Wu), Lolo's eccentric cousin. Their no-holds-barred, epic experience becomes a journey of bonding, friendship, belonging, and wild debauchery that reveals the universal truth of what it means to know and love who you are. *This screening of Joyride is made possible with support from Amazon.*

**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

**Little Sky, directed by Jess X. Snow**

*Part of the Shorts Program: JAM SESH*

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

A drag sensation returns home to confront their estranged father about the childhood memories that continue to haunt them.

\*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

**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

***The Harvest*, directed by Caylee So**

*Narrative Feature*

**Saturday, May 20, 6:00 PM | Roxie Theater**

After a car accident leaves his family in need of his help, Thai returns home to Southern California, only to find his whole world in disarray. With mounting medical bills and secrets of their own, the family watches as Cher, a tough and stubborn Hmong father, suffers through the devastating effects of kidney failure. Thai struggles to choose between his fractured relationship with his family, or a life free from the burden of traditions.

\*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.

\*screener available

***Wuss*, directed by Rubing Zhang**

*Part of the Shorts Program: OUT/HERE*

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

A tomboy must choose where her loyalties lie when the chance to join the neighborhood's boys' squad comes at the cost of a girl she just befriended.

\*screener available

## LGBTQIA+ Filmmakers

***Brown Elephant*, directed by Fawzia Mirza**

*Part of the Shorts Program: DESI BLOCK PARTY*

**Saturday, May 13, 9:15 PM | Roxie Theater**

A young Muslim woman and her family discuss a peacekeeping solution for their overly aggressive 'White Elephant' gift exchange.

\*screener available

***Carrion*, directed by Yvonne Zhang**

*Part of the Shorts Program: THE MOURNING AFTER*

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

Living on an isolated desert motel with her grieving mother, a young girl must confront death after she digs up a rotting carcass.

\*screener available

***Don't Be Sorry*, directed by David Au**

*Opening for feature film BIG FIGHT IN LITTLE CHINATOWN*

**Saturday, May 13th, 2:30 PM | Great Star Theater**

A timid but resilient Korean American senior is empowered to fight back when she discovers face-slapping competition videos on the internet.

\*screener available

**Hearsay, directed by Banban Cheng**

*Part of the Shorts Program: COMPANION PASS*

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

Gossip inflames a community when Lili, an outgoing and talkative hairdresser, discovers a damaging secret about a customer.

\*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.

\*screener available

**Many Moons, directed by Chisato Hughes**

*World Premiere - Part of the Rea Tajiri Retrospective program: HISTORY & MEMORY*

**Saturday, May 20, 12:00 PM | SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater**

In this hybrid documentary/fiction film, Chinese community members of Humboldt County search for the lone exception to the 1885 expulsion and 60-year enforced exclusion of "Chinamen" – Charlie Moon, whose descendants are Native tribal members.

\*screener available

**Oyakodon, directed by Roxy Shih**

*Part of the Shorts Program: MAMA TRAUMA*

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

A single, immigrant mother struggles to keep traditions and a small noodle shop alive in a rapidly changing world.

\*screener available

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

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

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

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

**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.

\*screener available

***Well Wishes My Love, Your Love*, directed by Gabriel Gabriel Garble**

*Part of the Shorts Program: COMPANION PASS*

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

Newly orphaned and freshly wounded from an immense loss, a boy lends his companion a prosthetic arm for the day. The companion would then expose the prosthetic limb to a mélange of textures and materials, whilst documenting the whole process. As the moon inches closer and closer to the sun, the boy sees something unusual reflected on the water's surface... What will become of the limb, and what will become of the video recordings?

## **Events with LGBTQIA+ Representation**

**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.*

**CLOSING NIGHT: JUICY FRUITY PARTY**

***Sunday, May 21, 8:00 PM - 11 PM | 7th West***

Lace up your platform heels and join us for a JUICY FRUITY collaboration with the iconic Soulovely. Stewarded by three powerful cultural practitioners: Aïma the Dreamer, Lady Ryan, and the Emancipation, this trio has a gift for curating celebratory spaces that uplift the beauty and resilience of Oakland's queer and trans-BIPOC communities to affirm our radical queer past, present, and future. We'll be bringing in top-of-the-line queer DJs that'll take your moves all the way to the bottom of the dance floor ALL NIGHT LONG (until 11p)! We'll have seasonally inspired craft drinks and sumptuous eats. Let's be in this sparkling moment together to celebrate each other, this community, and another amazing festival season!

**###**

**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 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).