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CAAMFest 2023 Returns Fully In-Person with a Call To Gather in Community

SAN FRANCISCO, April 11, 2023 - [The Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) is excited to announce its fully in-person program for **CAAMFest 2023**, taking place **May 11-21, 2023**. This year's festival will have expanded programming that will take you on a journey centered in community and gathering through film, food, and music.

"These last few years have deeply altered us and we are only starting to journey towards each other again," says Festival and Exhibitions Director Thúy Trần. "CAAMFest 2023 is a call to gather so that we may witness each other's transformations, restore our bonds, and bask in our joys."

"As we've seen in the latest awards season, Asian American stories resonate with audiences," says CAAM Executive Director Stephen Gong. "Some of those stories come from Hollywood, and others originate in communities like the ones we live in here in the Bay Area. That's why it's been the mission of our festival for over 40 years to bring the diversity of Asian American narratives to local audiences."

Opening Night will begin at the Castro Theatre and Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. Closing Day will be held at New Parkway Theater in Oakland with Closing Night festivities to follow at 7th West. Screenings will also take place at the Great Star Theater in San Francisco Chinatown, the Roxie, and at SFMOMA. This year's expanded programming on food and music will be held at various restaurants and venues, including Abacá, Calabash, and the Yerba Buena Gardens.

The festival program is outlined below. For more information, visit CAAMFest.com.

GALA AND SHOWCASES

OPENING NIGHT FILM: *JOY RIDE*

Directed by Adele Lim

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 (Oscar-nominated 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 is made possible with support from Amazon.*

Expected guests: Ashley Park, Sherry Cola, Stephanie Hsu, Sabrina Wu



Featured: Oscar-Nominated Actor Stephanie Hsu, Sabrina Wu, Ashley Park, Sherry Cola
Photo Courtesy of Lionsgate

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Thursday, May 11, 9:30 PM | Asian Art Museum

Following the debauchery-on-film that is *Joy Ride*, let’s continue to embody pure merriment at our ritual CAAMFest Opening Night Gala! We are back at the Asian Art Museum for a glittery evening together with succulent treats from [Hết Sầu Cali](#) and [Tacos Sincero](#), vegan nom noms by [Chef Reina](#), and (oh, honey) soooooo much more. Amidst the shimmer of it all, we are bringing Tarot and henna to adorn your deserving spirit and body. And spoiler alert, you WILL BE lured onto the dance floor by only the best in beats. It will be the moment of moments, punctuated by the city’s finest drag artists, where we as a community will know without a doubt how collectively worthy we are of this JOY! The truest kind of welcome to CAAMFest 2023! *This program is made possible with support from Amazon and the Asian Art Museum.*

CENTERPIECE DOCUMENTARY: *LIQUOR STORE DREAMS*

Directed by So Yun Um

Saturday, May 13, 12:00 PM | Castro Theatre

Director and liquor store baby, So Yun Um and her father have never seen eye to eye on anything, especially not her career choices. Although his liquor store has provided her financial stability to dream big, there’s tension between father and daughter, and how their Korean culture and store have had a complicated past within a Black community. So goes on a journey to unpack this tension as well as the generational divide between her and her father. In contrast, in the wake of his father’s passing, Danny Park quits his dream job at Nike and returns home to

help his mother run the family store on Skid Row. LIQUOR STORE DREAMS is a portrait of two second-generation Korean Americans trying to create their own future by honoring their parents' past through understanding and healing.

CENTERPIECE DOCU-NARRATIVE: STARRING JERRY AS HIMSELF

Directed by Law Chen

Saturday, May 13, 6:00 PM | Castro Theatre

Jerry is a retired, divorced Taiwanese immigrant living in Orlando. One day, he gets an urgent call from the Chinese police. They inform him that he's the prime suspect in an international money laundering investigation where \$1.28mm was illegally moved through his Florida bank account. Under threat of arrest and extradition to China, the police force Jerry to cooperate and be an undercover agent in their case. After months of keeping the investigation a secret, Jerry finally reveals everything to his family. His three sons decide to document his ordeal and discover the truth about what really happened and how it changed Jerry's life forever.

CENTERPIECE NARRATIVE: THE ACCIDENTAL GETAWAY DRIVER

Directed by Sing J. Lee

Friday, May 12, 6:00 PM | Castro Theatre

Long, a Vietnamese driver in Southern California answers a late-night call for a ride. Already in his pajamas, he reluctantly accepts, picking up a man, Tãy, and his two companions. But the men, recently escaped convicts from an Orange County jail, take Long hostage at gunpoint, thrusting him into their getaway plan. When complications arise, the fugitives and their hostage hole up at a motel, and a tense waiting game unfolds. Sing J. Lee's striking visuals and mood-driven aesthetic set the tone for unnerving intensity, punctuated by moments of humor and warmth. Inspired by a true story, this is not just a crime film, but a stirring portrait of this lonely, old man and his relationship with Tãy. It's hard to overstate the captivating presence and poignance of Hiệp Trần Nghĩa in carrying the burdens of Long's past — expressed through lyrical and gently surreal interludes: war, family estrangement, and now his marked isolation, having lost every "home" he's ever known.

RETROSPECTIVE SPOTLIGHT

For this year's Retrospective Spotlight, CAAMFest honors the trailblazing Rea Tajiri. "CAAMFest is thrilled to shine its Retrospective Spotlight on artist and filmmaker Rea Tajiri, whose recent work, *Wisdom Gone Wild*, continues a career-spanning exploration of history, memory, family, and trauma," says CAAM Executive Director Stephen Gong. In addition to presenting Tajiri's latest documentary, *Wisdom Gone Wild*, the festival will also revive the historic *History & Memory* and *Strawberry Fields* for a rare screening. *Special thanks to media sponsor SF/Arts.*

***Wisdom Gone Wild*, directed by Rea Tajiri**

Sunday, May 14, 3:30 PM | Castro Theatre

Wisdom Gone Wild, reflects elder consciousness, the power of listening, and the healing empathy of being heard. Filmmaker Rea Tajiri partners with her mother, Rose Noda, to create a film about entering the world of a person living with dementia. Together, they nurture their connection through listening, art, and song. Expected guests: Filmmaker Rea Tajiri and Associate Producer Reiko Tahara.

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

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. Expected guest: Filmmaker Rea Tajiri.

History And Memory, directed by Rea Tajiri

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

Groundbreaking and haunting, this film is a poetic composition of recorded history and non-recorded memory. Filmmaker Rea Tajiri's family was among the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were imprisoned in internment camps after the attack on Pearl Harbor. And like so many who were in the camps, Tajiri's family wrapped their memories of that experience in a shroud of silence and forgetting. Ruminating on the difficult nature of representing the past – especially a past that exists outside traditional historic accounts – Tajiri blends interviews, memorabilia, a pilgrimage to the camp where her mother was interned, and the story of her father, who had been drafted pre-Pearl Harbor and returned to find his family's house removed from its site.

History and Memory will be preceded by the following shorts:

Many Moons, directed by Chisato Hughes

Let Me Take You Home, directed by Evelyn Hang Yin

Blue Garden, directed by Natalie Murao

HONG KONG CINEMA SHOWCASE

With support from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in San Francisco (HKETO), CAAMFest 2023 presents a contemporary narrative film from Hong Kong.

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: Aubrey Lam

PACIFIC SHOWCASE

This series of film programs is a collaboration with CAAM's National Multicultural Alliance (NMCA) partner, Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC). PIC supports, advances, and develops Pacific Island media content and talent that results in a deeper understanding of Pacific Island history, culture, and contemporary challenges.

Family Ingredients

Friday, May 19th, 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.

***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**

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

***Pō'ele Wai*, directed by Tiare Ribeaux**

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

COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

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

House Party, sourdough starters, mutual aid networks, tips on trying to hunt down covid tests or vaccination appointments, our heroic essential workers, the great resignation, and a lot of grief (too much of it). We believe more and more we are in a “Post” Covid moment (cuz #science), but we are barely auditing that experience emotionally, and how we are altered by it. It will take time to process it all and center our honest stories of that time. These two filmmakers document the ramifications of COVID on two communities in Philadelphia and Texas.

***Angel Dose*, directed by Sami Khan**

Short

Chronicles Muslim-American nurse Tarik Khan's earnest attempts to vaccinate his city during the COVID-19 Pandemic and lead a positive change across Philadelphia.

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

Documentary

Three young Filipino women wrestle with the ramifications of the COVID-19 Pandemic and racial tensions. They find themselves on a journey of self-discovery and self-reflection within their families and communities, finding new meanings of Kapwa.

FILM

DOCUMENTARIES

***Big Fight In Little Chinatown*, directed by Karen Cho**

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

Big Fight in Little Chinatown is a story of community resistance and resilience. Set against the backdrop of the COVID pandemic and an unprecedented rise in anti-Asian racism, the documentary takes us into the lives of residents, businesses, and community organizers whose neighborhoods are facing active erasure. Expected guest: Filmmaker Karen Cho.

This film is preceded by the short, *Don't Be Sorry* by David Au, about a timid but resilient ajumma who feels empowered to fight back when she discovers face-slapping competition videos on the internet.

***Crossings*, directed by Deann Borshay Liem**

Saturday, May 13, 5:30 PM | Great Star Theater

In *Crossings*, a group of international women peacemakers sets out on a risky journey across the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, calling for an end to a 70-year war that has divided the Korean peninsula and its people. The groundbreaking mission of Women Cross DMZ is captured in an intimate cinema vérité style, framed with historic newsreels of the Korean War and punctuated with dramatic contemporary news coverage. Expected guests: Filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem and activist Christine Ahn.

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

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.*

***Jeanette Lee vs.*, directed by Ursula Liang**

Sunday, May 14, 12 PM | Great Star Theater

Jeanette Lee vs. is an intimate portrait about the life and career of the world's most famous pool player, Jeanette Lee—also known as The Black Widow. Rising to fame and dominance in the 90's the Korean American phenomenon took the world by storm. Her style, fierce play, and media savvy made her a household name at a time when strong women and Asian Americans were often marginalized. This feature documentary, directed by Ursula Liang (*Down a Dark Stairwell*) and produced by Cora Atkinson (*Summer of Soul*), takes fans and newcomers behind the glitz and glam and shows Jeanette unfiltered and candid about her journey through fame, trauma, family and pool. An extended conversation with icon Jeanette Lee and filmmaker Ursula Liang to follow.

Jeanette Lee vs. is preceded by the short, **TEAM CHOI** by Sangsun Choi, about Hayun, a 12-year-old archery prodigy.

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

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. Expected guest: Filmmaker Michele Josue.

***Photographic Justice: The Corky Lee Story*, directed by Jennifer Takaki
Sunday, May 14, 3 PM | Great Star Theater**

An intimate portrait of Chinese American photographer Corky Lee whose pioneering work documented the richness and complexity of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) experience for half a century. Lee's fascinating photographs of daily life, cultural celebrations, and social justice movements reveal a rare record of a community often overlooked by mainstream media – and demonstrate the power of photography as a tool for advocacy and social change. *Special thanks to media sponsor KTSF Channel 26.* Expected guests: Filmmaker Jennifer Takaki and Producer Linda Woo.

This film is preceded by the short, **TRACING HISTORY** by Jalena Keane-Lee about the filmmaker and her mother's journey of self-discovery and reclamation as they tour the railroad sites built by their ancestors six generations ago.

***Unconditional*, directed by Richard Lui
Saturday, May 13, 2 PM | San Francisco Public Library (Main)**

Unconditional is a revealing film about the arc of mental health that challenges 50+ million families each year. It is a film that shows us how mental health is not what we think it is. It is not only the polar extremes of what the media often describes it to be. It comes in hundreds of shades and in places we do not notice. Filmed over seven years, three families open up their lives as they explore what a hidden wound is and how to talk about it. *This screening is made possible with support from AARP.* Expected guest: Filmmaker Richard Lui.

***Unseen*, directed by Set Hernandez
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.

NARRATIVES

***B-Side: For Taylor*, directed by Christina YR Lim
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. Expected guest: Filmmaker Christina YR Lim

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

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

***Land of Gold*, directed by Nardeep Khurmi**

Saturday, May 13, 6:15 PM | Roxie Theater

When Kiran Singh, a 1st Gen Punjabi-American truck driver, and expectant father, hears pounding coming from inside his truck's trailer, he finds Elena, a young Mexican-American girl stowed away onboard. Kiran's already tumultuous life takes a drastic turn as he seeks to reunite her with her family. As the pair ride across the changing American landscape, Kiran faces what it means to be a father while Elena learns how to trust again. They connect through family, dreams of the future, and a healthy debate over God's existence, all while the ghosts of the past, racially charged encounters, and the threat of I.C.E. linger over their journey. Expected guests: Filmmaker and actor Nardeep Khurmi and Cinematographer Chris Low

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

World Premiere

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. Expected guests: Filmmaker Quentin Lee, writer/producer Dennis Escobedo, actor/producer Harrison Xu, actor Matthew Mitchell Espinosa, actor Dru Perez, and actor Aaron Guest.

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

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. Expected Guest: Filmmaker Caylee So.

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

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.

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

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.

Expected guest: Filmmaker Romeo Candido.

***Waiting For The Light To Change*, directed by Linh Tran**
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. Expected guests: Filmmaker Linh Tran

SHORT PROGRAMS

AYCE (ALL YOU CAN EAT)

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

We're not surprised that people love making and watching films about food. Food is one of the most inclusive and beautiful ways to access a culture. These shorts show that the duality of food is endless – an expression of love or a weapon of control, an anchor to tradition or imagination of what could be, or all of these things at once. Wear your stretchy pants for this one.

***Becoming Yamazushi*, directed by G Yamazawa**

***Cambodian Futures*, directed by Dustin Nakao-Haider**

***Eid Mubarak*, directed by Mahnoor Euceph**

***Matsutake*, directed by Theodore Caleb Haas**

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

THE MOURNING AFTER

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

After the last four years, we are here. In a place where we are NOT not grieving. Whether it is the reality of never returning to the before times, the passing of loved ones, or climbing out of burnout, our grief IQ is a real thing. In their way of saying it's okay to not be okay, these ardent filmmakers confront how death hits those left behind, gifting these stories to help metabolize our emotions together in a dark theater. Bring your tissues for this one.

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

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

***Take Me Home*, directed by Liz Sargent**

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

MAMA TRAUMA

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

Mom! She can be your best friend or the reason for your therapy bills (likely both), and you wouldn't be alone. This collection of films explores the complex, rich, nuanced, upsetting, and loving relationships between mothers and their children and gives us a mother's-eye view of what happens when you take on "the world's hardest job."

***Elite Match*, directed by Kathy Meng**

***Instant Noodle*, directed by Michelle Sastraatmadja**

***Overdue*, directed by Abigail Pañares**

***Oyakodon*, directed by Roxy Shih**

***Post Term*, directed by Saleem Gondal**

JAM SESH

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

We make playlists for every season, road trip, and life milestone. We assign songs to the way people make us feel. The right chord can sweep us into a dense nostalgia, a bassline can liberate us. Soundtracks do not belong only to movies, we belong to this music. This soul-serving collection of short films and music videos showcases a love note to the tune of life. From an elderly statesman of the Philippine jazz scene to an immigrant mother's escape into a karaoke fantasy to a rocking reflection of one carefree youthful summer.

***Different Than Before*, directed by Mayumi Yoshida**

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

***Supermarket Affairs*, directed by Hang Luong Nguyen**

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

***The Body Of My Name* 名自字体, directed by Rosie Choo Pidcock**

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

COMPANION PASS

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

From reluctant new relationships to old friendships put to the test, this block of short films highlights the importance of finding connection and community to help get us by. Some friends make you, some friends break you. We're here for it all.

***Hearsay*, directed by Banban Cheng**

***Perry and a Pause*, directed by Tess Paras**

***Nai Nai & Wai Po*, directed by Sean Wang**

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

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

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

rites & wrongs

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

A cup of coffee in the morning. Praying to your ancestors. Saying grace. A 17-step skincare routine. We all use rituals to get us through our days. But what happens when our faith, either in ourselves or a higher power, intersects with a difficult decision?

***Birdsong*, directed by Hrishi Bardhan**

***Company*, directed by Ilnaz Kheykhah**

***Esperanza*, directed by Shruti Parekh**

***Last Hand*, directed by Chung Fan Lam**

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

***The Old Young Crow*, directed by Liam LoPinto**

OUT/HERE

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

More powerful and inspired stories from the LGBTQIA+ diverse communities return in a beloved (and crucial!) CAAMFest institution OUT/HERE. These stories are all love stories, whether it is for our beautiful complicated selves or an undying crush. These are moments that transform us.

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

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

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

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

***Still Queer*, directed by Yuelei Song**

***The Resemblance*, directed by Derek Nguyen**

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

REALITY BITES

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

These filmmakers not only contort scenes and manipulate the characters on the screen but the concept of reality in each of us - reminding us of the power film has on us in real life. Whether we are seeing things, feeling the things, or questioning the very things that we thought were true, reality sometimes isn't so real after all.

***Autopilot*, directed by Jennifer Zhang**

***Morgue*, directed by Sepideh Sharivar**

***Open And Shut*, directed by Kulap Vilaysack**

***Reality Dad*, directed by Charlene deGuzman**

***Tequila Sunset*, directed by Jinsui Song**

DESI BLOCK PARTY

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

South Asian talent is in full force! These joyful and imaginative films celebrate the wide variety and spectrum of talent in the Desi community in front of and behind the camera.

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

***Crazy For Bollywood*, directed by Imran Khan**

***Dos Bros Force*, directed by Jyothi Kalyan Sura**

***Running*, directed by Arpita Mukherjee**

BEING, BELONGING & BEYOND: A DANCE ON FILM FEST

Sunday, May 14, 2:00 - 8:00 PM | Kapwa Gardens

When one creative medium (DANCE) is lifted up by another (FILM), nothing short of alchemy emerges. We are invited to become sacred witnesses to these AAPI stories in cinematic motion, where dancers and collaborators reflect upon their cultural heritage in these vivacious two-dimensional pieces. 500 Capp Street, Asian Pacific Cultural Center (APICC), and Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) co-present Being, Belonging & Beyond - SF Bay Area AAPI Dance Film Festival on May 14 at Kapwa Gardens in SOMA Pilipinas. Screenings include dance films by Lenora Lee Dance, Alleluia Panis, Sammay Dizon, and culminates in the world premiere screening of HOME(in)STEAD, a site-specific dance work by 500 Capp Street artists-in-residence Megan Lowe and Johnny Huy Nguyen.

***And The Community Will Rise*, directed by Lenora Lee**

World Premiere

Filmed at the Ping Yuen Public Housing and various locations in SF Chinatown inspired by the activism of residents and advocates in the fight for public housing and solidarity in Chinatown.

***Breathe (Hinga)*, directed by SAMMAY**

A ritual performance film and time capsule honoring the sacred grief, life force, and resiliency of the Filipinx community in the Bay Area during COVID-19.

***Out of the Dust*, directed by Yayoi Kambara**

Dedicated to Janice Mirikitani, this is a dance film told through ghosts who come to life through her poetry. The film is an homage to her poetry book "Out of the Dust".

***Home(in)stead*, directed by Megan Lowe and Johnny Huy Nguyễn**

A site-specific dance performance that utilizes the historical David Ireland House as a

visceral canvas for exploring means of feeling, finding, creating, and healing home through dynamic architecture-oriented movement.

IDEAS

FILMMAKER SUMMIT

Friday, May 12, 10 AM - 5 PM | Venue TBC

CAAM's Filmmaker Summit is a day of panels and conversations to connect Asian American documentary filmmakers, media organizations, and community leaders to discuss trends and issues and be inspired to make positive change in the world. CAAM Mentors and industry leaders will be facilitating sessions on critical areas of filmmaking including fundraising, producing, and relationship building. *This program is made possible with support from the Jessie Cheng Charitable Foundation, ITVS, American Documentary, Inc., and WGBH.*

INDUSTRY PANELS

CAAMFest 2023 is excited to highlight industry partners from Amazon, Comcast NBCUniversal, and WBD Access that are leading the charge in developing dynamic content and elevating diverse creatives in front of and behind the camera.

AMAZON PANEL

Program details to be announced.

COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL PANEL: INTERSECTIONALITY IN TELEVISION

Producers and cast from NBCU hit series discuss the importance of telling intersectional stories and their approach to showcasing nuanced perspectives of different communities.

WBD ACCESS FIRESIDE CHAT

Join WBD Access and talent who have gone through the WBD pipeline for a conversation on breaking into the industry and building your career as a storyteller in Hollywood. Learn about WBD's Access programs and get tips on how to successfully navigate fellowship programs for writers and directors.

Jarod Lew in Conversation with Helen Zia

Saturday, May 20th, 3 PM | SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater

As "Please Take Off Your Shoes" will be on view at SFMOMA as part of the photography exhibition, Kinship: Photography and Connection, starting May 20, we can't help but feel like this is a moment where the universe conspired to make this conversation happen, and not just for CAAMFest but for Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month too. Especially because it is Jarod Lew, who photographs the Asian American experience in hopes to visualize communities that would be otherwise overlooked or made invisible, and the one Helen Zia, award-winning author/ journalist, multi-hyphenate truth seeker.

FOOD

BENKYODO: THE LAST MANJU SHOP IN J-TOWN, directed by Tadashi Nakamura and Akira Boch

Friday, May 12, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Japanese Cultural Center of Northern California in Japantown (JCCCNC)

Join the world premiere of BENKYODO: The Last Manju Shop in J-Town, a short documentary capturing the last 6 months of San Francisco Japantown's first and last traditional Japanese-American confectionery. Celebrate the 116-year legacy of Benkyodo with the community in the heart of Japantown at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC)! Enjoy beautiful bites, beverages, and beats by J-Town's very own, alongside local artists and vendors.

EVER-GREEN VIETNAMESE WITH ANDREA NGUYEN AND SOLEIL HO

Saturday, May 13, 12:00 PM | Great Star Theater

Finally, a vegan fish sauce recipe worthy of our attention! Godmother of Vietnamese cooking and James Beard Award-winning author, Andrea Nguyen, returns with her 7th cookbook, *Ever-Green Vietnamese: Super-Fresh Recipes, Starring Plants from Land and Sea*. Never a virtuous or regimented eater but driven by the realities of a changing body in her mid-life, Andrea sets out to reimagine Vietnamese dishes, with a renewed determination to cultivate and lift the exciting flavors, textures, and colors of the vegetable kingdom. In the process, she debunks public perceptions of Viet cooking as just beefy pho and meat-filled sandwiches. Vietnamese culinary foodways have been steeped in the resourcefulness of its cooks, rich Buddhist traditions, and emphasis on vegetables, plant-based protein, and seafood. Andrea builds upon this foundation to craft accessible and meticulously researched plant-forward recipes that push Vietnamese flavors to new imaginative heights.

Andrea Nguyen will be in conversation with former *San Francisco Chronicle* restaurant critic Soleil Ho followed by a book signing with [Eastwind Books](#).

FUTURIST FLAVORS: ABACÁ x ANIMAE

Tuesday, May 16, 5:00 PM and 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.*

FUTURIST FLAVORS: CALABASH

Wednesday, May 17, 6:00 PM | Calabash

The calabash is a gourd with multidisciplinary properties; carried from Asia to Africa, Europe,

and the Americas through human migration. They've been turned into food, tools, instruments, and utensils. Like its namesake, Calabash, a joint project by Chef Nigel Jones (formerly Kingston 11) and Chef Hanif Sadr (Komaaj), seeks to be a hybrid restaurant, market, and events space. It is a place ripened with global innovation; a home for creative local chefs and producers to bring the uniqueness of their culture and flavors to The Town. Join us for a vibrant evening filled with delicious Jamaican and Iranian food and a conversation with Chef Nigel and Chef Hanif about how they're transforming the way we gather.

A SOY STORY with Second Generation Seeds

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 PM | KQED

Join modern-day stewards of our ancestors' seeds, local chefs, and eaters as we journey through the culinary landscape of the soybean in all its forms in a night of storytelling and tastings. Second Generation Seeds reminds us that seeds carry memories and histories transported through time and space. This event is a collaboration with KQED, featuring Kristyn Leach of Namu Farm, Steve Joo of Joodooboo, eco-educator Aileen Suzara of Sariwa, and more.

MUSIC

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 rapper Ruby Ibarra and newcomer, Peaboo and the Catz. *This program is made possible with support from AARP.*

Sneak Peek: 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. *This program is made possible with support from San Francisco Symphony.*

I Can't Keep Quiet with MILCK, directed by Eurie Chung

Saturday, May 20, 6:00 PM | SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater

An intimate portrait of one woman's quest for healing reverberated around the globe through her song "Quiet," an anthem for the women's movement. Five years later, we take a deeper look into the song's impact on MILCK's journey of reclamation: reclaiming trust in herself, her sense of belonging, and her sisterhood with the song's co-creator, AG. As we follow MILCK's path of activism and artistry, we get a window into how she's awakened by the stillness of quarantine

and the reckoning of our country's racial justice movement. Her acknowledgment and accountability for her blindspots give her and AG a renewed sense of freedom as they celebrate that it's never too late to reclaim our voices. A performance with MILCK, and a conversation with Director Eurie Chung, Executive Producer Grace Lee, Anna Saalfeld of P&G Studios, and MILCK to follow.

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

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.

Thanks to Our Supporters!

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(Supporters as of April 18, 2023)

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.

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SCREENERS AVAILABLE

Features

B-SIDE: FOR TAYLOR
BIG FIGHT IN LITTLE CHINATOWN
CROSSINGS (hold review)
FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK (hold review until a week before May 19)
HISTORY AND MEMORY
JAMOJAYA
JEANETTE LEE VS.
KAPWA TEXAS
LAND OF GOLD
LAST SUMMER OF NATHAN LEE
LIQUOR STORE DREAMS
NURSE UNSEEN
PHOTOGRAPHIC JUSTICE: THE CORKY LEE STORY
STARRING JERRY AS HIMSELF
STRAWBERRY FIELDS
THE ACCIDENTAL GETAWAY DRIVER
THE HARVEST (hold review)
TOPLINE
UNCONDITIONAL
UNSEEN
WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE
WISDOM GONE WILD

Shorts

AFTER THE ENDLING
ALL I EVER WANTED
AND THE COMMUNITY WILL RISE
ANGEL DOSE
AUTOPILOT

BECOMING YAMAZUSHI
BENKYODO
BIRDSONG
BLUE GARDEN
BROWN ELEPHANT
CAMBODIAN FUTURES
CARRION
CRAZY FOR BOLLYWOOD
COMPANY
DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE
DON'T BE SORRY
DOS BROS FORCE
E MĀLAMA PONO, WILLYBOY
EID MUBARAK
ELITE MATCH
ESPERANZA
HEARSAY
HERE, HOPEFULLY
I CAN'T KEEP QUIET (hold review)
INSTANT NOODLE
LAHI
LAST HAND
LET ME TAKE YOU HOME
LITTLE SKY
LUV, ME
MANY MOONS
MATSUTAKE
MORGUE
NĀI NAI & WÀI PÓ (GRANDMA & GRANDMA)
OPEN AND SHUT
OVERDUE
OYAKODON
PERRY AND A PAUSE
PŌ'ELE WAI (AS THE WATER DARKENS)
POST TERM
REALITY DAD
RUNNING
SAY SOMETHING
SHALLOTS AND GARLIC
SKIN CAN BREATHE
STILL QUEER
SUPERMARKET AFFAIRS
TAKE ME HOME
TEAM CHOI
TEEN TROUBLES IN DIRTY JERSEY
TEQUILA SUNSET
THE BODY OF MY NAME
THE LAST RODEO
THE LAST SEPTEMBER
THE OLD YOUNG CROW
THE RESEMBLANCE
THE VAN

TRACING HISTORY
WELL WISHES MY LOVE, YOUR LOVE
WHEN YOU LEFT ME ON THAT BOULEVARD
WINSTON
WUSS