

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS  
**CAAMFEST 37**

**CAAMFest37's Program Awash with Bay Area Talent and Connections**

**San Francisco, CA, March 27, 2019 - CAAMFest 2019** (formerly San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival) is pleased to present the following local films and filmmakers as part of the festival which will take place **May 9-19, 2019**.

SAN FRANCISCO

BERNAL HEIGHTS

**DÉTOURNING ASIA AMERICA with Valerie Soe** (AAM Event), director Mila Zuo

A visual discussion between filmmakers Valerie Soe and Mila Zuo, exploring contemporary topics related to race, feminism, art, culture, and media. Created in collaboration with The Feminist Media Histories Journal.

- **Subject Valerie Soe lives in Bernal Heights and is an Associate Professor at San Francisco State University.**

**LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN**, director Valerie Soe

LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN is a feature-length documentary, looks into one of the longest running summer programs in the world. Love Boat: Taiwan revisits the program's participants and explores the history and popularity of this well-known program, sponsored by the Taiwanese government, which takes place every summer in Taiwan.

- **Director Valerie Soe lives in Bernal Heights and is an Associate Professor at San Francisco State University.**

CHINATOWN

**CHINATOWN RISING**, directed by Harry and Josh Chuck

Chronicles key San Francisco Chinatown community leaders who started an activist movement in the 1960s.

- **The film was shot by Harry Chuck while attending San Francisco State University in the 1960s. Harry and his son Josh, both directors of this film, are Chinatown natives.**
- **James Q. Chan is a producer of the film and lives in Chinatown.**

**MY GRANDPA** (IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY Shorts Program), directed by Michael Paili Chen

Director Chen interviews his Grandpa and learns more about his heritage and the larger Chinatown community in SF.

- **Michael Paili Chen was born and raised in San Francisco. His grandfather, subject of the film, lived in Chinatown.**

#### CASTRO / DUBOCE TRIANGLE

**A LOOK BACK: JEFF ADACHI**, presented by Chihiro Wimbush and Corey Tong

An event celebrating and honoring the life of San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi and his work as a filmmaker, community activist, and advocate for social justice.

- **Filmmaker Corey Tong lives in the Castro / Duboce Triangle.**

**LEITIS IN WAITING**, directed by Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu

The story of Tonga's evolving approach to gender fluidity through a character-driven portrait of the most prominent leiti in the Kingdom, Joey Joleen Mataele, a devout Catholic of royal descent.

- **Editor Bill Weber lives in the Castro.**

**OUR TIME MACHINE**, directed by Yang Sun and S. Leo Chiang

Artist Maleonn is producing an autobiographical play to honor his father, who's losing his memories to Alzheimer's.

- **Director, Producer S. Leo Chiang lives in the Castro / Duboce Triangle.**

#### EXCELSIOR

**COMING HOME: THE 990 PACIFIC RELOCATION STORY** (precedes FINDING THE VIRGO), directed by Emma Marie Chiang

A look at the Chinatown Community Development Center, the non profit that transitioned a building from government to community control saving the homes of 100 seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco Chinatown.

- **Filmmaker Emma Marie Chiang lives in the Excelsior District.**
- **The short is filmed in San Francisco, including Park Merced, Chinatown, Financial District, and SOMA.**

#### INGLESIDE

**MY MOTHER, MYSELF & I** (OUT/THERE Shorts Program), directed by King Yaw Soon

My Mother, Myself & I is a Chinese coming-of-age short film consisting of four acts. Each act is a long take capturing the brief but intricate interaction between a single-mother and her son at the ages of 5, 10, 20, and 25 years old. These four mother-son moments offer a glimpse into their relationship and how it evolves across the years as they tread lightly on the issue of traditional Chinese family values and the social taboos of sexual infidelity and homosexuality.

- **Director King Yaw Soon lives in Ingleside.**

## NOB HILL

### **THE JOY LUCK CLUB**, directed by Wayne Wang

Celebrating the 25th anniversary screening of one of the most decorated Asian American films in cinematic history, **THE JOY LUCK CLUB**, is presented as a free, outdoor screening in the heart of Chinatown.

- **The director Wayne Wang lives on Nob Hill.**
- **The film was filmed in San Francisco, including Potrero Hill, Chinatown and other locations.**

## PORTOLA

### **BARAHA** (IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY Shorts Program), directed by Gretchen Carvajal, Violet Wang

A brown girl gets a tarot card reading and her cards unearth a journey to find her identity.

- **Director Gretchen Carvajal is from Union City and she lives in Portola district.**

## RICHMOND

### **THE MAGPIES OF SEOUL**, directed by Dan Lee

Dan Lee (from the rock band Scrabbel) premieres a dynamic, new live music performance based on the Korean fairytale, "Chilseok". Supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission.

- **Director Dan Lee lives in Inner Richmond.**

## RINCON HILL

### **I AM YOUR... A JOURNEY THROUGH A FADING PAST** (precedes **THE LAST STITCH**), directed by Bryan Fong and Veronica Chung

A travel film dedicated to preserving and capturing a granddaughter and grandmother's relationship.

- **Directors Bryan Fong and Veronica Chung are based in the East Cut neighborhood in San Francisco. Their company 88spire is located on Rincon Hill.**

## SOMA

### **140 LBS: HOW BEAUTY KILLED MY MOTHER**, a one woman show by Susan Lieu

Award-winning playwright and activist Susan Lieu brings to light the tragic story of her mother's unexpected death at the hands of a plastic surgeon on Geary Boulevard. Susan uncovers the painful truth of her mother, herself, and the impossible ideal of Vietnamese feminine beauty.

- **The director Susan Lieu co-owns Socola Chocolate in SOMA.**

## SUNSET

### **FINDING THE VIRGO**, directed by Barre Fong

Nearly 40 years ago, Lauren Vuong and her family were rescued from the South China Sea by a fuel tanker LNG Virgo. Vuong seeks to reunite her family with the ship's crew, who rescued many other migrants during the second wave of South Vietnamese refugee migration.

- **Director Barre Fong lives in Inner Sunset.**
- **The subjects of the film, the Vuong Family settled in San Jose, CA.**

## GENERAL SAN FRANCISCO

### **THE LAST STITCH**, directed by Alfred Sung

A look at Hong Kong immigrants who move their tailoring business to Toronto and how their work has evolved with the political changes of the last century.

- **Producer Ruby Yang is a Hong Kong filmmaker who lived in San Francisco for many years.**

### **A LOOK BACK: JEFF ADACHI**, presented by Chihiro Wimbush and Corey Tong

An event celebrating and honoring the life of San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi and his work as a filmmaker, community activist, and advocate for social justice.

- **Jeff Adachi is the late San Francisco Public Defender.**

### **M FOR MALAYSIA**, directed by Ineza Rousille and Dian Lee

On the eve of the 2018 Malaysian elections, a racially divided country places its hopes of overcoming a corrupt government on an unexpected candidate: A 92-year-old former prime minister seeking to undo his political wrongs.

- **Producer Ruby Yang is a Hong Kong filmmaker who lived in San Francisco for many years.**

### **THE PEOPLE'S MAYOR**, directed by Rick Quan

Director Rick Quan chronicles the life of the first Asian American mayor of a major city, offering an inspirational look at the impact he had on the Asian American community.

- **Subject Mayor Ed Lee was the Mayor of San Francisco.**

## EAST BAY

### **DIRECTIONS IN SOUND**

From hip-hop to future beats, indie rock and global rhythms, CAAMFest's premier music showcase hits the East Bay. Featuring Arumi & Lil Waifu, TRKRNR, Girls Swallows Nightingale, Azure, Aux Cord, and Club Chai.

- **DJ Arumi and Lil' Waifu are based in San Francisco.**
- **TRKRNR is based in Richmond.**
- **Girls Swallows Nightingale, Azure, Aux Cord, and Club Chai are based in Oakland.**

## ALAMEDA

### **A WOMAN'S WORK**, directed by Yu Gu

A WOMAN'S WORK follows two former cheerleaders who challenge the multi-billion-dollar National Football League by suing for fair wages.

- **Subject Lacy lives in Alameda.**

## BERKELEY

### **FIRST PERSON PLURAL**, directed by Deann Borshay Liem

In 1966, Deann Borshay Liem was adopted by an American family and was sent from Korea to her new home. Growing up in California, the memory of her birth family was nearly obliterated until recurring dreams lead Deann to discover the truth: her Korean mother was very much alive. Bravely uniting her biological and adoptive families, Deann's heartfelt journey makes First Person Plural a poignant essay on family, loss, and the reconciling of two identities.

- **Director Deann Borshay Liem lives in Berkeley.**

### **GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP**, directed by Deann Borshay Liem

Exploring issues around identity, family, and nationality, GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP reveals the history of international adoption and its repercussions, grounded in the powerful stories of Korean adoptees.

- **Director Deann Borshay Liem lives in Berkeley.**

## OAKLAND

### **GAMERS** (FOLLOW ME Shorts Program), directed by Searit Huluf

An amateur female gamer is given a once in a lifetime opportunity to try out for a pro league gaming team, only to be repressed by self-doubt.

- **Director Searit Huluf and producer Kelly Choi live in Oakland, where the short was produced and filmed.**

### **JADDOLAND**, directed by Nadia Shihab

On a trip to visit her Iraqi mother in West Texas, filmmaker Nadia Shihab paints an intimate portrait of place, family history, culture and identity.

- **Director Nadia Shihab lives in Oakland.**

### **THE PEOPLE'S MAYOR**, directed by Rick Quan

Director Rick Quan chronicles the life of the first Asian American mayor of a major city, offering an inspirational look at the impact he had on the Asian American community.

- **Director Rick Quan lives in Oakland.**

### **A WOMAN'S WORK**, directed by Yu Gu

A WOMAN'S WORK follows two former cheerleaders who challenge the multi-billion-dollar National Football League by suing for fair wages.

- **The law firm that represents the subject is based in Oakland near Lake Merritt.**

#### RICHMOND

**A LOOK BACK: JEFF ADACHI**, presented by Chihiro Wimbush and Corey Tong

An event celebrating and honoring the life of San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi and his work as a filmmaker, community activist, and advocate for social justice.

- **Filmmaker Chihiro Wimbush lives in Richmond (Point Richmond).**

#### PENINSULA and SOUTH BAY

#### DALY CITY

**SWORDED LOVE** (FOLLOW ME Shorts Program), directed by Tina Takemoto

Fleeting cinematic impressions of star-crossed swordsmen are captured in the oblique wanderings of emulsion lifted from a stray reel of a 35mm kung fu action film.

- **Director Tina Takemoto lives in Daly City.**

**WAYWARD EMULSIONS** (OUT/HERE Shorts Program), directed by Tina Takemoto

Queer glimpses of a wayward woman captured in bits of emulsion lifted from stray reels of a 35mm Asian drama.

- **Director Tina Takemoto lives in Daly City.**

#### PALO ALTO

**SHARE** (FOLLOW ME Shorts Program), directed by Barna Szász, Ellie Wen

An 18-year-old Instagram influencer attempts to reconcile his identity online with his identity in real life.

- **The film's subject is from Palo Alto. The directors are graduate students in the Documentary Film MFA program at Stanford University.**

#### SAN MATEO

**ALTERNATIVE FACTS: THE LIES OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066**, directed by Jon Osaki

Highlighting the racism and political maneuvering behind Executive Order 9066 that led to the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans, and the tenacity of the decades-long redress movement.

- **Director Jon Osaki lives in San Mateo.**

## SUNNYVALE

### **FINDING THE VIRGO**, directed by Barre Fong

Nearly 40 years ago, Lauren Vuong and her family were rescued from the South China Sea by a fuel tanker LNG Virgo. Vuong seeks to reunite her family with the ship's crew, who rescued many other migrants during the second wave of South Vietnamese refugee migration.

- **The subjects of the film, the Vuong family, settled and now live in Sunnyvale.**

## NORTH BAY

### SAUSALITO

### **THE JOY LUCK CLUB**, directed by Wayne Wang

Celebrating the 25th anniversary screening of one of the most decorated Asian American films in cinematic history, THE JOY LUCK CLUB, is presented as a free, outdoor screening in the heart of Chinatown.

- **Writer and producer Amy Tan lives in Sausalito; the film is also based on her novel The Joy Luck Club.**

For more information and to purchase tickets for CAAMFest, please visit <http://www.caamedia.org>.

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### **About CAAMFest:**

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), celebrates the world's largest showcase for new Asian American and Asian film, food, and music programs. Annually presenting over 120 works in the Bay Area, CAAMFest presents its 37th year from May 9-19, 2019. For more information, please visit <http://www.caamfest.com>.

### **About CAAM:**

CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible. CAAM does this by funding, producing, distributing, and exhibiting works in film, television, and digital media. For more information on CAAM, please visit [www.caamedia.org](http://www.caamedia.org).