

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS
CAAMFEST 37

Women Filmmakers and Artists Take Center Stage at CAAMFest37

Spotlights on Deann Borshay Liem and Valerie Soe Adorn the Festival's Lineup

San Francisco, CA (April 23, 2019) - The [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) is excited to announce a lineup shaped by women filmmakers and artists in music, fine art, and performance art at its annual festival showcase, [CAAMFest](#). Included in CAAMFest37's female forward lineup is a Spotlight on **Deann Borshay Liem**, including the world premiere of her film **GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP** that will also function as the Festival's Closing Night Presentation. **Valerie Soe** will be honored with a Spotlight on her newest film, **LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN**, and **Diane Paragas'** **YELLOW ROSE** surmounts the Festival as the Narrative Centerpiece.

SPOTLIGHT ON DEANN BORSHAY LIEM

Equally respected as an award-winning filmmaker as well as a pioneer storyteller for Korean adoptees worldwide, Liem has made an indelible mark in the documentary landscape. CAAMFest37 is delighted to present the World Premiere of her newest film, **GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP** as the Closing Night Presentation, as well as the 20th anniversary look back at **FIRST PERSON PLURAL**.

GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP – Closing Night

World Premiere

Director 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.

FIRST PERSON PLURAL (1999)

Director Deann Borshay Liem

- 20th anniversary look back at the Emmy Award-nominated documentary and personal exploration of Deann Borshay Liem's transnational adoption, exploring themes of race, identity, and assimilation.

SPOTLIGHT ON VALERIE SOE

From the 80's to now, Valerie Soe's films and video installations have been a benchmark for Asian American feminist activism and experimental storytelling. Her work has won dozens of awards, grants, and commissions and has been exhibited worldwide at venues such as the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles the Museum of Modern Art, and the New Museum in New York City. She has published extensively in books and journals and is currently an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University.

LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN

San Francisco Premiere

Director Valerie Soe

- LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN looks into one of the longest running summer programs in the world. This feature-length documentary 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.

AAM: VALERIE SOE & KRISTINA WONG

Director Valerie Soe

- A mélange of Valerie Soe's groundbreaking feminist short films, along with special guest, comedian, and performance artist Kristina Wong.

DÉTOURNING ASIA/AMERICA WITH VALERIE SOE

World Premiere

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.

YELLOW ROSE - Narrative Centerpiece

San Francisco Premiere

Director Diane Paragas

- A Filipina American musical like no other, YELLOW ROSE features Tony Award nominee Eva Noblezada as Rose Garcia, an aspiring country singer living in the heart of Texas. A life-changing event with ICE forces her on an unexpected journey flush with love, loss, and music.

WOMEN HEADLINE AT CAAMFEST

The following films from the Pacific Showcase and Hong Kong Cinema: Women on the Rise highlight two up and coming women directors:

LEITIS IN WAITING - Pacific Showcase

Director Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu

- This award-winning documentary that tells 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.

STILL HUMAN - Hong Kong Cinema, Women on the Rise

West Coast Premiere

Director Oliver Siu Kuen Chan

- Offering a glimpse of the challenges facing overseas domestic workers in Hong Kong's projects, Oliver Siu Kuen Chan's directorial debut dramedy weaves together a tale of social constructs and physical disabilities, as two people from seemingly opposite backgrounds find humanity in each other and themselves as they chase their dreams.

With over 50 women media-makers with work presented at CAAMFest37, women encompass every section at the Festival. Additional feature length films by women filmmakers include:

BEI BEI, director Rose Rosenblatt and Marion Lipschutz
EMPTY BY DESIGN, director Andrea A. Walter
THE FEELING OF BEING WATCHED, director Assia Boundaoui
GO BACK TO CHINA, director Emily Ting
IN THE LIFE OF MUSIC, director Caylee Sol and Sok Visal
JADDOLAND, director Nadia Shihab
M FOR MALAYSIA, director Ineza Rousille and Dian Lee
A WOMAN'S WORK, director Yu Gu

Short films with women filmmakers include:

BARAHA, director Gretchen Carvaja and Violet Wang
BED & BREAKFAST, director Anna Mikami
BUNNY MAN, director Athena Han
BY YOUR SIDE, director Marisa Na Nakhorn-Brown and Chris Tomkins
COMING HOME: THE 990 PACIFIC RELOCATION STORY, director Emma Marie Chiang
DAUGHTER, director Amanda Lee
DOLPA DIARY, director Prasuna Dongol
GAMERS, director Searit Huluf
IN FULL BLOOM, director Maegan Houang
MAN OF PA-ALING, director E Del Mundo
MINIDOKA, director Megumi Nishikura
MOONWALK WITH ME, director So Young Shelly Yo
OKAASAN (MOM), director Kana Hatakeyama
PERIOD GIRL, director Jalena Keane-Lee
REACH, director Mina Park and Mike Wierzenski
SELF PORTRAIT, director Sharon Choi
SHARE, director Barna Szász and Ellie Wen
SPEAK EASY, B, director Becca Park and Jun Shimizu
SPORTS DAY, director Lin Tu
SWORDED LOVE, director Tina Takemoto
U, director Lala Openi
THE VISIT, director Roxy Shih
WAYWARD EMULSIONS, director Tina Takemoto
WINNER OF PEACE, director Marisa Kelly
ZOETIC, director Julie Zhan

Featured women performers or other mediamakers include:

140LBS: HOW BEAUTY KILLED MY MOTHER, award-winning playwright and activist **Susan Lieu** brings to light the tragic story of her mother's unexpected death.
Arumi & Lil Waifu, a collective for female artists focusing in on world music will perform at **DIRECTIONS IN SOUND**.
Girl Swallows Nightingale, an Oakland-based band inspired by fantasy, anime, science fiction and saga will perform at **DIRECTIONS IN SOUND**.
CLUB CHAI, founded by 8ULENTINA and FOOZOO, features eclectic sounds that bridge the gap between South Asian Beats and electronic dance music and will perform at **DIRECTIONS IN SOUND**.
Cathy Erway, hosts of the podcast **SELF EVIDENT: ASIAN AMERICAN STORIES**.

LAHIB JADDO: EVERY WOMAN KNOWS HER OWN TREE, is an exhibition of paintings best understood as a counter part to the film JADDOLAND, directed by artist's daughter, Nadia Shihab. Curated by Kathy Zazur

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.caamfest.com>.

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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.