

MARCH 14 – 24, 2013

CAAMFEST

FILM. MUSIC. FOOD.

CAAMFest Remembers the Korean War and Chills with Korean Rock Stars

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13, 2013 - The year 2013 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Korean War armistice and CAAMFest observes this important milestone with a diverse collection of thought-provoking films centered on the war and its societal ramifications. Films like *MEMORY OF FORGOTTEN WAR*, a devastating investigation of wartime experiences from four Korean Americans and *JISEUL*, an emotionally resonant tale of 120 villagers hiding in a cave to avoid execution by a group of soldiers, shed new light on an often-forgotten war that divided a once unified nation. Of special note are *SEEKING HAVEN*, an intimate and daring documentary about a North Korean defector and her attempts to smuggle her family out of the country she once called home, and *COMRADE KIM GOES FLYING*, a romantic comedy filmed inside North Korea.

Also included is *TURN IT UP TO 11 2: WILD DAYS*, Baek Seung-hwa's rowdy documentary following Galaxy Express, a group of outrageous South Korean indie rockers as they embark on a rollicking three-week tour in and around the "live-music capital of the world," Austin, Texas.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES: ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE

Serving as the launching point for CAAMFest's Tide on the Korean War, *MEMORY OF FORGOTTEN WAR* follows the stories of four Korean Americans who witnessed firsthand the Korean War's devastation and aftermath. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem (*First Person Plural*) and Ramsay Liem, professor emeritus at Boston College, *MEMORY* is the first documentary to detail the experiences of Korean civilians who later immigrated to the United States. It serves to challenge the historical amnesia that has long characterized America's popular understanding of the "unknown war." The screening will be followed by a panel of distinguished academics, artists and community leaders engaging in an interactive conversation about the polarizing social and political issues surrounding the war.

With striking black-and-white cinematography, O Muel's poetic requiem *JISEUL* takes place during the 1948 Jeju Island Uprising and tells the story of 120 villagers who hid in a cave for sixty days from soldiers under shoot-to-kill orders. Despite suffering from severe cold and hunger, the villagers retain their sanity by making jokes and holding on to the hope that their wait is almost over. Powerful and tender, *JISEUL* captures the humanity of its inhabitants and at the heart of the story – real people living in fear.

Over 20,000 North Koreans have crossed the border to China in search of freedom. Most of them live in hiding, in fear of being deported back to North Korea where they will be politically persecuted. One of the winners of CAAM's innovative Media Fund Program, Hein S. Seok's *SEEKING HAVEN* is an intimate and daring documentary that follows a young North Korean immigrant in South Korea. The film documents her journey years later, as she returns to China to help her family escape. (Sponsored by AsianWeek)

STORIES TO LIGHT

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In the first fiction feature in over thirty years to be filmed in North Korea, COMRADE KIM GOES FLYING is a sprightly, fairytale-like romantic comedy about a coal miner in the countryside who resolves to follow her dream of becoming a circus trapeze artist. Six years in the making and shot in lush, vibrant colors, COMRADE KIM provides an intriguing emphasis on self-destiny, departing from the usual communal themes of North Korean film.

KOREANS ROCK

In 2009, director/writer/producer Baek Seung-hwa delighted audiences with TURN IT UP TO 11, a colorful examination Korea's indie music scene. TURN IT UP TO 11 2: WILD DAYS is a spin-off that chronicles Galaxy Express, Seoul's new "kings of indie rock" in their unexpected and boisterous adventures across Texas: traveling in a mobile home, eating authentic American food, meeting fellow artists and newfound fans, and sharing their love and craft of the universal language of rock n' roll.

CAAMFEST GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES ITS SUPPORTERS

CAAMFest is supported in part by the following: Comcast, Asian Art Museum, B'stro, Pacific Islanders in Communications, Eagle Press, FilmFest, Gala Festival Engine, Southwest Airlines, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, San Francisco Grants for the Arts/Hotel Tax Fund, National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Foundation and Cal Humanities. CAAM is supported with major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION

CAAMFest is a presentation of the Center for Asian American Media. CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), is a celebration of film, music, food and digital media from the world's most innovative Asian and Asian American artists. CAAMFest takes place March 14-24, 2013 in the Bay Area. San Francisco venues include: Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street; Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, 1881 Post Street; New People Cinema, 1746 Post Street; Great Star Theater, 636 Jackson Street; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin Street; Hotel Kabuki, 1625 Post Street; Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell Street; Slate Bar, 2925 16th Street; and Superfrog Gallery at New People, 1746 Post Street. Berkeley venues include: Pacific Film Archive Theater, 2575 Bancroft Way. Oakland venues include: Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street.

FESTIVAL TICKET INFORMATION

Excluding special events, panels, galas and special screenings, advanced general admission tickets are \$12. Students, seniors (65+) and disabled adults are \$11 (Limit 1 per program with ID only). Tickets for Center for Asian American Media members are \$10 (Limit 2 per program per ID). There is a \$1.50 service charge for all tickets purchased online. Tickets go on sale to CAAM members only on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 (online only) and open to the general public beginning Sunday, February 17, 2013 (online only). Tickets can be purchased in person at our CAAMFest box office at Sundance Kabuki Cinemas starting Thursday, February 28, 2013.

About CAAM:

CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) is a non-profit 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.

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