

PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA

CAAMFEST 35

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Vivid Chinese and Chinese American Stories Travel Across Both Physical and Emotional Planes

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9, 2017 – The [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) traverses paths through both historical and contemporary backdrops to find rich and insightful stories in [CAAMFest 2017](#)'s slate of Taiwanese, Chinese and Chinese American films. From the highly-relevant, yet decades-old warnings in *THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT* to the Taiwanese American identity crisis in *WHO IS ARTHUR CHU?*, this year's films give clarity into the lives of Chinese and Chinese Americans.

HIGHLIGHTS:

[THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT](#) - Closing Night Film

- Directed by award-winning filmmaker [Ric Burns](#) and longtime collaborator [Li-Shin Yu](#)
- West Coast Premiere
- History mirrors today's politics in [THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT](#), an enlightening documentary co-produced by CAAM for PBS that explores the causes, consequences and impact of the only [federal legislation](#) in U.S. history to single out and name a specific race and nationality for exclusion from immigration and citizenship. *THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT* sheds light on the history of immigration and the evolving meaning of American identity, something which has become even more relevant in recent weeks.
- CAAM would like to acknowledge the National Endowment for the Humanities, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and AMERICAN EXPERIENCE for their contributions to the film.

[WHO IS ARTHUR CHU?](#) - Centerpiece Documentary

- Directed by [Scott Drucker and Yu Gu](#)
- West Coast Premiere, following recent Slamdance World Premiere
- Explore the question behind the Jeopardy! game show answer, and title of the film, *WHO IS ARTHUR CHU?* Follow 11-time Jeopardy! champion, media-labelled "villain," writer and internet iconoclast, [Arthur Chu](#), as he traverses a post-Jeopardy! world where fame brings both a platform and cyber-bullying. As Chu builds a larger following through writing, public speaking and participation in the infamous [#Gamergate movement](#), he

reflects on his youth, his family relationships and his identity as a Taiwanese American.

WHO KILLED VINCENT CHIN? - 35th anniversary program film

- Directed by [Christine Choy](#) and [Renee Tajima-Peña](#)
- Academy Award-nominated documentary that explores the aftermath of the violent murder of [Vincent Chin](#) at the hands of two white men who were convicted but never served a day in prison. A stunning examination of the impact of Chin's death and flaws in the justice system.

THE MOMENT - part of the CinemAsia program

- Directed by [Wong Kwok Fai](#)
- Wong Kwok Fai's first feature film tells the story of four damaged relationships. Set against a picturesque Hong Kong backdrop, the bonds explored in the film span across family, ex-lovers, friends and a couple. Amidst the hope of reconciliation, the protagonists face the challenges of deciding whether to let go, or hold on and make amends.

PLASTIC CHINA - part of the CinemAsia program

- Directed by [Jiu-Liang Wang](#)
- The lives of workers processing infinite amounts of recycled materials are full of dreams and debris. PLASTIC CHINA documents a family as they tread poor living conditions, sorting through mountains of plastic for income. In spite of their struggles, the family hopes for a richer life, seen through the global waste that they comb through every day.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARIES:

- **ABACUS: SMALL ENOUGH TO JAIL** (USA), by [Steve James](#), explores the 2008 financial crisis and the family-owned Abacus Federal Savings Bank, the only US bank to face criminal charges. (Preceded by short, **THE RIDE**, directed by [Jeff Adachi](#)).
- **EAT CHINATOWN** (USA) is a mouth-watering collection of shorts, part of the *Eat Chinatown* Spring Exhibit.
- **FINDING KUKAN** (USA), by [Robin Lung](#), rediscovers the long-lost Academy Award-winning **KUKAN** and the racial and gender prejudice throughout its production and success.
- **GUANGZHOU DREAM FACTORY** (USA), by [Christiane Badgley](#), captures the dreams of striking it rich in China, and how they spread to, influence and impact people living in Africa.
- **IN SEARCH OF PERFECT CONSONANCE** (Hong Kong), by [Ruby Yang](#), takes a journey across Asia with hopeful young musicians, illustrating their passion and dedication.
- **MY NEXT STEP** (Hong Kong, China), by [Cheuk Cheung](#), documents fading traditions of traditional opera in modern China, and an intimate portrait of a last wusheng (martial hero) performer.
- **THE PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL** (USA), by [Jim Choi](#) and [Chihiro Wimbush](#), tells the endearing story of the Chinese Hospital, the last independent San Francisco hospital.
- **RANDOM ACTS OF LEGACY** (Canada), by [Ali Kazimi](#), reveals an unfiltered perspective from a first-generation Chinese American experience in Chicago from the 1930s to 1950s.

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVES:

- **CARDINAL X** (USA), by [Angie Wang](#), revisits the 80s, where a young woman loses her college scholarship and begins a double life as student/Ecstasy-manufacturer to make ends meet.
- **HANG IN THERE, KIDS!** (Taiwan), by [Laha Mebow](#), journeys with three indigenous boys on their last sixth grade field trip to the city, and the personal struggles they solve along the way.
- **LIGHT** (USA), by [Lenora Lee](#) and [Tatsu Aoki](#), combines dance, memory, music and poetry to paint an intimate portrait of a 20th century migrant in New York's Chinatown.
- **YELLOW** (USA), by [Chris Chan Lee](#), celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, telling the story of eight high school friends who go on a wild and desperate scavenger hunt to help a friend who was robbed.

TICKETING INFORMATION:

Ticket prices for regular screenings range from \$12-\$14, excluding special events and galas. Tickets can be purchased by CAAM Members online beginning February 9 and open to the general public on February 13. All attendees can purchase tickets at the CAAMFest box office at the Alamo Drafthouse beginning March 3. Learn about member pricing, discounts and more on the [Box Office & Ticketing Information webpage](#).

Purchase tickets and learn more at www.caamedia.org

About CAAMFest:

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), celebrates its 35th year, March 9-19, 2017 in the Bay Area. CAAMFest showcases film, music, food and digital media from the world's most innovative Asian and Asian American artists.

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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