

PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA



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## Japanese and Japanese American Stories Reveal Somber Histories, Internal Conflict and More

**SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9, 2017** – The [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) explores intimate and emotional Japanese and Japanese American portraits during [CAAMFest 2017](#). From stories on Japanese American internment to the internal struggles of teenage girls fighting the fate of being mundane, CAAM has curated a feast of films that find escape, relevance and inspiration.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**SPOTLIGHT - EMIKO OMORI:** Documentarian [Emiko Omori](#)'s award-winning career spans decades, including CAAM's very first Festival in 1981. CAAMFest spotlights two of Omori's films that uncover fascinating stories and perspectives.

- [RABBIT IN THE MOON](#), an award-winning documentary on Japanese American internment, explores Omori's own childhood experiences within the camps and the complex, political tensions between the generations held there.
- [WHEN RABBIT LEFT THE MOON](#), a poetic follow-up to RABBIT IN THE MOON, is a short film that pays tribute to the generation of Omori's parents.

**JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY & THE LEGACY OF INTERNMENT:** CAAM marks the 75th anniversary of the forced [relocation and internment](#) of Japanese Americans during WWII with a slate of bold new documentaries that shed light on this trying and ever-relevant moment in history.

- [GOOD LUCK SOUP](#), by [Matthew Hashiguchi](#), sorts through home video and family interviews to examine identity and a story of growing up mixed race in America's heartland, Cleveland Ohio. Preceded by short, [SEPPUKU](#), directed by [Daryn Wakasa](#).
- [RELOCATION, ARKANSAS - AFTERMATH OF INCARCERATION](#), by [Vivienne Schiffer](#), follows Japanese Americans on a touching journey of strength and identity as they travel to former internment camps in order to move forward from a painful past.
- [RESISTANCE OF TULE LAKE](#), by [Konrad Aderer](#), focuses on the notorious camp where Japanese Americans who were labeled "disloyal" were held. Emotional stories make clear the consequences of race, wartime hysteria and political expediency. Preceded by

short, [YONSEI EYES](#), directed by Jon Osaki.

#### **ADDITIONAL FILMS:**

- [95 AND 6 TO GO](#), by [Kimi Takesue](#), is the director's moving tribute to her grandfather, Tom, a recently widowed 90-something living in Hawaii. Takesue captures the intimate and mundane moments of Tom's life, who reciprocates with advice and bits of wisdom that unravel his own story of love and loss.
- [AND SO WE PUT GOLDFISH IN THE POOL](#), by Makoto Nagahisa, dives into the story of four 15-year-old girls who put 400 goldfish in the school's swimming pool. This recent winner of the Sundance Film Festival short film grand jury prize appears in the [FOR THE FAINT OF HEART](#) shorts program.
- [HARMONIUM](#), by [Kôji Fukada](#), reveals secrets and deceptions when a family's ordinary life takes a drastic turn after a familiar face from the past reenters their world.
- [THE LOCKPICKER](#), by [Randall Okita](#), orbits around a teenage thief haunted by memories of loss and violence. Pulled along by the ever-present gravity of trauma, he reckons with his hunger for intimacy. Weaving harsh realism and ethereal scene, Randall Okita explores a furious, adolescent desire for escape.
- [THE TENOR](#), by [Kim Sang-Man](#), was produced in both Japan and South Korea and depicts a world-famous South Korean opera singer's inspirational path back to the stage after losing his voice to thyroid cancer.

#### **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](http://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](http://www.caamedia.org).

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