

PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA

CAAMFEST 35

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LGBTQ+ Characters Add Depth and Diversity at CAAMFest 2017

Unique settings, identities and actions provide a phenomenal slate of LGBTQ+ stories

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9, 2017 – The [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) celebrates the rich diversity of identity and sexuality that intersects throughout many stories during [CAAMFest 2017](#). Asian and Asian American LGBTQ+ characters and voices enter spheres of politics, culture, history, race and identity, leading to fascinating moments and conversations.

HIGHLIGHTS:

[RE:ORIENTATIONS](#) - part of the Asian American Documentary Competition

- Directed by [Richard Fung](#)
- San Francisco Bay Area premiere
- Fung's new documentary updates his 1980s [ORIENTATIONS: LESBIAN AND GAY ASIANS](#), revisiting many of the original subjects while also exploring a new generation of fresh faces. Fung captures a unique blend of voices through three decades of community, politics and identity.
- Preceded by short, [SEMIOTICS OF SAB](#), by [Tina Takemoto](#), that tells the story of gay Japanese American [Sab Shimono](#), whose stage and screen acting spans more than five decades.

[OUT/HERE](#) (shorts program): Breaking the barriers of tradition and commonplace is not a walk in the park. The ups and downs of this shorts program will guide you through the experiences of diverse LGBTQ+ protagonists and their quests for acceptance in the face of uncertainty.

- [THE BOOK OF LIVING AND DYING](#), by Sara Yang, tells the story of a cancer-stricken mother who tries to escape death by convincing her daughter to travel with her to Tibet.
- [DRUGS FOR UNICORNS](#), by Jaq Nguyen, follows a very sick unicorn, ill from toxins, who embarks on a journey to find a healer and get better.
- [ESCAPING AGRA](#), by [Pallavi Somusetty](#), documents Naveen Bhat, trapped in India after their parents discover their gender and sexual orientation, and Bhat's journey to battle them in court and piece their life back together.
- [NU'Ô'C](#), by Quỳên Nguyen-Le, is an experimental narrative about a queer Vietnamese

American teen trying to understand their mom's experience as a war refugee.

- **PRIA**, by [Yudho Aditya](#), is the story of an LGBTQ teen in rural Indonesia, struggling between his traditional upbringing and a romantic idealization of freedom in the west.
- **THE RIGHT BANK**, by [Yvonne Li](#), explores a young Chinese lesbian's fear of rejection from her conservative mother and the courage she needs to save her relationship with her American girlfriend.
- **TWO-SIDED RIDE**, by [Jason Karman](#), hops in the passenger seat with a hopeless romantic rideshare driver, traveling around in hopes of a love connection in the big city.

ADDITIONAL FILMS:

- **AKA SEOUL**, by [Jon Maxwell](#), travels with five Korean adoptees, raised around the world, as they return to Seoul, finding cultural experiences and tearful reunions.
- **BROWN GIRLS**, a new web series loosely based on creator [Fatimah Asghar](#)'s own life, paints an intimate portrait of two young women of color navigating their relationships, families, sexual orientations and the messiness of being in your mid-20s.
- **CHEE AND T**, by [Tanuj Chopra](#), introduces a dynamic duo whose adventures in Silicon Valley capture the growing pains of becoming an adult in an overtly selfish world.

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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