

PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA

# CAAMFEST 35

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## Meet the Women Filmmakers Bringing Bold Stories to CAAMFest 2017

*Including Opening Night, Closing Night, Centerpiece films and a filmmaker Spotlight*

**SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9, 2017** – The [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) presents a strong lineup of women mediamakers during [CAAMFest 2017](#). In addition to a diverse selection of narrative and documentary stories, women take the lead in CAAMFest’s Opening Night, Closing Night and both Centerpiece films, as well as a filmmaker spotlight dedicated to the intimate and stunning work of Bay Area local [Emiko Omori](#).

### HIGHLIGHTS:

#### [THE TIGER HUNTER](#) - Opening Night Film

- First feature film from director [Lena Khan](#)
- Bay Area Premiere, Castro Theatre
- The endearing and light-hearted story follows Sami ([Danny Pudi](#)), a young Indian engineer who moves to America during the 1970s wave of South Asian immigration to gain wealth, live up to the notoriety of his legendary tiger-hunting father, and above all, win the favor of his childhood sweetheart Ruby. As reality hits and Sami quickly learns his dreams will be harder to achieve than he thought, Sami is forced to look inward and decide what kind of person he wants to be. Khan’s film is a testament to the immigrant experience, and the meaningful, invaluable contributions they make to American history and society.

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

- Directed by long time collaborators [Li-Shin Yu](#) and [Ric Burns](#)
- West Coast Premiere, Castro Theatre
- 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 [Yu Gu and Scott Drucker](#)
- 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.

### **WINDOW HORSES: THE POETIC PERSIAN EPIPHANY OF ROSIE MING** - Centerpiece Narrative

- Directed by award-winning animator/filmmaker [Ann Marie Fleming](#)
- US Premiere
- An exquisitely animated film about the physical and inner journey of Rosie Ming, a young Chinese-Iranian girl (voiced by [Sandra Oh](#)) whose poetry carries her on a trip from her Canadian home to a festival in Iran. When she leaves her loving and worrisome grandparents behind and meets an eclectic and seasoned group of confident poets, Rosie finds her true voice as an artist, and unveils a deep family secret. [Ellen Page](#) and [Shohreh Aghdashloo](#) provide additional voices.

**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.

### **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURES:**

- **95 AND 6 TO GO**, by [Kimi Takesue](#), is a moving tribute to Takesue's grandfather, capturing moments in his life and the wisdom found in his own story of love and loss.
- **BACHELOR GIRLS**, by [Shikha Mekan](#), dives into the complicated world that single, independent women in Mumbai face as they try to find both housing and acceptance.
- **BAD RAP**, by [Salima Koroma](#), follows Asian American rappers [Awkwafina](#), [Dumbfounded](#), [Rekstizzy](#) and [Lyricks](#) as they break ethnic and music-industry stereotypes.
- **EVER THE LAND**, by Sarah Grohnert, embarks on a landmark cultural construction project in the lush forests of New Zealand and its vital ties to an indigenous Maori tribe.
- **FINDING KUKAN**, 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**, 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**, by [Ruby Yang](#), takes a journey across Asia with hopeful young musicians, illustrating their passion and dedication.

- [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.
- [WHO KILLED VINCENT CHIN?](#), by [Christine Choy](#) and [Renee Tajima-Peña](#), is an 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.

#### **ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES:**

- [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.
- [CARDINAL X](#), 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.
- [LIGHT](#), 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.
- [WEXFORD PLAZA](#), by [Joyce Wong](#), shows how an unexpected encounter between two friends at the strip mall leads to the fallout of mixed-messages and emotional baggage.

#### **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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