

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS
CAAMFEST 36

**Japanese and Japanese American Representation at CAAMFest36 Found in
Historic and Modern-day Stories**

Festival also opens with film about local Japanese American politician Norman Mineta

San Francisco, CA - Japanese representation is diverse at the [Center for Asian American Media's](#) annual festival showcase, [CAAMFest](#), this year. In it's 36th year, CAAMFest36, presents portraits, stories, and performances from the past and present by Japanese and Japanese American filmmakers, subjects, and artists in a variety of mediums including films, live theatre performances, and musical acts.

[CAAMFest36](#) opens with [AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY](#), a film celebrating the life and career of Japanese American and Bay Area native Norman Mineta. He was born in San Jose, California where he also served as mayor from 1971 to 1975. Mineta was born to Japanese immigrants who first were denied citizenship due to the Asian Exclusion Act. As a child during World War II, Mineta was held at an internment camp for several years.

[CAAMFest36](#) presents the **World Premiere screening** of the film on opening night, Thursday, May 10 2018 at 7:00pm at the Castro Theatre, where Mineta will also be honored by the city of San Francisco in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of [Asian Pacific Heritage Month](#). The film is directed by Japanese American Dianne Fukami, who also serves as the film's producer. In addition, Japanese American Debra Nakatomi is also producer for the film.

Three other films at [CAAMFest36](#) also depict stories regarding World War II or Japanese internment. [GO FOR BROKE: AN ORIGIN STORY](#), directed by Alexander Bocchieri, is a narrative feature film about the jarring discrimination the young Japanese American men of the 442nd infantry faced at home before becoming the most decorated unit for their size and time in battle. [THE REGISTRY](#), directed by Japanese American Bill Kubota and produced by both Kubota and fellow Japanese American Steve Ozone, details the efforts of Japanese American translators in the US Army's Military Intelligence Service during World War II. [THREE BOYS MANZANAR](#), directed by Preeti Deb, revisits Manzanar, a former Japanese internment camp in Inyo County, California, with Mas Ooka and his granddaughter.

The [TOKYO BEATS Shorts Program](#) presents three films from Japan that illustrate the difficulties of making it big in Tokyo, where conformities fit the norm.

[LET'S GO HOME](#), directed by Japanese native Takuya Matsumoto, is a humorous and warm-hearted story about a man's reluctance to face the conflicts in his life after failing to make it big in Tokyo.

[**OUR MAN IN TOKYO \(THE BALLAD OF SHIN MIYATA\)**](#), directed by Japanese American Akira Boch, is a documentary about Shin Miyata, a record label owner, who devotes his life to bridging the gap between Chicano and Japanese culture.

[**THE BAND'S NEW STAGE**](#), directed by Japanese native Takeshi Tanaka, is a tale about dreamer Aoki, who promotes his no-name band as a famous group from Tokyo in the far reaches of the Oki Islands.

Other films with Japanese or Japanese American representation include:

[**JIMAMI TOFU \(Food Film\)**](#), directed by Jason Chan and Christian Lee, combines food, love, and culture in a discovery tale about two chefs. The film is set in Okinawa and funded by the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco.

[**FUTBOLISTAS 4 LIFE \(CAAMunity Film**](#) with the Center for Sport and Social Justice), directed by Japanese American and Bay Area native Jun Stinson, follows two young immigrant soccer players from Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood on a journey toward adulthood.

[**AMERICAN DREAMING \(FIGHTERS AND DREAMERS**](#) Shorts Program), directed by Japanese American and CAAM alumnus [Matthew Hashiguchi](#), takes a look undocumented immigrant college students in Georgia, who are often prevented from enrolling in public schools.

[**FLOATING LIGHT \(IN TRANSITION**](#) Shorts Program), directed by Japanese Canadian [Natalie Murao](#), finds Dana and Sam pulled early from summer camp and planted in the midst of their late grandfather's Buddhist funeral ceremony.

[**LIMINAL SPACE/CROSSINGS**](#) (Short Preceding [POWER IN UNITY CAAMunity Screening](#) with the SF Public Library), directed by Jim Choi and Japanese American [Chihiro Wimbush](#), documents the installation of artist Summer Mei-Ling Lee's work, "Liminal Space/Crossings," a piece commissioned by the Chinese Cultural Center in San Francisco.

[**MY IMMIGRANT STORY \(MEMORIES TO LIGHT**](#) Shorts Collection), directed by Japanese American Yuriko Romer, narrates home movies reflecting on a family journey to the United States.

[**ON THE LINE \(MEMORIES TO LIGHT**](#) Shorts Collection), directed by Japanese American Tina Takemoto, looks at the Japanese American women who cleaned tuna, worked an assembly line, and found same-sex intimacy amid fish guts while the men were off to sea.

[**OTHELLO-SAN \(IN TRANSITION**](#) Shorts Program), directed by Theodore A. Adams III, is a story about a celebrated African American actor who enrolls in a prestigious theatre school in Japan.

[**PACHINKO \(LIFE, ANIMATED**](#) Shorts Program), directed by Luis Grane, is a mind-bending look at Tokyo, where cartoons and reality coexist, and pachinko balls represent American influence.

[**SAN JOSE TOFU CO. \(FIGHTERS AND DREAMERS**](#) Shorts Program), directed by Sean Au, examines Japanese American and Bay Area native Chester Nozaki's decision to close the much hailed San Jose Tofu Company.

[**SANZU NO KAWA \(THE RIVERS OF THREE CROSSINGS\) \(ALTERED STATES**](#) Shorts Program), directed by Japanese American Cyrus Yoshi Tabar, follows a young boy struggling to overcome his sister's death.

[**STRAWBERRIES WILL SAVE THE WORLD \(LIFE, ANIMATED**](#) Shorts Program), directed by Japanese native Yoko Okumura, shines light on Japanese native and her obsession with strawberries.

Historical and modern-day Japanese representation is also found in CAAMFest36's live performance and musical programming. The festival's closing night, Thursday, May 24, 2018 at the Herbst Theatre, presents [**AUNT LILY'S FLOWER BOOK: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LEGALIZED RACISM**](#), a live performance featuring Japanese American artist Brenda Wong Aoki with music from her Emmy winning

husband and fellow Japanese American Mark Izu with Japanese native koto master Shoko Hikage. The performance shares a collection of personal memories recently discovered from a family diary detailing the true stories of Wong Aoki's Japanese American family in the 1940s.

Other performances with Japanese or Japanese American representation include:

[Lyrics Born](#), Japanese American musician as part of [DIRECTIONS IN SOUND: HIP-HOP](#)

[Atsuko Okatsuka](#), Japanese American comedian as part of [DISORIENTED COMEDY SHOW](#)

[G Yamazawa](#), Japanese American musician as part of [DIRECTIONS IN SOUND: HIP-HOP](#)

For more information and to purchase tickets for CAAMFest, please visit <http://www.caamedia.org>.

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About CAAMFest:

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), celebrates the world's largest showcase for new Asian American and Asian film, food, and music programs. Annually presenting over 120 works in the Bay Area, CAAMFest presents its 36th year from May 10-24, 2018. For more information, please visit <http://www.caamfest.com>.

About CAAM:

CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible by funding, producing, distributing and exhibiting works in film, television and digital media. For 38 years, CAAM has exposed audiences to new voices and communities, advancing our collective understanding of the American experience through programs specifically designed to engage the Asian American community and the public at large. For more information on CAAM, please visit <http://www.caamedia.org>.