

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS
CAAMFEST 36

A Myriad of LGBTQ+ Connections Fill CAAMFest36's Program Slate

San Francisco, CA, April 11, 2018 - [CAAMFest36](#), the annual festival showcase from the [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM), presents over 20 works representative of identity and sexuality that intersect politics, culture, history, and race intersect. These stories from Asians and Asian Americans represent LGBTQ+ characters, artists, and filmmakers.

Feature films with LGBTQ+ connections include:

[AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY](#)

World Premiere

Director Dianne Fukami (Bay Area native)

- Norman Mineta, one of the most well-respected and influential Japanese American community leaders of our time, also fought hard for marriage equality.

[BITTER MELON](#)

World Premiere

Director H.P. Mendoza (Bay Area native)

- What starts as a fun holiday reunion turns into a darkly humorous crime scene as Declan, the gay son, leads his Filipino American family on how to best murder his violent and abusive big brother Troy.
- Director H.P. Mendoza is gay.

[WHITE RABBIT](#)

San Francisco Bay Area Premiere

Director Daryl Wein

- Sophia, a Korean American performance artist, seeks to find her place in the world after a hard breakup with her girlfriend.

[LOOKING FOR?](#)

North American Premiere

Director Tung-Yen Chou

- A documentary about dating apps that looks at 60 gay men in seven cities as they navigate a digital network of millions searching for love, lust, and loss.

Short films with LGBTQ+ connections include:

[98 YEARS* AND COUNTING: MORE WOMEN LEADERS NEEDED EVERYWHERE](#)

[\(FIGHTERS AND DREAMERS](#) Shorts Program), directed by Kirithi Nath and Zel Anders, looks at

the under-representation of women in power, 98 years after women won the right to vote in 1918. Co-director Zel Anders is lesbian.

[AFTEREARTH](#) ([MADE YOU A MIXTAPE](#) Shorts Program), directed by Jess X. Snow, brings four women representing earth, wind, fire, and water in an artistic experience to take a stand against forces that threaten to destroy the planet's natural resources. Director Jess X. Snow is queer.

[COME AND TAKE IT](#) ([STORIES FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTH](#) Shorts Program), directed by PJ Raval and Ellen Spiro, captures Jessica Jin's transformation into one of America's most irreverent anti-gun violence leaders, creating what some people are calling The Great Texas Dildo Revolt. Director PJ Raval is gay.

[HELLA STRANGERS](#) ([EPISODICS](#) Short Program), directed by Chelsea Chang, is an episodic series following narratives of POC characters in the Bay Area. This pilot episode follows creator and actress Chelsea Chang to the 90s where she becomes smitten with a girl named Genica at a house party.

[LADY EVA](#) ([PACIFIC SHOWCASE](#) Film), directed by Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, and Hina Wong-Kalu, tells the story of a transgender woman ostracized by her family for choosing to represent her true self.

[LIONS IN WAITING](#) (Short preceding [LOOKING FOR?](#)), directed by Jason Karman, follows a young gay man who is hazed by his new hockey teammates. Director Jason Karman is gay.

[ON OF LINE](#) ([MEMORIES TO LIGHT](#) Shorts Collection), directed by Tina Takemoto, looks at the Japanese American women who found same-sex intimacy while working in the fishing industry as the men were off to sea. Filmmaker Tina Takemoto is queer.

[PRAGMA](#) ([WOMEN ON THE RISE: SOUTH KOREAN CINEMA](#) Shorts Program), directed by Jihyun Park, explores the relationship of two women years later after an initial relationship in high school was torn apart by ridicule.

[OUT/HERE](#) Shorts Program - Celebrating a new wave of provocative voices, this year's OUT/HERE takes a trip around the globe collecting portraits from daily life in the LGBTQ+ community.

[DECODING DARKMATTER](#), directed by Crystal Waterton, follows Janani and Alok on their mission to break down boundaries and express the undiscussed realities experienced by the transgender and non-binary community.

[GRANDMOTHER AND ME](#), directed by Kat Cole, brings together the first meetings between a transgender man's grandmother and his wife.

[KHOL \(OPEN\)](#), by Faroukh Virani, peers into the relationship between a gay son and his conservative mother when he returns for his estranged father's funeral.

[LIMBOLAND](#), directed by Melanie Ramos, is a comedic look at the relationship between a father and daughter when the mother's body goes missing at the funeral.

[MAYBE](#), directed by Kat Cole, explores a teenager's coming of age story as she clashes with her mother's religious values after coming to terms with her sexuality.

[RANI](#), directed by Hammad Rizvi, is story about a transgender woman (played by [Kami Sid](#), Pakistan's first transgender model) fighting for her right to be mother to an orphaned child she has grown to love.

Other films or programs with LGBTQ+ connections include:

[DISORIENTED COMEDY SHOW](#) features Jenny Yang, Atsuko Okatsuka, and D'Lo, a queer/trans Tamil-Sri Lankan-Am writer/actor/comic.

[FIRST KITCHEN](#) ([Food Film](#)), directed by James Q. Chan, is a sneak preview of the first episode in this documentary food series. The episode, BLOODLINE, features Bay Area Chef Tu David Phu. Director James Q. Chan is gay.

HALFWAY HOME: ASIAN AMERICAN ART IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY ([CAAMunity Screening](#) with [Oakland Asian Cultural Center](#)), by S. Steve Arounsack, spotlights four artists living and working in California's Central Valley. Nikiko Masumoto, a subject in the film, is lesbian.

POWER IN UNITY ([CAAMunity Screening](#) with [SF Public Library](#)), directed by James Q. Chan, follows Chinese seniors in San Francisco's Chinatown fighting the injustice of longtime immigrant communities being displaced by profit-driven developers. Director James Q. Chan is gay.

THIS CLOSE ([CAAMunity Screening](#) with [Lighthouse](#)), directed by Andrew Ahn, explores the relationship between two deaf best friends. Director Andrew Ahn is a gay Korean-American who came out to his parents in his short film, DOL.

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

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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 100 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 37 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>.