

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS
CAAMFEST 36

A Myriad of Bay Area Connections Fill CAAMFest36's Program Slate

San Francisco, CA, April 11, 2018 - CAAMFest 2018 (formerly San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival) is pleased to present the following local films and filmmakers as part of the festival which will take place **May 10-24, 2018**.

SAN FRANCISCO

CHINATOWN

CHINATOWN (short preceding [POWER IN UNITY CAAMunity screening](#) with the [SF Public Library](#)), directed by Chet Canlas and created by the Manilatown Heritage Foundation, is a poetic portrait of the evolving neighborhood.

This film is the winner of the inaugural Autumn Moon Festival Film Contest.

In addition to being shot in San Francisco's Chinatown, the film was also produced by a San Francisco non-profit organization, the Manilatown Heritage Foundation.

HAVANA DIVAS ([Music Film](#)), directed by S. Louisa Wei. On a personal quest, octogenarian Cantonese Opera singers who grew up in Havana's Barrio Chino trace their place in the history of Cuba's Chinese diaspora and their role in preserving the last vestiges of this community's culture.

Featuring stories of Cantonese opera actors performing in San Francisco in the 1930s and 1940s, who would make their way to Cuba sporting monikers of the Golden West.

POWER IN UNITY ([CAAMunity screening](#) with the [SF Public Library](#)), directed by James Q. Chan. San Francisco's high-flying economy comes at the cost to low-income residents. Many longtime, immigrant, communities are being displaced by profit-driven developers, but Chinese seniors in Chinatown find renewed spirit as they fight the injustice by organizing and building coalitions with the Community Tenants Association.

Community Tenants Association (CTA) has become a leader in San Francisco's housing advocate community with its roots firmly established in Chinatown fighting unjust evictions and advocating for those in need

HAYES VALLEY

RUNNER ([ALTERED STATES](#) Shorts Program), directed by Yung-Jae Chen. In San Francisco, a woman trains for the most important run of her life; a run that will ultimately make amends with her past.

Writer/Director Yung-Jae Chen lives the Hayes Valley neighborhood in San Francisco

MARINA DISTRICT

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.

Co-director Christian Lee lived in the Marina District. He is now based in Singapore.

MISSION DISTRICT

73 QUESTIONS WITH STEVE JONES ([LIFE, ANIMATED](#) Shorts Program), directed by Leah Nichols. When doing a celebrity profile, asking 73 questions is often the way to go. Using this mold, the script is flipped as the interviewee is not an A-lister, but a resident of San Francisco.

Director Leah Nichols lives in the Mission District

BITTER MELON, directed by H.P. Mendoza. A tragicomedy from San Francisco filmmaker H.P. Mendoza that follows a family's attempts to right their wrongs, results in the discovery of many unsavory truths. The dark, quirky revenge comedy turns into exercise in empathy and exploration of family cycles. This is the film's world premiere.

Director H.P. Mendoza was born and still currently resides in the Mission District

HELLA STRANGERS ([EPISODIC](#) Shorts Program), directed by Chelsea Chang, takes us to a "Heaven & Hell" house party for some 90s Bay Area QPOC realness. Smitten with party host Genica, Chang tries to keep her cool amidst rapper quarrels, dancing, and sexual tension. Does Genica want Chang in the friend zone, or is she looking for love?

Editor Christian E. Ovando lives in the Mission District

NOE VALLEY

MY IMMIGRATION STORY ([MEMORIES TO LIGHT: ASIAN AMERICAN HOME MOVIES](#) Shorts Program), directed by Japanese American Yuriko Romer, narrates home movies reflecting on a family journey to the United States.

Director Yuriko Gamo Romer lives in Noe Valley

WHITMAN, ALABAMA ([STORIES FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTH](#) Shorts Program), directed by Jennifer Crandall. In part 10 of a 52-part series, we meet Han and Dang, owners of Viet Cuisine in Huntsville, Alabama, and their daughter Eva. As they read a verse of Walt Whitman's poetry, their daily life at the restaurant unfolds before our eyes.

Director Jennifer Crandall lives in Noe Valley

OCEANVIEW

SHE, WHO CAN SEE ([Music Film](#)), directed by Alleluia Panis and Wilfred Galila, is a riveting new dance film. Part film screening and part live performance, this one of a kind program is a love letter to the vibrant, Bay Area Filipino American community and culture.

Co-Director Alleluia Panis lives in the Oceanview district

RICHMOND DISTRICT

[SOAP AND SHADOWS](#) ([LIFE, ANIMATED](#) Shorts Program), directed by Donna Mae Foronda. When fog horns awaken Bethany and Craig one morning, a discussion about the powers of analog and algorithms come about via pillow talk.

Writer/Director Donna Mae Foronda lives in the Richmond district

TENDERLOIN

[73 QUESTIONS WITH STEVE JONES](#) ([LIFE, ANIMATED](#) Shorts Program), directed by Leah Nichols. When doing a celebrity profile, asking 73 questions is often the way to go. Using this mold, the script is flipped as the interviewee is not an A-lister, but a resident of San Francisco.

Subject Steve Jones, lives in the Tenderloin

[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.

Subject Jessica Jin lives in the Tenderloin

GENERAL SAN FRANCISCO

[FLIP THE RECORD](#) ([MADE YOU A MIX TAPE](#) Shorts Program), directed by Marie Jamora. In this 1980s coming-of-age story set to pulsing hip-hop music, a Filipino-American teen discovers her identity through a budding talent for turntablism.

Actress Sammay Dizon lives in San Francisco

[SAN JOSE TOFU CO.](#) ([FIGHTERS & DREAMERS](#) Shorts Program), directed by Sean Au. After seven decades and three generations, Chest Nozaki discusses the decision to close the much hailed San Jose Tofu Company.

Director Sean Au lives in San Francisco

EAST BAY

BERKELEY

[98 YEARS* AND COUNTING: MORE WOMEN LEADERS NEEDED EVERYWHERE](#) ([FIGHTERS & DREAMERS](#) Shorts Program), directed by Kirthi Nath and Zel Anders. Women attending the 2018 Women's March in Oakland are asked about what kind of women they want to see in leadership positions during an uncertain political climate.

Composer Anne Carol Mitchell is based in Berkeley.

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Co-Director Ellen Spiro lives in Berkeley

[DIRECTIONS IN SOUND: HIP-HOP](#), featuring Ruby Ibarra, Lyrics Born, G. Yamazawa. CAAMFest's premiere music showcase moves to Oakland. This annual concert is a festival favorite and has been a popular launching point for many celebrated artists such as Dengue Fever, Awkwafina, and DJ Vinroc. Join us with this year's artists, Ruby Ibarra, Lyrics Born, and G. Yamazawa, for a celebration of the vibrant Asian American music scene.

Japanese American rapper and producer Lyrics Born was raised in Berkeley

[GRANDMOTHER AND ME](#) ([OUT HERE](#) Shorts Program), directed by Kathryn Cole. When love for someone necessitates and facilitates a facade, what is it exactly that one must do? In a moving letter addressed to her husband's late grandmother, Kat Cole expresses her quiet longing for acceptance and her husband Del's internal struggle with having to keep both his worlds separate.

Director/Producer Kathryn (Kat) Cole lives in Berkeley along with Del, the main subject of the film

[MAYBE](#) ([OUT HERE](#) Shorts Program), directed by Kathryn Cole. A beautiful ode to growing up and self-exploration in Hawaii, MAYBE explores a teenager's coming of age as she comes to terms with her sexuality, which clashes with her mother's religious values.

Director/Producer Kathryn (Kat) Cole lives in Berkeley

MORAGA

[SHE, WHO CAN SEE](#) ([Music Film](#)), directed by Alleluia Panis and Wilfred Galila, is a riveting new dance film. Part film screening and part live performance, this one of a kind program is a love letter to the vibrant, Bay Area Filipino American community and culture.

Co-Director Wilfred Galila lives in Moraga

OAKLAND

[98 YEARS* AND COUNTING: MORE WOMEN LEADERS NEEDED EVERYWHERE](#) ([FIGHTERS & DREAMERS](#) Shorts Program), directed by Kirthi Nath and Zel Anders. Women attending the 2018 Women's March in Oakland are asked about what kind of women they want to see in leadership positions during an uncertain political climate.

Co-Director Kirthi Nath lives in Oakland

[AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY](#), directed by Dianne Fukami, celebrates the rich life and career of Norman Y. Mineta, one of the most well-respected and influential Japanese American community leaders of our times. This powerful and inspirational portrait explores Mineta — from Japanese American incarceration as a child during World War II to being mayor of San Jose and serving as cabinet secretary under two presidents.

Director/Co-Producer Dianne Fukami lives in Oakland

[FUTBOLISTAS 4 LIFE](#) ([CAAMunity screening](#) with [The Center for Sport and Social Justice](#)), directed by Jun Stinson. Two young immigrant soccer players and their coach from Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood follow an inspiring and surprising path toward adulthood.

Director Jun Stinson grew up and currently lives in Oakland. The film is set in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood.

[JUNE](#) ([STORIES FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTH](#) Shorts Program), directed by Huay-Bing Law. A Chinese Immigrant comes across segregated restrooms in 1950s Texas and isn't sure whether

to use the 'Whites Only' restroom or 'Colored' restroom.

Producer Brittney Shepherd lives in Oakland

[THE PILGRIMAGE](#) ([IN TRANSITION](#) Shorts Program), directed by Kevin Wong, depicts a flipped father-son relationship, where the son attempts to guide his erratic father in his quest for self.

Director Kevin Wong lives in Oakland

PLEASANTON

[HALFWAY HOME: ASIAN AMERICAN ART IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY](#) ([CAAMunity screening](#) with the [Oakland Asian Cultural Center](#)), directed by S. Steve Arounsack, is a CAAM co-produced project that spotlights four artists living and working in California's Central Valley. It is an affirmation of the cultural and artistic practices Asian communities are often forced to shed through processes of immigration and assimilation.

Director Steve Arounsack lives in Pleasanton

SAN LORENZO

[NOTHING ON US: PINAYS RISING BEHIND THE SCENES](#) ([Music Film](#) with ANATOMY OF A MUSIC VIDEO WITH RUBY IBARRA), directed by Ruby Ibarra and Evelyn Obamos. Pinay rapper Ruby Ibarra makes her directorial debut orchestrating an ambitious vision from crowdsourcing a 200 all-Pinay cast, figuring out a venue, and costume design. Drawing from global tropes of resistance and solidarity, 'Us' serves as a Pinay anthem for all women to continue rising.

Ruby Ibarra hails from San Lorenzo. Her album Circa91 addresses her family's immigrant experience relocating to the Bay Area from the Philippines

UNION CITY

[HELLA STRANGERS](#) ([EPISODIC](#) Shorts Program), directed by Chelsea Chang, takes us to a "Heaven & Hell" house party for some 90s Bay Area QPOC realness. Smitten with party host Genica, Chang tries to keep her cool amidst rapper quarrels, dancing, and sexual tension. Does Genica want Chang in the friend zone, or is she looking for love?

Director/Actor Chelsea Chang lives in Union City

PENINSULA

BURLINGAME

[THREE BOYS MANZANAR](#) (Short preceding [THE REGISTRY](#)), directed by Preeti Deb. Akemi Ooka and her grandfather, Mas Ooka, share stories from the past of their trip to Manzanar, a former Japanese internment camp in Inyo County, California, where as kids, Mas and two friends were captured in a famous photograph in front of barbed wire fencing.

Director Preeti Deb and actor Akemi Ooka live in Burlingame

DALY CITY

[FLIP THE RECORD \(MADE YOU A MIX TAPE](#) Shorts Program), directed by Marie Jamora. In this 1980s coming-of-age story set to pulsing hip-hop music, a Filipino-American teen discovers her identity through a budding talent for turntablism.

The film is set in Daly City, 1984. Filmed in part in Daly City. Cinematographer Matt Maio grew up in Daly City

[LUMPIA \(15TH ANNIVERSARY\) \(Food Film\)](#), directed by Patricio Ginelsa, Jr. James and his misfit pack of friends do their best to stand up to Tyrone and his crew of thugs who have invented a new fad of F.O.B. bashing!

The director and cast are all from Daly City. The movie was shot in their Daly City neighborhood and high school

[ULAM: MAIN DISH \(Food Film\)](#), directed by Alexandra Cuerdo. Could it be that Filipino food, the underdog of Asian cuisines, is having its moment at last? In ULAM (“main dish” in Tagalog), Filipino American filmmaker Alexandra Cuerdo tries to answer this question and follows the rise of Filipino food through the experiences of award-winning chefs attempting to move the cuisine to the center of the American table.

Chef Charles Olalia grew up in Daly City

MILLBRAE

[20 WEEKS](#), directed by Leena Pendharkar. Expecting parents, Maya and Ronan are forced to confront the unknown as they discover their unborn child’s serious health condition in a 20-week scan. Inspired by a true story, 20 WEEKS follows the couple as they navigate the challenges of pregnancy and the impact it has on their perceptions of parenthood and their relationship.

Executive Producer Renuka Pullat lives in Millbrae

PALO ALTO

[DISORIENTED COMEDY SHOW](#), featuring Jenny Yang, D’Lo, and Atsuko Okatsuka. This first-ever (mostly) female, Asian American stand-up comedy troupe has performed more than 70 shows since 2012 and will headline CAAMFest’s Saturday night festivities.

Producer Tanuj Chopra is from Palo Alto

SOUTH BAY

SAN JOSE

[AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY](#), directed by Dianne Fukami, celebrates the rich life and career of Norman Y. Mineta, one of the most well-respected and influential Japanese American community leaders of our times. This powerful and inspirational portrait explores Mineta — from Japanese American incarceration as a child during World War II to being mayor of San Jose and serving as cabinet secretary under two presidents.

Norman Mineta is former Mayor of San Jose and 10-term Member of Congress from San Jose

[FLIP THE RECORD \(MADE YOU A MIX TAPE](#) Shorts Program), directed by Marie Jamora. In this 1980s coming-of-age story set to pulsing hip-hop music, a Filipino-American teen discovers

her identity through a budding talent for turntablism.
Actor JD Charisma lives in San Jose

NORTH BAY

NAPA

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Composer Florante Aguilar lives in Napa

SAUSALITO

[98 YEARS* AND COUNTING: MORE WOMEN LEADERS NEEDED EVERYWHERE](#) ([FIGHTERS & DREAMERS](#) Shorts Program), directed by Kirthi Nath and Zel Anders. Women attending the 2018 Women's March in Oakland are asked about what kind of women they want to see in leadership positions during an uncertain political climate.

Co-Director Zel Anders lives in Sausalito

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>.