

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS
CAAMFEST 36

CAAMFest36 Features Over 60 Female Mediamakers and Spotlights Renowned Actress and Martial Artist Pei-Pei Cheng

San Francisco, CA - The [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) is excited to announce a lineup of over 60 female filmmakers and artists in music, digital media, and performance art at its annual festival showcase, [CAAMFest](#). In a revolutionary time of change and awareness, CAAMFest36 also honors legendary Chinese actress Pei-Pei Cheng.

[SPOTLIGHT ON PEI-PEI CHENG](#)

Known as the “Queen of Swords,” actress and martial artist Pei-Pei Cheng has been internationally recognized for her work in various martial art films such as [COME DRINK WITH ME](#) and [GOLDEN SWALLOW](#). Cheng’s ongoing career of over 50 years most currently puts her in the all-star cast of Mina Shum’s [MEDITATION PARK](#).

Each of these three films are screened at CAAMFest36 in conjunction with our [CAAMFeast](#) event honoring Pei-Pei Cheng in an on-stage conversation at George Chen’s Chinese food and retail emporium, [China Live](#). Tickets for the [CAAMFeast](#) event with Pei-Pei Cheng and screenings featuring our [Spotlight](#) honoree may be purchased at <http://www.caamfest.com>.

GALA PRESENTATIONS

Included in CAAMFest36’s strong female-powered lineup is the opening night film and world premiere screening of Dianne Fukami’s [AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY](#), the closing night performance of Brenda Wong Aoki’s [AUNT LILY’S FLOWER BOOK: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LEGALIZED RACISM](#), and the Documentary Centerpiece and West Coast Premiere of Kulap Vilaysack’s [ORIGIN STORY](#).

[AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY](#) - Opening Night Film

World Premiere

Director *Dianne Fukami* (Bay Area native)

- A documentary feature about the the life, career, and contributions of [Norman Mineta](#).
- [Norman Mineta](#) is the first Asian American mayor of a major city (San Jose); the first Japanese American from the mainland to be elected to Congress; and the first Asian American to serve in a presidential cabinet.
- Producer *Debra Nakatomi* is also strongly tied to the film.

[AUNT LILY’S FLOWER BOOK: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LEGALIZED RACISM](#) - Closing Night Live Performance Event

Writer and Performer *Brenda Wong Aoki* (Bay Area native)

- A storyteller and jazz musician from the 1970's tell true tales of resilience.
- Written and performed by America's foremost Asian storyteller, [Brenda Wong Aoki](#), with music by her husband Emmy-winning musician [Mark Izu](#), and featuring koto master [Shoko Hikage](#)

[ORIGIN STORY](#) - Documentary Centerpiece

West Coast Premiere

Director *Kulap Vilaysack*

- Directorial debut for actress, comedian, and writer Kulap Vilaysack, where she explores her tangled family tree in this deeply personal but universally relevant tale of immigration, conflict, identity, and personal responsibility.

STRONG FEMALE MEDIAMAKER PRESENCE

"Women are leading movements across the nation, and also in the world," says Festival Director Masashi Niwano. "They are constantly leading a charge and making a difference that we are only ever so happy to include prominently at our festival." CAAMFest36 features 15 feature films with female filmmakers and a total of 50 films or videos with female filmmakers. A listing of additional female mediamaker presence at CAAMFest36 may be found below.

Additional feature length female filmmakers include:

[20 WEEKS](#), director Leena Pendharkar
[A LITTLE WISDOM](#), director Yuqi Kang
[A TIME TO SWIM](#), director Ashley Duong
[DEAD PIGS](#), director Cathy Yan
[HAVANA DIVAS](#), director (and CAAMFest alum) S. Louisa Wei
[I CAN I WILL I DID](#), director Nadine Truong
[MEDITATION PARK](#), director Mina Shum
[NAILED IT](#), director Adele Pham
[OUT OF STATE](#), director Ciara Lacy
[ULAM: MAIN DISH](#), director Alexandra Cuerdo
[UNLOVABLE](#), director Suzi Yoonessi
[WHITE RABBIT](#), co-writer and star Vivian Bang

Short and episodic female filmmakers include:

[170 BUCKS FOR A CAB, ONE RIDE, ONE NIGHT](#), director Yena Kang
[73 QUESTIONS](#), director Leah Nichols
[9 AT 38](#), director Catherine Lee
[98 YEARS* AND COUNTING: MORE WOMEN LEADERS NEEDED EVERYWHERE](#), directors
Kirthi Nath and Zel Anders
[A LETTER FOR SANG-AH](#), director Mina Fitzpatrick
[AFTEREARTH](#), director Jess X. Snow
[COME AND TAKE IT](#), co-director Ellen Spiro
[DECODING DARKMATTER](#), director Crystal Waterton
[FLIP THE RECORD](#), director Marie Jamora
[FLOATING LIGHT](#), director Natalie Murao
[FUTBOLISTAS 4 LIFE](#), director Jun Stinson
[GRANDMOTHER AND ME](#), director Kat Cole

[HELLA STRANGERS](#), director Chelsea Chang
[HOAI \(ONGOING, MEMORY\)](#), director Quynh Nguyen-Le
[LIMBOLAND](#), director Melanie Ramos
[MARVEL PRESENTS A NEW SUPERHERO...MODEL MINORITY](#), writer and star Joy Regullano
[MAYBE](#), director Kat Cole
[MISS WORLD](#), director Georgia Fu
[MY IMMIGRANT STORY](#), director Yuriko Romer
[ON THE LINE](#), director Tina Takemoto
[PHETMIXAY MEANS FIGHTER](#), director Rita Phetmixay
[PRAGMA](#), director Jihyun Park
[SOAP AND SHADOWS](#), director Donna Mae Foronda
[STRAWBERRIES WILL SAVE THE WORLD](#), director Yoko Okumura
[SUSANELAND](#), co-creator Susane Lee
[THIS CLOSE](#) ([CAAMunity Screening](#) with [Lighthouse](#)), creator and writer Shoshannah Stern
[THREE BOYS MANZANAR](#), director Preeti Deb
[TIGERSTYLE](#), directors Rachel Lattin, Jordyn Romero, Riani Singgih, and Poloma Young
[TO BE FIONA](#), director Fiona Lu
[WHITMAN, ALABAMA](#), director Jennifer Crandall
[WONDER BUFFALO](#), director Christine Berg
[YOUR HAND IN MINE](#), director Alice Park

Other films with female filmmakers include:

[DRAWN TOGETHER: COMICS, DIVERSITY AND STEREOTYPES](#) ([CAAMunity Screening](#) with [Asian Art Museum](#)), director Harleen Singh
[PACIFIC GATEWAY: ANGEL ISLAND VR](#), director Felicia Lowe
[NOTHING ON US: PINAYS RISING BEHIND THE SCENES](#) ([Music Film](#) presented in [ANATOMY OF A MUSIC VIDEO WITH RUBY IBARRA](#)), directors Evelyn Obamos and Ruby Ibarra
[SHE, WHO CAN SEE](#), director Alleluia Panis

Featured female performers or other mediamakers include:

[Ruby Ibarra](#), musician and director as part of [DIRECTIONS IN SOUND](#) and [ANATOMY OF A MUSIC VIDEO WITH RUBY IBARRA](#)
[Jenny Yang](#), comedian as part of [DISORIENTED COMEDY SHOW](#)
[Atsuko Okatsuka](#), comedian as part of [DISORIENTED COMEDY SHOW](#)
[YUNA](#), musician as part of [HERITAGE SF](#)
[Jeanine Tesori](#), composer as part of [THE STATE OF THE ART](#) conversation

For more information and to purchase tickets, 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 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 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>.