

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS  
**CAAMFEST 36**

**Center for Asian American Media and Public Television's WORLD Channel Host Free  
World Premiere Screening of Muslim Youth Voices 3.0 Films at CAAMFest36**

**San Francisco, CA** - [CAAMFest](#), the annual festival showcase from the [Center for Asian American Media \(CAAM\)](#), and [World Channel](#) are proud to host the world premiere screening and panel of the Muslim Youth Voices films from the 2017 summer workshops held in Plano, Texas and Portland, Oregon. Eleven powerful films created by 14 young filmmakers exploring diverse themes and genres, will premiere at CAAMFest36. Viewers can look forward to colorful, surprising, layered portraits of youth – and Muslim life – in America. Filmmakers from Plano will be at the premiere and join a live panel discussion with lead instructor and Sundance Award-winning filmmaker Musa Syeed.

Films will be screened on Sunday, May 13, 2018 at 12:00 pm, at the New People Cinema (1746 Post Street), followed by a panel discussion. A reception at 11:00 am with food and drink precedes the screening.

“With all the pressures Muslim youth face, I wanted this project to foremost be an incubator for imagination, where our students had the freedom and resources to tell whatever stories they wanted,” Syeed said. “We ended up with all kinds of films, from a documentary about a parent's disability and a junk food zombie flick, to a horror film about skin lightening creams and a spoof of a political corruption thriller. We let youth organically address the things they care about, empowering them to talk about community issues, like media representation, but also issues Muslims aren't often asked to comment on, like climate change. Our youth have the creativity and drive to imagine and realize a better future.”

This premiere is the culmination of a multi-year initiative of CAAM, funded by the [Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art's Building Bridges Program](#), which supports efforts to increase understanding and the well-being of U.S. communities by illuminating the many identities and experiences of Muslim populations. Through three summers of workshops, CAAM amplified young people's expression and celebration of Muslim life by giving them the essential tools to tell their own stories on their own terms – a critical need at a time when stories of Muslims are often poorly represented, if at all.

The following films are world premiering at CAAMFest36:

- GRADUATION by Mahya Shakibnia-Shirazi
- IDENTITY CRISIS by Abdirahman Aden
- MONEY, POWER AND PORTLAND by Mostafa Osman, Mostafa Rasheed, Mahmood Jawad
- RUN by Fouad Omrane
- INSIDE OUT by Jana Othman
- THE DAY THE TEACHERS LEFT by Hana Omrane
- WOODS OF THE REAPER by Mohamad Zain Rahmani and Moiz Shah
- LONG LIVE THE QUEEN by Aaishah Ale-rasool
- TWINS by Hidayah Husain
- THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US by Razan Bayan
- THE APPLE by Zara Shah

CAAM and WORLD Channel will present all films from the three-year initiative digitally on YouTube, within the PBS app, and on [worldchannel.org](http://worldchannel.org) this summer. WORLD Channel is also currently producing a new half-hour broadcast special that will feature many of these stories that will be released later in 2018 as part of WORLD Channel's original series, "Local, USA."

For more information, please visit <http://www.caamfest.com> or [RSVP here](#). *Screeners available upon request.*

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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. 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).

### **About WORLD Channel**

The WORLD Channel delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming. The channel features original content by and about diverse communities to U.S. audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at [worldchannel.org](http://worldchannel.org). WORLD reached 33.3 million unique viewers 18+ last year (52% adults 18-49) and over-indexes in key diversity demographics. WORLD is programmed by WGBH/Boston, in partnership with American Public Television and WNET/New York, and in association with PBS and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Major Funding for the WORLD Channel is

provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org)

## **FIRST DRAFT:**

### **CAAMFest36 Presents the World Premiere of Muslim Youth Voices 3.0 Films at a Free Screening on Sunday, May 13, 2018**

**San Francisco, CA** - CAAMFest, the annual festival showcase from the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), is proud to host the World Premiere screening and panel of the Muslim Youth Voices films from the 2017 summer workshops held in Plano, Texas and Portland, Oregon. The Muslim Youth Voices Project is a national initiative of CAAM and funded by the [Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art's Building Bridges Program](#).

Through three summers of workshops, CAAM amplified young people's expression and celebration of Muslim life by giving them the essential tools to tell their own stories on their own terms. The film screening on Sunday, May 13, 2018, 12:00pm, held at the New People Cinema (1746 Post Street) will be followed by a panel discussion. A reception at 11am with food and drink precedes the screening. This event culminates the three-year initiative of CAAM and is co-hosted by World Channel.

Lead Instructor and Sundance Award-winning filmmaker Musa Syeed will be in attendance along with the youth filmmakers, who are featured on the panel following the screening. CAAM and WORLD Channel will be presenting all the films from the three-year initiative digitally on Youtube, with in PBS APP and at/on [WORLDChannel.org](#) later this summer. WORLD Channel is also in production on all-new half-hour broadcast special that will feature many of the stories. The special will be released later in 2018 as part of WORLD Channel's original series, "Local, USA."

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