

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS

CAAMFEST2014

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Risk-Taking Women, Fabulous Fashion and Queer Border Crossings Make For Exclusive LGBT Programming at CAAMFest 2014

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13, 2013 — Imaginative and thought-provoking LGBT cinema enlivens the CAAMFest 2014. Maverick women take center stage in GOLDEN GATE GIRLS and short film THE WORLDS OF BERNICE BING, queer border crossings are explored in the poignant transnational Filipino-German gay romance JAZZ IN LOVE, and glamour brightens the festivities with the Opening Night Presentation of HOW TO FIGHT IN SIX INCH HEELS, Ham Tran's romantic comedy set in Vietnam's fashion world.

RISK-TAKING WOMEN

GOLDEN GATE GIRLS (Louisa Wei) goes behind the camera to reveal the untold story of Esther Eng, one of the first female (and queer) Chinese American directors in the United States during Hollywood's Golden Age. Born in San Francisco, the slick-haired Eng drew her inspiration from the traditional Chinese opera, directing and producing her first films by the age of 19. Hong Kong-based director Louisa Wei is expected to attend the San Francisco premiere of the documentary.

FABULOUS FASHION

HOW TO FIGHT IN SIX INCH HEELS is a must-see reminiscent of DEVIL WEARS PRADA. Kathy Uyen (KIEU) stars as a neurotic New York-based fashion designer who flies to Vietnam to spy on her suspicious fiancé. Comedy ensues when her flamboyant hairdresser cousin (Don Nguyen) gives her a head-to-toe model makeover to infiltrate Saigon's high fashion world. Director Ham Tran and Kathy Uyen are expected to be in attendance for the film's U.S. premiere.

QUEER BORDER CROSSINGS

Baby Ruth Villarama's sweet romance JAZZ IN LOVE introduces a young Filipino man named Jazz who wants to join his fiancé Theo in Germany. Jazz must learn German well enough to pass the exam required for a fiancé visa, but the process seems to require much more than it does for heterosexual couples. Meanwhile, Theo is reluctant to give up his bachelorhood. Villarama uses an unobtrusive style to tell Jazz's story as he and Theo struggle against culture, family and tradition as thousands of miles separate them. Director Baby Ruth Villarama is expected to be in attendance.

OUT/HERE FILMMAKING

From drag queens and music videos to glittery genderqueers, homegrown feminist heroes and Beat era artists, these local queer shorts are exciting, vibrant and alive! Award-winning filmmaker Madeleine Lim pays tribute to San Francisco art icon, Bernice Bing in THE WORLDS OF BERNICE BING. The film documents her life as an Asian American abstract expressionist painter during the defining era of Beat poets and artists. In Christine Liang's short film, STRAIGHT JACKET tomboy Angie is bullied by a popular girl, but finds inner strength when she connects with a new friend at school. Young queer people of color bare all, overcoming obstacles of identity and acceptance in Carolina Reyes' CROSSING BARRIERS: CULTURE CLASH QUEERS. More dazzling style is showcased in film shorts including Ian Burris's BAI XIE, a venture into Shanghai's underground karaoke bars and drag queens as well as LEAVE A LIGHT, a glittery music video by Gem Top directed by Kyle Casey Chu.

FESTIVAL TICKET INFORMATION

Excluding special events, panels, galas and special screenings, advanced general admission tickets are \$12. Students, seniors (65+) and disabled adults are \$11 (Limit 1 per program with ID only). Tickets for Center for Asian American Media members are \$10 (Limit 2 per program per ID). There is a \$1.50 service charge for all tickets purchased online. Tickets go on sale to CAAM members only on Thursday, February 13, 2014 (online only) and open to the general public beginning Monday, February 17, 2014 (online only). Tickets can be purchased in person at our CAAMFest box office at Sundance Kabuki Cinemas starting Thursday, February 27, 2014.

About CAAMFest:

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), takes place March 13-23, 2014 in the San Francisco Bay Area. CAAMFest is a celebration of film, music, food and digital media from the world's most innovative Asian and Asian American artists.

About CAAM:

CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) is a non-profit 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.

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