

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS

CAAMFEST2016

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Media contact: Larsen Associates
at (415) 957-1205 or
publicity@larsenassoc.com
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CAAM Celebrates an Array of South Asian Influences and Experiences

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 11, 2016 — The Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) gathers features and shorts that inspire and fascinate from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Including vibrantly animated SANJAY'S SUPER TEAM and quirky 1970s dramedy GOOD OL' BOY, South Asian and South Asian American films have something for everyone.

FAMILIAR FACES WITH FRESH PERSPECTIVES

CAAMFest alum Prashant Nair returns with his newest feature, UMRICA. The award-winning film director and writer will join us at the Festival to share his story of a man from a small village in India who decides to journey to America, or as the village calls it, "Umrika." The journeyman's messages to his friends and family back home inspire excitement, hope and debate. But when the village stops receiving messages, his younger brother sets out to find him. UMRICA explores similar themes of rural vs. urban life to Nair's earlier DELHI IN A DAY (SFIAAFF '12).

Fellow CAAMFest alum Tanuj Chopra has been involved with CAAM on multiple occasions including PUNCHING AT THE SUN (SFIAAFF '06) and the CAAM-produced webseries NICE GIRLS CREW ('12). This year, Chopra bakes up the stoner comedy, the world premiere of GRASS, a story of complacent pushover Cam and her maverick pal, Jinky, as they find adventure, merriment and revelation with the help of a backpack full of weed. The film features Emily C. Chang and Indian American Pia Shah.

CULTURE CLASH: TRADITION MEETS MODERN

Three films highlight intriguing moments at the intersection of tradition and the modern world: SANJAY'S SUPER TEAM, GOOD OL' BOY and DRAWING THE TIGER.

Part of a Special Presentation exploring Asian American Animation, CAAMFest invites director Sanjay Patel from Pixar Animation Studios to share and speak about his magical, and now Oscar®-nominated short, SANJAY'S SUPER TEAM. Patel's film follows an Indian boy, also named Sanjay, who escapes boredom induced by his meditating father and imagines a world of Hindu gods as super heroes. Patel, joined by Pixar producer Nicole Grindle, will participate in a panel, THE SUPER STORY BEHIND "SANJAY'S SUPER TEAM," where both will offer insights behind the production and the inspiration to led to the first lead character of color in a Pixar film.

Also exploring the relationships and conflicting ideas between parents and children is the world premiere of the quirky and charming GOOD OL' BOY. Director Frank Lotito transports us to the late 1970s, where a young boy daydreams about the girl next door,

disco and pop-culture despite his parents' many attempts to preserve their Indian culture. A captivating ensemble cast including Jason Lee, Samrat Chakrabarti and Anjul Nigam brings an authentic dose of both humor and drama to the story.

Directors Amy Benson, Scott Squire and Ramyata Limbu bring the Bay Area premiere of *DRAWING THE TIGER*, a documentary following a Nepalese family's efforts to give their daughter a big city education. The seven-year journey highlights the surprising and sometimes tragic outcomes of jumping at an opportunity and what we leave behind.

Three films peppered throughout different Shorts Programs offer tastes of love, loss and mystery. Sudan Sethuramalingam's North American premiere of *AMAR* (found in *THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS*), follows a record shop owner whose routine day is turned upside-down by a stranger with mysterious connections. *TOURISTS* (found in *RELATIONSHIP STATUS: IT'S COMPLICATED*), directed by Shaun Seneviratne, explores a couple on the verge of a separation reconnecting through a song that brings back memories of the height of their love. Danish Renzu's Bay Area premiere of *IN SEARCH OF AMERICA INSHALLAH* (found in *AM I AMERICAN? I AM AMERICAN*) accompanies a Pakistani woman as she faces a crisis of identity in her new surroundings, Los Angeles.

PANELS ON PROGRESS

Our interactive panels come in the midst of an exciting time where Asian Americans are making waves in broadcast and streaming media with shows such as *CRAZY EX-GIRLFRIEND* and *MASTER OF NONE*. Producer, social entrepreneur and Machinima Inc. Director of Development Pradeepa Jeeva will join us for the panel, *A BRAVE NEW DIGITAL WORLD*, where she'll discuss digital media and new forms of distribution with other panelists and *You Offend Me, You Offend My Family* (YOMYOMF).

FESTIVAL TICKET INFORMATION

Pricing for all regular screenings: General admission tickets - \$14. Tickets for students, seniors (65+) and disabled adults - \$13 (Limit 1 per program with ID only). Tickets for Center for Asian American Media members - \$12 (Limit 2 per program per membership ID). Pricing excludes special events and galas. Tickets go on sale to CAAM members only on Thursday, February 11, 2016 (online only) and open to the general public beginning Monday, February 15, 2016 (online only). Tickets can be purchased in-person at our CAAMFest box office at Alamo Drafthouse starting Thursday, March 3, 2016.

About CAAMFest:

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), takes place March 10-20, 2016 in the 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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