

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS

# CAAMFEST2016

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Media contact: Larsen Associates  
at (415) 957-1205 or  
publicity@larsenassc.com  
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## *CAAMFest 2016 Tours the Vibrant History and Culture of Southeast Asian Films*

**SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 11, 2016** – Surrounded by lush landscapes, blissful beaches and ancient temples, the urban jungles of Southeast Asia are a melting pot of people with an infectious spirit and irrepressible love of life. CAAMFest 2016's diverse selection of Southeast Asian films captures the energy of these colorful cultures, delivering powerful stories ranging from Cambodia to Vietnam.

### **CAMBODIAN**

CAAMFest travels into Southeast Asia, starting in Cambodia with two impactful historical films that both reveal the strength of the Cambodian people through the occupancy of two tragic periods. The world premiere of Bay Area filmmaker Michael Siv's *DAZE OF JUSTICE* sheds light on the painful history of Khmer Rouge regime as the film follows a group of survivors as they seek justice in court for genocide and decades of trauma. *FRANCE IS OUR MOTHER COUNTRY*, directed by Oscar-nominated director Rithy Panh, details the tragedy brought by the brute forces during the French occupation of Cambodia during the 1940s.

### **FILIPINO**

The islands of the Philippines are home to a group of proud, patriotic and strong people. CAAMFest 2016 celebrates this courage by presenting four powerful films, including closing night film, *RIGHT FOOTED* and the Spotlight feature on local treasure H.P. Mendoza.

Director Paul Soriano's *KID KULAFU* tells the story of famous Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, chronicling his life before the championships and global success. Soriano captures Pacquiao's battles with poverty, bullying and abandonment as he overcomes hurdles and finds his strength.

Locally in the Bay Area, Christopher C.C Wong's *BE ABOUT IT* is a documentary exploring the startling, intimate and poignant stories of hepatitis B within the Asian American community through two Bay Area subjects, including Filipino American and athlete AJ Jabonero.

CAAMFest 2016 celebrates the close of the festival with *RIGHT FOOTED*, a compelling documentary about Filipina American Jessica Cox, born without arms due to a rare birth defect. Overcoming the physical challenges, as well as the growing pains as a child, Jessica takes life into her own "feet" and tells the world, you don't need arms to lift people up.

Director, writer, actor, producer, musician and CAAMFest alum H.P. Mendoza joins us as one of two 2016 Spotlight filmmakers. Celebrate Mendoza with a multisensory TAKEOVER experience created at the Asian Art Museum and the 10-year anniversary of COLMA:THE MUSICAL, taken to the next level with a profanity-laced sing-along.

## **HMONG**

Comprised of people from the mountainous regions of China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, the Hmong are an ethnic group subcultures with a turbulent history. Director David Grabias' OPERATION POPCORN translates the historical struggle of the Hmong people into the real-life story of a Hmong businessman who rises to prominence in his community and decides to answer a call-to-action to help them fight against violent attacks from the communist Lao government.

## **SINGAPOREAN**

Travelling South, Singapore is a destination full of entertainment and excitement. Both films in this year's line up will certainly keep imaginations running wild.

Director Royston Tan returns to the big screen after seven years with 3688 a multi-layered musical dramedy following a woman who joins a televised singing competition to honor and help her father. Eric Khoo's IN THE ROOM is Singapore's first erotic film, detailing six different couples whose encounters in a single-room brothel at a dilapidated hotel parallel a timeline through Singapore's history.

## **VIETNAMESE**

Hugging the eastern shore of the peninsula, Vietnam is a country whose progressive culture has been influential not only in Asia, but also in America. CAAMFest 2016 shares some of that influence with three contrasting Vietnamese films about jealousy, love and life.

Victor Vu's box office hit, YELLOW FLOWERS ON GREEN GRASS, takes us to the lush countryside and ragged seaside cliffs where two young brothers' relationship is put to the test over a shared love interest. Introducing Vietnam's first mainstream LGBTQ film, YEU (LOVE), director Viet Max explores the relationship between two friends whose relationship changes to something beyond friendship. Local filmmakers Dianna Griffin and Erica Jordan document a Mission-based nail salon owner whose work-related health issues helped fuel a movement for safer salons in general in their film, PAINTED NAILS.

## **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](http://www.caamedia.org).

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