

MARCH 14 – 24, 2013
CAAMFEST
FILM. MUSIC. FOOD.

CAAMFest Boasts LGBT Storylines and Acclaimed LGBT Directors

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13, 2013 – Continuing CAAM’s tradition of highlighting the best in LGBT Asian and Asian American cinema, CAAMFest features several outstanding films by and/or about LGBT individuals. These include *BEIJING FLICKERS*, Zhang Yuan’s narrative about youths who form a community of outcasts in modern China, *SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW*, Nadine Truong’s pervasive tale of three former high-school friends who reunite one revelatory evening. Other films include *SUNSET STORIES*, a multi-character journey across Los Angeles co-directed by transgender filmmaker Silas Howard and gay screenwriter Ernesto Foronda that stars transgender icon and renowned singer-songwriter Justin Vivian Bond. The program also encompasses a retrospective of the work of cinematic troublemaker Royston Tan, the openly gay Singaporean filmmaker who tackles queer issues in his button-pushing works (Tan will be in attendance).

LGBT STORIES

In *BEIJING FLICKERS*, the latest film from controversial filmmaker Zhang Yuan (*Little Red Flowers*, *Beijing Bastards*), the displaced youth of Beijing are down and out, but they find solace in a makeshift family – one another. Together a group of unsettled youths, including a transvestite poet, form a community in a beautiful, gritty and poignant film that straddles the thin line between comedy and drama. (Sponsored by Cooper, White + Cooper)

Three former high school friends, including one questioning his sexuality, reunite for a long Los Angeles night in Nadine Truong’s bittersweet drama *SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW*. Truong’s nuanced and incisive film is a new millennium remix of eighties’ ensemble dramas (*The Breakfast Club*, *St. Elmo’s Fire*) that features strong, sincere performances from *Hawaii 5-O’s* Brian Yang, Eddie Mui and *Entourage’s* Rex Lee. (Sponsored by Morgan Stanley)

LGBT STORYTELLERS

Brought to you by LGBT filmmaker Luke Cassady-Dorion, *THE CHEER AMBASSADORS* is true-life *Bring It On*, Thai-style: the film tells the incredible story of Bangkok University’s 2011 Cheerleading World Champions. Viewers will marvel at their choreography, energy and jaw-dropping moves as they take Orlando, Florida by storm and tangle with some of the world’s greatest cheer squads. (Sponsored by SF Tobacco Free Project)

MEKONG HOTEL represents a continuation of the unconventional experimentation and dreamlike artistry that has made openly gay filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul an essential figure in world cinema. With a deliberate fusion of documentary and fiction, authenticity and performance and the everyday with the supernatural, *MEKONG HOTEL* centers on several “characters” as they shift between their “otherworldly” and “real” selves.

Walker, a meditation on the simple pleasures of movement directed by revered and out art-cinema director Tsai Ming-Liang is one of four shorts, each by an acclaimed Asian director, that comprise the omnibus collection *BEAUTIFUL 2012*, a collaboration between the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and the Chinese Internet TV company Youku. (Sponsored by East West Bank)

STORIES TO LIGHT

A 145 NINTH STREET, SUITE 350, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2641 T 415 863 0814 F 415 863 7428 W WWW.CAAMEDIA.ORG

QUEER WORLDS COLLIDE

Directed by transgender filmmaker Silas Howard (*By Hook or By Crook*) and gay screenwriter Ernesto Foronda (*Better Luck Tomorrow*, *The Fast and The Furious* franchise), *SUNSET STORIES* follows two ex-lovers, reluctantly reunited to retrieve a lost cooler, in an electric journey across nocturnal Los Angeles. During their journey, the pair encounter several queer Angelenos – most notably famed transgender icon and singer-songwriter Justin Vivian Bond (Kiki and Herb).

RETROSPECTIVE: ROYSTON TAN

Queer cinema rebel Royston Tan is a nuisance, a thorn in the side of the body politic. At the age of twenty-one, he began issuing forth a torrent of provocative films that inspired admiration from critics and condemnation from censors in his native Singapore. This retrospective will include a selection of Tan's most daring works and will also feature a post-screening conversation between experimental media artist Valerie Soe and Tan himself at the Pacific Film Archive Theater in Berkeley. (Sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences)

QUEER SHORTS

The vibrant shorts program *QUEER CONVERGENCE* offers a rollercoaster ride of awkwardness, self-discovery, reflection and humor. With an emphasis on adolescence and music, the films in this program capture the pains and pleasures of being just who you are. Featured films include: *BORN TO DANCE THIS WAY* (Jerell Rosales), *THE HEART'S MOUTH* (Erica Cho), *IF I FOUND THE PLACE* (Leeroy Kun Young Kang), *LAST TEA PARTY* (Melanie Ramos), *LOVE BANG!* (Viet Le), *PRETTY PICTURES* (Christina Sum Kim), and *TOM/TRANS/THAI* (Jai Arun Ravine). (Sponsored by Bistro)

CAAMFEST GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES ITS SUPPORTERS

CAAMFest is supported in part by the following: Comcast, Asian Art Museum, B'stro, Pacific Islanders in Communications, Eagle Press, FilmFest, Gala Festival Engine, Southwest Airlines, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, San Francisco Grants for the Arts/Hotel Tax Fund, National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Foundation and Cal Humanities. CAAM is supported with major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION

CAAMFest is a presentation of the Center for Asian American Media. CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), is a celebration of film, music, food and digital media from the world's most innovative Asian and Asian American artists. CAAMFest takes place March 14-24, 2013 in the Bay Area. San Francisco venues include: Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street; Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, 1881 Post Street; New People Cinema, 1746 Post Street; Great Star Theater, 636 Jackson Street; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin Street; Hotel Kabuki, 1625 Post Street; Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell Street; Slate Bar, 2925 16th Street; and Superfrog Gallery at New People, 1746 Post Street. Berkeley venues include: Pacific Film Archive Theater, 2575 Bancroft Way. Oakland venues include: Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street.

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 Wednesday,

February 13, 2013 (online only) and open to the general public beginning Sunday, February 17, 2013 (online only). Tickets can be purchased in person at our CAAMFest box office at Sundance Kabuki Cinemas starting Thursday, February 28, 2013.

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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