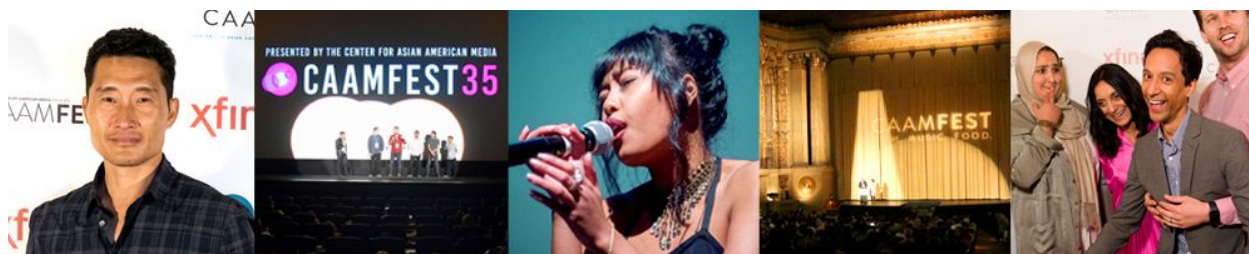


PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA

CAAMFEST 35

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CAAMFest Wraps Up 11-Day Celebration of Asian and Asian American Film, Music and Food, Announces Move to May in 2018

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22, 2017 – After 11 extraordinary days, the [Center for Asian American Media](#) (CAAM) toasts to another successful year of celebrating Asian and Asian American films, food and music at [CAAMFest 2017](#). As the nation’s largest festival of its kind, CAAMFest welcomed over 200 filmmakers and guests and showcased over 113 films from 22 different countries, including 22 narrative films, 26 documentaries and 65 short films and videos. CAAM also presented 10 world premieres, 4 North American premieres, 3 US premieres, 14 West Coast premieres, 36 Bay Area premieres and 1 special sneak preview. CAAMFest 2017 welcomed more than 28,000 audience members to celebrate a diverse array of U.S. and international programs.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS: Spanning across both sides of the Bay, CAAMFest programming was a feast for the senses:

- Director [Lena Khan](#) premiered her first feature, [THE TIGER HUNTER](#), to a crowded Castro Theatre. Joining Khan was the star-studded cast that included [Danny Pudi](#) and [Jon Heder](#). Filmmakers, special guests, press and attendees then capped off the evening with the [Opening Night Gala](#), sipping cocktails, indulging in food, enjoying live performances and soaking in the exhibits at the beautiful [Asian Art Museum](#).
- [CAAMFeast](#) returned for its fourth iteration, focusing on community and recognizing [Roy Choi](#), Artists and activists Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik, Jocelyn Jackson and Saqib Keval of the [People’s Kitchen Collective](#) and Chefs Khai Duong, Lawrence Chu and Chris Yeo of the Asian Chef’s Association.
- CAAM joined forces with [Jewish Community Center of San Francisco](#) for a special screening of [BAD RAP](#), by [Salima Koroma](#), followed by live performances from the film’s subjects, [Awkwafina](#), [Rekstizzy](#), [Year of the Ox](#) and DJ Zo.
- Social justice films had a fantastic presence at CAAMFest with many screenings selling out, including all three of CAAM’s special presentation on Japanese relocation incarceration, [GOOD LUCK SOUP](#), [RELOCATION](#), [ARKANSAS - AFTERMATH OF INCARCERATION](#) and [RESISTANCE OF TULE LAKE](#).
- In collaboration with Friday Nights @ OMCA, energized attendees enjoyed delicious

offerings from Off The Grid food trucks and performances by Blasian DJs and singer [Rocky Rivera](#), culminating with [Jivan Atman](#)'s multi-faceted performance and testimony, the world premiere of [BLASIAN NARRATIVES](#), at the [Oakland Museum of California](#) (OMCA).

- The fifth iteration of CAAM's innovate Asian American home movie initiative, [Memories To Light](#), presented a compilation from California's Central Valley, accompanied by live music from musicians led by the acclaimed [Mark Izu](#).
- The Festival ended on a high note at the Castro Theatre with a sold-out screening of the CAAM co-produced film, [THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT](#), directed by award-winning filmmaker [Ric Burns](#) and longtime collaborator [Li-Shin Yu](#). CAAM would like to acknowledge the National Endowment for the Humanities, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and AMERICAN EXPERIENCE for their contributions to the film.

CAAMFEST IS MOVING TO MAY IN 2018: During Closing Night at the Castro Theatre, Executive Director Stephen Gong shared exciting news that CAAMFest will be moving to the month of May in 2018. "Starting next year, we will be moving CAAMFest to Asian American Heritage Month – a time in which civic, cultural and corporate entities celebrate Asian American legacies and communities," Gong announced to a packed Castro Theatre. "We will align our public broadcast work and community engagement efforts with the live celebratory extravaganza that is CAAMFest. CAAM will increase the reach and impact of Asian American stories nationally, while highlighting the San Francisco Bay Area as the cultural heart and both the national and international destination of Asian America." Stay tuned for more details.

2017 AWARD WINNERS:

COMCAST NARRATIVE COMPETITION: The Comcast Narrative Competition featured a fierce collection of films where edgy characters unravelled histories and revealed true identities. The 2017 jury included Abby Chen, Curator and Artistic Director of the Chinese Culture Center Foundation; Ivan Jaigirdar, Co-Founder and Executive Director of 3rd i South Asian Films; and Marc Mayer, Senior Educator of Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum.

- **Winner:** [WEXFORD PLAZA](#), dir. [Joyce Wong](#)
- **Jury Statement:** WEXFORD PLAZA is a quirky and off beat comedy that manages to balance a critique of mundane suburban culture with poetic beauty. With a well rounded portrayal of gender, race and sexuality, director and writer Joyce Wong shows off her craft as an impressive story teller with this nuanced, witty and moving film.
- **Honorable Mention:** [GOOK](#), dir. [Justin Chon](#)
- **Jury Statement:** Bold, honest, and compelling in its storytelling, GOOK offers an early 1990's nostalgia trip. A nuanced and complex narrative of a Korean American experience, this film is shockingly present and relevant today, 25 years after Rodney King.

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION: This year's documentary competition followed outsiders as they worked for visibility, success and even survival, looking to the past, present and future. The 2017 jury included Carmen Vicencio, Series Producer, American Documentary, Inc.; Noland Walker, Senior Content Director, ITVS; and Celine Parreñas Shimizu, Professor of Cinema, San Francisco State University.

- **Winner:** [RANDOM ACTS OF LEGACY](#), dir. [Ali Kazimi](#)
- **Jury Statement:** Through Ali Kazimi's deft command of the filmmaking language, a decaying collection of home movies is turned to an evocative, essential document of an

experience rarely seen or heard from — a middle class Chinese American family in a 1930's America. Ali's creative design and approach enabled Silas Fung's footage that's personal, unique and specific, illuminate and comment on the universal human condition. It's creative and evocative and gives nuance to our understanding of ourselves, others, and the world we live in.

- **Honorable Mention:** [FINDING KUKAN](#), dir. [Robin Lung](#)
- **Jury Statement:** There are the films we pick and the films that pick us. Li Ling-Ai and Kukan clearly picked Robin Lung to make Finding Kukan. In telling the story of Li Ling-Ai and her extraordinary determination and vision in making the 1941 Academy Award-winning documentary Kukan, Robin has exhumed this important film and places its producer in her rightful place of authorship — a place that was denied Li Ling-Ai at the time of Kukan's release. Both this story and this film have much to tell us about gender, race, power, and the way that our society worked then and works now.

AUDIENCE AWARD: The CAAMFest Audience Award gives valued members of our audience the honor of selecting their favorite films of the Festival.

- **Winner: Narrative Feature:** [GOOK](#), dir. [Justin Chon](#)
- **Winner: Documentary Feature:** [MIXED MATCH](#), dir. [Jeff Chiba Stearns](#)

SAN FRANCISCO FILM CRITICS AWARD: New to the Festival this year and in partnership with the [San Francisco Film Critics Circle](#) (SFFCC), a nonprofit service organization of Bay Area film critics, reviewers, writers, authors and editors, CAAM proudly celebrate cinematic achievements in global cinema. The 2017 jury included Jesse Hawthorne Ficks, Pam Grady, Randy Myers, Tim Sika and Mel Valentin.

- **Winner:** [THE FAMILY](#), dir. [Shumin Liu](#)
- **SFFCC Judges Remarks:** The San Francisco Film Critics Circle Award recognizes the commitment, artistry and vision of Shumin Liu and his ambitious family drama THE FAMILY. It's remarkable that such a bold production is the multi-talented filmmaker's first film. While a four-and-a-half hour running time undoubtedly qualifies it as an epic, THE FAMILY is foremost an intimate human drama about an elderly couple adjusting to a new China and changes in their family dynamics. Our hope is this SFFCC Award will encourage a broader audience to embark on this long, but utterly rewarding cinematic journey.

LONI DING AWARD: Loni Ding devoted her life to advocacy and public service, and played a key role in the founding of several public media organizations, including CAAM. The Loni Ding Award, created in 2011, honors the film and filmmaker that most reflect the passions of the late TV producer. The 2017 jury included Masashi Niwano, Festival & Exhibitions Director, CAAM; Stephen Gong, Executive Director, CAAM, Donald Young, Director of Programs, CAAM; and Valerie Soe, Writer and Experimental Videomaker.

- **Winner:** [IT IS WHAT IT IS](#), dir. [Cyrus Tabar](#)

AT&T/APCA STUDENT FILM AWARD: The APCA Student Film Award recognizes promising voices in Asian and Asian American media and is presented to college students that exemplify the voice of a new generation.

- **Winner:** [BASHA MAN](#), dir. [Daniel Chein](#)
- **Winner:** [ESCAPING AGRA](#), dir. [Pallavi Somusetty](#)
- **Winner:** [FANNY PACK](#), dir. [Uttera Singh](#)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Special guests in attendance this year included Danny Pudi, Jon Heder, Lena Khan, Sam Page, Rizwan Manji (THE TIGER HUNTER); Daniel Dae Kim, Kelly Hu, Robin Lung (FINDING KUKAN), Awkwafina, Rekstizzy, Year of the Ox, Salima Koroma (BAD RAP); David So, Simone Baker (GOOK); Dan AKA Dan (AKA SEOUL, Directions In Sound); John Maxwell (AKA SEOUL); Satica (Directions In Sound); Roy Choi (CAAMFeast); Dada Chan (THE MOMENT); Ric Burns, Li-Shin Yu, Fenton Li, Joel de la Fuente (THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT); Fatimah Asghar, Nabila Hossain (BROWN GIRLS); Jivan Atman (BLASIAN NARRATIVES); Chris Chan Lee (YELLOW); Emiko Omori (RABBIT IN THE MOON, WHEN RABBIT LEFT THE MOON); Scott Drucker, Yu Go (WHO IS ARTHUR CHU?); Ann Marie Fleming (WINDOW HORSES: THE POETIC PERSIAN EPIPHANY OF ROSIE MING); Angie Wang, Annie Q. (CARDINAL X); Tanuj Chopra, Sunkrish Bala (CHEE AND T); Sujata Day (COWBOY AND INDIAN); Daniel K. Isaac (ACCORDING TO MY MOTHER); Joyce Wong, Darrel Gamotin, Goh Nakamura (WEXFORD PLAZA); Jeff Chiba Stearns (MIXED MATCH); Christiane Badgley (GUANGZHOU DREAM FACTORY); Ruby Yang (IN SEARCH OF PERFECT CONSONANCE); Randall Okita (THE LOCKPICKER); Curtis Choi (FALL OF THE I-HOTEL); Laura Atkins, Nidhi Chanani, Innosanto Nagara, Thi Bui (Inside The Mind Of The Creator); Shumin Liu (THE FAMILY); Vivienne Schiffer (RELOCATION, ARKANSAS - THE AFTERMATH OF INCARCERATION); Steve James (ABACUS: SMALL ENOUGH TO JAIL); Lenora Lee, Tatsu Aoki (LIGHT); Richard Fung (RE:ORIENTATIONS); Kimi Takesue (95 AND 6 TO GO); Cheung Cheuk (MY NEXT STEP); Matthew Hashiguchi (GOOD LUCK SOUP); Konrad Aderer (RESISTANCE AT TULE LAKE); Jim Choi, Chihiro Wimbush (THE PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL).

COMING SOON FROM CAAM:

The Center for Asian American Media provides Asian American programming throughout the year. During May, CAAM will celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, present an encore screening of THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT at the main branch of the [San Francisco Public Library](#) and will present MELE MURALS (CAAMFest 2016) on PBS during the month. continues to present Asian and Asian American programming and events later this summer at CAAMFest San Jose.

CAAM MEMBERSHIP:

Members support CAAM's year-round programming, including CAAMFest. They receive fantastic benefits including discounts on CAAMFest tickets, invitations to events throughout the year, and complimentary CAAMFest tickets. For more information on membership and upcoming CAAM events visit www.caamedia.org

CAAMFEST GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES ITS SPONSORS:

CAAMFest is supported in part by the following: Xfinity, 96.5 KOIT, AARP, Asian Art Museum, AT&T DirecTV, Buick, Cooper White & Cooper LLP, Fitness SF, NBCUniversal, Pacific Islanders in Communications, Remy Martin, San Francisco Symphony, Umpqua Bank, Orchard and Orchard Garden Hotel, Girl Friday Events, SAG-AFTRA, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, University of San Francisco Masters in Asia Pacific Studies, Asian Studies, Asian Pacific American Studies and the Yuchengco School of Philippine Studies, Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, California Humanities, Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in San Francisco, Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Hotel Tax Fund, Wells Fargo Foundation and the William + Flora Hewlett Foundation.

About CAAMFest:

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), celebrated its 35th year, March 9-19, 2017 in the Bay Area. CAAMFest showcases 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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