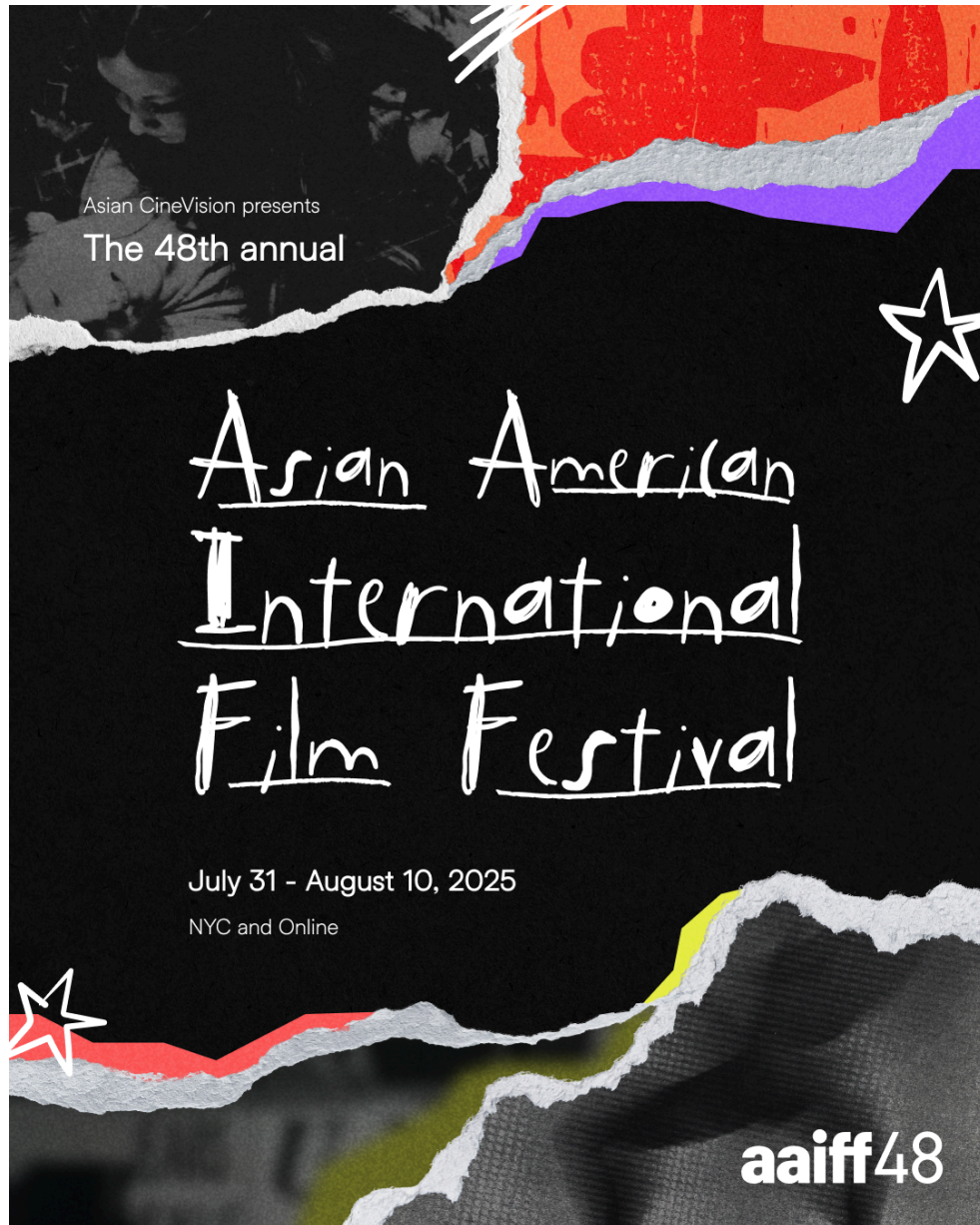


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Asian American International Film Festival Unveils Full Lineup for 48th Edition**  
*Festival Celebrates 50 Years of Asian CineVision and the Power of Community Stories*



**NEW YORK, July 1, 2025** — The 48th edition of the Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF), presented by Asian CineVision (ACV), will run from **July 31 to August 10, 2025**, with screenings, panels, and community events held across New York City and online.

AAIFF is the nation's first and longest-running film festival dedicated to works by and about Asians and Asian Americans. Since 1978, the festival has been a platform for diaspora

storytelling, identity exploration, and bold artistic experimentation, building a legacy that continues to thrive across generations.

For its 48th edition, AAIFF will honor the beauty of repair and transformation — examine how personal and collective fractures can be reassembled into something stronger and more radiant than before. Drawing inspiration from Kintsugi — the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with gold, this year's theme asks how storytelling, dreaming, and creation can guide the community through rupture into renewal. It's a celebration of resilience, imagination, and the radical act of envisioning a future shaped by the truths of the past.

This year marks a major milestone — **the 50th anniversary of Asian CineVision**, the nonprofit behind AAIFF. To commemorate this legacy, AAIFF48 will showcase special presentations including **ACV 50 Retrospective Screening – *Fruit Fly* and *Captain America: Albert Pyun Cut***. Additional tributes, filmmaker panels, and community events will be announced in the coming weeks.

**“On the 50th anniversary of our organization, AAIFF is harkening back to our underground origins by highlighting scrappy young AAPI filmmakers from New York and beyond. We are also showcasing a legacy of unsung and “sung” indies in our special presentations of Albert Pyun’s recently unthawed Captain America director’s cut and festival alum H.P. Mendoza’s 2009 musical Fruit Fly. We hope to continue being NYC’s number one festival for nurturing and celebrating the next generation of Asian American and Pacific Islander filmmakers” – Kris Montello, AAIFF Programming Director**

Tickets are now available to the general public. Visit <https://www.aaiff.org/program> for full program details. Select highlights below.

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## FEATURED FILMS

**Opening Night – *Slanted* (New York Premiere)** - Directed by Amy Wang

An insecure Chinese-American teenager undergoes experimental surgery to appear white, hoping to secure the Prom Queen title and peer acceptance.

**Closing Night – *Moloka'i Bound* (New York Premiere)** - Directed by Alike Tengan

A wayward man recently released from prison struggles to reconnect with his son and Hawaiian heritage.

**Centerpiece – *Transplant*** - Directed by Jason Park

A motivated surgical resident pushes himself to extreme lengths while training under a legendary heart transplant surgeon obsessed with protecting his perfect reputation.

Full list of Feature Films can be found on [aaiff.org/program](https://www.aaiff.org/program).

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## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

To celebrate **50 years of Asian CineVision**, AAIFF will host a series of industry panels and events, as well as a retrospective spotlighting landmark works from its archives such as:

- **ACV 50 Retrospective Screening – *Fruit Fly*** - Directed by H.P. Mendoza  
Bethesda, a Filipina adoptee, moves into an artist commune in San Francisco, where she discovers queer family, artistic inspiration, and startling clues about her biological mother's whereabouts. For its 15th anniversary release, *Fruit Fly* returns in a special song-along version.
- **Captain America: Albert Pyun Cut**  
A rare screening of the late cult filmmaker's never-before-released version of CAPTAIN AMERICA. Frozen in the ice for decades, Captain America is freed to battle against arch-criminal, The Red Skull. This is Albert Pyun's legendary lost cut.

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## SHORTS PROGRAMS

- **NYC Shorts: Sounds of the City**
  - Back on the street, a chorus of languages coalesce into collective musing. In the city that never sleeps, nothing is ever silent.
  - Titles include: *One Day I'll Open My Fist*, *Babel*, *Ice Cream*, *Ice Queen*, *Soma*, *Énouement*, *VISA*
- **Ones to Watch: Filmmakers Under 21**
  - Celebrate the future of AANHPI filmmaking as they take you on a coming-of-age journey through the modern conditions of youth and young adulthood.
  - Titles include: *Silence*, *Son-Mat*, *Fool's Gold*, *Forever My Boy*, *Pianissimo*
- **Mythbusters**
  - Step out of the model minority myth and into the experiences and expectations of a generation of Asian Americans who walk the roads less traveled.
  - Titles include: *Better Life*, *This is All You Are*, *Byway*, *Cherry-Colored Funk*, *Kumar Kumar*, *Kitchen Dialogue*
- **The Kids Turned Out Fine**
  - Questions of faith, mortality, grief, stability, and coming-of-age take center screen in this celebration of the next generation of talent.
  - Titles include: *SOUR CANDY*, *Single Residence Occupancy*, *Once Upon a Time There Was a Mountain*, *Paper Swords*, *God & Buddha Are Friends*, *Sorry For Your Cost*
- **This World & the Next**
  - Films which explore the intermediate, indeterminate spaces between one another, the world around us, and even the worlds beyond.
  - Titles include: *Vox Humana*, *Funeral of the Earth*, *Vic and his Naynay*, *Grandma Nai Who Played Favorites*, *We Used to Take the Long Way Home*, *Across the Waters*

- **For the Boys**
  - Dissecting the Asian American crisis of masculinity in all its forms through the medium of cinema.
  - Titles include: *Puberty for Humans*, *Walk on Water*, *TAL (mask)*, *Five Star*, *A Thing About Kashem*
- **Love, Girls, Sex-cetera...**
  - Join us for a journey through femininity in all its forms, from the tenderness of youth to the antics of young womanhood and beyond.
  - Titles include: *They Call Me The Tattoo Watch*, *Rooftop Lempicka*, *Zari*, *Clementine*, *OK/NOTOK*, *Sex*, *Baseball*, and *All Possibilities*
- **The Warrior's Journey**
  - This shorts block brings together the best of elaborate fight choreography, stunning animation, and a whole lot of style to the 48th edition of AAIFF.
  - Titles include: *Check Please*, *No Trouble*, *Flavor of the Month*, *Chinatown Cowboy*, *Blacky the Metal Arm Cat*
- **Films on Films (Documentary Shorts)**
  - With these short documentaries, go behind the curtain of some of the most famous films ever made.
  - Titles include: *Paris to Pyongyang*, *Searching for Kurosawa*, *Goodbye Fiesta Twin Cinema*, *We Were the Scenery*
- **CUNY Shorts Showcase**
  - The CUNY AAIFF helps to promote artistic visual talents and stimulate communication among CUNY students who are separated by different campuses.
  - Titles include: *Revolving Door*, *In this Corner of the City*, *It Happened in August*, *Home*, *Murphy's Law*, *We Both Went to School: Experiences of Student-Parents*

Full details at <https://www.aaiff.org/program>

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## LINKS & MATERIAL FOR PRESS

[Media Kit](#)

[Press Accreditation Form](#)

[Industry Accreditation Form](#)

[Film Press Materials](#)

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## ABOUT AAIFF

The Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF) is proudly known as "The First Home to Asian American Cinema. Organized by Asian CineVision, it's the first and longest-running

festival dedicated to showcasing the moving image work by media artists of Asian descent for and about the Asian diaspora experience. The Festival takes place in New York City, the second-largest Asian-American market in the U.S. Every year, AAIFF attracts audiences from all five boroughs of New York City, the tri-state region, and around the world.

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## **ABOUT ASIAN CINEVISION**

Asian CineVision (ACV) is a media arts nonprofit devoted to the development, exhibition, promotion, and preservation of Asian and Asian American experiences through storytelling. Our mission is to nurture and grow the community of makers and lovers of Asian and Asian American independent film, television, and digital.

Films submitted and screened at the festival are eligible to participate in our National Tour program, bringing Asian diaspora stories to broader audiences across North America through a rental service for cultural and educational institutions.

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## **SPONSORS**

THE 2025 ASIAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MARY LI HSU CHARITABLE TRUST, COLOR CONGRESS, THE ASIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, SAG-AFTRA, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, ASIAN/PACIFIC/AMERICAN INSTITUTE AT NYU, FINAL DRAFT, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT, TAMIMENT LIBRARY AND ROBERT F. WAGNER LABOR ARCHIVES, NYU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, ASIA SOCIETY, CUNY AAARI, CUNY GRADUATE CENTER, AND THE MANY FRIENDS OF ACV.

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## **Follow AAIFF**

Instagram / Twitter / Facebook: @asiancinevision

Website: <https://www.aaiff.org>

## **Press Contact**

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