

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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47th Asian American International Film Festival Announces Full Lineup



July 11, 2024, NEW YORK – The 47th Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF47), known as the “First Home of Asian American Cinema,” announces its full lineup. The Festival runs from August 1 - August 11, 2024, as a hybrid festival with both in-person and streaming programming.

The full lineup consists of films from all over the world, with some even making their debuts, including 18 World Premieres, 27 East Coast Premieres, and 15 New York Premieres. More information regarding the lineup can be found at <https://www.aaiff.org/program>.

General Screening Tickets (either in-person/online) are available at \$17/\$10. Tickets for Spotlight screenings are available now at the following prices:

- Opening Night Screening + Reception | **NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT**, August 1st at 7:00 pm ET at Asia Society - \$70
- Centerpiece Screening + Reception | **SMOKING TIGERS**, August 4th at 7:00 pm ET at Regal Union Square - \$30
- Closing Night Screening + Reception | **THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS**, August 11th at 7:00 pm ET at Regal Union Square - \$60

Regular prices for Cine Passes and Gold Passes are \$130 and \$300 respectively. Other ticket deals are also available now:

- Online Festival Pass: Admission for one to all AAIFF47 online programs. \$100.
- 3-Pack (in-person): A pack of 3 tickets that can be used for any in-person general screening. Does NOT include admission to spotlight screenings or receptions. \$42.
- 3-Pack (online): A pack of 3 tickets that can be used for any online screening (video on demand). \$25.
- 5-Pack (in-person): A pack of 5 tickets that can be used for any in-person general screening. Does NOT include admission to spotlight screenings or receptions. \$70.
- 5-Pack (online): A pack of 5 tickets that can be used for any online screening (video on demand). \$40.

SPOTLIGHTS

NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT - Opening Night Presentation | East Coast Premiere

Directed by Tadashi Nakamura, Quynh Nguyen-Le - USA - English

A sweeping documentary that follows the life of visionary artist-activist Nobuko Miyamoto and her work that changed Asian America forever.

THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS - Centerpiece Presentation

Directed by Fawzia Mirza - Canada, Pakistan - English, Urdu

Connected through a shared love of Bollywood, a distant mother and daughter come of age in two different eras.

SMOKING TIGERS - Closing Night Presentation

Directed by So Young Shelly Yo - USA - English, Korean

Over one summer spent at an elite academic boot camp, a lonely Korean American teenager hides her true identity to fit in, only to discover the bittersweet pains of adulthood.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

The 2024 72-Hour Shootout: PRACTICAL DREAMER

World Premiere hosted by the Asian American Film Lab - USA. - English

The 72-Hour Shootout is an annual global filmmaking competition run by the Asian American Film Lab (www.film-lab.org) to provide a platform for Asian American and other underrepresented stories and voices. AAIFF hosts the reveal of this year's top 10 winners.

CUNY SHORTS SHOWCASE

Since 2004, the CUNY Asian American Film Festival (AAFF) has recognized and awarded over \$13,500 in cash prizes to student filmmakers enrolled at the City University of New York, including City College, Brooklyn College, Hunter College, Lehman College, College of Staten Island, and Queens College. The CUNY AAFF helps to promote artistic visual talents and to stimulate communication among CUNY students

who are separated by the different campuses, and serve as a central location to display their creative works. Finalists screen at the Asian American International Film Festival.

CELLULOID SYNERGY: EXPERIMENTAL FILMS FROM 1960S-NOW

Celluloid Synergy features experimental short films, some previously screened at AAIFF in the 1970s-80s, and some other contemporary experimental shorts. These experimental films play with the physicality of the film itself and use film as a medium for conceptual art, with the goal of bringing back the underground, experimental spirit of AAIFF in its early days.

- **White Calligraphy Re-Read**

Directed by Takahiko Imura - Japan - Japanese, English

In *White Calligraphy, Re-Read*, Takahiko Imura returns to his early work. *White Calligraphy* was originally made in 1967 by scratching characters from 'Kojiki', an early Japanese text, into the frames of 16mm black leader.

- **To Serve the People**

Directed by Danny Yung - USA, Hong Kong - No dialogue

Separate Chinese characters for the words "to serve the people" are flashed rapidly on the screen and superimposed in various combinations.

- **24 F.P.S.**

Directed by Al Wong - USA - No dialogue

The image of film burning is followed by closeups of body parts pressed against the camera lens to create a conceptual and sensual-exotic texture.

- **EIGA-ZUKE (Pickled Film)**

Directed by Sean Morijiro Sunada O'Gara - USA - No dialogue

EIGA-ZUKE (1994) is a pickled, experimental photochemical film made for 35mm visual consumption.

- **IT FOLLOWS IT PASSES ON (撿起放下墜落提起)**

Directed by Erica Sheu - Taiwan - Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese

Incense yields a little light and leads the way for the islanders to hide from the bomb. Broken dishes time travel. Imaginations of a post-war island, Kinmen. Lights reveal and conceal the stories.

- **NATURAL DISASTERS**

Directed by Tiffany Jiang - USA, China - English

This found footage film is an exploration of "natural disasters" within the home or family structure.

AAISC Screenplay Reading

MISSUS

Written by Marissa Carpio - USA - English, Filipino (Tagalog)

Indiana, 2016. When a picture-perfect housewife discovers her nemesis competing in a beauty pageant for married women, she vies to make the crown her own.

NARRATIVE FEATURES

A GREAT DIVIDE

Directed by Jean Shim - USA - English, Korean

The Lee family leaves the Bay Area for a fresh start in the rural expanses of Wyoming, only to encounter hostility and xenophobia in their new community. How they confront these issues will break them—or make them stronger.

CHAPERONE

Directed by Zoë Eisenberg - Hawai'i - English

Alienated by friends and family for her lack of ambition, 29-year-old Misha finds a dangerous acceptance in a bright 18-year-old athlete who mistakes her for a fellow student.

DAUGHTERS OF MONSTER MAGNET (怪物磁極少女) - East Coast Premiere

Directed by Kosaku Horiwaki - USA - English

A coming-of-age tale of tragic Love turns into a surreal vision of death, rebirth, desire, and beauty.

* Preceded by the following short:

KEEP YOUR LEFT HAND DOWN (左手に気をつけろ) - North American Premiere

Directed by Nami Iguchi - Japan - Japanese

In 202X, an unknown virus is being spread by left-handers. The Children's Police Force sets out to arrest them. Rin is on a mission to search for her missing sister.

FANTI - East Coast Premiere

Directed by Andy Nguyễn - Vietnam - Vietnamese

When a stalker targets a rising social media star, Fanti delves into the dark underbelly of digital fame, where every follower could be a deadly threat.

FUTURE DATE - East Coast Premiere

Directed by Stanley Wong - USA - English

In the distant future where the outside climate is unlivable and everyone is forced to spend their lives alone in tiny rooms, two people win the rare opportunity to go on a very unusual date—in person.

MADINA - New York Premiere

Directed by Aizhan Kassymbek - Kazakhstan, Pakistan, USA - Kazakh

Madina, a single mother whose day-to-day routine is a battle for survival, struggles to

earn a living for her family with a lack of confidence in the present and a lack of hope in the future.

- MEETING YOU, MEETING ME** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Lina Suh - USA, South Korea - English, Korean
Two women from different walks of life—a Korean American divorce attorney and a Californian college dropout—both need a friend at this moment in their lives, when they cross paths by chance and form an unlikely friendship.
- PAPER MARRIAGE** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Jeff Mann - USA - English, Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese (Cantonese)
A desperate Chinese immigrant and a wayward American strike a marriage pact, navigating around each other to grow a connection for a green card.
- WAKHRI (ONE OF A KIND)** - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Iram Parveen Bilal - Pakistan, USA - Urdu
A school teacher becomes a viral sensation overnight when she accidentally unleashes her unabashed opinions on social media. This newfound fame comes with its own challenges as she has to navigate archaic mindsets and secret identities.
- WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE**
Directed by Freddie Wong, Matthew Arnold - USA - English
In the near future, everyone's gotten used to the 10,000-mile alien tentacle that materialized in the sky. A struggling beekeeper and a grieving wanderer must join together and take a dangerous road trip to get their teleported stuff back.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

- ASHIMA**
Directed by Kenji Tsukamoto - USA - Japanese, English
A year into the life of 13-year-old elite rock climber Ashima Shiraishi balancing her fame and career and trying to be a regular kid.
- DEAR MOTHER** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Jon Glassberg - USA, South Korea - English, Korean
A climber's transracial adoption story.
 - *Preceded by the following shorts:
 - DEAR DAD** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Noah Kim - South Korea - English
A self-portrait documentary film about writer/director Noah Kim's first time visiting Seoul, South Korea, his late father's homeland.
 - MY 4,500 HEXAGONS** - *World Premiere*
Directed by Joe Soonthornsawad, Nityasya Belapurkar - USA - English

My 4,500 Hexagons is a multimedia installation consisting of a 73" x 109" quilt and a documentary short. Together, the pieces celebrate experiences of transracial adoption, Asian American immigration, family, and healing through artistic practice.

DECOUPLING 脱钩 - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Yinan Wang - USA, China - Chinese (Mandarin), English

During his trip to Beijing to retrieve his 3-year-old "American" daughter, a "Chinese" father reflects on the changing relationship between China and the U.S. and the recent "decoupling" of the two countries.

DISSIDENTS - *New York Premiere*

Directed by Yi Chen - USA - Chinese (Mandarin), English

An artist's sculpture is burnt down, a protester is charged with a criminal case, and a democracy movement is violently attacked. Not even exile is safe.

EAT BITTER

Directed by Ningyi Sun, Pascale Appora-Gnekindy - Central African Republic, China, USA, Canada, Kenya, The Netherlands - Sango, Chinese (Mandarin), French

An eye-opening drama about a Chinese immigrant and a Central African sand fisherman in their pursuit of wealth and happiness during a civil war.

GUIÁN - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Nicole Chi Amén - Costa Rica, China - Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese (Engping), Chinese (Cantonese)

After Grandma Guián passes away, Nicole decides to go to China for the first time to look for the house Guián left when she emigrated to Costa Rica. This is a journey to answer the questions she was never able to ask Guián.

HEAVEN RAIN FLOWS SWEETLY (天雨流芳)

Directed by Shasha Li - USA, China - English, Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese (Nakhi), Chinese (Yunnanese)

A love letter to home and an offering to nature, this meditative personal documentary traces filmmaker Shasha's native roots in Himalayan China as she evacuates from historic wildfires that threaten her home in Cascadian, Oregon.

HOME COURT - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Erica Tanamachi - USA, Cambodia - English, Khmer

HOME COURT traces the ascent of Ashley Chea, a Cambodian American basketball prodigy whose life intensifies amid recruitment, injury, and triumph throughout her high school career.

INAY (MAMA) - *World Premiere*

Directed by Thea Loo - Canada, Philippines - English, Filipino (Kapampangan)

With the desire to help answer unresolved questions and heal lingering wounds, INAY investigates flawed immigration pathways between the Philippines and Canada that kept so many Filipino children from their mothers.

*Preceded by the following short:

DEAR WATSONVILLE

Directed by Sandra Lucille - USA, Philippines - English

Dear Watsonville is a mixed-media documentary offering an intimate glimpse into the lives of the manong generation, the 1st generation of Filipino migrants to arrive en masse in the U.S., as seen through the eyes of their children.

YŪREI (GHOSTS/FANTASMAS) - U.S. Premiere

Directed by Sumie García Hirata - Mexico - Spanish, Japanese

Unknown stories of Japanese descendants in Mexico, lyrically portrayed through landscape and dance, challenge the idea of identity and immigration.

Ones to Watch: Filmmakers Under 21 - 51 mins

Celebrate our future filmmakers as they explore identity and community through diverse forms such as horror, fantasy, documentary, and drama.

MUTED - World Premiere

Directed by Chris Zou - USA - English, Chinese (Mandarin)

A high school girl decides to take a pill in order to stay awake, studying late at night for a chemistry exam.

CLASS CRUSH - New York Premiere

Directed by Katherine Lynn-Rose - USA - English

An introverted high school student forms a connection with her class crush, but their romantic homecoming dance takes a chilling turn when her actions are revealed.

WAIPO'S COMING OVER! (外婆's Coming Over!) - International Premiere

Directed by Yee Shin Mun - Singapore, Malaysia - Chinese (Cantonese), English, Chinese (Mandarin)

A granddaughter seeks a deeper connection with her visiting Grandma from Ipoh.

BUTTERFLY: THE KING OF YUE (邑戎王) - World Premiere

Directed by Jingxuan Qi - USA - Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese (Wu), English

Noisy crowd, uncomfortable environment. A girl trying to escape.

RED GUARD

Directed by L-J ShenFilerman - China - No dialogue

Amidst the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a young man's participation in a Red Guard march is interrupted when he unexpectedly finds an object from his past.

- 'NORMAL GIRL'** - *U.S. Premiere*
Directed by Kimmy Nguyen-Thoi - Vietnam, Australia - Vietnamese
 When Vietnamese-born Khanh Nguyen begins her new life in Australia, she faces challenging tribulations derived from her attempt to become the 'perfect, Normal Girl'.
- THE STORY OF A STRANDED FROG** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Steven Yao - Czech Republic - English, Korean
 Michelle, a 20-year-old lonely Korean student spends her last day in a distant city taking care of her only true friend: a pet frog.

SHORT BLOCKS

JOKE BOOK - 95 mins

An animated ode to vibrators, two goth girls resurrecting Edgar Allan Poe, and an ambitious violin prodigy walk into a bar. The bartender asks, "What are ya, a bunch of shorts?"

- SHE AND HER GOOD VIBRATIONS** - *North American Premiere*
Directed by Olivia Griselda, Sarah Cheok - Singapore - No dialogue
 A stressed-out, middle-aged woman discovers the wonders of a vibrator, but she soon becomes addicted to solo pleasure sessions and loses touch with reality.
- ONE NOTE** (单注)
Directed by Jamie Ting - USA - English, Chinese (Mandarin)
 A dark comedy about a neurotic but driven 17-year-old Chinese-American violinist on a mission to get admitted to Harvard at any cost.
- THE VARIABLE** - *World Premiere*
Directed by Ezra Li - USA - English, Spanish
 An "ethnically ambiguous" actor struggles to adjust to stereotypes projected onto him during the audition process.
- I'M IN LOVE WITH EDGAR ALLAN POE** - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Andrea A. Walter - South Korea, USA, UK, China, Taiwan, Philippines - English, Filipino (Tagalog)
 Two goth besties search for chicken innards for a ritual to resurrect Edgar Allan Poe.
- PROBLEMATIC** - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Sushma Khadepaun - USA - English
 An unknown writer becomes an overnight media sensation when her public tirade against a finance douche goes viral.
- AH BOY YAH!!!** (阿BOY呀!!!) - *New York Premiere*

Directed by Gerald Ng Shibang - Canada, Malaysia - Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), English

Ah Boy returns home to a tsunami of questions from relatives, wondering if he'll be the man they want him to be.

I, CHINESE - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Keith Leung - USA, Hong Kong - Chinese (Cantonese), English

An influencer famous for his racist Chinese impressions faces consequences when his family getting involved.

REALLY GOOD DRIVER - *U.S. Premiere*

Directed by Alex Song-Xia - USA, Canada - English

An Asian American mom teaches her grown-up child how to drive, forcing both of them to confront parts of the car and themselves they never have before.

STITCHED

Directed by Lorena Lourenco - USA, India - English

A South Asian woman living in the diaspora, tired of dating people who can't keep up with her mutable cultural identity, decides to "frankenstein" an ideal partner.

Tales That Go Bump in the Night - 98 mins

Step right up to our horror carnival, featuring a thrilling block of the most spine-chilling adventures imaginable! From demonic confrontations to freakish flesh swaps, this collection will leave you far beyond the edge of your seat.

PRONE - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Andrea Lee Christensen - USA - English

An actress makes a desperate bargain that turns her Tinsel Town dreams into Faustian nightmare.

LULLABY - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Chi Thai - UK - Vietnamese

A refugee is haunted by a devastating incident from her past.

THE STEAK - *New York Premiere*

Directed by Kiarash Dadgar - Iran, Canada - No dialogue

A birthday ceremony preparation goes upside down as something horrible takes place.

PLAN B (پلن بی) - *U.S. Premiere*

Directed by Nima Rahimpour - Iran - Persian

After the father discovers his daughter's secret affair with a man, he decides to kill them both with the help of his young son and defend the family's reputation. But at the last moment, his plan falls apart.

- SPOOR** - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Statten Roeg, Sunita Soliar - UK - English
 A freakish, throbbing growth torments Ash. She is stuck caring for her vitriolic, dementia-ridden mother. With every indignity, Ash's lump grows until it erupts, spewing a mysterious substance. Will Ash figure out what it is and stop it?
- TOTEM NIGHT** (شبِ توتم) - *International Premiere*
Directed by Negin Kamran, Hana Azimi nia - Iran - Farsi
 When a young maid is employed at an old lady's house, she goes through a mysterious experience, transforming into a captivated animal.

A Field Guide to the Natural World - 86 mins

Gather mushrooms. Arrange flowers. Explore mountains. Paint trees. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of nature with this illuminating series of documentaries and narratives.

- BUNNY TO THE MOON** (月へ兎) - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Akira Maynard, Sammy Liu - Japan - Japanese
 When an extraterrestrial bunny falls from the sky, Aurora, a lonely gardener, is quick to befriend him. Upon realizing the bunny is from the moon, she decides to help him get back home.
- TAYAL FOREST CLUB** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by 陳潔瑤 Laha Mebow - Taiwan - Taiwanese (Atayal), Chinese (Mandarin)
 Is getting lost the best way to find yourself? In this coming-of-age tale from Taiwan's first Indigenous female director, two Tayal youths learn to navigate life's challenges by paying close attention to lessons that only the land can offer.
- OBATA'S YOSEMITE** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Adam Prieto - USA - English
 Exploring the profound journey of Japanese-American painter Chiura Obata, this documentary delves into his artistic legacy as a painter and the poignant experiences of his unjust incarceration during the Second World War.
- MATSUTAKE** - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Theodore Caleb Haas - USA - English
 98-year-old Homer Yasui takes four generations of his family to his secret mushroom-hunting grounds in Oregon in search of the prized and delicious matsutake mushroom, passing on a longtime Japanese American tradition.
- RECYCLOS** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Jordan Gros - USA - English

In a post-apocalyptic world, Poppy (the last human on earth) transforms discarded robots into humans at "Recyclos." She forges an unexpected friendship with a revived robot named Banjo and together they explore the meaning of life.

SINK - *World Premiere*

Directed by Raina Yang - USA, China - English, Chinese (Mandarin)

On a college backpacking trip, a Chinese girl grapples with questions of identity after she finds herself at a crossroads between her Chinese classmate and her fear of being perceived as an outsider.

THE SUN (太陽 Taiyō) - *World Premiere*

Directed by Angie Su - China, Japan, USA - Japanese

This is a poignant journey of an African American woman who discovers herself and finds solace in the traditional Japanese art of Ikebana.

Choose Your Fighter - *78 mins*

Press START to go on an epic quest filled with high-stakes action, inter-dimensional travel, and wonders (and dangers) of the very mind itself.

AMERICAN DREAM - *World Premiere*

Directed by Gorby Mufan Shih - USA - Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese (Cantonese), English

When Kevin, a coder on a work visa, is replaced by the younger intern he trained, Kevin joins his boss's underground fight club to win a green card and keep his family in the USA.

THE ROOMS - *New York Premiere*

Directed by Heeryun You - South Korea - Korean

Cast in a green light, a long corridor seems never-ending in sight. Jun-sang faces multiple rooms in this long corridor, meeting various and bizarre people from door to door.

SUBURBAN STORY - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Chris Yen - USA - English, Vietnamese

Two star-crossed lovers caught in the chaos of crime, violence, and toxic relationships in their suburban neighborhood.

LOLA - *East Coast Premiere*

Directed by Grace Hanna - USA, Philippines - English

A thirteen-year-old science prodigy journeys into her grandma's deteriorating mind to save one precious memory they have together.

Coloring Out of the Lines - 94 mins

When we're young, we may see our parents as strong protectors—immovable objects. There are also those haunting memories of vulnerability when we realize they are human like us. These shorts offer coming-of-age stories centered on children as they perceive parents and the adults around them, and reckon with their placement in adult society.

VS - East Coast Premiere

Directed by Jole Sanchez - USA, Philippines - English, Filipino (Tagalog)

Set in 1992, a Filipino kid working at his father's liquor store seeks community through the arcade game "Street Fighter II," but finds himself clashing with a local bully.

THE LITTLE SHOPPING TROLLEY (LE PETIT PANIER À ROULETTES) - U.S.

Premiere

Directed by Laurence Ly - Canada - French, Vietnamese

Living on a shoestring in Montreal, a Vietnamese mother must act in bad faith to assert her right to buy 12 discount laundry detergents that she's been refused at a grocery store.

DALY CITY - World Premiere

Directed by Nick Hartanto - USA - English, Indonesian

An Indonesian boy and his mother attend a church potluck and lie about their dish.

JESA - World Premiere

Directed by Jee Hoon Seo - USA, South Korea - Korean, English

A young boy takes part in a traditional ancestral rite and discovers the sacrifices his mother has made to protect his sense of innocence.

SQUEEGEE BOY

Directed by Chung-Wei Huang - USA - English, Chinese (Mandarin)

On a quest for belonging and acceptance, a trans teenager yearns to become part of a tight-knit group of squeegee boys in Baltimore City.

VIDEO FUNERAL

Directed by Linh Tran - USA, Canada, Vietnam - Vietnamese, English

Lam, a Vietnamese international student, welcomes her younger sister, Phuong, to her Chicago apartment. Phuong brings a DVD of their father's funeral, which Lam could not attend.

How to Live as an Asian Woman in NYC - 89 mins

Let our local filmmakers serve as your guide to the dizzying and difficult ways of living and thriving as an Asian woman in New York City.

YESTERDAY, I DREAMT ABOUT... - World Premiere

Directed by Chyan Lo - Taiwan, USA - English, Chinese (Mandarin)

Yang is leaving New York, she must say goodbye to the people she loves and the future she once dreamt of.

SOMETHING LIKE HAPPINESS - *North American Premiere*

Directed by Apar Pokharel - USA - Hindi, English

When two friends reunite in New York City after more than a decade, suppressed memories and desires resurface, forcing them to confront the bittersweet question of what could have been.

MINSEO - *World Premiere*

Directed by Emily May Jampel - USA - English

A young Korean-American model juggles working in a restrictive fashion industry and hoping to be acknowledged for who they truly are.

PUSHER - *World Premiere*

Directed by John Kim - USA - English

An unemployed college grad living in New York City witnesses her step-sister get pushed onto the subway tracks during the height of COVID-19.

SUNFLOWER GIRL (葵花女) - *New York Premiere*

Directed by Holly M. Kaplan - USA - English, Chinese (Cantonese)

When a 13-year-old Chinese-American girl has the opportunity to go skateboarding with her crush, it comes at the cost of abandoning her little sister.

HOW TO LIVE AS AN ASIAN WOMAN IN NYC

Directed by Jacqueline Jaemin Yeon - USA - Korean, English

Filmmaker Jacqueline Jaemin Yeon shares her tips on how to live as an Asian woman in New York City in light of the pandemic. The film takes an unexpected approach to highlight hate crimes against Asian women.

UME [うめ] Or (The Will To Fly Blind) - *World Premiere*

Directed by Sam Kumiko Sheridan - USA, Japan - English, Japanese

UME [産め] Or (The Will To Fly Blind) follows Ume, a 17-year-old Japanese American girl growing up in New York City. In the midst of an unexpected pregnancy, the story follows Ume in the days leading up to her abortion.

LOVE LETTER TO ASIAN WOMEN - *World Premiere*

Directed by Min Soo Park - USA - English

Felicia Oh, a Taiwanese drag queen, challenges stereotypes and reshapes perceptions of Asian femininity.

Our Favorite Recipes - 96 mins

Add two avocados. A helping of mochi. The best Chinese food in the city. Whisk in family, add wit and heart to taste. That's how you make our eclectic mix of documentaries and narratives about food and the people we share it with.

- YUJIN'S COOKBOOK (유진의 요리책)** - *International Premiere*
Directed by Minju Hong - South Korea - Korean
A South Korean immigrant reconnects with her cultural heritage, as she cooks for a friend's terminally ill grandmother.

- GUACAMANIA!** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Andre J. Lee - USA - English
At a meet-the-parents-dinner, a man goes to outrageous lengths to save his prized guacamole from browning while his girlfriend processes the shocking revelation that her "dead" family dog is still alive.

- BENKYODO: THE LAST MANJU SHOP IN J-TOWN** - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Akira Boch, Tadashi Nakamura - USA - English
Ricky and Bobby Okamura wrestle with closing their beloved family-owned manju shop after serving the San Francisco Japantown community for 115 years.

- AVOCADO ON PANCAKES** - *International Premiere*
Directed by Chinanang Tamrongtanakijakarn - Thailand - Thai
Jack and Rose secretly have an affair at their workplace. One day, the two go on a date at an izakaya restaurant and start an argument about the world.

- ROOTS + WINGS EP 3: PARISA PARNIAN** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Lisa Yadao, Michelle Sampior, Irene Yadao - USA - English
Iranian-American multi-disciplinary visual artist and culinary creative behind Savage Taste, Parisa Parnian hosted pop-up dinners in Los Angeles that not only illuminated Persian cuisine but also brought together the LGBTQ community.

- 29 HOUR FAMINE** - *World Premiere*
Directed by Etzu Shaw - USA - English, Chinese (Mandarin)
When a devout teenager discovers evidence of someone eating at her church youth group's annual fasting event, she goes to absurd lengths to catch the culprit.

- KOWLOON!** - *New York Premiere*
Directed by Mona Xia, Erin Ramirez - USA - Chinese (Cantonese), English
Bobby Wong and his family reflect on the generational legacy of running the largest Chinese American restaurant in the United States.

Rise Up! - 82 mins

Intense struggles in the face of adversity, oppression, and death itself. These shorts get knocked down, but then get up again.

- AMERICAN OXYGEN** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by Adam Hazelton, Emily Hazelton - USA - English
A young woman living on permanent supplemental oxygen rushes to catch the last bus to L.A. and be healed by a miracle-working televangelist.
- SPLIT ENDS (Mou Khoreh)**
Directed by Alireza Kazemipour - Iran - Farsi (Persian)
A bald woman and a man with long hair try to get out of paying fines when traffic cameras catch them for not wearing a hijab.
- CHILDREN OF LIGHT (빛의 아이들)**
Directed by Minkyu Kang - South Korea, USA - Korean
In the 1960s, a Korean boy (16), kidnapped and assaulted at a juvenile center on a remote island, must escape with his rival to survive.
- SHEEP (Goosfand)**
Directed by Mehrdad Kabiri - Iran - Farsi (Persian)
Amir is a student who is humiliated by the school administrator because of the situation he is in. This incident leads to his transformation.

Roadmap to the Soul - 93 mins

On a desolate highway, you finally see a signpost up ahead:

"Next rest stop: serving up duplicity, deceit, and dopplegangers. You might just discover your true self. Or that there is no true self at all."

- LAYOVER**
Directed by Taylor Sanghyun Lee - USA, South Korea - English, Korean
Long estranged from the religious community his mother embraces, Solomon must wear a lie one last time on the day of his brief return.
- SEOUL SWITCH**
Directed by Liann Kaye - USA, South Korea - English, Korean
When an insecure Korean American boy meets an international K-pop star who looks just like him, they decide to switch identities.
- CONFUSED BLOOD (혼혈)** - *East Coast Premiere*
Directed by James Cutler - South Korea, USA - Korean, English
A mixed-race Korean man wanders Seoul trying to make sense of his place in the world in a film that considers cultural identities and navigates an in-between space of documentary and narrative.

- JUST KIDS** - East Coast Premiere
Directed by Jackie Bao - USA - English
 Ben, an ambitious Asian-American man shaped by his father's immigrant experience, is visited by a familiar face on his way to the top.

- A SUMMER'S END POEM** (夏日句点)
Directed by Lam Can-zhao - China, Switzerland, Malaysia - Chinese (Min Nan)
 Shortly before the end of summer break, a country boy spends his savings on his dream of a city hairstyle—with surprising results. A story about bidding farewell to childhood and the poetic end of a summer.

- THE MAN AND THE MONKEY** - World Premiere
Directed by Korok Murmu - India, USA - English, Bengali
 Caught between capturing India's authenticity and commercial demands, a Bengali-American photographer from NYC embarks on an assignment in Kolkata that ignites a battle for artistic integrity.

- THREE** - East Coast Premiere
Directed by Amie Song - USA - Chinese (Mandarin), English
 At a home gathering, a Chinese woman who has recently moved to the United States to live with her daughter tries to keep her daughter's secrets from her new friends.

About the Asian American International Film Festival

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.

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.

Thank You

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