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**47th Asian American International Film Festival Announces Spotlight Films**

*“NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT” as the Opening Film, “SMOKING TIGER” for the Centerpiece Presentation, and “THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS” to Close the Festival*



June 22, 2024, NEW YORK – The 47th Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF), known as the “First Home of Asian American Cinema,” will take place from August 1-11. This year’s branding focuses on the concept of memory and reconnection. Murielle Hsieh, Creative Manager of Asian CineVision (ACV), shares that, “By incorporating the postage stamp into our branding, we extend a heartfelt invitation to everyone to join us at AAIFF this August, where we celebrate the profound connections and emotions that define our experience.”

The Festival will open with the East Coast premiere of Tadashi Nakamura and Quynh Nguyen-Le’s film, *NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT*, on Thursday, August 1st at the Asia Society. The documentary follows the life of visionary artist-activist Nobuko Miyamoto and her revolutionary work that has left a mark on the Asian American landscape. Following the screening will be a rare cultural experience as Nobuko Miyamoto herself will be performing, as well as a Q&A with Nobuko and the filmmakers: Tadashi Nakamura and Quynh Nguyen-Le. The reception will be held at 8:45 pm after the Q&A session, located in the Asia Society as well.

On co-presenting the Festival’s opening night, Rachel Cooper, Director of Asia Society’s Performing Arts, Cultural Programs and Culture, expresses that the organization “[...] is excited to be working with Asian CineVision again. [ACV’s] role in the community and among filmmakers is so powerful and important.”



Tadashi Nakamura is an Emmy-award-winning filmmaker and was previously named CNN's "Young People Who Rock" for being the youngest filmmaker at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. He is notable for his contributions to documenting Asian American and Japanese American communities and their experiences.

Quyên Nguyen-Le is a Daytime Emmy-nominated queer Vietnamese filmmaker born to refugee parents. Quyên was the Associate Producer for Sundance award-winning films, *FREE CHOL SOO LEE* and *THE ACCIDENTAL GETAWAY DRIVER*.



The Festival is also spotlighting So Young Shelly Yo's feature directorial debut, *SMOKING TIGERS*, on August 4th at the Regal Union Square. Set in Los Angeles in the early 2000s, *SMOKING TIGERS* is a portrait of a lonely Korean American teen named Hayoung who is taken under the wings of three wealthy students she meets at an elite academic boot camp. As she falls deeper into their world, Hayoung works harder to hide her insecurities about her problematic family and lower-income background, only to discover the bittersweet pains of adulthood that will forever shape her life.

Prior to *SMOKING TIGERS*, Shelly created numerous award-winning short films. Shelly was the 2022 One Million Dollar Recipient of AT&T and Tribeca Film Festival's Untold Stories program for *SMOKING TIGERS* and was chosen for the 2023 BAFTA Breakthrough Program.



To close the Festival will be Fawzia Mirza's feature directorial debut, *THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS*, at the Regal Union Square on August 11th. Amrit Kaur (*THE SEX LIVES OF COLLEGE GIRLS*) plays queer Pakistani grad student Azra, as she finds herself on a Bollywood-inspired journey through memories, both real and imagined—from her mother's youth in Karachi to her own coming-of-age in rural Canada, after her father suddenly dies on a trip home to Pakistan. Following the screening of the film will be a Q&A with the director and a reception.

Fawzia Mirza is a White House Champion of Change for AAPI Art and Storytelling and an alum of the Tribeca Film Institute. She is also the co-founder of BABY DAAL PRODUCTIONS with her wife, producer Andria Wilson Mirza.

Kayla Wong, the Festival's co-director, notes that all three spotlights of this year's festival selection "focus on women's stories from all around the world and highlight the moments of vulnerability and tenderness, something that is so hard to openly see in today's harsh world."

Individual tickets for *NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT* (\$70), *SMOKING TIGERS* (\$30), and *THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS* (\$60) can be purchased now at <https://www.aaiff.org/program>. More in-person events and the full lineup of AAIFF47 will be announced on Wednesday, July 10th at its annual Launch Party hosted at Gamehaus New York from 6:00-8:00 pm. Gold and Cine Passes are on sale today, June 22, at <https://www.aaiff.org/ticketing> at a discount through July 10, 2024. Follow ACV's social media channels to stay updated.

### **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**

THE 2024 ASIAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MARY LI HSU CHARITABLE TRUST, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT, TAMIMENT LIBRARY ROBERT F. WAGNER LABOR ARCHIVE, NYU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, ASIAN/PACIFIC/AMERICAN INSTITUTE AT NYU, SAG-AFTRA, CUNY AAARI, CUNY GRADUATE CENTER, AND THE MANY FRIENDS OF ACV.

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