



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
San Francisco, CA - February, 2017
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CINEMATIC SF Premieres at CAAMFest

Four short films about San Francisco's diverse and invaluable residents will premiere as part of the 35th annual CAAMFest this March 2017

San Francisco, February 21, 2017 - The **Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center** premieres their new film project documenting the stories of San Francisco's diverse and invaluable residents - **Cinematic SF**. Featured local filmmakers R.J. Lozada, Abhi Singh, Kevin Wong, and Jimmy Zhang will present individual documentary shorts reflecting the everyday lives of San Francisco residents. From the struggles of working artists to the daily goings-on of a vital community center, each film paints a unique portrait of the city's underrepresented communities. The public screening will premiere as part of the Center for Asian American Media's 35th annual **CAAMFest - March 13, 6:30PM**, followed by a discussion celebrating the works of the Cinematic SF filmmakers.

FEATURED FILMS:

GAYLE

Dir. Kevin Wong

After 25 years as a caregiver, Gayle came to San Francisco to reignite her dream of making it as a Jazz singer. Now in her 60's, she lives in an SRO hotel at the edge of Nob Hill and the Tenderloin and is finally starting to get some regular gigs around the city.

NO VACANCY

Dir. Abhi Singh

No Vacancy explores the struggles of San Francisco artists as they contend with exorbitant rent prices, developers looking to convert art spaces into luxury condos and a city that isn't paying attention to them. All the artists in the film face the prospect of being priced out of San Francisco in the near future. These artists are the cultural fabric of a city that doesn't have room for them anymore.

SHOES I WALK IN

Dir. Jimmy Zhang

Two youth from the Southeast parts of San Francisco's —a fourth grader grows up in an unstable household and a senior in high school thrives from the legacy of her grandma, a long time resident of Bayview Hunter's Point. Through their grandmother's legacies' and ultimately distant blessings, two San Francisco youth walk confidently in their soles.



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A SPACE ON SIXTH AND MISSION

Dir. R.J. Lozada

The Bayanihan Community Center has been a hub of vitality for the Filipino American community. This unassuming space on Sixth and Mission holds space for a myriad of groups and organizations that gather under the spirits of community, history, and growth. This short documentary is equal parts observational and experimentation and a very small peek into a window of home for so many.

WHAT & WHO

CINEMATIC SF Premiere at CAAMFest

The Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC) premieres four short films about San Francisco's diverse and invaluable residents. APICC is partnering with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) to co-present the films as part of the 35th annual CAAMFest this March 2017.

FILMMAKER BIOS

R.J. Lozada

R.J. Lozada is an award winning filmmaker who explores and engages multiple diasporas in flux. Lozada has worked in varying capacities from film festival programming, producing documentaries independently and for publications, radio news and feature segments, and photo editorials. Lozada recently obtained his Masters in Fine Arts in Documentary Film and Video from Stanford University, and is currently in post-production for his first feature-length documentary/installation *Passing Grounds*. This piece explores America's legacy of state violence through the sites of death at the hands of law enforcement in 2014.

Abhi Singh

Abhi Singh is a filmmaker based in San Francisco. His most recent work is a series of short films for KQED Arts. 'Bay Area Ballerina', a short film produced, shot and edited by Abhi Singh, featuring Miko Fogarty, was nominated for a 2016 Webby Award.

His work has screened at several international film festivals including Sheffield Doc/Fest (UK), FIPA – Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels (France), Sehsüchte International Film Festival (Germany), Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Sebastapol Documentary Film Festival, Independent Film Festival Boston, and the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles.

Abhi graduated with an MFA from the Documentary Film and Video Program at Stanford University.



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Kevin Wong (with co-director Todd Sills)

Todd Sills and Kevin Wong are award-winning bay area filmmakers whose works have shown in museums and festivals around the world. They are currently collaborating on a project that follows San Francisco's SRO residents as they navigate the economic upheavals of the housing crisis.

Jimmy Zhang

Jimmy is a second generation Chinese-Cambodian from the southeast parts of San Francisco. Queer, soul searching and wandering, he is looking to reveal the intimacy people of color in San Francisco, developing with the places they call home. Outside of filmmaking, Jimmy is a youth worker who is engaged in the healing abilities of storytelling through general counseling and support groups. He works with students from the southeast parts of San Francisco where he is constantly moved by his youths' observations and reflections. He dedicates his film work to inspire community member's connection with home in San Francisco--a relatively recent home for his ancestors. His work and curatorial style is inspired by the ways in which his community can be resilient in the midst of blessing and traumas.

WHEN

March 13, 2017
6:30PM

WHERE

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - New Mission Theater
2550 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
<https://drafhhouse.com/sf>

PHOTOS

Excellent, large high-resolution (300 dpi) photos available at:
<https://flic.kr/s/aHskP8muf6>

PRESS CONTACT

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ABOUT APICC

The Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center's mission is to support and produce multidisciplinary art reflective of the unique experiences of Asians and Pacific Islanders living in the United States. APICC was founded in 1996 by representatives of five Asian American nonprofit arts groups. Since 1998, the center has promoted the artistic and organizational growth of San Francisco's API arts community by organizing and presenting the annual *United States of Asian America Festival* as well as commissioning contemporary art for and by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

ABOUT CAAMFEST

CAAM presents CAAMFest (formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival) every March, the world's largest showcase for new Asian American and Asian film, food and music programs, annually presenting over 100 works in San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland. Since 1982, our film festival has been an important launching point for Asian American independent filmmakers as well as a vital source for new Asian cinema.