



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2017 - San Francisco, CA
Contact: Melanie Elvena,
melanie@apiculturalcenter.org
or 650.580.7818
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UNITED STATES OF ASIAN AMERICA FESTIVAL: THREADING RESILIENCE

A rich, timely showcase of San Francisco's Asian Pacific Islander artists returns to SF during Asian Pacific Heritage Month April-June

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7, 2017 - Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC) presents 24 multidisciplinary arts programs and events throughout San Francisco from April 28 through June 11, showcasing the dynamic experiences of the contemporary Asian American and Pacific Islander (API) arts community as part of the 20th annual ***United States of Asian America Festival*** (USAAF).

This year's theme, ***Threading Resilience***, describes how we interact and connect with each other through art to build a more diverse, empowered community. The theme explores the evolutions of identity and visibility for Asians and Pacific Islanders in art and politics; intersections and collaborations in art, identity, and politics have shaped and strengthened our communities amidst prejudice and oppression in mainstream culture and media; how we have utilized placemaking for our community throughout history and today; and what it will take to ensure the collective survival of these spaces for future generations. USAAF offers a multitude of arts experiences that run the gamut, from dance theater to music and visual arts to experimental media. San Francisco will be abuzz with vibrant and engrossing API art, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

FEATURED FESTIVAL EVENTS

Shifting Movements: Arts Inspired by the Life & Activism of Yuri Kochiyama | co-presented by **Asian American Women Artists Association & Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center** (visual arts, performance art, film/video, dance)

SOMArts Cultural Center from **May 4-25**. A multimedia exhibition featuring 40+ artists illuminating the legacy of intersectional revolutionary social activist, Yuri Kochiyama, highlighting the values and themes which guided her, and the incredibly diverse people, struggles, and movements that inspired a lifetime commitment to fighting for a more just world.

ANiMA: A Future Without Borders | **Jyun Jyun + missTANGQ** (music, performance)

Mission Cultural Center on **May 6**. Innovative global electronic music and dance party with live projected animation, shadow dancing and puppetry, and spectacular masks and costumes. Joined by Global Barrio, an arts collective and music label based in Oakland, CA - including international electronic music duo, **Santi and Tugce** (Paraguay and Turkey), and **DLMJ** (Mexico).

Cinematic SF | **Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center** (film, panel discussion, performance)

Mission Cultural Center on **May 10**. **Bayview Opera House** on **May 11**. **African American Art & Culture Complex** on **May 18**. **Bayanihan Community Center** on **May 26**. A new film project



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documenting the stories of San Francisco's diverse and invaluable residents - 4 special presentations at community venues, each event featuring appearances by the filmmakers, the films' subjects, guest speakers and live performers. Featured filmmakers: **R.J. Lozada, Abhi Singh, Kevin Wong, and Jimmy Zhang.**

Shift | dNaga (dance)

SOMArts Cultural Center on **May 12-14.** Celebrating the spirit of courage, tenacity and hope. The dance is performed by dNaga's multi-generational company and inspired by interviews of advocates and educators, most notably with the legendary civil rights activist Yuri Kochiyama. In addition, interviews with those living with Parkinson's disease provide the creative inspiration that examines misdiagnosis, managing medication and reinvention of identity. Choreography and Artistic Direction by **Claudine Naganuma.** Music Composition by Joel Davel. Lighting Design by Dale MacDonald. Dancers: Alexandra AJose-Nixon, Yael Berrol, Shosi Black, Warren Brunetti, Lydia Clinton, Martha Friedberg, Michelle Johnston, Aliyah Khalfani-Bey, Chiara Kovac, Ashley LeBlanc, Sema Lew, Ellie Kerwin, Leila Massoudi, Shaunnah Ray, Sylvie Rodgers, Gary Turchin and Cathy Quides.

Incarcerated 6x9 | Alleluia Panis Dance Theater & Kularts (dance theater, film)

Bindlestiff Studio on **May 19-20.** Panis' latest work features a 60-minute immersive dance-media workshop performance, energized by 6 dancers to an original music score by **Rachel Lastimosa** and video by filmmaker **Wilfred Galila.** Exploring the hopes, the delusions, and the will to survive the brutality of the American judicial industry through the lives of Pilipino American inmates Boying, Hes, and Ramon. Dancers: Alexandria Diaz De Fato, Gregory Manalo, Isa Musni, Jonathan Mercado, Ladislao 'June' Arellano, Noelle Campos.

blood run | Cynthia Ling Lee (performance art)

SOMArts Cultural Center on **May 20.** Part ritual, part performance art, part colonial history inscribed on the body, investigating the artist's Han Chinese colonizer and Taiwanese plains indigenous heritages within the context of larger political histories. Combining multimedia, dance, and poetic text, "blood run" posits immigrants vs. colonizer, colonizer vs. colonized, and survival vs. disappearance.

Personal Perspectives on Asian American Documentary Filmmakers | Re-Present Media (film)

Bindlestiff Studio on **May 25.** A panel discussion with filmmakers whose films are focused on personal narratives and points of view exploring one's own concepts of identity, politics, culture, and religion. Selected clips from each film will be shown which will open a forum for how we express perspectives that are grounded in our communities and focus on shared human experiences, rather than issues made important by mainstream media. Featured filmmakers: **Adele Ray, Sabereh Kashi, Jennifer Crystal Chien,** and **Raeshma Razvi.**

Triple Minority | Irene Tu (stand-up comedy)

Bindlestiff Studio on **May 26-27.** Irene Tu explores what it is like being a triple minority (gay, Asian, woman) in America. This hour-long stand-up comedy show will make you laugh, think, and cry. Each night will include a special guest opener (also a triple minority).



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Locus of Control | Jason Bayani (poetry, storytelling, music, performance)

Bindlestiff Studio on **June 1-3**. Internationally touring poet and published author, Jason Bayani, explores the lives of Filipinx immigrants in America taking you through his hip-hop inspired youth, club-going college days, and turbulent adulthood. His show navigates his experience dealing with race, mental health, addiction, and his status as the first American-born child in his family.

Dig & Demand: Queer Diasporic Vietnamese Artists for Justice | Jaq Nguyen Victor (performance)

Mission Cultural Center on **June 8**. A performance justice project by queer trans 1st, 1.5, and 2nd generation diasporic Vietnamese artists set to dig deeply and demand daringly for the collective threading of our resilience. Pieces created from a 10-session training in vivid ecology, trauma-informed care, and liberation psychology using the arts. Other participating artists: **Trang Tran, Leslie Tran, Irene Van, Truc Nguyen, Patty Do, Camille Mai, Annelisa Luong, and UyenMy Yamamoto**.

Until Unity is Woven | J.Theo (poetry, performance, visual art)

Mission Cultural Center on **June 10**. *Until Unity is Woven* is a poem written and performed by J.Theo, which will be the centerpiece of this event. The piece will include music, dance and poetry from a well-curated cast of artists along with a panel featuring laborers, workers and organizers from the local community. An exhibit of visual art will display illustrations inspired by the poem and pieces honoring the power and value of workers and peasants. All components will culminate in a rich dialogue of how people have historically collaborated through art and political action to confront forces of oppression and tyranny.

URBAN x INDIGENOUS III: Keep Pushin' (performance, visual art, music)

SOMArts Cultural Center on **June 11**. The 3rd installation of multidisciplinary intergenerational arts festival envisioned by artist **Samantha "SAMMAY" Dizon**. Celebrating the resilience of our ancestors and present-day social justice warriors through the spirit of Hip Hop and re-awakening those who have fell under the spell of colonization, navigating one's self back to their roots. Bringing together performances, visual arts, and knowledge ciphers – we will highlight the intersections of our struggles through creative expression while uniting in the common thread of resilience through community and cultural exchange.

OTHER PARTICIPATING ARTISTS/ORGANIZATIONS

Appendix Collective
Eth-Noh-Tech
Gautam Tejas Ganeshan
Kearny Street Workshop
Latifa Medjdoub & Haco
Macro Waves Collective

Michelle Lin
OnenessButoh
Our Stories, Our Voices
The PLACE Collective
SAMMAY
WODV



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WHAT/WHO

20TH UNITED STATES OF ASIAN AMERICA FESTIVAL: THREADING RESILIENCE

Presented by **Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center** as part of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Featuring 24 events in theater, music, dance, film, literature, visual arts, experimental media, and more showcasing Asian and Pacific Islander artists.

WHEN

April 28-June 11

WHERE

Various Venues, San Francisco

FOR MORE INFO

www.apiculturalcenter.org

PHOTOS

Excellent large, high resolution (300dpi photos) available at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127752973@N08/sets/72157679082928633/>

PRESS CONTACT

Melanie Elvena, Artistic Director

melanie@apiculturalcenter.org

650.580.7818

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Each year, the United States of Asian America Festival (USAAF) presents between 20 to 30 different programs reflecting the artistic accomplishments and cultural diversity of San Francisco's Pacific Islander and Asian American communities. USAAF showcases artists representing a diverse range of ethnic and cultural groups and aims to heighten the visibility of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) artists working in all disciplines — theater, music, dance, film, literature, visual arts and more. Our goal is to nurture and empower these groups to be self sufficient while providing the support they need to grow. USAAF is funded by the San Francisco Arts Commission and San Francisco Grants for the Arts.

ABOUT APICC

The Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center's (APICC) mission is to support and produce multidisciplinary art reflective of the unique experiences of Asian Pacific Islanders living in the United States. APICC was founded in 1996 by representatives of five nonprofit arts groups in San Francisco. 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.