Discover Asian American Indie

March 12-15, 2020
DISOrientFilm.org

15th Anniversary
Started in 2006 by artists, educators, and activists, DisOrient is a grassroots and volunteer-run film festival committed to presenting honest portrayals of the diversity of the Asian and Pacific Islander American experience. When selecting new and exciting films for our festival, we use the W.E.B. DuBois standard of “for us, by us, or about us”. DisOrient was founded by Eugene native Jason D. Mak to give everyone in our community an opportunity to enjoy rich stories that are waiting to be told.
Welcome to DisOrient!

Dear Film Fans,

Thank you for being a part of the DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon’s 15th anniversary celebration! Upon reaching this incredible milestone, I can’t help but reflect on the many volunteers, supporters, filmmakers, and audience members whose dedication helped to build this festival from a vision by DisOrient’s founder, Jason Mak. If you only knew how unlikely it was that the first DisOrient would ever get off the ground. Truthfully, in 2006, even many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were skeptical that anyone would come to a festival like this in Eugene. DisOrient did not have money, office space, or paid staff. We still don’t have most of these. Our resources have been generated by stories of heroism and struggle of those before us, a quest to honor people who give back, and by history that has waited impatiently to be discovered. In May of 2019, DisOrient formed its own non-profit organization and is poised to grow and provide more opportunities to showcase Asian Pacific American independent film.

Without DisOrient, Asian Pacific Americans (APA’s) like me who grew up seeing inaccurate representations of Asians and even fewer authentic representations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, would be resigned to the fact that a part of us would just be dead to the world. It is an indescribable feeling to go through life carrying a lost part of yourself and wondering how to get it back. We so deeply appreciate the filmmakers and artists who help us share the treasured parts of our being that have been tucked away and that now enable us to connect more openly. In the process of celebrating a unique and varied collection of indie films that portray rich Asian American and Pacific Islander narratives, we learn that everyone, across race, socioeconomics, gender, culture, origin story, age, sexuality, family background, and abilities, is trying to find a sense of belonging. DisOrient gives us a chance to come together as a community to have that rare experience known as human interaction in order to find out more about ourselves and each other. During the next week, we will be exposed to APA stories that we know very little about. We’ll have an opportunity to engage in conversations and develop an understanding about Asian American and Pacific Islander narratives. A great jumping off point is our Opening Night Film, “Chinatown Rising,” which pays homage to unheard stories of Asian American activism.

Now, if you’re ready, let’s watch some amazing films together and just talk. A simple conversation can effect powerful change.

Warmest Regards,

Pamela M. Quan
Pamela M. Quan
DisOrient Asian American Film Festival
Executive Director
PREVIEW NIGHT

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

BROADWAY METRO

2020 Program Guide   Purchase tickets at the door or online at DisorientFilm.org Program subject to change

PRECEDED BY

ROWELL BROKAW


6:30pm - 8:00pm

Tokyo Hula

Feature Documentary • 72 min • USA

Director: Lisette Flanary

Hula is big business in Japan. It is estimated that there are more than 2 million people dancing hula in Japan—more than the entire population of Hawai‘i. What fuels this Japanese fascination with hula, and how do the keepers of Hawaiian culture participate in this cross-cultural exchange.

As an independent filmmaker, I have been dedicated to creating a trilogy of feature length documentaries about hula and Hawaiian culture for public television broadcast since 1998. Tokyo Hula is the final film in the trilogy. As a hula dancer, I can honestly say that hula influences everything in my life, and my film work explores hula as a living tradition that continues to evolve in the global world.

Standing Above the Clouds

Short Documentary • 16 min • USA

Director: Jalena Keane-Lee

The inspiring story of the native Hawaiian women at the forefront of the protests at Mauna Kea, called to activism by a spiritual connection to the land that runs generations deep.

Jalena Keane-Lee is a Director, DP, and Producer, dedicated to democratizing storytelling through uplifting underrepresented voices behind the scenes and in front of the camera. She is the co-founder of Breaktide Productions, an all women of color video production company.
SPECIAL SCREENING

Vai
Feature Narrative • 90 min • New Zealand
Directors: The Whippy Sisters, Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Matasila Freshwater, Amberley Jo Aumua, Miria George, Marina Alofagia McCartney, Dianna Fuemana, & Becs Arahanga

This portmanteau film was made by nine female Pacific filmmakers, filmed in seven different Pacific countries, and stars eight different indigenous actresses. The story is told in eight vignettes, each portraying the main character, Vai, at a different age and through the lens of a different Pacific island culture. In each of the Pacific nations included, vai is the word for water. Just as the Pacific Ocean connects each distinct landmass and culture, Vai's persistent fight for self-fulfillment and cultural identity ties each vignette together, weaving them into a beautiful film with a powerful message.

SPECIAL SCREENING

Things I Do for Money • 89 min • Canada
Director: Warren P. Sonoda

For his 11th feature film, Warren P. Sonoda (best-known for his work directing Trailer Park Boys) has created the first ever Japanese-Canadian / classical-cello / figure-skating / crime / heist movie. Theodor and Maximilian Aoki (who also compose and score the film) star as two cello-virtuoso brothers, inadvertently caught up in an organized crime feud with family ties. *Parental Advisory - Some Violence

This film came from a desire to reconnect with my own cultural story, use my previous music video experience to put a new spin on a music-movie, and cast characters that I can relate to. Growing up, I wondered who I was, what I could become, what my place in the world was – and also what it meant to be “normal” and maybe less “Japanese.” This is the same world the Yaguchi brothers are navigating in Things I Do For Money.

PRECEDED BY

Severance
Short Animation • 2 min • USA
Director: Christian Eusebio

A snapshot into the urgent yet pointless dread that fuels life at the office.

Christian Eusebio is a director and animator who earned a Bachelors in Digital Art with an emphasis on animation at Chapman University in Orange, CA. Severance packages the existential dread that lays just beneath the surface of our work-centric lives into a cute animation. This short film aims to distill and exaggerate the fear of a life wasted, to a comedic degree. Severance allowed the director to collaborate with his two brothers - Noah Eusebio, writer, and Jordan Eusebio, sound designer.
Chinatown Rising

*Feature Documentary • 112 min • USA*

**Director:** Harry & Josh Chuck

*Co-Presented by*

Anyone who’s ever visited San Francisco’s Chinatown (or Chinatown anywhere, for that matter) is likely to remember the cultural oddities, bright red signs, and cheap, tasty food. But for those who have lived and grown up there, the memories can be much different. Framed by the civil rights movement of the 60’s and 70’s, this stirring documentary delves deep into the complex history of Chinatown, S.F. - its people, their culture, and the institutional racism from which it was born.

Harry and Josh Chuck are a father-son team, and Chinatown Rising is their first film. It is their hope that lessons learned from this period of transformative activism and rebellion in San Francisco Chinatown will enlighten future generations about the early struggles of Chinese Americans, and inspire others to act for the betterment of their communities.
OPENING NIGHT GALA

Join us for our Opening Night celebration at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art! Enjoy food and refreshments and meet our 2020 attending filmmakers. Our Gala will conclude with a live performances by storyteller Hannah Kim and singer/songwriter Jon Lee. Admission to the Opening Night Reception is by presenting a Member/Sponsor Pass or your ticket stub from Chinatown Rising ticket stub.

HOW TO GET THERE

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Hannah Kim

Hannah Kim is a Gemini, comedian and writer based in Portland, Oregon. In her spare time she leads literary seminars on anti-capitalism, gives tarot readings and makes zines about her feelings. You can find her on Instagram at @ur_best_american_girl.

Jon Lee

On his father’s Lee Clan side Jon Lee is a fourth generation northwest native son from a long line of Columbia River cannery workers. On his mother’s side, he is second generation Wong Clan from a vast array of restaurant workers. He has younger Wong cousins who were born in Hong Kong; he has Lee cousins who can barely use chopsticks. But they all know family, and they can all eat. In the assimilation journey, food is the last to fade. Jon writes songs that connect people to place and place to people. He has performed widely, with Year of the Rat bookings from Juneau to Arizona. He has recorded four collections of original songs with a fifth set currently in progress.
**SHORTS: Understanding**

11:00am - 12:40pm

### Bó Appétit

**Johanna Wong • Short Narrative**
5 min • USA

Two friends share a meal, but one is left with a bitter taste in her mouth.

The importance of food and identity in Asian culture is a defining factor for Asian Americans, but it can also be a target of racial prejudice. Bó Appétit is loosely based on a personal encounter and aims to address the subtleties of racism that Asian Americans can experience, even from close friends. Johanna is a graduate of UO Cinema Studies.

### Unspoken

**Patrick G. Lee • Short Doc • 17 min • USA**

A conversation between six queer and trans Asian Americans about their personal journeys towards understanding what both family and acceptance mean to them.

Patrick G. Lee is a queer Korean-American filmmaker, writer, and community organizer. Unspoken is inspired by his own experience coming out to his immigrant parents. At a time when prejudice is fueled by regressive nationalist movements around the globe, this film aims to help build LGBTQ acceptance within Asian immigrant enclaves on behalf of the more than 325,000 LGBTQ Asian Pacific Islander people in the U.S.

### Serious Lees

**Krista Jang • Short Narrative**
9 min • Canada

Nothing puts your identity, self-worth, and family to the test like going to the Chinese supermarket, but it’s a journey one father and daughter are determined to take.

Coming from an ethnic background full of rich culture and strong traditions, there is an assumption that later generations are either fully immersed or have completely lost touch with their roots. Traditional practices are not upheld, language is lost, and culture is rejected. In my personal experience as a 2nd-Generation Chinese-Canadian, I am a representative of a cultured, yet non-traditional generation.

### Eat When You’re Hungry

**Malcolm Rizzuto, Spencer Garrison • Short Narrative**
20 min • USA

An offbeat self portrait of a directionless 20-something, with nothing going for him but some booze and the endless support of his Lola, who immigrated to the US for this version of the American Dream.

This film is made for anyone who comes from an immigrant family, or anyone who’s struggled to figure themselves out in their early 20s. How does a family go from this incredible journey of a strong, selfless woman immigrating to America by herself, to me: a strung out, jobless 20-something looking for answers in drugs, alcohol, and TV? When I look back on this time, I laugh and cry. We hope others can laugh and cry at it too.

### The Modern Mambabatok:

**Lane Wilcken and Filipino Tattooing in the Diaspora**

**Kayla Sotomil • Short Doc**
30 min • USA

Through his own work and personal journey, Lane Wilcken shares the history and culture of Filipino hand-tap tattooing and his role in the resurgence of this ritual practice.

This ethnographic film explores how Lane Wilcken’s choice to dedicate his life to studying hand-tapped tattooing runs parallel to a larger revival of traditional tattooing methods. The increased awareness of Wilcken’s work and subsequent demand reflect a growing interest in precolonial Philippine customs among Filipino Americans, indicating an underlying desire to connect to their heritage and identity.

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Q&A will take place after all the films have finished screening.
DOUBLE FEATURE

1:00pm - 2:15pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
UO EMU REDWOOD AUDITORIUM

Samurai in the Oregon Sky
Feature Documentary • 48 min • USA
Director: Ilana Sol

In 1942, Nobuo Fujita made history when he dropped a single bomb into the remote forest of Brookings, Oregon. It was, and would remain, the only attack on mainland U.S.A. during WWII. Incredibly, 20 years later, the former Japanese airman returned to Brookings - this time, as an honored guest. In their own words, Fujita and the men who invited him back tell the inspiring story of forgiveness, friendship, and reconciliation between a small Oregon town and its former attacker.

When I learned that the United States mainland had been attacked during WWII, I was surprised. But it was the subsequent reconciliation between former enemies that truly intrigued me and drove me to make this film. Peace is not an easy path, but it is attainable.

Coming Home
Short Animation • 5 min • USA
Director: Mai Shirai

At the grave of his mother, a young musician faces his complicated relationship with his father and agrees to come home for a meal.

Mai Shirai is a storyboard artist and character animator from Japan. She created “Coming Home (Tadaima)” in her final year of school as a way to thank her family for their support while she studied art in the U.S.; her parents supported her despite conflicts and concerns about a future career in art. She hopes this film can spread the importance of family, forgiveness, & the power of art among people who are still conflicting.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE UO DUCKS!
SATURDAY, MARCH 14

SHORTS: Home

2:30pm - 4:15pm

Representation
J.J. Querubin • Short Narrative
3 min • USA
An Asian American woman explores the power of representation and misrepresentation, told in spoken word.

Although I grew up in an immigrant household, I only recently became more aware of my skin color and the misrepresentation of my community. I originally wrote this poem for a college class assignment, as a complaint and call to change. Sharing this performative piece as an animated short has given the writing more life and the words more depth.

Balancing Sacrifice
Rommel Andaya • Short Narrative
6 min • USA
Back from deployment, a young woman grapples with the sacrifices she has made both overseas and at home.

The lead actor, Arlyn Dela Pena, and I wanted to tell a story about the struggles of a military couple, especially one where the woman was the assumed “bread winner” and “wore the pants” in the relationship. Balancing Sacrifice explores how this dynamic affects them due to gendered social structures.

Kama’aina
Kimi Howl Lee • Short Narrative
15 min • USA
Mahina navigates life on the streets in Wai‘anae as a queer teen, coming to find herself at the largest organized homeless camp in Hawaii – Pu‘uhonua o Wai‘anae.

As a teen, I developed a romantic relationship with a local boy whom I soon realized was homeless. This experience made me re-examine my privilege, my culpability, and my potential to enact change. Since then I’ve been fixated on exploring the hidden poverty in paradise. My intention with Kam’aina is to shed light on the staggering homeless crisis that plagues Hawai‘i’s youth, without fetishizing their poverty.

Our Home Here
Angela Chen • Short Narrative
17 min • USA
A short film with parallel stories, all revolving around one explosive night at a fast food drive-thru in Texas; the elusiveness of the American dream.

Within the span of 30 seconds, a random act of violence led to a stranger’s hospitalization and my brother’s arrest. To this day, I strive to understand how our complex society puts us at odds with each other and how power and authority in the wrong hands leads to prejudices and propels systematic oppression. This film examines the stories of those involved in this event through their unique dreams and aggressions.

Our Island’s Treasure
Kaiya Yonamine • Short Doc • 17 min • USA
High school student and youth activist Kaiya Yonamine gives voice to activists at the Henoko military base site in Okinawa, a pivotal fight for preserving the ocean that few people here know about.

My name is Kaiya, and I am a 17-year old Okinawan-American high school student from Portland, Oregon. I made this documentary to show the world what’s happening, because I felt frustrated by the silence of the media around this crisis. Our Island’s Treasure focuses on the destruction of the beautiful Okinawan ocean in Henoko and the fight by native Uchinanchu people to protect it. Please help spread awareness.

FINDING DOHI
Amber McClure • Short Doc • 26 min • USA
A mother and daughter trace their family roots back to Japan, unearthing pieces of family history lost across oceans and language.

“Okage sama de” - I am who I am because of you (Japanese expression)
Born in Hawai’i shortly after WWII and compelled by an earnest desire for connection with her parents and grandparents, my mother has been researching our family history for as long as I can remember. We are honored to share this journey of discovery, and we hope to inspire others to learn about the past and discover connections that live on today.

2020 Program Guide
Purchase tickets at the door or online at DisorientFilm.org
Program subject to change
DOUBLE FEATURE

4:35pm - 6:20pm

Empty By Design
Feature Narrative • 83 min • Philippines
Director: Andrea A. Walter

High profile actors Chris Pang (Crazy Rich Asians), Osric Chau (Supernatural), and Dante Basco (Hook, Avatar: The Last Airbender) complement a strong performance by Rhian Ramos in this beautifully shot feature film. Set in Manila, it follows two young Filipinos, Samantha (Ramos) and Eric (Chau), who have each returned to the Philippines after years abroad. Their paths cross and become intertwined as each searches for feeling and identity in the city they once called home.

“...a beautifully shot feature film...”

An aspiring singer longs for something of her own amidst all that she’s sacrificed.

This is an immigrant story about the search for one’s voice despite an unlistening audience. It is about the pains of loneliness in a foreign land that is also a crucible for creativity. It’s about how a parent’s love can be strong enough to transcend distance. This film is for the singers, songwriters, musicians, and artists living abroad and fighting to be heard, and for the children who are growing up without them.

HARANA
Short Narrative • 17 min • USA
Director: Marie Jamora

An aspiring singer longs for something of her own amidst all that she’s sacrificed.

“I’m overcome with emotion.” – Daria

Just trying to live that Boba life. This is a story of coming home to your country and feeling a sense of disconnection. Empty By Design was awarded Best International Feature Film in the 2019 SOHO International Film Festival.
Geographies of Kinship

Feature Documentary • 81 min • USA

Director: Deann Borshay Liem

The compelling, broad history of transnational adoption since the Korean War is the backdrop for four adult adoptee stories. Returning to their country of birth, the four protagonists search for a sense of belonging; there are discoveries and dead ends, as well as mysteries that will never be unravelled. They are returning to their roots and mapping the geographies of kinship that bind them to a homeland they never knew. They emerge with a deepened sense of self and sense of purpose.

Deann Borshay Liem is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and the 2018 recipient of the Women, Peace and Security Fellowship from the SF Film Society. Geographies of Kinship explores universal questions of identity, assimilation, kinship and belonging, by listening closely to those who have lived the experience of transnational adoption most intimately – adoptees.
**SHORTS: Modern Romance**

**Grandma's 80th Surprise**
Fola Evans-Akingbola, Curtis Lum
*Short Narrative • 11 min • Canada*

Curtis is nervous to introduce his new girlfriend to his traditional Chinese grandma, but she's not the only one in for a surprise.

We made this film to confront the rigid traditions surrounding interracial relationships that exist in many Asian households, and to capture the humor that arises from intergenerational miscommunication, misunderstandings, and clashing between cultures, generations and ideas. This film is our homage to my Grandmother and her brave honesty, her fierce love, and to my family's wicked sense of humor.

**Best Man**
Uma Sakhalkar • *Short Narrative*
*9 min • USA*

He just wants to be the best man in a wedding, but he can't break stereotypes without breaking a couple noses along the way.

This short comedy parodies the lack of Asian representation in cinema and explores the struggle of Asian-American actors. It tackles the big question of why we as minorities continue to fight for our place in front of and behind the camera.

**Rom-Com Gone Wrong**
Garth Kravits • *Short Narrative*
*4 min • USA*

Right place, right time, right guy - but not quite.

Rom-Com Gone Wrong portrays the universal experience of love unrequited. Telling this story with an all Asian American cast illustrates a different level of humanity through roles that are usually reserved for non-Asian or Pacific Islander actors. - Lia Change (Producer)

**Nightcap: Mariana**
Imani Hakim • *Short Narrative*
*11 min • USA*

Two strangers bond over past heartbreaks, discovering they have more in common than they thought.

As a first-time director I was attracted to this exploration of love and the dating scene that is inclusive of a queer point-of-view. I also want to humanize people of color and shed the stereotypes and tropes we often see portrayed of our beautiful Asian men and African American women. I fall in love knowing that we are not watching them because of the color of their skin, but because of the love story that will unfold.

**Zoetic**
Julia Zhan | Co-Directed by Wesley Chan, Co-Founder of Wong Fu Productions
*Short Narrative • 22 min • USA*

A daughter helps her 60-year-old mother navigate the world of online dating.

Zoetic is a timidly ballsy open letter to our parents, publicly expressing what we can't bring ourselves to convey privately. (Oh, the irony of Asian communication) We hope this film serves as an open letter for others who wish to connect more deeply with immigrant parents, for parents who may have forgotten how to think of themselves; and sheds light on those who are dating later in life, a subject often overlooked.

**Secret Lives of Asians at Night**
KEFF • *Short Narrative • 18 min • USA*

It’s a clash of cultures, languages, and dance moves in this action packed journey into the other side of the model minority.

This screwball noir explores cultural tension and racism between the various different types of Asians and questions how productive that is in the Asian-American context, where we're all minorities anyway. It also highlights how Asians in America do not easily fit under one umbrella stereotype. I hope this film can catalyze Asian-Americans to rethink how they approach self-empowerment and identity politics.
Signal
Chloe Hung • Short Narrative
19 min • USA
Amy and Evan survived the apocalypse - but can their relationship?

Science-fiction allows us to grapple with issues relevant to us today but in a heightened story landscape. Signal began as an epic post-apocalyptic sci-fi adventure and evolved into a quiet study on what happens when your relationship reaches a crossroads. Casting people of color was important to me because I wanted to feature people we don't always see as the protagonists of relationship and sci-fi films.

More Than Just a 1/2
Jenny Lee-Gilmore • Short Documentary
8 min • Canada
As one filmmaker explores both sides of her biracial identity, she finds there’s more to being mixed race than the sum of those parts.

Jenny Lee-Gilmore is an English-born writer and director. She attended the University of British Columbia, earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production while also taking classes in Asian Canadian & Migration studies and gender studies. Jenny hopes to continue telling stories that reflect her diverse and multiracial upbringing.

How to Say Goodbye
Christy NaMee Eriksen • Short Narrative
6 min • USA
A poem about friendship and the pain that comes with it, written as a letter revealing the beauty and heartbreak of a lifelong friendship.

How to Say Goodbye is a poem about grief, gratitude, and friendship. Written and performed by Christy NaMee Eriksen, it is dedicated to a close lifelong friend who passed away last year from cancer. Awards from the Rasmuson Foundation, Loft Literary Center, Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation, and the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council have supported Eriksen in moving spoken word poetry from stages to screens.

Mo‘o!
Anela Ling • Short Narrative • 17 min • USA
Mourning a recent loss, two cousins search for comfort amidst a haunting landscape. But they are not alone.

With this film, I wanted to portray a different version of mourning. I want to offer comfort to those who have felt loss and didn’t know what to do, and to the friends who didn’t know what to say. I wanted to show preservation of memory, the roots that connect us all in nature, and the humor that comes with the darkness in life. A little bit of everything, all wrapped up in my home of Hawai‘i.

Bitter Melons
Thavary Krouch • Short Narrative
26 min • USA
A female line cook is forced to confront the hurt she’s held on to, and learns through her food that this place of pain can also be one of comfort and healing.

Although this story is rooted in my personal experiences, I wanted to dig deep below the layers of cultural and ethnic identity to find the common thread that connects us all. I wanted to explore the ways food and family become a means to our survival. This is a tribute to life, and to anyone who has doubted that healing can take place in the darkest of moments, or who has needed a story where love is the ultimate medicine.

Q&A will take place after all the films have finished screening.
**The Last Stitch**

*Feature Documentary • 69 min • Hong Kong*

**Director:** Alfred Sung

Born to a family of tailors, Tommy Sung's story begins in Shanghai and moves to Hong Kong and Toronto. Encompassing the history of both Hong Kong and Chinese diaspora, The Last Stitch is filmmaker Alfred Sung's love letter to his community, his family and the waning of traditional craftsmanship in our modern times.

In 1999, I was a new immigrant in Toronto and a university student majoring in history. At the time, Hong Kong people and expatriates had a clear sense of identity. When I returned to Toronto as a filmmaker twenty years later, I realized that the responsibility of continuing and representing this community had fallen on my generation's shoulders. The Last Stitch highlights the stories and skills of Hong Kong people.

**A Sweet and Sour Christmas**

*Short Documentary • 15 min • USA*

**Director:** Aram Siu Wai Collier

The holidays are a time for family, but for the family that runs the King Wok restaurant it's also the busiest week of the year.

Aram is a filmmaker, educator, and former film festival programmer. Based in Toronto, Aram is a mixed-race Asian Canadian/American (Chinese and English/Dutch/German) and a San Francisco native who has a BFA and MFA in Film Production from UC Santa Cruz and New York University, respectively.
SHORTS: Family

3:00pm - 4:20pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

UO EMU REDWOOD AUDITORIUM

The Hole
Will Kim • Short Narrative • 4 min • USA
Through watercolor animation, this film explores the intangible presence of a lost loved one, long after they’re gone, and the guilt, pain, and (eventually) healing their memory can bring.

The Hole is about a mother bird, with a big hole in her heart, on a journey of searching for her baby son that fails to fly and accidentally falls into a hole. With an original sound track by Green Seo, Will Kim uses watercolor animation technique to reflect on his personal and universal experience of tragedy and despair.

Egghead & Twinkie
Sarah Holland • Short Narrative 9 min • USA
Coming out of the closet isn’t easy, but it helps to have a best friend to cheer you on. Even if they’re in love with you.

I wrote Egghead & Twinkie two years ago, when I was fresh out of the closet and starting to see the humor in the entire situation. As an Asian American and proud member of the LGBT community, I know firsthand how rare it is to see positive minority representation on screen. After years of frustration, Egghead & Twinkie is my response to the problem. We all know coming out isn’t easy, but it can also be kind of hilarious.

The Visit
Roxy Shih • Short Narrative • 15 min • USA
When her pregnant granddaughter visits from the city, grandma insists she is doing just fine - until she mysteriously disappears.

This film was inspired by a news article my mother read in Taiwan about a missing grandmother who encountered a spirit in the woods. The story imprinted the Taiwanese landscape in my mind and captivated my interest in the spirit phenomenon that still pervades the imagination of the local population. This film invited me to discover the aesthetic roots of my cultural background; ponder existence, loss, family, and modernity; and examine the unknown in a distant yet familiar world. - Theresa Chiu (Producer)

Under the Boardwalk
Jason Park • Short Narrative • 10 min • USA
A brother goes to pick his sister up, finding her alone on the beach digging holes in the sand.

Jason Park is a second-generation Korean-American from Chicago. He studied Theology, History, and Secondary Education, and spent a year as a teacher/missionary on the island of Palau. Under the Boardwalk is a film about dialogue - or the lack of truthful dialogue in our conversations - inspired by an actual situation that occurred to writer David J. Lee.

Eight Short Films About Cell Phones
Ronin Wong • Short Narrative • 10 min • USA
A chain reaction of mico-stories illustrate the pervasive impact of cellphones on our lives.

I’m a late adapter when it comes to smart phones. I find them invasive but increasingly necessary as more of my friends and colleagues use them as their only communication device. This short film explores how the increased connectivity offered by these devices impacts the important decisions in our lives. It also presents a representatively modern and diverse populace. This is my first film, and I hope you enjoy it.

WAVES
Jane Hae Kim • Short Narrative • 14 min • USA
Jamie finds that even while visiting her family, there’s still oceans between them.

Jane Hae Kim is a Korean American multi-hyphenate artist. Waves is her debut film as writer and director. Jane’s art focuses on figures in vulnerable settings, to show how we hide and cover even in very intimate places. Waves explores the clear divide between Asian American family members in households with first generation Asian American parents, and the conversations that are not being had to bridge the gap.
DOUBLE FEATURE

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
UO EMU REDWOOD AUDITORIUM

4:40pm - 6:35pm

Seadrift
Feature Documentary • 69 min • USA
Director: Tim Tsai

What began as a dispute over fishing territory between Vietnamese refugees and local, white fisherman along the Gulf Coast, erupted into violence in 1979—a shooting, boat burnings, KKK intimidation. This film explores the complexities of human interactions. Reconciliation and understanding require us to see our “enemies” as human beings.

Tim is an editor/filmmaker and the executive director of the Austin Asian American Film Festival. He directed KLRU’s short documentary series Austin Revealed: Pioneers from the East, which profiles some of the earliest Chinese American families to settle in Central Texas. Seadrift is his first feature.

Lights Out, Chinatown!
Short Narrative • 15 min • USA
Director: Mark Tran

A murder in Chinatown brings together a struggling forensic artist and a witness, both Vietnamese refugees. The American dream can be elusive, and the longing for family unending. Where is home?

Lights Out, Chinatown! explores the idea of the American Dream through the eyes of two Vietnamese refugees, 15 years after the fall of Saigon. Mark Tran is a Vietnamese-American filmmaker born and raised in CA. He has directed over 30 short films.
Found in Korea 🎥

*Feature Documentary • 74 min • USA*

**Director:** Allison Lane, Kevyn Settle, Nam Holtz

Every year, thousands of Korean children are given up for adoption. The majority end up leaving Korea, with many being adopted by white parents in the United States. Nam Holtz was one of these children. This feature documentary follows Nam on her first trip back to the place of her birth since being found on the street in 1975. Informative, emotional, and heartwarming – tissues recommended.

I was found on the streets of S. Korea as an infant and adopted by a white family in America. Amazingly, my story is similar to thousands of adoptees. As I delved into this production, I discovered a story about identity that is universally healing. I hope this film will serve as a catalyst for more discussions about adoption and the unique challenges faced by adopted and fostered children around the world.

Strangers’ Reunion 🎥

*Short Narrative • 14 min • United Kingdom*

**Director:** Liz Sargent

A Korean-American adoptee meets her birth mother for the first time. But without the help of a translator, can they bridge the 35-year gap?

I wrote this script as a way to process my unique feelings about reunion – I found that the search to reunite with a birth mother can be daunting and impossible, reveal tragedy or joy. Reunion can complete a yearning or unveil a part of yourself you never wanted to know. This film does not give answers. The story told the ‘next day’ could be anything, but the connection – with all its complicated emotions – has been made.
CLOSING RECEPTION/AWARDS CEREMONY

9:15pm - 11:00pm

Come celebrate the end of another successful festival downstairs in the Crater Lake Rooms. Join us for great food and find out if your favorite films have won an award at DisOrient. We will be giving out awards for Best Short Narrative, Best Short Documentary, Best Feature Doc, Best Feature Narrative, Audience Award, and the film that will receive the 2019 Jason D. Mak Award for Social Justice.

FESTIVAL VENUES

Broadway Metro
888 Willamette Street
SPECIAL EVENTS  PG. 4-6

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
1430 Johnson Lane
SPECIAL EVENTS  PG. 7

UO EMU Redwood Auditorium
1395 University Street
SCREENINGS  PG. 8-18
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cinema studies
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Minority Voices Theater  Da Nang Vietnamese Eatery
Oregon Film  Off the Waffle
Oregon Pacific Bank  Sizzle Pie
Portland State University - Global Diversity & Inclusion  Taste of India
UO Asian Studies

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Screenplay Sponsors

Special Thanks

Special Thanks: Emily Cornell, our CreateAthon Team - Mila Penrith, Mo Rayburn, Hunter Reed, Stacy DeHart, Encircle Films, Larissa Ennis, Greg Evans, Ryan Graves, Beth Jasper, Joe Jiang, Hannah Kim, Jamie Leaf, Jon Lee, Kelly Lin, Tim McGovney, Michelle Nordella, Paul Nordquist, Thomas Anil Oommen, Vincent Pham-Willamette University, Trish Quan, Queer Film Festival, Mike Ragsdale, Rowell Brokaw Architects, PC, Edward Schiessl, Monica Sellers, Tony Trachsel, versaCello, Tim Williams, our fabulous homestay hosts, our amazing volunteers, and many other generous collaborators.

UO Chinese Studies Minor  Oregon Lox  Party Bar & Party on Friendly
Maizhi Shiao and Nancy Toth  Rising Phoenix Productions  Spectrum Eugene
Jiannbin Shiao

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Speaker Bar & Party on Friendly  Rising Phoenix Productions  Specturm Eugene  Tailored Coffee Roasters

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Katrina Ang  Wren Davidson  Andreea Ioanas  Widya Mak  Mike Takahashi
Maren Ang  Roscoe Divine  Scott Johnson  Vicky Mello  Nancy Toth
Namihira Bolton  Matt Ehrhard  Joann Landon  Lisa Moeller  Daisy Truong
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If you are enjoying DisOrient 2020 and find this to be a valuable community event, please consider making a donation so that we can do it again next year.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>SHORTS PROGRAM #1 - Understanding Standing Above the Clouds</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>SHORTS PROGRAM #2 - Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>SHORTS PROGRAM #3 - Modern Romance</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>SHORTS PROGRAM #4 - Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>SHORTS PROGRAM #5 - Lights Out, Chinatown!</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Feature Documentary - Opening Night Film: Chinatown Rising</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Feature Documentary - Opening Night Film: VAI</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Shorts Program - Shorts Program #2</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<td>8:00 pm</td>
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<td>9:00 pm</td>
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<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>Shorts Program - Shorts Program #6</td>
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<td>11:00 pm</td>
<td>Shorts Program - Shorts Program #7</td>
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</tbody>
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**Tuesdays, March 10 & 17**

- **11:00 am** - Feature Narrative: Standing Above the Clouds
- **12:00 pm** - Feature Narrative: VAI
- **3:00 pm** - Special Screening: Things I Did for Money
- **6:30 pm** - Special Screening: Severance