



DISORIENT
ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL
of OREGON

Discover Asian American Indie

A&7 AEROPOSTALE
ADOPTED?!
BE PART OF A
DOCUMENTARY FILM
A&7 AEROPOSTALE

15th
Anniversary

March 12-15, 2020
DISORIENTFILM.ORG

   @DisOrientFilm

FESTIVAL TIPS!

- Arrive early! Allow yourself enough time to park and make your way to the venue. Please check our website for additional parking information.
- Venue Locations can be found on page 19.
- Tickets may be purchased at the door or online through our website.
- Stay seated until the end of the credits.
- Stay after the film for the Q&A session to meet the filmmakers in person.
- Join our email list through our website.
- Don't forget to turn in your Audience Award ballot after each screening.
- Donate to DisOrient so we can do it again next year!



Director Bio/Statement



Film Festival Premiere



Oregon Premiere



Pacific Northwest Premiere



World Premiere



U.S. Premiere



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

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.

ROWELL BROKAW

Architecture. Design. Strategy.



SPECIAL SCREENING

6:30pm - 8:00pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 BROADWAY METRO



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.



Vai is a film about female empowerment, telling the story of one woman's life in eight separate moments from the perspective of eight different Pacific Island cultures. Beautiful, celebratory, epic, uplifting and and at times heartbreaking.

SPECIAL SCREENING

8:30pm - 10:20pm



Things I Do for Money ▲

Feature Narrative • 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.

OPENING NIGHT FILM

6:00pm - 8:40pm



Chinatown Rising 📍

Feature Documentary • 112 min • USA

Director: Harry & Josh Chuck



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.



X
MULTI CULTURAL CENTER

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
EUGENE CAMPUS

Everything Begins with a Great Teacher!

- ▶ Learn to be a teacher with expert classroom teachers and professors in local public and private, elementary and secondary schools
- ▶ International placements available
- ▶ Programs designed to fit your life

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

- Includes ESOL endorsement
- Part-time school residency
- Face-to-face and online courses

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

- Elementary, middle or high school levels
- Extensive time in community schools
- Face-to-face and online courses

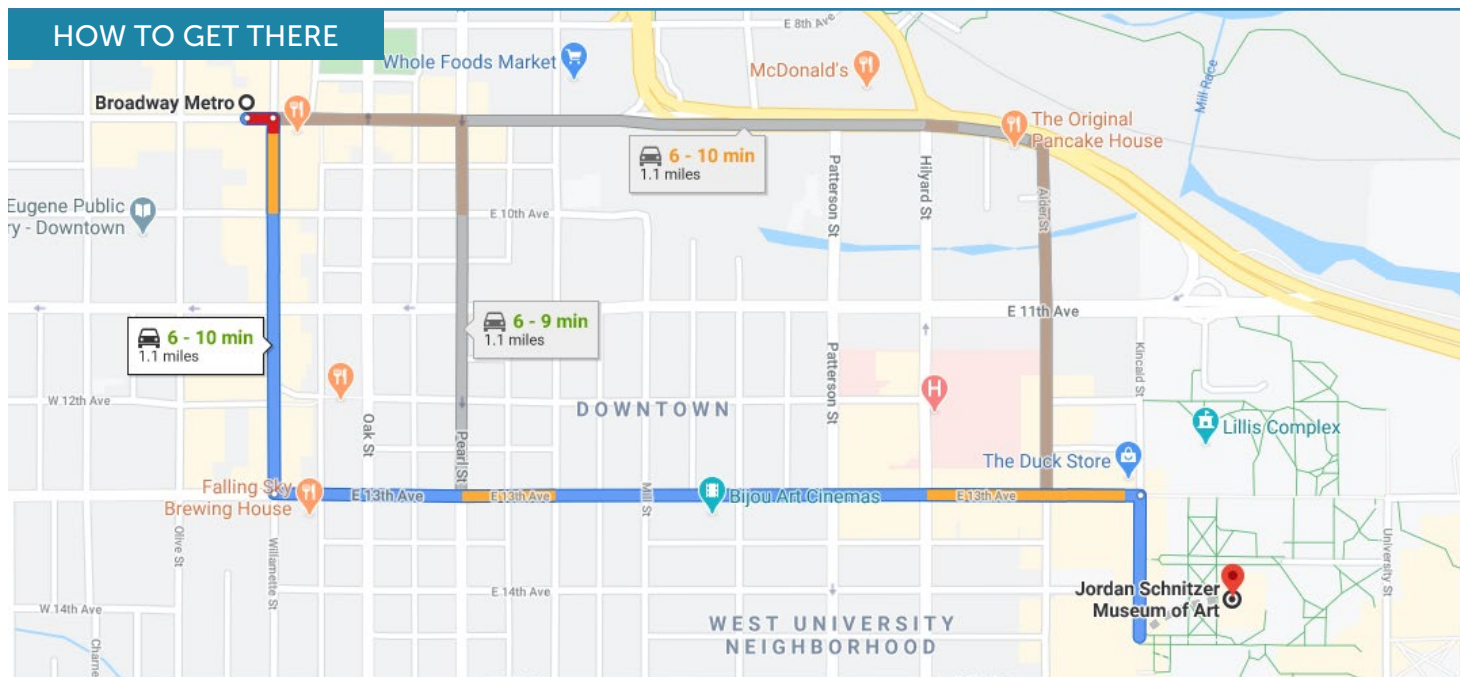
Pacific University Oregon

pacificu.edu/EugeneTeach
 Sara Summers | teacheug@pacificu.edu | 541-632-8805

OPENING NIGHT GALA

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

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.



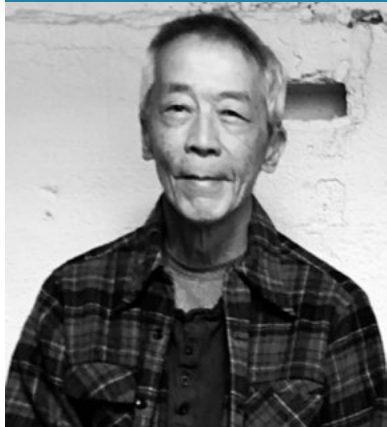
LIVE PERFORMANCE BY



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.

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY



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

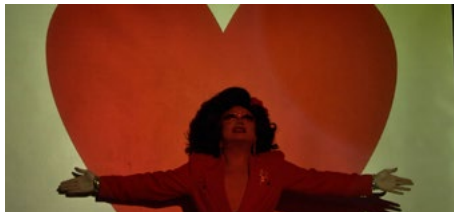


Johanna Wong • Short Narrative
5 min • USA

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.



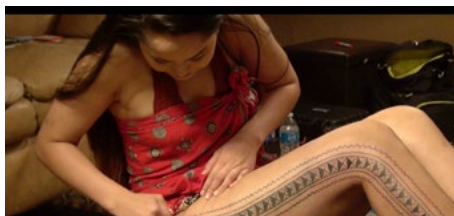
Eat When You're Hungry

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.

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

DOUBLE FEATURE

1:00pm - 2:15pm



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.



PRECEDED BY

Coming Home

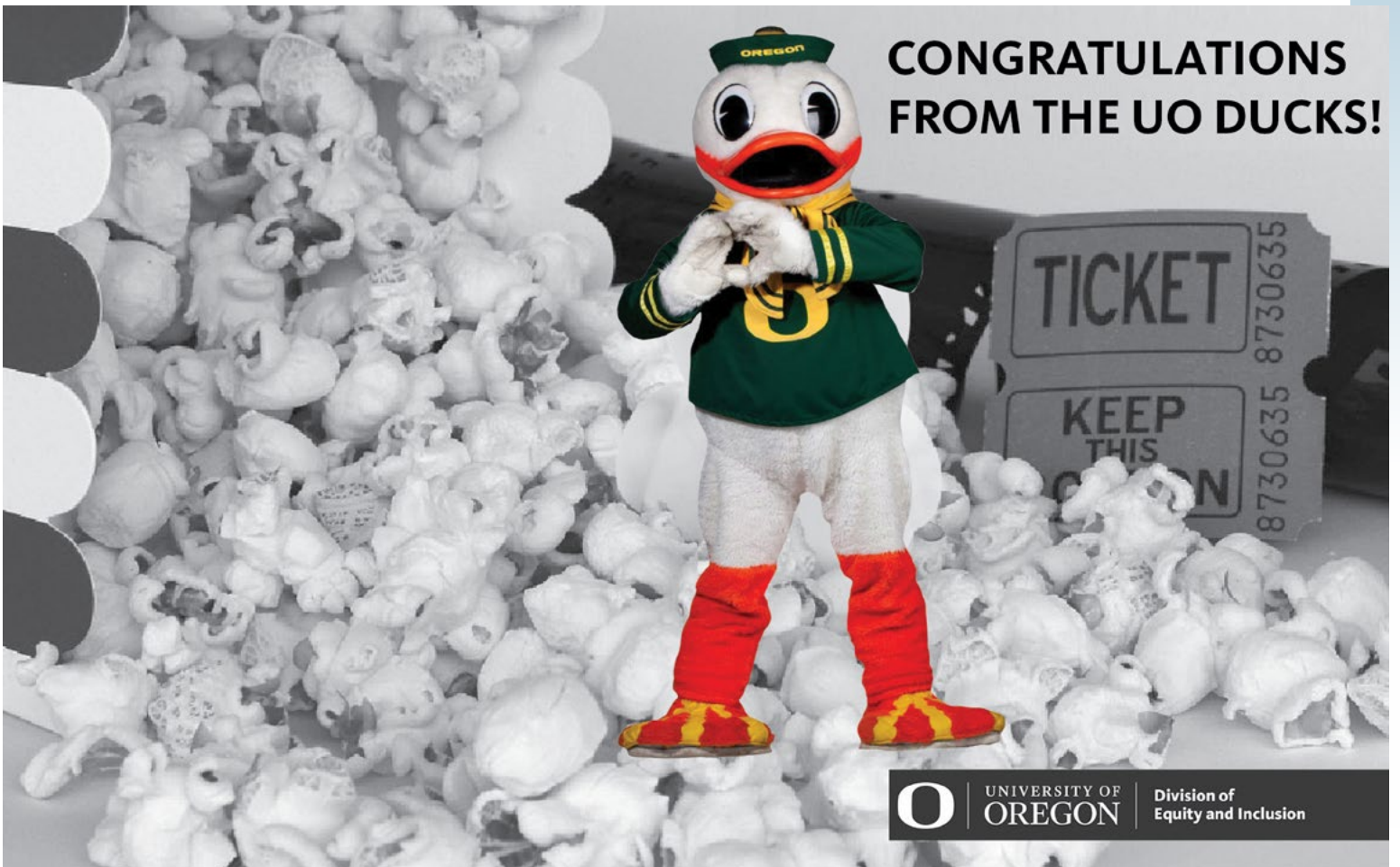
Short Animation • 5 min • USA

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!



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Division of Equity and Inclusion

SHORTS: Home

2:30pm - 4:15pm



Representation



JJ 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'āina

Kimi Howl Lee • Short Narrative
15 min • USA

Mahina navigates life on the streets in Wai'ānae as a queer teen, coming to find herself at the largest organized homeless camp in Hawaii – Pu'uhonua o Wai'ānae.



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 Hawaii'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.

DOUBLE FEATURE

4:35pm - 6:20pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 10:00 AM REDWOOD AUDITORIUM



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.



*"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.*



PRECEDED BY

HARANA

Short Narrative • 17 min • USA

Director: Marie Jamora

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 un-listening 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.

Victor K Lin, MD, MS

Physician



Rehabilitation Medicine Associates

Specializing in

- Stroke & Spinal Chord Injury
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Muscle, Nerve, & Joint Injury
- Sports Medicine
- Dance Medicine
- Industrial Medicine

242 Country Club Road
Eugene, OR 97401

541.683.4242
Fax: 541.343.5078

FEATURING SPECIAL TRACK IN 2020

ASIAN AMERICANS



ROGUE AWARD WINNER
Renee Tajima-Peña
(Who Killed Vincent Chin?)

PREVIEW
Upcoming PBS series
Asian Americans

[i] ashland
independent
film festival

ASHLAND, OREGON
APRIL 16-20, 2020
ASHLANDFILM.ORG

CENTERPIECE FILM

6:35pm - 8:30pm



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.

Hybrid
Real Estate

Pamela M. Quan
Broker, GRI



Email
quanyimun@comcast.net

Phone
541-954-1798

2445 Oakmont Way
Eugene, OR 97401

Eugene-Kakegawa Sister Cities

Over 40 years of friendship!

Host a student
delegate from
Kakegawa!



Join a delegation
to visit Japan!

Visit us on Facebook @ Eugene - Kakegawa Sister Cities

or

On the web @ EKSCC.org



Service Deserves
Its Rewards®



SHORTS: Modern Romance

Co-Presented by



8:45pm - 10:30pm



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.

(Free) SHORTS: Longing

11:00am - 12:35pm



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.

DOUBLE FEATURE

12:55pm - 2:40pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 UO EMU REDWOOD AUDITORIUM



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.



PRECEDED BY

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.



Family Strengthening,
Orphan Care &
Adoption

HOLT INTERNATIONAL
Uplifting children. Strengthening families.

holtinternational.org | 1-888-355-HOLT

JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART



Roger Shimomura (Japanese-American, born 1939). *American vs. Japanese #3* (detail), 2011. Acrylic on canvas. 54 x 54 inches. Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer

Roger Shimomura

By Looking Back, We Look Forward

On view through July 19, 2020

For more information about the exhibition including sponsors and events, visit:

jsma.uoregon.edu/Shimomura

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

jsma.uoregon.edu
541.346.3027



EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity

SHORTS: Family


3:00pm - 4:20pm



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 micro-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

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.



PRECEDED BY

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.



BIGGER AUDITORIUMS WITH DELUXE SEATING



HOUSE-MADE FOOD AND BEVERAGES



A BIGGER, BETTER

METRO

43 W. BROADWAY / 888 WILLAMETTE ST.
www.broadwaymetro.com

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity

cinema studies

university of oregon

Where Critical Thinking Meets Creative Practice

cinema.uoregon.edu

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

6:55pm - 8:50pm



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.



PRECEDED BY

Strangers' Reunion ▲

Short Narrative • 14 min • United Kingdom

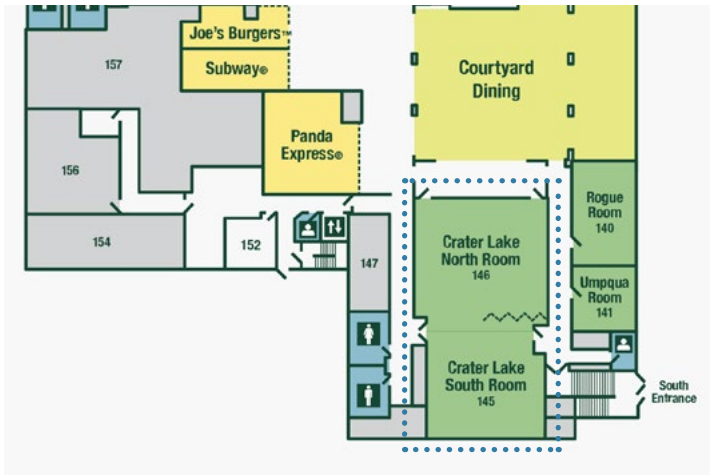
Director: Liz Sargent

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



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Grant Sponsors



JAMES F. AND MARION L.
MILLER
FOUNDATION



Community Partnerships



Executive Producer



Cinematography Sponsors

Gardner &
Pandora Kimm



**ROWELL
BROKAW**

Architecture. Design. Strategy.

JORDAN SCHNITZER
MUSEUM OF ART

**Mark Young
& Susan Hirata**

**Marvin Fickle &
Marina Suing**



Hybrid
Real Estate

Pamela M. Quan
Broker, GRI



**Trish
Quan**

Set Design Sponsors



Actor's Spotlight Sponsors

Chinese American Benevolent Association (CABA)
 City of Eugene Telecommunications
 Dana Singer
 Mark and Joy Gall
 Minority Voices Theater
 Oregon Film
 Oregon Pacific Bank
 Portland State University – Global Diversity & Inclusion
 UO Asian Studies

UO School of Journalism and Communication
 UO School of Planning, Public Policy and Management
 Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School PTO
 Bon Mi
 Da Nang Vietnamese Eatery
 Off the Waffle
 Sizzle Pie
 Taste of India

Screenplay Sponsors

Alicia Miao
 Bijou Art Cinemas
 Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC)
 Eugene Center for Anxiety and Stress
 Eugene-Chinju (Jinju) Sister City Committee
 Jiannbin Shiao and Nancy Toth

Karen Murphy
 Oregon Lox
 Party Bar & Party on Friendly
 Rising Phoenix Productions
 Spectrum Eugene
 Tailored Coffee Roasters

Toxic Wings
 UO Center for the Study of Women in Society
 UO East Asian Languages and Literatures
 UO Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies
 UO School of Law
 UO Sociology

Members

Laurie Anderson
 Katrina Ang
 Maren Ang
 Namihira Bolton
 Greg Brokaw
 Melissa Cariño
 LeAnne Carter
 James Chang
 Nancy Cheng
 Ann Cole

Barbara Date'
 Wren Davidson
 Roscoe Divine
 Matt Ehrhard
 Nathanline Frener
 Jonathan Ganal
 Norma Grier
 Gordon Hall
 Jeanie Hall
 Alma Hesus

Susan Hirata
 Andreea Ioanas
 Scott Johnson
 Joann Landon
 Elaine Lawson
 Reagan Le
 Helen Liu
 Virginia Lo
 Ditte Lokon
 Mitzi Loftus

Jason Mak
 Widya Mak
 Vicky Mello
 Lisa Moeller
 Rene' Nelson
 Thomas Anil Oommen
 Martin Parisien
 Kiyoe Parisien
 Rosa A. Sakanishi
 Jiannbin Shiao

Dana Singer
 Mike Takahashi
 Nancy Toth
 Daisy Truong
 Robert Watada
 Jane Williams
 Linda Wong
 Charlene Yogi
 Lois Yoshishige
 Greg Young

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING STAFF!

Staff

Executive Director

Pamela M. Quan

Programming Director

Susan K. Hirata

Treasurer

Mark Young

Film Screeners

Pamela Quan

Susan Hirata

Mark Young

Ron Miyaguchi

Jade Young

Serena Lim

Alex Dakers

Resource Development

Gordon Hall

Susan Hirata

Mee Wai Lam

Sandra Lozano

Ron Miyaguchi

Pamela Quan

Mark Young

Coordinators

Home Stays

Norma Grier

Travel

Trish Quan

Green Room & Volunteers

Sandra Lozano

Widya Mak

Ron Miyaguchi

Jason Cummings

Website

Ditte Lokon

Sara Pritt

Design

Kelli Urabe

Jiana Chen

Serena Lim

Mark Young

Marketing & Public Relations

Madelaine Au

Jason Cummings

Ryley Magno-Ha'o

Gordon Hall

Susan Hirata

JiMila

Mee Wai Lam

Ron Miyaguchi

Pamela Quan

Sandra Lozano

Mark Young

Trailer

Trish Quan

Board of Directors

Susan K. Hirata

Mee Wai Lam

Mark Young

Gordon Hall

Ron Miyaguchi

Pamela M. Quan



DISORIENT
ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL
of OREGON

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.





DISORIENT
ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL
of OREGON

2020 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

	FRIDAY, March 13	SATURDAY, March 14	SUNDAY, March 15
11:00 am	Broadway Metro	UO EMU Redwood Auditorium	UO EMU Redwood Auditorium
12:00 pm		SHORTS PROGRAM #1 <i>Understanding</i> 11:00am - 12:40pm (20 min Q&A)	~ FREE SHOWING ~ SHORTS PROGRAM #4 <i>Longing</i> 11:00am - 12:35pm (20 min Q&A)
1:00 pm		SAMURAI IN THE OREGON SKY <i>Coming Home</i> 1:00pm - 2:15pm (20 min Q&A)	THE LAST STITCH ----- A Sweet and Sour Christmas 12:55pm - 2:40pm
2:00 pm			
3:00 pm		SHORTS PROGRAM #2 <i>Home</i> 2:30pm - 4:15pm (20 min Q&A)	SHORTS PROGRAM #5 <i>Family</i> 3:00pm - 4:20pm (20 min Q&A)
4:00 pm			
5:00 pm		EMPTY BY DESIGN ----- <i>Harana</i> 4:35pm - 6:20pm (20 min Q&A)	SEADRIFT ----- Lights Out, Chinatown! 4:40pm - 6:35pm (30 min Q&A)
6:00 pm	~ OPENING NIGHT FILM ~		
7:00 pm	CHINATOWN RISING 6:00pm - 8:40pm (30 min Q&A)	~ CENTERPIECE FILM ~ GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP 6:35pm - 8:30pm (30 min Q&A)	~ CLOSING NIGHT FILM ~ FOUND IN KOREA Strangers' Reunion 6:55pm - 8:50pm (30 min Q&A)
8:00 pm			
9:00 pm	OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION 9:00pm - 11:00pm UO Jordan Schnitzer Museum	SHORTS PROGRAM #3 <i>Modern Romance</i> 8:45pm - 10:30pm (20 min Q&A)	
10:00 pm			CLOSING NIGHT CEREMONY 9:15pm - 11:00pm
11:00 pm			UO EMU Crater Lake Room

TUESDAY, March 10
~ PREVIEW ~
Broadway Metro

TOKYO HULA

Standing Above the Clouds
6:30pm - 8:00pm

THURSDAY, March 12
~ SPECIAL SCREENING ~
Broadway Metro

VAI
6:30pm - 8:00pm

THINGS I DO FOR MONEY

Severance
8:30pm - 10:20pm

MONDAY EVENING
March 16
~ ENCORE SCREENINGS ~
Award Winners
March 17

Feature Narrative

Feature Documentary

Shorts Program

Special Event