



**DISORIENT**

ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL  
of OREGON

# 2023 FESTIVAL ANNUAL REPORT



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# FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

## WE GENERATION

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) cultures place an emphasis on the collective rather than the individual, honoring the many generations that have come before and that are yet to come. Storytelling through film allows us to traverse our past, present, and future together, with each generation bringing insight and vibrancy to our collective experiences.

From the electrifying energy and poignancy of marginalized taiko masters in our Opening Night film—**Finding Her Beat**, to the illuminating and heartfelt conversations between 3 generations of a Japanese American family in our Centerpiece film—**80 Years Later**, to the search for identity and familial healing in the cross-cultural Closing Night film—**Land of Gold**, and the 89 other films in our program, WE Generation is a celebration of AANHPI heritage, community and kinship, and the infinite generational connections that weave us together.

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# IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

A huge thank you to our planning team, volunteers, and board members who came together to make our 2023 Film Festival a huge success!

## PLANNING TEAM

- Andrea Willow - Marketing, Graphics
- Gardner Kimm - Programming, Hospitality
- Gordon Nagayama Hall - Grants
- Isabelle Le - Green Room and Events Co-Chair
- Jade Young - Newsletter
- Jason Cummings - Marketing, Hospitality
- Jo Fujiwara Morozumi - Technical, Motion Graphics, Programming
- Kelli Urabe - Festival Graphics
- Linda Wong - Social Media
- Lisa Kwon - Green Room and Events Co-Chair
- Mark Young - Programming, Logistics
- Mee Wai Lam - Volunteer Coordinator
- Melodie Moore - Photography, Social Media
- Mike Takahashi - Bookkeeping
- Pamela Quan - Executive Director
- Pandora Kimm - Programming, Hospitality
- Ron Miyaguchi - Programming, Logistics
- Susan Hirata - Programming Director
- Trish Quan - Festival Trailer, Hospitality

## VOLUNTEERS

- Abby Rotholz
- Alexandra Ramos
- Amanda Tallerday
- Baoying Scott
- Daniel Chronister
- Haisu Huang
- James Chang
- Jazmyn Resulto
- Jeanne Hall
- Jeff Johnston
- Jennifer Frenzer
- Jerry de Leon
- Jinsun Yang
- Johnny Childers
- Keenan Nonaka
- Kona Orlandi
- Krista Chronister
- Laurie Anderson
- Maxim Shapovalov
- Pam Berrian
- Rituparna Roy
- Rob Schenk
- Rosa Burstein
- Samantha Lim
- Sandra Lozano
- Sheen Hua
- Therese Picado
- Ulises Ordoñez-Perez
- Victor Lin
- Zoe Haakenstad

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Gordon Nagayama Hall - Grants
- Mark Young
- Mee Wai Lam Secretary
- Pamela Quan
- Ron Miyaguchi
- Susan Hirata - President





# EVENTS PROGRAMMING

## Sneak Preview: CROSSINGS

*Directed By Deann Borshay Liem*

A group of international women peacemakers sets out on a risky journey across the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, calling for an end to a 70-year war that has divided the Korean peninsula and its people.



### Art House, Theaters 1 and 2

February 24 at 6:00pm

Q&A with filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem and Christine Ahn, Korean-American peace activist and 2020 US Peace Prize winner.



## Opening Film: FINDING HER BEAT

*Directed By Dawn Mikkelsen and Keri Pickett*

During the 2020 Minnesota winter, a Japanese drum master and Korean adoptee from North Dakota join forces to assemble the world's best Taiko drummers in a bold effort to claim a cultural spotlight that has historically been reserved only for men.



with:  
**SAFE AND SEEN ON 82<sup>ND</sup> STREET**

*Directed By Dawn Jones Redstone*

A short film exploring music and movement as we follow the emotional journey of a pedestrian, a person of Asian descent, unseen by the world around them.

### Art House, Theaters 1 and 2

March 10 at 6:00pm

Q&A with filmmaker Jennifer Weir and Taiko master Tiffany Tamaribuchi. Opening Night performances at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) by Portland-based Unit Souzaou and Jason Okamoto.





# Centerpiece Film: 80 YEARS LATER

*Directed By Celine Parreñas Shimizu*

80 YEARS LATER explores the racial inheritance of a Japanese American family's incarceration during World War II through multigenerational conversations with Survivors and their descendants. How does one inherit traumatic history across generations?



**Art House, Theaters 1 and 2**  
March 11 at 6:00pm

Q&A with filmmaking team Celine Parreñas Shimizu, Dan Shimizu, Bayan Shimizu, Gabriella Goss, Janet Chen, and Matthew Kim.



# Closing Film: LAND OF GOLD

*Directed By Nardeep Khurmi*

When truck driver Kiran hears pounding on a shipping container and finds a young Mexican-American girl inside, his already tumultuous life takes a drastic turn as he seeks to reunite her family.



**Art House, Theaters 1 and 2**  
March 12 at 5:50pm

Q&A with Director/Writer/Actor/ Nardeep Khurmi and Producer Keertana Sastry. Closing Night Reception at JSMA, with announcement of awards.







# FEATURE PROGRAMS

80 YEARS LATER	Feature Documentary	Celine Parreñas Shimizu
ABOVE THE CLOUDS	Feature Narrative	Jon Hill
BIG FIGHT IN LITTLE CHINATOWN	Feature Documentary	Karen Cho
CROSSINGS	Feature Documentary	Deann Borshay Liem
THE FALL OF THE I-HOTEL	Feature Documentary	Curtis Choy
FINDING HER BEAT	Feature Documentary	Jennifer Weir & Dawn Mikkelsen
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	Feature Narrative	Jason Karman
LAND OF GOLD	Feature Narrative	Nardeep Khurmi
LIQUOR STORE DREAMS	Feature Narrative	So Yun Um
NAMBA: A JAPANESE AMERICAN'S INCARCERATION AND LIFE OF RESILIENCE	Feature Documentary	Emily Hanako Momohara
NO NO GIRL	Feature Narrative	Paul Daisuke Goodman
SEARCHING FOR KAPWA	Feature Documentary	Larry Lariosa
TERRIBLE CHILDREN	Feature Documentary	Shanti Thakur
WISDOM GONE WILD	Feature documentary	Rea Tajiri

# SHORTS PROGRAMS



## ART IS OUR STORY

Online Screening

From music to dance, illustration to origami, poetry to prose, art helps us understand and express who we are and where we come from.

- Stella** • Steve Nguyen • 3 min  
**Chijuyaa** • Brandon Ufugusuku Ing • 9 min  
**Kubota and the Chinese Poets Detained on Angel Island** • Don Bannai • 6 min  
**Dragon** • Matthew Chang • 18 min  
**For Roy** • Vivian Cheung • 12 min • US Premiere  
**My Heart is Red** • Mia Chen • 24 min



## COMMUNITY RISING

Live and Online Screenings

Heartfelt actions, a can-do spirit and artistic beats—this program celebrates community and reminds us that we are stronger together.

- Safe and Seen on 82nd** • Dawn Jones Redstone • 4 min • [Online only](#)  
**Eliseo Art Silva: Finding the Wide American Earth** • Loren A Roberts • 13 min  
**Conversations at the Register** • Brandon Soun • 9 min • [Online only](#)  
**Nowhere But Here** • Brandon Soun • 18 min  
**Chinatown Runners** • Faith E. Briggs, Tim Kemple • 6 min  
**Where No One Lives** • Li Anne Liew • 15 min  
**Sinigang** • Melissa Jane Rodriguez • 15 min  
**Donut Kid** • Michelle Thach • 19 min • [Live only](#)

# SHORTS PROGRAMS, CONT'D



## EMBRACING FAMILY

Online Screening

Films about the relationships that bind us; sometimes we just need a loving, family hug.

**Party Favor** • Yasmine Gomez • 12 min • World Premiere

**Self Storage** • Rommel Andaya • 14 min

**Hui Jia** • Roxy Shih • 14 min

**Coming Home** • Akshay Ravi • 11 min • PNW Premiere

**Ma's Kitchen** • Debbie Vu • 12 min

**The Mess We're In** • Jamie Lam • 11 min • World Premiere

**Donut Kid** • Michelle Thach • 9 min • PNW Premiere



## FEELING ASIAN AMERICAN

Live and Online Screenings

Films that reflect the Asian American experience across time and place.

**Almost** • Carlo Fortin • 5 min • Online only

**Inheritance** • Quin Sotelo • 15 min

**The Body of My Name** 名自字体 • Rosie Choo Pidcock • 4 min

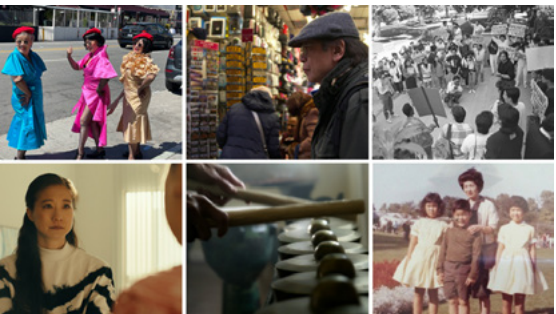
**Feeling Asian American** • Janet S. Kim • 25 min

**Sunkissed Sky** • Michael Kim • 9 min • World Premiere

**White Now Please** • Kyle Lau • 16 min

**Instant Noodle** • Michelle Sastraatmadja • 14 min • World Premiere • Live only

# SHORTS PROGRAMS, CONT'D



## INSPIRING ELDER

Online

A celebration of elders who inspire us with their creativity, humor and wisdom, and who are living life to its fullest!

**Dear Corky** • Curtis Chin • 15 min

**Glammas Wrap** • Wangyuxuan Xu, Colleen Quen, Clara M Hsu • 4 min

**40 14 Tango in Torrance** • Teresa Matsushima • 10 min

**Joe's Journey** • Patty Fong • 9 min

**Winston** • Melanie Lim • 6 min

**Year of the Rat** • Ricky Qi • 27 min



## NIKKEI GENERATION: JA VOICES

Live and Online Screenings

A collection of historical, poignant and inspiring Japanese American/Canadian stories.

**Grandpa Cherry Blossom** • Maddox Chuen Won Chen • 8 min

**Blue Garden** • Natalie Murao • 5 min

**1945 April 11th, Wednesday** • Jason Okamoto • 6 min

**I Feel With My Heart** • Janice Diane Tanaka • 13 min

**The Fourth March** • Robert Shoji • 8 min

**Resettlement: Chicago Story** • Reina Higashitani • 16 min

**Stamp Our Story** • Kaia Rose • 19 min



# SHORTS PROGRAMS, CONT'D



## QUEER VISION

Online

Experimental, inspiring, searching, celebrating: a kaleidoscope of LGBTQ+ stories.

- Hex the Patriarchy** • Anne Brashier • 18 min • World Premiere  
**Luv, Me** • Nicolas Jara, Yen Dinh • 9 min  
**Macaroni Soup (通心粉湯)** • Alayna Y • 6 min  
**Write Here** • Jake Muñoz Consing • 15 min  
**All I Ever Wanted** • Erin Lau • 15 min  
**Boundless** • David Chai • 10 min



## SPIRIT OF YOUTH

Live and Online Screenings

Films that explore the resilience, imagination, and spirit of young people navigating the world.

- Fox Eyes** • Ella Jay Basco • 4 min • World Premiere  
**Stage Kids** • Lynn Chen • 14 min • World Premiere  
**Julia** • Emma Duvall • 11 min  
**MeiHouWang** • Justin L Ni • 6 min  
**hao hao wan wan** • Em Yue • 5 min  
**Gem & Shaz** • Chloé Hung • 10 min  
**Avalanches** • Liz Lian • 15 min • PNW Premiere  
**Intake with my Therapist** • Kelly Khamphouy • 7 min • Live only

# SHORTS PROGRAMS, CONT'D

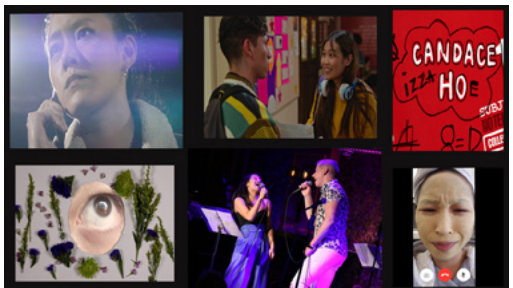


## UNHINGED AND UNCANNY

Live and Online Screenings

Whether slightly unsettling or strange and mysterious, these films walk the edge of thrillers, suspense, and darker genres.

- Morena** • Nicole Mairose Dizon • 8 min  
**White Lady** • Marc Yungco • 7 min  
**A Dire Strait** • Liang-Chun Lin • 21 min  
**Velvet Sky** • Charles Jon Gray • 16 min  
**Copeless** • Jaskaran Singh • 17 min  
**Cherry** • Miki Murad • 16 min • Continental US Premiere  
**The Resemblance** • Derek Nguyen • 16 min



## UNSTOPPABLE WOMEN

Live and Online Screenings

Strong, smart, resilient, brave. These women embrace their vulnerability with an indomitable spirit.

- Stella** • Steve Nguyen • 3 min • Live only  
**Intake With My Therapist** • Kelly Khamphouy • 7 min • Online only  
**w(HO)** • Candace Ho • 5 min  
**Dear Asian Girls** • Yuko Kudo • 16 min • West Coast Premiere  
**En Pointe** • Megan Lee • 15 min  
**Phone Call** • Zoë Kim • 5 min  
**Lunch Box** • Anne Hu • 16 min  
**Don't Be Sorry** • David Au • 10 min • Live only  
**Gund Kwok** • Xudong Liu • 18 min • Live only



# SHORTS PROGRAMS, CONT'D



## WE GENERATION

Live and Online Screenings

Celebrating the humor, frustration, mystery and poignancy that lovingly weave through our relationships over generations.

- Wherever You Are, Wherever I Am • Kay Chan • 3 min • Online only
- A Guide for When Immigrants Become Ancestors • Iliana Garcia • 6 min
- Speak to Me • Anmol Bajpai • 15 min • Online only
- Legacy • Giovannie Espiritu • 1 min
- Inheritance • Erin Lau • 18 min
- Lahi • Reina Gabriela Bonta • 20 min
- Jook • Olivia Stark • 6 min
- Cambodian Futures • Dustin Nakao-Haider • 17 min
- Luv, Me • Yen Dinh, Nicolas Jara • 9 min • Live only

Click here or visit [disorientfilm.org](https://disorientfilm.org) to see the full 2023 Program

# POINTS OF PRIDE

## TRAILERS

Watch this year's Land Acknowledgement video by Joe Jiang, and the official 2023 Festival Trailer, by Jo Fujiwara Morozumi.



## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

- 4,318 Film streams
- 1,325 Newsletter subscribers
- 1,910 Tickets issued
- 556 Attendees
- 314 Passes issued
- 92 Films selected
- 22 In-person film screenings
- 21 Virtual film screenings



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## DEALING WITH DAD Screening

Art House  
May 26-June 1

DisOrient hosted a screening of our 2022 Best Feature Award Film, DEALING WITH DAD, as it made its theatrical run through Oregon, including a Q&A with Filmmaker Tom Huang.



## Asian Night Market

Farmer Market Pavilion  
May 26

Staff and volunteers from DisOrient tabled at the annual Asian Night Market in Eugene, sharing film festival information and connecting with the community.



## Oregon Asian Celebration

Alton Baker Park  
July 29

The DisOrient team enjoyed representing the film festival at the annual Oregon Asian Celebration alongside other community partners.



## DISORIENT 2023 IN THE NEWS



### Oregon Arts Watch 3/7/2023

DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon celebrates 18 years of sincere storytelling  
<https://tinyurl.com/disorient2023OAW>



### Eugene Weekly 3/9/2023

To Carve A Future From Your Inheritance  
<https://tinyurl.com/disorient2023EW>



### Oregon Public Broadcasting 3/10/2023

Eugene film festival spotlights Asian American and Pacific Islander stories  
<https://tinyurl.com/disorient2023OPB>



### Jefferson Public Radio 3/10/2023

DisOrient film festival returns to screens, based in Eugene  
<https://tinyurl.com/disorient2023JPR>



### KVAL 3/12/2023

DisOrient Film Festival returns to Eugene to elevate Asian filmmakers  
<https://tinyurl.com/disorient2023KVAL>





2023 AWARD WINNERS

Best Animation	Boundless
Best Short Documentary	Cambodian Futures
Best Short Narrative	Lunchbox
Best Feature Documentary	Finding Her Beat
Best Feature Narrative	Land of Gold
Jason D. Mak Award for Social Justice	Crossings
WE Generation Award	80 Years Later

SPECIAL RECOGNITION WINNERS

Kinship Award	Searching for Kapwa
Excellence in Storytelling Award	Golden Delicious
Legacy Award	Dear Corky
Heritage Award	Stamp our Story
Courage Award	Avalanches

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

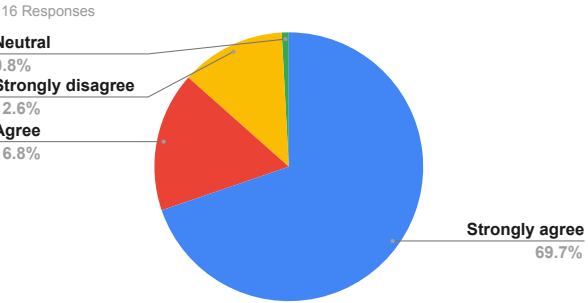
Audience Choice: Best Feature Documentary	Finding Her Beat
Audience Choice: Best Feature Narrative	Land of Gold
Audience Choice: Best Short Documentary	Feeling Asian American
Audience Choice: Best Short Narrative	White Now Please
Audience Choice: Best Animation	MeiHouWang

AUDIENCE SURVEY

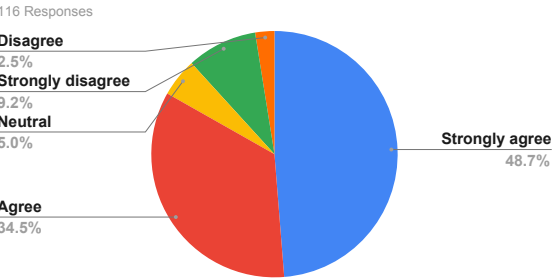
Audience members were asked to fill out a short survey during the 2023 film festival to help DisOrient understand the demographics of our current constituents and better serve the needs of the community in future years. These are some of the results and audience comments from the 116 survey responses we received.

"I've been to a few film festivals over the last 12 months or so, and DisOrient really stands out for me in terms of content, overall organization, and utter charm...the venue was lovely, and I think it's just about the warmest reception I've experienced."

DisOrient film festival made me more aware of the experiences of Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders.

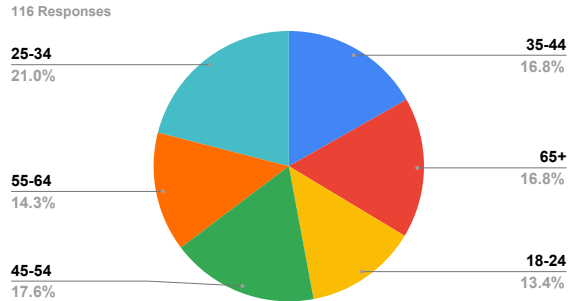


DisOrient film festival made me more aware of a perspective that I had never been exposed to before.

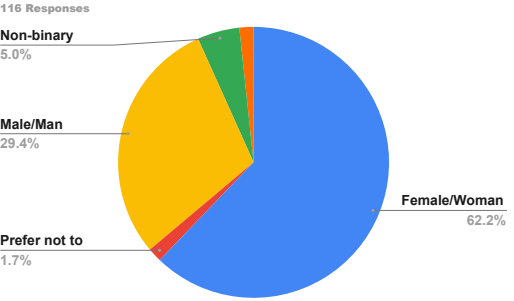


"What a great line up of films! I loved that there were more LGBTQ+ themes in many films this year. Also enjoyed the stories highlighting the impact of assimilation. The films that captured the struggles and joys of biracial Asian Americans were a nice surprise as well. Looking forward to next year."

What is your age?



How do you describe your current gender identity?



"Attending DisOrient as a filmmaker was a life-changing experience. I have never before felt so supported as an artist and the sense of community made me want to return to Eugene year after year to discover more of what the city and area has to offer."



# FINANCIAL ANALYTICS

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Item	Amount
Donations and Sponsorships	18,106
Government Grants	7,261
Foundation Grants	58,200
Corporate Grants	25,001
Ticket Sales	12,639
Miscellaneous	3,281
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>124,488</b>
Supplies and Equipment	12,227
Printing	3,242
Professional Services	24,505
Marketing	3,277
Venue/Space	7,239
Travel and Hospitality	12,941
Administrative	5,009
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,753
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>71,193</b>
<b>TOTAL NET</b>	<b>53,295</b>



## 2023 SPONSORS

### GRANT SPONSORS



### DIRECTOR'S CHAIR SPONSORS

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SPONSOR



### CINEMATOGRAPHY SPONSORS



### SET DESIGN SPONSORS



### ACTOR'S SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS



This project is made possible in part by a grant from Lane Arts Council with support from City of Eugene Cultural Services.

DisOrient 2023 is supported by the Oregon Arts Commission.