



# DISORIENT

ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL  
of OREGON

## PROGRAM GUIDE

LIVE FESTIVAL: MARCH 13-15 • VIRTUAL FESTIVAL: MARCH 16-22

[disorientfilm.org](http://disorientfilm.org) • [@disorientfilm](https://www.facebook.com/disorientfilm) [f](https://www.instagram.com/disorientfilm) [i](https://www.instagram.com/disorientfilm) • Eugene, OR.

# Welcome

## Welcome to DisOrient 2026!

We are truly honored to gather in community with you all here in Eugene, Oregon, as we celebrate DisOrient's 21st year. For over two decades, DisOrient has served as a platform for social justice and authentic storytelling, spotlighting the rich diversity of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander experience. In this period of significant division, events of unity and celebration of the voices shared by the artists in their films are more important than ever.

This year's theme is relevant for this moment: **Rising Tides, Crashing Waves**, about how generations of frustration, resilience and creative resistance with AANHPI communities build, quietly and powerfully, until they no longer can be ignored. This year's films don't just reflect that tension - they embody it.

For those of you attending the live Festival March 13-15, we invite you to connect with both familiar and new faces, whether at a reception, during a film Q&A, in the Green Room, or just around the Art House venue and our town. For those of you who cannot visit in person, we encourage you to enjoy our virtual festival offerings March 16-22, and help extend the DisOrient community beyond Eugene.

DisOrient's strength remains in the legion of dedicated volunteers who make the festival happen during the weekend, with extensive planning throughout the year. Our tireless Executive Director, Pam Quan and creative Program Director, Jo Fujiwara-Morozumi, have put together a fantastic and inspiring program, and as you enjoy the festival, please share your thanks and goodwill towards our staff and volunteers.

Lastly, we want to thank the incredible filmmakers, new and returning attendees, our generous sponsors, and other friends and supporters who will be sharing this experience with us - See you at the Festival!

With Great Appreciation,

The DisOrient Board:

Erin Caracol, J Mak, Kathryn Soler Beer, Mark Young,  
Pam Quan, Reagan Lê, Robert Scherle, Warren Beer

## FESTIVAL TIPS

- Arrive early! Allow yourself enough time to park and make your way to the venue.
- Double-check the schedule: we are screening films concurrently in two theaters, so make sure you haven't double-booked yourself!
- Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at [disorient2026.eventive.org](https://disorient2026.eventive.org)
- Please stay seated until the end of the credits.
- Stay after the film for the Q&A session and to meet the filmmakers in person.
- Join our email list through our website for updates.
- The films are eligible for Audience Choice Awards. Don't forget to rate the films in your Eventive account after you watch them. If you don't have an Eventive account, you can request a paper ballot as you exit the theater. You can adjust your votes through March 22 if you vote from your Eventive account.
- Donate to DisOrient so we can do it again next year! Text "Give (Amount)" to (844)-860-9448

Please note that the schedule and program are subject to change. Check online for any updates.

DisOrient's in-person events are open to the public and will be subject to photography and videography. Your attendance at DisOrient constitutes your consent to be photographed/recorded. In addition, your attendance includes a waiver of rights and release all claims to the recorded material. DisOrient reserves the right to use such material for promotional purposes.

**Program Guide designed by**  
Svetlana Starodubtseva

# Ways to Watch

Buy tickets at the door, or avoid lines and purchase online through Eventive. Passes include admission to film screenings, q&a's, catered events, exclusive access to the weekend Green Room with food from local eateries, and more opportunities to chat with filmmakers and community members about all things film. Passes also offer discounts on Art House concessions and DisOrient merchandise while supplies last.

## PASSES

### All Access Pass - \$150

The best way to fest!  
All Live + All Virtual Films

#### Pass Perks Include:

- Admission fees to all films
- Opportunity to reserve tickets before the general public
- Admission to the catered Opening Night Reception at The Shedd with filmmakers
- Admission to the catered Closing Night Awards Gala at JSMA
- Exclusive Access to our Green Room
- 25% discount on Art House Concessions
- \$5 discount on DisOrient merch during the live festival

### All Live Pass - \$125

Access to all the live films playing at Art House

### All Virtual Pass - \$85

Access to all the virtual films on Eventive, from the comfort of your home and flexibility of your own schedule.

Open to Audiences in:  
OR, WA, CA, and HI.

**\*\*Please read the pass description on [disorientfilm.org](http://disorientfilm.org) before purchasing\*\***

## TICKET PROMOS

*Promos exclude opening and closing night films.*

### BOGO-5-OFF

Buy one ticket to a live screening, get \$5 off a 2nd ticket to the same film. This discount can be used one time per person. Upon checkout, click on the blue "Have a Discount Code" and enter "**bogo5off**"

### SAVE 10%

Save 10% on up to 5 tickets per person. Tickets can apply to a single film or multiple films. Upon checkout, click on the blue "Have a Discount Code" and enter "**Save10PC**"

## INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

### Individual Tickets \$12 - \$20

A commitment to making DisOrient films accessible!

- A selection of films
- Q&A's with Filmmakers
- Short Narratives
- Short Documentaries
- Feature Narratives
- Feature Documentaries
- Music Videos
- Animation
- 1 Free Shorts Program

## VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Virtual films are viewed online through Eventive. To watch, set up a free Eventive account from our website. You can buy tickets in advance to virtual and live films via Eventive, and your mobile tickets will be conveniently saved in your account and accessible on your mobile device, or you can print them at home. You can also vote for films that you've watched in both the live and virtual film programs. For those buying tickets and passes the door, please see Guest Services in the lobby.

All Eventive films have a 48 hour watch window. Once you click "watch" and start watching a few minutes of the film, you have access to the film for 48 hours to finish or re-watch. You may start and stop as many times as you wish within the 48 hour window.

**Geo-Blocking:** All film blocks except one in the virtual program are open to audiences in Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii. Please refer to the film pages for information.

# How to Fest

DisOrient 2026 is a hybrid film festival with in-person screenings February 21 and March 13-15, and online screenings, March 16-22. Tickets are available for both live and virtual films.

## USEFUL INFO

- **Mobile Tickets for Live Screenings:** Purchase your tickets in advance and you will receive your mobile ticket via email or in your Eventive account under "My Tickets." Entering your mobile number will enable text message delivery of your tickets.
- You can also print your tickets at home.
- Tickets and Passes purchased at the door can be sent to your mobile device. Printed tickets/passes are available upon request at Guest Services after completing your purchase in the cashier line.
- **Check-in List:** If you bought in advance using your name/email address and forget to bring your mobile/printed ticket, we can still check you in from our door list.
- We will have concurrent film screenings in 2 theaters. Please plan accordingly.
- During March 13-15, the Green Room tent at the Art House is exclusively open for pass holders to mingle and nosh.
- We have one FREE Shorts Program: The Art of Animation. Tickets are required.
- We are offering a pass for virtual films only that is open to audiences in OR, WA, CA, and HI. Some films have additional geoblock restrictions. Please check the film page(s) before completing your purchase.

## WATCH ONLINE

- We will be using Eventive Virtual Festival as our online streaming platform again this year. If you watched our virtual programming last year, you should already have an Eventive account.
- If this is your first festival on the Eventive platform, you will need to create a FREE Eventive account to purchase tickets and passes and to watch all our films. Visit [disorientfilm.org](https://disorientfilm.org) to learn how.

## MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit [disorientfilm.org/how-to-fest-this-year/](https://disorientfilm.org/how-to-fest-this-year/) for a full FAQ and lots of how-to information!

# Film Schedule

\*Q&A to follow screening

THURSDAY, MARCH 12		FRIDAY, MARCH 13		
	Theater 1	Theater 2	Theater 1	Theater 2
11 AM				
12 PM				
1 PM				
2 PM				
3 PM				
4 PM				
5 PM				
6 PM	<b>6:00-8:30</b> Meet and Greet Early Badge Pick-Up  <b>6:30-8:30</b> Tech Check by appt.		<b>6:10-8:40</b> <b>Opening Film:</b> The Road to Sydney  Q&A	<b>6:15-7:55</b> <b>Opening Film:</b> The Road to Sydney
7 PM				
8 PM				
9 PM			<b>9:00-11:30pm</b> <b>Opening Night Reception</b> Talavou Pacific & Arts Dance Academy + band performance by Pat Magada & Will Goble	
10 PM				

Special Events

Feature Length Films

Shorts Programs

# Film Schedule

\*Q&A to follow screening

	SATURDAY, MARCH 14		SUNDAY, MARCH 15	
	Theater 1	Theater 2	Theater 1	Theater 2
11 AM	<b>11:00-12:57</b> Shorts Program: Queer Decoding	<b>11:10-1:10</b> Before the Moon Falls	<b>11:10-12:56</b> Third Act	<b>11:00-12:11</b> Shorts Program: The Art of Animation FREE • Q&A
12 PM	Q&A	Pre-recorded Q&A	Pre-recorded Q&A	<b>12:25-1:55</b> About Face
1 PM	<b>1:15-3:23</b> YEAR OF THE CAT	<b>1:30-3:39</b> Shorts Program: Stronger Together	<b>1:15-3:40</b> Shorts Program: Waves of Love	Q&A
2 PM	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	<b>2:10-4:20</b> Shorts Program: Through Adversity We Rise
3 PM	<b>3:40-6:00</b> Shorts Program: Sea Glass Reflections	<b>3:55-6:05</b> Mouse	<b>4:00-6:10</b> Let's have a cup of doodh patti chai	Q&A
4 PM	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	<b>4:40-6:12</b> Shorts Program: Southeast Asian American Journeys Q&A
5 PM				
6 PM	<b>6:15-8:12</b> Centerpiece Film: Remathau: People of the Ocean	<b>6:20-7:32</b> Centerpiece Film: Remathau: People of The Ocean	<b>6:30-8:35</b> Closing Night Film: The A List: 15 Stories from Asian and Pacific Diasporas	<b>6:35-7:59</b> Closing Night Film: The A List: 15 Stories from Asian and Pacific Diasporas
7 PM	Q&A		Q&A	
8 PM	<b>8:30-10:22</b> Memo	<b>8:20-10:27</b> Love Chaos Kin		
9 PM	Q&A	Q&A	<b>9:00-11:00pm</b> Closing Night Reception at JSMA Awards & Closing Reception Remarks	
10 PM				

Special Events

Feature Length Films

Shorts Programs

# The Venue

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# ART HOUSE

MUSIC ★ FILM ★ BEER ★ WINE ★ ESPRESSO

📍 **492 E 13th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401**

The DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon takes place in-person March 13-15th at the Art House in Eugene (formerly the Bijo Theater). Films will be screened in Theaters 1 and 2 March 13th-15th, so be sure to check the schedule and location for your tickets.



# Opening & Closing Night

## OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, March 13th • 9:00 - 11:30 PM

Enjoy a live dance performance by the Talavou Pacific Arts & Dance Academy & a performance by Pat Magada and Will Goble! Meet many of the attending filmmakers who will be doing Q&A's after their films throughout the weekend. Discuss films with other cinephiles over delicious bites and beverages.

## CLOSING AWARDS GALA

Sunday, March 15th • 9:00 - 11:00 PM

Our catered Closing Night Celebration will be at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, featuring the 2026 Awards Ceremony. Join us, celebrate us, and meet this year's filmmakers and other festival-goers! Great photo ops!

### 📍 The Shedd Institute

285 E Broadway, Eugene, OR 97401

**Shedd Parking:** There is free parking in The Shedd parking lot behind the building. Additional parking can be found in the adjacent city permit lot, free after 6 pm. Please enter from the sliding glass doors directly off of the parking lot behind the building. The entrance is in the new building addition.

### 📍 The JSMA

1430 Johnson Lane, Eugene, OR 97403

**JSMA Parking:** Visitors are encouraged to park in the Lot 16A located at 14th Ave. and Kincaid St., which offers free public parking on the weekends and is conveniently located near the museum.

Designated spaces are available in the JSMA Parking Lot for visitors with disabilities. To access the JSMA Parking Lot, from 18th Avenue, turn North on University St; turn left onto Johnson Lane (at the roundabout outside the Erb Memorial Union); JSMA parking lot is at the end of Johnson Lane on your left. Visitors may enter through the back entrance to get a parking permit.



\*Admission to receptions is for passholders and ticketholders of the film preceding the respective reception. Getting there: It's about a 10-15 minute walk, or a 3-4 minute drive to both the Shedd Institute and JSMA.

# Opening Night Reception



**The Shedd Institute**  
285 E Broadway, Eugene, OR 97401

## Talavou Pacific Arts & Dance Academy

Talavou serve the Fa'asāmoa, the Samoan way of life, embodies respect, family, service, and community. In Eugene, Talavou Pacific Arts & Dance Academy keeps these values alive through Siva Samoa, language, and cultural education, passing pride and tradition to the next generation.

## Pat Magada and Will Goble

Pat Magada is a Filipino-American songwriter from the coast of Oregon. His songs center around self-reflection, struggles, and finding your place in the world. Singing in Manila bars as a five year old, Magada gained his love for performing through his mother, who would bring him to her nightly gigs, and later on, across the world to bigger stages. With support from home, he has been featured on Filipino media WISH 107.5, IwantASAP, We The Pvblic, and Inquirer. Magada's background of OPM (Filipino Music) 90's - 2000's Rock, Pop, and Electronic music has created a combination of lyrical storytelling, catchy melodies, and a cinematic experience. He is most known for his song 'SANTA CRUZ' which featured on a Bank of America commercial. Backed by multi-instrumentalist Will Goble on guitar, the duo highlights the highs, lows, electronic-Pop, and everything in between.

# Closing Night Awards Gala

**The JSMA**  
1430 Johnson Lane, Eugene, OR 97403

After an amazing weekend together bonding over great films, let's enjoy some delicious bites and beverages and continue our conversations. We want to hear about the films that surprised you and those that resonated with you. Get photos with your favorite filmmakers. You've also got time to get answers to your final film questions before we announce the festival award nominees and winners of DisOrient 2026.

# Preview Film

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Saturday, February 21st • 2:45 PM



## A Paradise Lost

Director: Laurie Harue Sumiye • Feature Documentary • 1hr 26 min • Q&A to follow screening

A PARADISE LOST is the enchanting, yet harrowing tale of the yellow finch of Palila v. Hawaii, a landmark case where nature took humanity to court to stave off extinction.

# Opening Film

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Friday, March 13th • 6:00 PM



## The Road to Sydney

Director: Benito Bautista • Feature Documentary • 1hr 40 min • Q&A to follow screening

The Road to Sydney follows Philippine dance master and choreographer Sydney Loyola, who found refuge in dance after a childhood of bullying in Palawan. Now based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sydney faces the painful realities of job loss and eviction following her gender transition and affirmation. Through courage and artistry, she embarks on a journey of healing, identity, and reconciliation with her estranged father.

# Centerpiece Film

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Saturday, March 14th • 6:15 PM



## Remathau: People of the Ocean

Director: Daniel H. Lin • Feature Documentary • 1hr 12 min • Q&A to follow screening

Remathau: People of the Ocean follows the journey of Nicole Yamase, the first Micronesian and Indigenous person to dive to the deepest part of the ocean, Challenger Deep, in the Marianas Trench.

# Closing Film

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Sunday, March 15th • 6:30 PM



## The A List: 15 Stories from Asian and Pacific Diasporas

Director: Eugene Yi • Feature Documentary • 1hr 40 min • Q&A to follow screening

With artfully used archival footage and heartfelt original interviews, The A List explores the relationship between national identity and solidarity, individual and community, home country and home. Featuring both community leaders and nationally recognized notables, the film illuminates the powerful similarities that belie the vast differences among the Asian American, Native Hawai'ian and Pacific Islander communities.

# Live Feature Films



## YEAR OF THE CAT

Directed by: Tony Nguyen • Feature Documentary • 1hr 38 min  
Q&A to follow screening

Saturday, March 14th • 1:15 PM  
Theater 1

YEAR OF THE CAT follows filmmaker Tony Nguyen on an extraordinary quest to solve the mystery of his father, lost in the chaos of the Fall of Saigon 50 years ago. Crafted as an investigative home movie, this intensely raw documentary weaves together moments of humor and heartache, offering an intimate look at how the children of refugees are shaped by war and loss.



## Memo

Directed by: Jesse Gi & Grant E. Singer • Feature Narrative • 1hr 22 min  
Q&A to follow screening

Saturday, March 14th • 8:30 PM  
Theater 1

As each image is drawn, erased, and redrawn, the surface accumulates charcoal residue much like how past memories leave faint marks on us. Much like living itself, it can only move forward.



## Before the Moon Falls

Directed by: Kimberlee Bassford • Feature Documentary • 1hr 40 min  
Q&A Zoom recording to follow screening

Saturday, March 14th • 11:10 AM  
Theater 2

An intimate portrait of acclaimed Samoan writer Sia Figiel eight years in the making when tragedy struck.



## Mouse

Directed by: Kenny Oiwa Riches • Feature Narrative • 1hr 45 min  
Q&A to follow screening

Saturday, March 14th • 3:55 PM  
Theater 2

Denny, a petty thief living with his mother, signs up for a penpal service in hopes of finding a friend, or maybe more. Unfortunately for Denny, his penpal has other plans.

# Live Feature Films



## Love Chaos Kin

Directed by: Chithra Jeyaram • Feature Documentary • 1hr 37 min  
Q&A to follow screening

Saturday, March 14th • 8:20 PM  
Theater 2

An unexpected pregnancy leads an Indian immigrant mother to help her adopted twin daughters reconnect with their struggling White birth mother and estranged Native American father.



## Third Act

Directed by: Tadashi Nakamura • Feature Documentary • 1hr 31 min  
Q&A Zoom recording to follow screening

Sunday, March 15th • 11:10 AM  
Theater 1

A deep dive into the life and work of pioneering photographer and filmmaker Robert A. Nakamura, made by his son Tadashi Nakamura. On its surface, the documentary is a biopic that explores the elder filmmaker's public role as "the Godfather of Asian American film," including one of the pioneering works exploring the Japanese American internment camps in WW2. But with his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, the film's undercurrent poses a question that's at once personal and universal: how can a father and son say goodbye?



## Let's have a cup of doodh patti chai

Directed by: Brian Hung • Feature Narrative • 1hr 39 min  
Q&A to follow screening

Sunday, March 15th • 4:00 PM  
Theater 1

After the family of three moved into the community, the middle-aged unemployed father Chris went into business with an Indian partner; the high school daughter Wing Yan met Elem, an asylum seeker from Africa and becomes friends with him. Recalling the racial stereotypes formed while living in Guangzhou, the mother Erica feels anxious and unease over what is happening here.



## About Face

Directed by: Jennifer Lin • Feature Documentary • 1hr  
Q&A to follow screening

Sunday, March 15th • 12:26 PM  
Theater 2

Two Asian American dancers try to persuade the world's leading ballet companies to jettison Asian stereotypes, including dancing in yellowface.

# Live Shorts Program

## Queer Decoding

Saturday, March 14th • 11:00-12:57 PM • Theater 1



### Vic and His Nanay

Directed by: Jillian Janairo • Short Narrative • 10 min

While he's trapped in his apartment recovering from COVID, an exasperated Vic tries to evade a nosy apparition of his late mother.



### Bobo In Bliss

Directed by: Vivian Ip • Short Narrative • 16 min

Confronted with a visit by her traditional parents and younger sister to her boarding school, a Singaporean teenager attempts to reconcile the differences between their values and her affirming self-discoveries.



### Grace

Directed by: Jana Kealohaokua Park • Short Narrative • 12 min

Honolulu, 1959: Over a family dinner, two women hide their forbidden love—one resisting the pressure to marry, the other her nation's admission to the United States.



### Rosa's Flowers

Directed by: Amanda Ann-Min Wong • Short Narrative • 18 min

"Rosa's Flowers" is an experimental, narrative short film exploring the unbreakable bonds of love beyond memory, borders, and time.



### MĀHŪ

Directed by: LISETTE MARIE FLANARY • Short Documentary • 30 min

MĀHŪ: A Trans-Pacific Love Letter is a short documentary about an innovative theater production by master hula teacher, Kumu Hula Patrick Makuakāne, which aims to reclaim and celebrate the traditional place of honor and respect given to mähū (transgender) people.

## DisOrient is here because of you.

If you are enjoying DisOrient 2026 and find this to be a valuable community event, please consider making a donation so that we can do it again next year. Scan the QR code or visit [disorientfilm.org/donate-now/](https://disorientfilm.org/donate-now/)



# Live Shorts Program

## Sea Glass Reflections

Saturday, March 14th • 3:40-6:00 PM • Theater 1



### Commonality of Tyranny

Directed by: Ting Li Tsai  
Short Narrative • 11 min

The Commonality of Tyranny is a psychological drama set in a studio sound stage about a film crew.



### Stand in

Directed by: Hiromu Yamawaki  
Short Narrative • 11 min

Kenji, an aspiring Japanese actor by day and an Uber driver by night, frequently finds himself standing in for his more successful rival, Chris, an established Asian actor.



### Shitfly

Directed by: Julian Park  
Short Narrative • 15 min

In a burning city at the end of the world, a delivery driver must journey to visit his ailing father before it's too late.



### I THINK ABOUT KILLING YOU

Directed by: Ran Ran Wang  
Short Narrative • 14 min

WHIPLASH meets competitive female rowing in this psychological sports thriller.



### Byway

Directed by: June Kyu Park  
Short Narrative • 16 min

A struggling first-generation Korean American boy tries to abandon his abusive father in a remote town, only to uncover the weight of his mother's struggles and his father's hidden burdens.



### Long's Long Lost & Mini Mart

Directed by: Julian Doan  
Short Narrative • 18 min

In the seedy back rooms of a Little Saigon convenience store, a young customer reanimates his dead father for one last conversation... awakening phantoms of unspoken grief.



### Only In This World

Directed by: Dorothy Xiao  
Short Narrative • 12 min

When an empty nester loses her ability to summon her daughter back from the afterlife, she is forced to find help from the person she resents the most: her ex-husband's mistress.



### CHIMERA

Directed by: Daniel Ray Cantu  
Short Documentart • 12 min

This short documentary highlights Portland based professional skateboarder, James Alby in the aftermath of his mothers passing and his journey into ceramic art.

# Live Shorts Program

## Stronger Together

Saturday, March 14th • 1:30-3:39 PM • Theater 2



### howling gale

Directed by: Nicholas James Barber  
Music Video • 4 min

"howling gale" by arianna lady basco ft. ROR is a powerful spoken word piece that highlights the spirit of community building in Historic Filipinotown.



### Three Ladies & A Fake ID

Directed by: Brandon Okumura  
Short Narrative • 11 min

When their favorite lunch spot hikes its prices, three middle-aged women get fake IDs to score a senior discount at a new restaurant.



### Dear Aloha

Directed by: Cris Romento  
Short Documentary • 15 min

A short documentary profiling Diasporic Hawaiians living thousands of miles away from home. Dear Aloha shows how aloha sustains our people amidst distance, loss, and longing.



### Art21: Tuan Andrew Nguyen

Directed by: Jeff Sterrenberg, Bryan Chang  
Short Documentary • 15 min

Working alongside Vietnamese communities, artist Tuan Andrew Nguyen creates visually rich and narratively captivating films that unearth the untold stories of war, colonization, and migration.



### Ahon ("Rise")

Directed by: Trixie Pacis  
Short Documentary • 20 min

"Ahon" recounts the rise of the K8 Mountaineering Club of Alberta: a non-profit org that gives Filipino Canadians access to outdoor education, equipment, and community.



### Thanks for Picking Me Up

Directed by: Kiubon Kokko  
Short Documentary • 6 min

When hitchhiker Kiubon Kokko can't talk to his dad in a car, he sees if strangers will open up to him instead



### Cindy Tran:

#### From Here to Here

Directed by: Xinyan Yu  
Short Documentary • 16 min

From family estrangement to New York City's overlooked restaurants, Cindy Tran's poems capture what's hidden, honest, and beautiful about being human.



### Gloria

Directed by: Kim Blanck  
Short Narrative • 9 min

Gloria, a Chinese woman in her 70s living alone and struggling with her memory, finds new purpose in teaching herself Spanish.

# Live Shorts Program

## Waves of Love

Sunday, March 15th • 1:15-3:40 PM • Theater 1



### Fil-Am

Directed by: Ralph Torrefranca  
Short Narrative • 14 min

In 2003, a 16-year-old Filipino kid from the inner city is forced to leave his old life behind for the terrifying new world of Santa Barbara, California.



### NANI

Directed by: Mainak Dhar  
Short Narrative • 10 min

As Ramadan draws to a close, a young woman returns home, stirring up buried tensions and unspoken truths that refuse to stay in the past.



### Sonata

Directed by: Eljin Yoo  
Short Narrative • 20 min

Korean-American sisters and classical musicians, Viv and Gia, struggle to practice a piano and violin duet, as their mother May, reminds them about the importance of harmony.



### JESA

Directed by: Jee Hoon Seo  
Short Narrative • 13 min

A young boy takes part in a traditional ancestral rite and discovers the sacrifices his mother has made to protect his sense of innocence.



### Something Good Going On

Directed by: Arnold Setiadi  
Short Narrative • 14 min

In his last days home, Christian, a first-generation Indonesian teen, confronts a strained relationship with his immigrant waiter father, a stolen restaurant paycheck, and the cost of his Ivy League future.



### See You Tomorrow

#### Tomorrow Tomorrow

Directed by: Desdemona Chiang  
Short Narrative • 14 min

An aspiring stand-up comedian delays her career aspirations to do the greater work of caring for her 99-year-old grandmother in her final years.



### With Time

Directed by: Jenny Lee- Gilmore  
Short Narrative • 10 min

Alice must confront her unresolved past when her estranged mother, who has dementia, moves in, forcing her to provide the care she never received in her childhood while juggling her own responsibilities as a mother.



### Forever is a Delicate Thing

Directed by: Cally Nguyen  
Short Narrative • 16 min

Cally Nguyen's meditative portrait of a Vietnamese grandfather and grandson -- their bond tested by child protective services -- finds in the fragile art of stone balancing a quiet truth about love, loss, and what we manage to hold onto.

# Live Shorts Program

## The Art of Animation

Sunday, March 15th • 11:00-12:11 PM • Theater 2



### Broken Mosaic

Directed by: Alexandra "Lexie" Orr • 4 min

In this punk music video, two mixed Asian-American siblings are always the topic of gossip, but they decide who they are.



### Creatures of Chaos

Directed by: Asavari Kumar • 6 min

When emotional turmoil takes physical form, four strangers learn their new companions refuse to stay hidden



### Why Are You Like This?

Directed by: Sung Eun Park • 6 min

In this animated musical, the main character spends another one of her sleepless nights, contemplating what's been causing her life go off track-- or rather, WHO.



### First Winter

Directed by: Schantelle Alonzo • 4 min

Ángel is a newly arrived immigrant who is experiencing his first winter in Chicago. The film follows his realization of what it may mean to be away from home for a very long time.



### The Newcomer

Directed by: Annette Cho • 6 min

Grappling with her homeland's rapid modernization and admiration for Western supremacy, a recent Korean immigrant discovers pride in the cultural hybridity of Korea alive in New York City's Koreatown.



### Stay With Me

#### (everything will be okay)

Directed By: Hyungjin Lee • 7 min

In the depths of longing and grief, a girl becomes a mother to herself.



### Come Home

Directed by: Katelyn Park • 5 min

While fighting on the phone with her dad, a Korean American daughter named Della gets sucked into an ocean of memories. While watching her younger self, Della feels the pain of the past, but gains the courage to swim, and find closeness with her father again in the present.



### Lǎo Lǎo

Directed By: Yang Hu • 1 min

Rendered in charcoal on a single sheet of paper, the animation journeys through the family portraits orchestrated by grandma throughout her life.



### Sorry I Missed Your Call

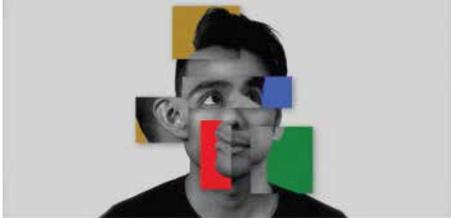
Directed by: Hae Ji Cho • 5 min

Through a series of real voicemails, SORRY I MISSED YOUR CALL explores the guilt, responsibility, pressures, and burnout behind a woman's experience as a caretaker for her beloved grandmother as her Alzheimer's progresses.

# Live Shorts Program

## Through Adversity We Rise

Sunday, March 15th • 2:10-4:20 PM • Theater 2



### Late-Diagnosed

*Directed by: Matthew Baltar • Short Documentary • 3 min*

Matt often didn't recognize himself in photos and never really understood why—until one day his loss of hearing helped him see more clearly. This educational video breaks down what living with auditory processing disorder can feel like, as well as the complicated feelings that come with this and other diagnoses.



### Misadventures of a Nisei Week Queen

*Directed by: Evan Kodani • Short Documentary • 17 min*

A short documentary about spirited 92-year-old June Aochi Berk—from prewar Little Tokyo to living in a horse stall at Santa Anita Park during WWII to the Rohwer concentration camp, and finally to being crowned Los Angeles' Nisei Week Queen. It's a story of survival told with poise, humor, and strength



### Japantown: What is Lost, What Remains

*Directed by: Kelyn Ikegami • Short Documentary • 11 min*

As a teenager, Paul Iwasaki watched Salt Lake City demolish its thriving Japantown, his childhood home. Sixty years later, Paul faces a new fight to protect the last two buildings in J-town—and the memories they hold.



### Out of Place

*Directed by: Autie Carlisle • Short Documentary • 34 min*

Mitzi and Cheewa share about their cultures' unmarked graves in Tulelake and how they have preserved their family history despite incarceration camps and Indian schools.



### A Slice of Home

*Directed by: Pauline Tran • Short Documentary • 11 min*

Between the hum of mixers and the scent of pandan, Brooklyn-based baker Stacey Mei Yan Fong recreates a pie in honor of her Singaporean grandfather, blending Americana with Asian flavors and a touch of nostalgia.



### Yu & Me

*Directed by: Esther Chan, Claudine Cho • Short Documentary • 25 min*

When a fire destroys a beloved Chinatown bookstore, its hyper-independent owner learns that community is necessary for survival.

# Live Shorts Program

## Southeast Asian American Journeys

Sunday, March 15th • 4:40-6:12 PM • Theater 2



### The Market

*Directed by: Oanh-Nhi Nguyen • Short Documentary • 11 min*

The journey to the Southeast Asian Market in south Philadelphia's FDR Park, founded by refugees who carved out their own space of nourishment and belonging.



### Threads

*Directed by: Quỳn Nguyễn-Le • Short Documentary • 16 min*

A sprawling portrait of indigenous Montagnard refugee community in North Carolina, threading intergenerational storytelling and history-making in the aftermath of the Viet Nam War.



### Between Us

*Directed by: Quỳn Nguyễn-Le • Short Documentary • 16 min*

Queer Vietnamese and Cambodian American experiences that navigate cultural and sexual identity.



### Teb Chaw (Land)

*Directed by: Jova Lee Grande • Short Documentary • 11 min*

An immersive portrait of Hmong refugee farmers transforming local foodways in a diversified Minnesota-home to one of the largest populations of the Hmong diaspora built in the aftermath of the Secret War in Laos.



### Muoz-doic Mixtape

*Directed by: Quỳn Nguyễn-Le • Short Documentary • 13 min*

Muoz-doic Mixtape (pronounced: moo-ah thoy) is an offering of intergenerational storytelling from the Mien community of Portland, Oregon: a brief glimpse into the collective work of culture-keeping in the face of historical displacement.

## Don't forget to vote for your favorites!

All films are eligible for Audience Choice Awards. Rate the films after you watch them either in your Eventive account, or if you don't have an Eventive account, please request a paper ballot as you exit the theater. Audience Choice Awards will be tallied after the end of the virtual festival on March 22nd. All of the other awards will be announced at the Closing Night Awards Gala on March 15th at JSMA!

# Virtual Feature Films



## A Paradise Lost

Director: Laurie Harue Sumiye • Feature Documentary • 1hr 26 min

A PARADISE LOST is the enchanting, yet harrowing tale of the yellow finch of Palila v. Hawaii, a landmark case where nature took humanity to court to stave off extinction.



## Banana Split

Directed by: Walter Kim • Feature Narrative • 1hr 33 min

When a scheduling mishap forces grieving photographer Peter to share his late sister's New York apartment with the bold and chaotic Alice, an unexpected weekend unfolds. As the two Asian Americans clash, bond, and explore the city, they confront identity, loss, and the strange intimacy of shared spaces. Banana Split is a bittersweet portrait of grief, culture, and accidental connection.



## Chasing Tables

Directed by: Justin Bergh • Feature Documentary • 44 min

After training under two James Beard award-winning-chefs in some of the most acclaimed and important restaurants in the Pacific Northwest, Jordan Taylor, a Sioux Falls native, returned to his home state and opened a string of successful restaurants. His rise in the Sioux Falls culinary scene appears to be an unmitigated success. His story, however, is much more interesting than that.



## Invisible No More

Directed by: Larry Tung • Feature Documentary • 49 min

Asian Americans are no longer just an emerging force in New York City politics. The surge in Asian American representation is undeniable, with their political strength and influence on full display, particularly in Brooklyn's newly designated Asian opportunity district. Created in 2023 through the once-a-decade redistricting process, this district reflects the explosive growth and impact of the Asian American community.



## Nā Wāhine Buda Kiakahi: Buddhism and the Legacy of Hawaiian Women

Directed by: Eleni Avendaño • Feature Documentary • 42 min

Nā Wāhine Buda Kiakahi is a documentary film about the legacy of Hawaiian women Buddhists beginning with the life of Mary Mikahala Robinson Foster, lady in waiting to Queen Lili'uokalani. While many have visited Foster Botanical Gardens in Honolulu, little has been known of her work to perpetuate the practice of Buddhism, even beyond Hawai'i, where she is revered in India and Sri Lanka for her contributions.



## Silent War: Asian American Reckonings With Mental Health

Directed by: Changfu Chang • Feature Documentary • 1hr 17 min

Silent War is a groundbreaking documentary that confronts the deep silence surrounding mental illness in Asian American communities. Through intimate stories of struggle, survival, and healing, the film explores how cultural stigma, intergenerational trauma, racism, and systemic neglect have shaped the mental health experiences of families from diverse Asian backgrounds.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## Our Homes, Our Histories



### **The Worlds Apart**

*Directed by: Marley Kahiau Davidson • Short Documentary • 1 min*

Marley Davidson, an Asian Pacific Islander High School Senior, reflects on how shifting between the rural westside of Oahu and the big city affects her ability to balance her Native Hawaiian identity and personal values.



### **Along Comes Larry, The Larry Ramos Story**

*Directed by: Rick Quan • Short Documentary • 29 min*

This documentary is about Hawaii's Larry Ramos, the first Asian American to win a Grammy. An ukulele child prodigy, he would go on to be a key member of the New Christy Minstrels and The Association.



### **Defiant to the Last, Resistance at the Tule Lake Jail**

*Directed by: Emiko Omori • Short Documentary • 36 min*

Emiko Omori recovers what history buried: the beatings, coerced renunciations, and mass deportations endured by Japanese Americans at Tule Lake who refused to yield. Urgently relevant today.



### **Sole (얼)**

*Directed by: Haneol Lee • Short Documentary • 12 min*

A Korean American cobbler in Nashville, Tennessee finds peace in his simple life.



### **The Road Home**

*Directed by: Richard E. Haywood • Short Documentary • 15 min*

An indigenous Montagnard man that grew up in America, goes back to Vietnam to reclaim his heritage before the government removes his connection to the past.



### **Ke Kino Lua**

*Directed by: Eve Davidson • Short Narrative • 3 min*

Ke Kino Lua means the dual-natured in Hawaiian. After moving to Salt Lake City for his first day of work, does Kaleo stick to his island roots or accept western corporate culture?

# Virtual Shorts Program

## The Strangers Who Change Us



### Ran Som

*Directed by: Richard Dang • Short Narrative • 12 min*

Two small-time burglars kidnap the son of a wealthy businessman, demanding twenty thousand dollars. But when they discover that the boy is a victim of harsh discipline at home, they face a moral dilemma that blurs the line between criminals and protectors.



### Sound of Fire

*Directed by: Mingjie Li • Short Narrative • 15 min*

Dustin was abandoned by his family at a young age. Ever since then, he's been surviving by stealing. He despises himself but never thinks of changing. Life is hopeless and meaningless for him until he meets Jane - a little girl who lives with her alcoholic single father.



### CINDY

*Directed by: Al Chang • Short Narrative • 21 min*

An aspiring rapper takes a vague driving gig hoping for a quiet night to himself. Instead, he meets Cindy, a bubbly and unpredictable passenger who drags him into an absurd and unexpectedly heartfelt adventure. "CINDY" is a quirky dramedy about connection, detours, and the strangers who change our lives.



### sometimes, i wish i was a fish

*Directed by: Yeajoon Cho • Short Narrative • 14 min*

A depressed, male sex worker learns how to open up – the hard way.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## Beautifully Bizarre



### Frozen in Time

*Directed by: Caleb Soon • Music Video • 3 min*

A music video for "Frozen in Time" by Vinius, which, through playful surrealism, explores the post-2020 social malaise experienced by many Americans, alienation from nature, and feeling stuck in an endless cycle of meaningless labor.



### The Smiths

*Directed by: Jonah Lee-McNamee • Short Narrative • 1 min*

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have done everything they can to whitewash themselves and hide their Korean heritage from their son Bradley, who has grown up eating meatloaf, wearing shoes in the house, and getting mediocre grades.



### Yakuza Ondo

*Directed by: Ethan Okamoto • Short Narrative • 11 min*

Shig, a Yakuza stuck in his ways, becomes haunted by one of his victims. Ken, the ghost, only asks for a single act of kindness. Since he can't kill someone twice, Shig finally has to face the music.



### NO ESCAPE

*Directed by: Leena Kurishingal • Short Narrative • 9 min*

When her perfect romantic getaway in the woods is ruined by the appearance of the ominous 'Indian Mother', Nisha must fight the obstacles of her immigrant past, in hopes of ever having an American future.



### Deliverance

*Directed by: Quinn Delaney Connell • Short Narrative • 16 min*

After receiving her last care shipment, a storm-battered hermit must brave an infinite blizzard representing her own mind trapped in a coma in order to reach her family on the other side...



### CRYBABY

*Directed by: Kim Xiong • Short Narrative • 22 min*

In a utopian near future where crying has ceased to exist, an emotional young woman – the only person who can still shed tears – teams up with her protective older sister on a journey into the underground world of weeping, in search of a remedy.



### Beauty

*Directed by: katrina sotera, Chauncey Velasco • Music Video • 3 min*

"Beauty" takes the viewer on a celestial journey, as they revisit the memory of a past love.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## Stories of Our Youth



### Puberty For Humans

Directed by: Wester Demandante  
Short Narrative • 13 min

Perfect for your nervous health class students as they approach their inevitable cybernetic bodily changes. In this short educational video, Linus, an insecure prepubescent teenager, learns that everything will be okay... for everyone else.



### Not Alone

Directed by: Cameryn Koike  
Short Narrative • 3 min

A not so brave boy finds himself a little too immersed in the horror movie he's watching when his family leaves him home alone.



### Leihana

Directed by: Layla Yamamoto, Michi Yorkston  
Short Narrative • 7 min

A mixed-race Native Hawaiian and Chuukese girl's first day at an elite Honolulu private school, told honestly by the student filmmakers who lived it.



### Dreamline

Directed by: Harshith Surya Kotni  
Short Narrative • 17 min

After getting caught making a hip-hop beat with his friends instead of attending an important career networking event, a high school senior tries to find common ground with his father by sharing his original rap music.



### Myself When I Am Real

Directed by: Angeline Gragasin  
Short Narrative • 18 min

A Filipino mother and daughter search for belonging at a suburban Wisconsin Christmas party in 2000, captured on MiniDV with the aching intimacy of a home video.



### Yellow Balloon

Directed by: Summer Luu  
Short Narrative • 13 min

Summer Luu's tender film follows a young Vietnamese-American girl resettling in her grandparents' Pacific Northwest home, carrying grief, and learning, slowly, to release it.



### Last Dance

Directed by: Emmy Okinaka  
Short Narrative • 16 min

When her dream solo is stripped away on performance day, teenage dancer Aria makes one final, defiant stand, and discovers what she is truly worth.



### Threading the Needle

Directed by: AJ Johnson  
Short Documentary • 10 min

Twenty years after their adoption, two Chinese Americans attempt to reconcile their ethnicity with their experiences.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## Strength in Numbers



### Soft Animal

*Directed by: Shizue Roche Adachi • Short Narrative • 13 min*

On a bus late at night, a mother in pajamas and a woman leaving the bar find an unexpected moment of connection, revealing echoes in their individual struggles to reclaim their bodies.



### The Healing Circle

*Directed by: Thavary Krouch • Short Documentary • 22 min*

"The Healing Circle" is an intimate and visually experimental short documentary that celebrates the resilience of Cambodian women through the healing power of storytelling, art, and music.



### We Rise Together

*Directed by: Alan Kondo • Short Documentary • 27 min*

"We Rise Together" is a story of solidarity and common struggle between Phoeun You (a Cambodian refugee), API Rise (re-entry organization of formerly incarcerated or detained Asian immigrants), and Nikkei Progressives (a grassroots organization that unites the Japanese American community). The goal of the film is to advocate for Phoeun's pardon and to educate the viewer about the unjust treatment of over 16,000 Southeast Asians at risk of deportation.



### LITTLE BIRD

*Directed by: Oanh-Nhi Nguyen • Short Narrative • 15 min*

Amidst 1980s Los Angeles, Linh Tran, a disheartened Vietnamese woman tasked with evictions, uncovers the harsh reality of displacing fellow Vietnamese refugees. Struggling with the choice to keep her job or stand in solidarity with those she's meant to uproot, her moral dilemma deepens as she befriends a little Vietnamese girl caught in the midst of it all.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## Flavors of Community



### Chasing Tables

Directed by: Justin Bergh • Feature Documentary • 44 min

After training under two James Beard award-winning-chefs in some of the most acclaimed and important restaurants in the Pacific Northwest, Jordan Taylor, a Sioux Falls native, returned to his home state and opened a string of successful restaurants. His rise in the Sioux Falls culinary scene appears to be an unmitigated success. His story, however, is much more interesting than that.



### Kaju Katli

Directed by: Sujay Khona • Short Narrative • 9 min

Akshay, a Marathi-American teenager struggles to prepare kaju katli for the annual Diwali party, consumed by grief. He is forced to reckon the true reason he is struggling to create this dessert, redefining his place in his culture.



### Jam Boy

Directed by: Sriram Emani • Short Narrative • 22 min

Sriram is the ultimate role model. Polite. Optimized. Easy to love. He is the system's favorite kind of citizen: the model minority who never makes trouble. The American Dream algorithm adores those like him even as they lose their sense of self.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## Centering Mental Health



### **My Brother, My Friend**

*Directed by: Varun Venkatesh, Emil Irimpan • Short Narrative • 21 min*

In search of an escape, Manu joins his childhood friend Vish on a spontaneous trip to a lakeside cabin. As they rekindle their friendship, buried tensions and repressed feelings begin to emerge



### **JANE**

*Directed by: Miiinji Chang • Short Narrative • 15 min*

When Jane Lee embarks on a wild girl's night out post-heartbreak, she's ready to party and live her very best life with her group of girlfriends. She runs into John Kim, her Bible study buddy from their college days, who is also nursing a wounded heart after splitting with his partner. Instead of remaining a safeguard against the many creeps who approach Jane in her inebriated state, John assaults Jane at his place and remains silent about his devastating actions. Jane begins to face the painful violation and betrayal with underwhelming support from her girls, and ultimately chooses to leave the party weekend on her own terms.



### **F\*CK FEELINGS**

*Directed by: Samantha K Tan • Short Narrative • 15 min*

F\*CK FEELINGS follows a talented painter preparing for her huge debut at an art gallery, only to be welcomed by a dark past that she fought hard to forget.



### **By Walking**

*Directors: Mindy Cook, Sarah Haas • Short Documentary • 14 min*

What does it mean to be a person from a place? BY WALKING is a slice of life short documentary that examines this and other questions with Beth as she explores connection with her ancestral homeland and the value of outdoor adventures.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## Family Reconnections



### Why My Dad Loves

*Directed by: Nkaujoua Xiong • Short Documentary • 20 min*

At the age of 13, my father left his homeland, Laos, seeking a brighter future in the United States. Throughout the years, he devoted himself to supporting his family, seldom sharing the details of his past. This film intimately explores the experiences that shaped my father's understanding of love.



### ASHA

*Directed by: Moitri Ghosh • Short Narrative • 11 min*

Amidst the chaos of her daughter's 10th birthday party, Asha must face her estranged mom who shows up unannounced bearing the ultimate gift.



### WHAT THE HEAVEN!

*Directed by: Richard Yan • Short Narrative • 13 min*

When his recently deceased father returns as a ghost, a Chinese American student must help him resolve unfinished business – bridging generations, cultures, and their strained relationship – before he can pass on to the afterlife.



### STASH

*Directed by: Tina Huang • Short Narrative • 14 min*

Raised under the same roof but worlds apart, two estranged sisters must burn one—grudges, memories, or a joint—to finally move forward.

# Virtual Shorts Program

## The Ties That Bind

Open to Audiences in Oregon



### Quantum Entanglement

*Directed by: Nathania Djuhar • Short Narrative • 11 min*

A mother and daughter wake up on the morning of a party they're hosting, only to find that their wrists have been bound together by an unbreakable red string. They have to find a way to free themselves, while dealing with each other, and spending time together in a way they haven't done before.



### RUYA

*Directed by: Nicole Mairose Dizon • Short Narrative • 7 min*

When a T'boli dreamweaver goes into a coma, her anxious, insomniac daughter must dream and communicate with Fu Dalu, the Spirit of Abaca, to pick up where her mom left off on the next t'nalak.



### TAGA

*Directed by: Jill Sachs • Short Narrative • 19 min*

Vivi, a third-culture Filipina-American, travels to the Philippines to reconnect with her roots, but falls in with a group of Western eco-volunteers. When they scorn the customs of a remote mountain village, an ancient evil comes knocking.



### The Last Resort

*Directed by: Sarita Khurana • Short Documentary • 12 min*

In the first-ever Indian retirement complex in the U.S, a tight-knit group of Indian immigrants forge a resilient community, navigating family tensions, cultural longing and the realities of growing old together. Told through the lives of several residents, this is a story of the first generation of Indian immigrants growing old in America.

# Thank You, Sponsors!

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## Indie Film

CALC, Coast To Cascades Bird Alliance, Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Printwear of Oregon, Rising Phoenix Productions, Royal Awards, The Taste of India, UO Comic Studies, UO Sociology, Kwon's Kimbap

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# 2 Minute Activism!



Your response helps us apply for grants and improve our film festival. Please take a few moments to fill out our demographics survey to ensure we continue to best serve you and our community! Scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/DisOrientSurvey2026](https://tinyurl.com/DisOrientSurvey2026)