

LOS ANGELES ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL

No. 35 | May 2 - May 10, 2019

festival.vcmedia.org



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MAY 2

ARATANI 7:00 PM | 94 MINS OPENING NIGHT: YELLOW ROSE

FRIDAY MAY 3

JANM 12:00 PM | 60 MINS C3: BREAKING THROUGH

TAT 6:30 PM | 60 MINS AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY

PDC 7:00 PM | 43 MINS HBO APA VISIONARIES 2019

DTIND 7:00 PM | 68 MINS SEADRIFT

TAT 9:00 PM | 70 MINS ANJING (THE DOGS)

DTIND 9:30 PM | 110 MINS EERIE

SATURDAY MAY 4

TAT 10:00 AM | 26 MINS ITSY BITSY SHORTS
TAT 11:00 AM | 76 MINS EATING UP EASTER

DTIND 11:00 AM | 55 MINS FROM VISIONS TO REEL: FINDING HOME

DTIND 1:00 PM | 65 MINS LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN

TAT 1:00 PM | 118 MINS PACIFIC CINEWAVES

DTIND 3:30 PM | 83 MINS ACTRESS WANTED

TAT 4:00 PM | 97 MINS FOR MY FATHER'S KINGDOM

ARATANI 5:00 PM | 96 MINS CENTERPIECE: GO BACK TO CHINA

DTIND 6:00 PM | 101 MINS SONG LANG
TAT 6:30 PM | 90 MINS JADDOLAND

ARATANI 8:00 PM | 85 MINS CENTERPIECE: MS. PURPLE

DTIND 9:00 PM | 90 MINS COUNTERFLOW: CURRENTS IN NEW FILIPINA/O MUSIC

TAT 9:15 PM | 92 MINS THE UGLY MODEL

SUNDAY MAY 5

ARATANI 11:00 AM | 44 MINS KIDS SHORTS (NOT THE KIND YOU WEAR)

TAT 12:00 PM | 135 MINS MOANANUIĀKEA: ONE OCEAN. ONE PEOPLE. ONE CANOE.

DTIND 12:00 PM | 81 MINS OUR TIME MACHINE
ARATANI 2:00 PM | 92 MINS DIGITAL HISTORIES 2019

DTIND 2:30 PM | 82 MINS A WOMAN'S WORK: THE NFL'S CHEERLEADER PROBLEM

TAT 3:00 PM | 60 MINS C3: FAMILY STYLE DTIND 5:00 PM | 70 MINS NO DATA PLAN

DTIND 7:00 PM | 104 MINS I GOTCHU FAM, ALWAYS

TAT 7:00 PM | 60 MINS RE-SCORED: A FILM AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE

DTIND 9:30 PM | 61 MINS STAYCATION

Film Legend

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

■ INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

■ INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

SHORTS PROGRAMS

■ NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

■ SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

For an updated schedule of programs and events, please visit festival.vcmedia.org

MONDAY MAY 6

REGAL 6:00 PM | 73 MINS WWYD (WHAT WOULD YOU DO?)
REGAL 6:15 PM | 95 MINS FOR SAMA

REGAL 6:30 PM | 107 MINS CITIES OF LAST THINGS
REGAL 7:30 PM | 106 MINS COME AS YOU ARE
REGAL 8:30 PM | 96 MINS THE TIPPING POINT
REGAL 9:00 PM | 96 MINS LONG TIME NO SEA

REGAL 9:00 PM | 98 MINS LAST NIGHT I SAW YOU SMILING

TUESDAY MAY 7

REGAL 6:00 PM | 60 MINS C3: A CONVERSATION W/ WALT LOUIE

REGAL 6:15 PM | 106 MINS ORIGIN STORY

REGAL 6:30 PM | 95 MINS MERATA: HOW MUM DECOLONISED THE SCREEN
REGAL 7:30 PM | 60 MINS C3: ALL-AMERICAN GIRL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

REARE 7.30 114 | 00 141113 C3. ALE AMERICAN GIRE 23111 ANNIVE

REGAL 8:00 PM | 98 MINS PLUS ONE

REGAL 9:00 PM | 102 MINS IN A NEW YORK MINUTE REGAL 9:00 PM | 104 MINS BLOOMING COLORS

REGAL 9:15 PM | 101 MINS REEL SPORTS

WEDNESDAY MAY 8

REGAL 6:00 PM | 70 MINS LEITIS IN WAITING

REGAL 6:30 PM | 108 MINS PARENTALS
REGAL 6:45 PM | 61 MINS JOURNEY TO IFUGAO

REGAL 7:00 PM | 77 MINS ELIZABETH SUNG, FROM ACTOR TO ICON

REGAL 8:00PM | 98 MINS SPECIAL SCREENING TBA

REGAL 8:30 PM | 140 MINS OMENG SATANASIA
REGAL 9:00 PM | 101 MINS THE SPACE BETWEEN
REGAL 9:15 PM | 95 MINS HAPPY CLEANERS

REGAL 9:15 PM | 101 MINS NORMAL.

THURSDAY MAY 9

REGAL 6:00 PM | 60 MINS C3: WE GON' BE ALRIGHT

REGAL 6:30 PM | 90 MINS VAI

REGAL 6:45 PM | 55 MINS EPISODICS

REGAL 7:00 PM | 40 MINS ARMED WITH A CAMERA VOL. 2019

REGAL 7:30 PM | 60 MINS DISNEY MOANA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I

REGAL 8:00 PM | 113 MINS PING PONG PLAYA

REGAL 8:45 PM | 105 MINS #LIFE

REGAL 9:00 PM | 90 MINS IN THE LAND OF LOST ANGELS

REGAL 9:00 PM | 88 MINS LUCKY GRANDMA

FRIDAY MAY 10

REGAL 7:00 PM | 84 MINS CLOSING NIGHT: EMPTY BY DESIGN

VENUE LEGEND

ARATANI

Aratani Theatre @ JACCC

DTIND

Downtown Independent

JANM

Japanese American National Museum

PDC

Pacific Design Center

REGAL

Regal L.A. LIVE

TAT

Tateuchi Democracy Forum @ JANM

COMPETITION

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets for all shows are available at festival.vcmedia.org

Day-of tickets for shows can be purchased at that venue's box office one (1) hour prior to the first show of the day.

All programs are subject to change and/or cancellation without prior notice.

ALL WORKS PRESENTED IN THE FESTIVAL ARE UNRATED. PARENTAL GUIDANCE IS SUGGESTED.

Please arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled program. Seating cannot be guaranteed for ticket holders who arrive after the program begins. Empty seats may be resold; no refunds will be issued.

All Sales Are Final. NO REFUNDS. Exchanges given only for program cancellations.

Questions? Contact us at tickets@vcmedia.org

ADMISSION

\$15 - General

\$14 – Students & Seniors

\$13 - VC Members

TICKET PACKAGES

FESTIVAL 10-PACK

\$135 - General

\$120 - VC Members

Redeemable for all ticketed programs except Opening, Closing, Centerpiece, and RE-SCORED. No limit per program.

FESTIVAL PASS

\$400 - General

\$350 - VC Members

Get priority seating and entry to the majority of Festival events!

FREE PROGRAMS

Free to the Public. Tickets are required for admission into the theatre and will be distributed online and at the Box Office. First come, first served.

All CENTERING THE MASSES events

C3: Breaking Through; An Asian Dude's Guide to Surviving Hollywood; Family Style; A Conversation w/ Walt Louie

Itsy Bitsy Shorts; From Visions to Reel: Finding Home; Kids Shorts (Not the Kind You Wear); Long Time No Sea; Elizabeth Sung, From Actor to Icon; Leitis in Waiting; Omeng Satanasia; Ping Pong Playa; Disney Moana 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

OPENING NIGHT

(Screening & Party)

\$60 - General

\$55 - Students, Seniors, & VC/JACCC Members

CLOSING NIGHT

(Screening & Party)

\$55 - General

\$50 - Students, Seniors, & VC Members

(Screening Only)

\$25 - General

\$20 - Students, Seniors, & VC Members

FESTIVAL CENTERPIECES

\$20 - General

\$18 - Students, Seniors, & VC/JACCC Members

C3: CONFERENCE FOR CREATIVE CONTENT

FREE FOR FESTIVAL BADGE HOLDERS

(Single Program Price)

\$15 - General

\$14 - Students & Seniors

\$13 - VC Members

(All-Day Pass to May 4th Programs)

\$35 - General

\$30 - Students, Seniors, & VC/JANM Members

DIGITAL HISTORIES 2019: IDEAS, OBSERVATIONS, AND INSPIRATIONS

\$10 - Suggested Donation

RE-SCORED: A FILM AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE

\$20 - General

\$18 - Students, Seniors, & VC/JANM Members

VENUES & PARKING



DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT 251 S Main St Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking: Several pay lots available in Downtown LA



HOTEL INDIGO 899 Francisco St Los Angeles, CA 90017 Parking: \$11 for first 3 hours with validation, \$22 all day



PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER
8687 Melrose Ave
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Parking: Several paid lots are around the area



REGAL L.A. LIVE: A BARCO INNOVATION CENTER
1000 W Olympic Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Parking: Lot 4 or Lot W, 4 hours validated parking for \$8

LITTLE TOKYO

Parking: Several pay lots and metered street parking are available



341 FSN 341 E 1st St Los Angeles, CA 90012



ARATANI THEATRE /
TOSHIZO WATANABE
EXHIBITION CENTER
@ JACCC
244 S San Pedro St
Los Angeles, CA 90012



FESTIVAL HQ @ FAR EAST LOUNGE 353 E 1st St Los Angeles, CA 90012



JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM 100 N Central Ave Los Angeles, CA 90012



TATEUCHI DEMOCRACY FORUM / NCPD DEMOCRACY LAB @ JANM 100 N Central Ave Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Special Thanks

VC Members and Donors

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WELCOME TO THE 35TH EDITION OF THE LOS ANGELES ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL! Visual Communications is proud to present artists who shift narratives and stories that challenge perspectives. This Festival is our process of cultivating our ideal communities through film and media, in which we strive to be inclusive

This May, we also honor our builders and storytellers as we celebrate Visual Communications' 49th anniversary with our PAST//FORWARD Gala. Additionally, we invite you to our upcoming exhibit AT FIRST LIGHT: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America – a multimedia exhibition that explores and celebrates the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity.

On behalf of the VC Staff and Board, THANK YOU to our VC members, donors, artists, partners, friends, and families for continuing to believe in what we do and what we make happen. In our pursuit to create spaces for cultural connections, we hope that each one of you finds a home with us at the Festival.

Happy Festival!

~ Visual Communications Staff

and diverse, with goals of equity and change.

5 • #LAAPFF2019 WELCOME • 6

ABOUT OUR ART



JESS X. SNOW is the artist behind the 35th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival's key art. In her hand-drawn digital illustration, a nurturing Asian American Mother Earth figure, modeled after actress Akemi Look (who has appeared in several LAAPFF films), cradles the City of Los Angeles in her palms, home to 1.8 million Asians and Pacific Islanders.

This year's art piece was "inspired by women, queer and trans people of color, migrant and indigenous communities and their ancestors who fight everyday to liberate a future where there is sanctuary for all, where no one ever has to migrate against their will, where we can love whoever we want, in all the ways

we dream, where border walls have fallen to the ground and detention centers are replaced with an ocean where all the extinct creatures who have lost to climate change burst back to life." Through her layering of multiple digital illustration methods, Snow's work creates an evocative beacon of hope, warmth, and safety in the face of our trying current times.

Find more of her work at jessxsnow.com

LIMELIGHT

TAKING YOUR SHOT AT THE BIG TIME?

TAKE IT WITH PRO TALENT.

What makes a film unforgettable?

For more than two decades, SAGindie has guided independent filmmakers like you through the SAG-AFTRA signatory process, making it even easier to hire top talent regardless of budget. Be independent, act professional and create your own iconic film. www.sagindie.org



PARTIES & AFTERHOURS

For an updated list of events, visit festival.vcmedia.org

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

(\$40; FREE for badge holders and Opening Night film ticket holders)

Thursday, May 2 9:00 pm - 11:30 pm Japanese American Cultural & Community Center 244 S San Pedro St Los Angeles, CA 90012

MADE IN TX

presented by the Austin Asian American Film Festival Friday, May 3 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Venue TBA

FESTIVAL PUB HUB @ FAR BAR

(food & drink specials for badge & day-of ticket holders)

Thursday, May 2 to Sunday, May 5 Far Bar 347 E 1st St Los Angeles, CA 90012

VISIONARIES FRIDAY

presented by HBO (invited guests only) Friday, May 3 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm Pacific Design Center 8687 Melrose Ave West Hollywood, CA 90069

FESTIVAL FILMMAKER WELCOME BRUNCH

presented by the Directors Guild of America (invited filmmakers and guests only)

Friday, May 3
10:00 am - 11:30 am
Japanese American National
Museum
100 N Central Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90012

FESTIVAL INDUSTRY WELCOME BRUNCH

presented by Nielsen (invited filmmakers and industry quests only)

Saturday, May 4
10:00 am - 11:30 am
Japanese American National
Museum
100 N Central Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90012

LT VIBES x LAAPFF vol. 2019

Saturday, May 4 10:00 pm - 1:00 am Venue TBA

A-DOC BRUNCH

hosted by David Magdael & Associates
(invited guests only)
Sunday, May 5
10:00 am - 11:30 pm
Far Bar
347 E 1st St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

DIGITAL HISTORIES RECEPTION

(invited filmmakers and guests only)
Sunday, May 5
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Far Bar
347 E 1st St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CINEMA MUSICA LOUNGE @ 18 Social

presented by SAGindie
Monday, May 6 to Thursday,
May 9
9:00 pm - midnight
18 Social Lounge @
Hotel Indigo
899 Francisco St
Los Angeles, CA 90017

FESTIVAL AWARDS CEREMONY

(invited filmmakers and guests only)
Friday, May 10
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Hotel Indigo
899 Francisco St
Los Angeles, CA 90017

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY

(\$35; Free for badge holders and Closing Night film ticket holders) Friday, May 10 9:00 pm - midnight

Friday, May 10 9:00 pm - midnight Hotel Indigo 899 Francisco St Los Angeles, CA 90017

FESTIVAL SPONSORS

PLATINUM





GOLD



SILVER





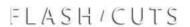




BRONZE























STAR



























GOVERNMENT













FOUNDATION













MEDIA























IN KIND



































































VENUES















HOTEL



Helping shed light on the **untold stories** in film & media

Comcast NBCUniversal is proud to support the 35th annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.



OPENING NIGHT CLOSING NIGHT



YELLOW ROSE

Diane Paragas / USA / 2018 / 94 mins

We melodically open the Festival with the world premiere of Diane Paragas' YELLOW ROSE. Having grown up in Lubbock, Texas, the Filipina American director's experiences are reflected in the development and story of the film. YELLOW ROSE features Eva Noblezada, who is joined by fellow Miss Saigon alum and Tony Award winner Lea Salonga. The film follows Rose Garcia, a 17-year-old Filipina American in Texas. When her mom is arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Rose undertakes a musical journey while facing deportation back to the Philippines. Inspired by the music of country artists like Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, and Willie Nelson, the original composition accompanied by Noblezada's captivating voice becomes the soundtrack of Rose's wanderings akin to American westerns. This is a Filipino story within an American narrative. And what's more American than a western? — Francis Cullado

Sponsored by City National Bank and Pechanga Resort and Casino Thursday, May 2 / 7:00 pm / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Join us to celebrate the launch of LAAPFF2019 after the screening! \$40 (door only); FREE for badge holders and Opening Night film ticket holders

Thursday, May 2 / 9:00 pm - 11:30 pm / Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

YELLOW ROSE is part of the Narrative Feature Competition section

EMPTY BY DESIGN

Andrea A. Walter / Philippines, USA / 2019 / 84 mins

The Festival closes with the world premiere of Andrea A. Walter's feature debut EMPTY BY DESIGN, a thoughtful exploration of feeling lost between two places. Amidst the urban rhythms of contemporary Manila, Filipino millennials Eric (Osric Chau, who also serves as Producer) and Samantha (Rhian Ramos) return home after some time abroad and find themselves drawn together through their mutual loneliness. Ramos and Chau imbue Sam and Eric with a quiet isolation as they try and understand how they belong. How is it possible to feel like a foreigner in the very city you grew up in? As writer/director drawing on her own personal experiences, Walter creates a meditative tone that grants the audience access into the mindsets of both Sam and Eric in ways that never feel suffocating or overbearing. A film where a sense of belonging feels elusive, EMPTY BY DESIGN explores the emotional heaviness of coming back to a place you unknowingly fought so hard to forget. — Jeremy Gaudette

Friday, May 10 / 7:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY

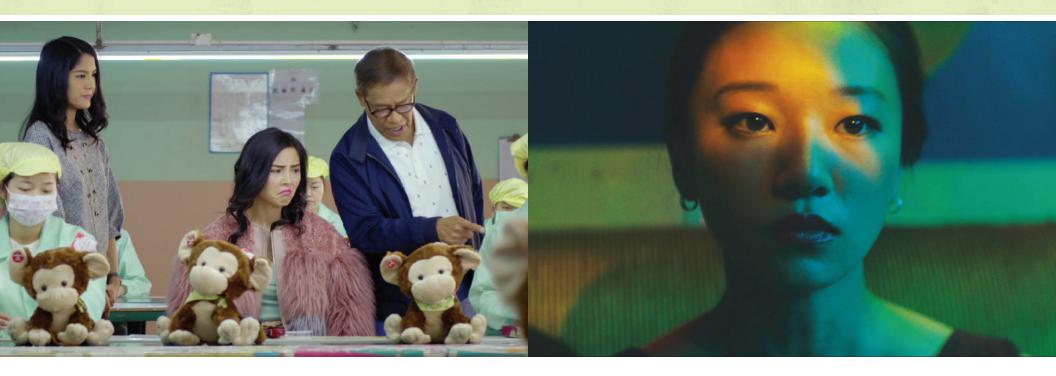
Join us at the end of the night to celebrate the finale of LAAPFF2019! \$35 (door only); FREE for badge holders and Closing Night film ticket holders

Friday, May 10 / 9:00 pm - midnight / Hotel Indigo

EMPTY BY DESIGN is part of the Narrative Feature Competition section

13 • OPFNING NIGHT

CENTERPIECES CENTERPIECES



GO BACK TO CHINA

Emily Ting / China, USA / 2019 / 96 mins

We are delighted to present the Los Angeles premiere of Emily Ting's GO BACK TO CHINA, featuring film/ TV actress-comedienne-director and YouTube star Anna Akana, who stars as Sasha Li, a spoiled LA trust fund baby and fashion school grad forced to go back to the homeland after her toy factory owner father cuts her off. On the heels of the CRAZY RICH ASIANS phenomenon, Ting's sophomore feature taps into the rich AAPI talent pool working in the industry today from principal cast members, Akana, Lynn Chen, Richard Ng, Kelly Hu to supporting players that include Akemi Look, Jordyn Chang, and Michelle Lukes, among others. These global Asian characters and the richness of their realities translates to the big screen in an impactful way for screen representation. Semi-autobiographical in story (Ting did go back to the homeland to help out with her family business), this Festival Centerpiece adds with genuine affection to the growing AAPI film canon of those in the global diaspora coming to terms with what home and the homeland mean to them.

— Lindy Leong

Saturday, May 4 / 5:00 pm / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC

GO BACK TO CHINA is part of the Narrative Feature Competition section

MS. PURPLE

Justin Chon / USA / 2018 / 85 mins

Two years after the debut of his Sundance award-winning feature GOOK, Justin Chon returns to LAAPFF with the Los Angeles premiere of MS. PURPLE, in which he explores family trauma through an estranged Korean American sister Kasie (Tiffany Chu) and brother Carey (Teddy Lee) attempting to care for their invalid father. MS. PURPLE is an incredibly effective study of the messiness of family and how actions can ripple across generations. In a series of flashbacks, we see how a demanding father and an absent mother lay the groundwork for Kasie and Carey's relationship to each other and the world around them. As co-writers, Chon and Chris Dinh have an innate sense of who these characters are, giving them an arc that allows them to be confused and imperfect. MS. PURPLE doesn't lay out the answers in a clean and comforting way. But it doesn't need to. Family is messy, the choices you make are messy, and the beauty of this Festival Centerpiece is the exploration of finding the strength within to create your own solutions. — Jeremy Gaudette

Saturday, May 4 / 8:00 pm / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC

MS. PURPLE is part of the Narrative Feature Competition section

15 • CENTERPIECES • 16

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

Prepare to be challenged, enlightened, shocked, and entertained as we proudly roll out this year's excellent slate of North American Narrative Feature nominees.



COME AS YOU ARE

Richard Wong / USA / 2019 / 106 mins

Three young men with disabilities embark on a hilarious, life-altering road trip to a brothel in Montreal catering to people with special needs. LAAPFF veteran Richard Wong returns to our Festival with his new film starring Hayden Szeto, Ravi Patel, and Gabourey Sidibe.

Monday, May 6 / 7:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



HAPPY CLEANERS

Julian Kim, Peter S. Lee / USA / 2017 / 95 mins
Catch the world premiere! While battling over cultural traditions and undergoing assimilation, a contemporary Korean American family struggles to save their dry cleaning business in the diverse

Wednesday, May 8 / 9:15 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE

neighborhood of Flushing, Queens NY.



IN A NEW YORK MINUTE

Ximan Li / USA / 2018 / 102 mins

Based on a Chinese short story, three different Chinese women navigate family, love, and romance in the hustle and bustle of New York City. With a star-studded cast (Celia Au, Amy Chang, Yi Liu, Ludi Lin, Cheng Pei Pei) and female creatives behind the lens, we are excited to host its Los Angeles premiere.

Tuesday, May 7 / 9:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



Mragendra Singh / USA / 2018 / 91 mins

Marriage is already complicated. Mix in the birth of your first child and suddenly the small moments are completely magnified beyond control. Celebrate the world premiere of this film exploring the evolving notion of returning to the status quo.

Preceded by THE NIGHT BEFORE (Mragendra Singh / 2018 / 10 mins)

Wednesday, May 8 / 9:15 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



PLUS ONE

Jeff Chan, Andrew Rhymer / USA / 2018 / 98 mins Wedding season is afoot! College BFFs Alice and Ben (PEN15's Maya Erskine and Jack Quaid) make a pact to survive together as each other's go-to date in this millennial dark comedy making its west coast premiere.

Tuesday, May 7 / 8:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



LUCKY GRANDMA

Sasie Sealy / USA / 2019 / 88 mins

When a fortune teller predicts an auspicious day in her future, Grandma heads to the casino and goes all in, landing herself on the wrong side of luck...and in the middle of a Chinatown gang war. OG Chinese actress Tsai Chin stars as the coolest curmudgeon in this west coast premiere.

Thursday, May 9 / 9:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



17 • #LAAPFF2019 NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION • 18

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

This year's Documentary Competition is distinguished by emerging artists with exciting untold stories as well as subjects which hold super-apt relevancy to our changing worldview(s) today.



A WOMAN'S WORK: THE NFL'S CHEERLEADER PROBLEM

Yu Gu / USA / 2019 / 82 mins

A critical spotlight is shined on the egregious gender pay gap and exploitative treatment of female cheerleaders that still exist today behind the glamorous, multibillion dollar industry of American professional football. Filmmaker Yu Gu returns to LAAPFF with this west coast premiere.

Sunday, May 5 / 2:30 pm / Downtown Independent



EATING UP EASTER

Sergio M. Rapu / Chile, USA / 2018 / 76 mins

Filmmaker Sergio Mata'u Rapu makes his directorial debut with this epistolary film to his son. A native of Rapa Nui, Rapu crafts a heart-felt and urgent message on the future he may face as the island endures the rapid effects of modernization and tourism.

Saturday, May 4 / 11:00 am / Tateuchi Democracy Forum



JADDOLAND

Nadia Shihab / USA / 2018 / 90 mins

On an extended visit to her hometown of Lubbock, Texas, filmmaker Nadia Shihab reframes the immigrant narrative by capturing the world of her mother, an Iraqi artist. This film will be making its Los Angeles premiere.

Saturday, May 4 / 6:30 pm / Tateuchi Democracy Forum



JOURNEY TO IFUGAO

Nicanor Evangelista Jr. / Philippines, USA / 2018 / 61 mins Catch the world premiere of this poetic and performance-based film tracing the journey of five LA-based Filipino artists and healers on their spiritual quest in search of identities and indigenous roots during a trip back to the Philippines.

Wednesday, May 8 / 6:45 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



Na'alehu Anthony / USA / 2018 / 135 mins

In 1976 the Polynesian Voyaging Society launched Hōkūle'a, a deep sea voyaging canoe, into the Polynesia on a quest for cultural revivalism. Since then, Hōkūle'a has inspired and educated generations of navigators and crew members throughout the world.

Sunday, May 5 / 12:00 pm / Tateuchi Democracy Forum

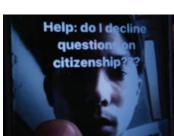


NO DATA PLAN

Miko Revereza / USA / 2018 / 70 mins

A 2017 alumnus of VC's Armed With a Camera Fellowship, filmmaker Miko Revereza's experimental travelogue captures the boredom, precarity, and fantasies of an undocumented immigrant crossing America by train.

Sunday, May 5 / 5:00 pm / Downtown Independent



ORIGIN STORY

Kulap Vilaysack / Laos, USA / 2018 / 106 mins

See the Los Angeles premiere of filmmaker Kulap Vilaysack's "origin story" of her own life, which uses larger-than-life graphic novel reenactments and intimate conversations with her extended family in the States and her ancestral homeland of Laos.

Tuesday, May 7 / 6:15 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



SEADRIFT

Tim Tsai / USA / 2019 / 68 mins

A fatal shooting in 1979 ignites a maelstrom of hostilities against Vietnamese refugee fishermen along the Gulf Coast. Set during the early days of Vietnamese refugee arrivals in the U.S., this film examines this turbulent yet little-seen chapter of American history and its consequences that continue to reverberate today.

Friday, May 3 / 7:00 pm / Downtown Independent



19 • #LAAPFF2019

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

Our International Narrative Feature Competition films offer narrative works which explore and reflect the stories of our time. We're excited to bring you the best and most provocative cinematic voices from Asia and the diaspora.



ANJING (THE DOGS)

Dean Yamada / Indonesia / 2018 / 70 mins

Two dogs are at the center this film, which explores the yawning chasm between rich and poor in Indonesia. Filmmaker Dean Yamada expands his exploration of the human condition in this follow-up to CICADA, which won the LAAPFF 2014 Grand Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature.

Friday, May 3 / 9:00 pm / Tateuchi Democracy Forum



CITIES OF LAST THINGS Wi Ding Ho / China, France, Taiwan, USA / 2018 / 107 mins

Unfolding in reverse chronology, with each of its three sections capturing a few days in the life of a Taiwanese cop, this film tackles the philosophical questions behind life, love, and death. Winner of the Platform Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Monday, May 6 / 6:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



SONG LANG

Leon Le / Vietnam / 2018 / 101 mins

LONG TIME NO SEA

Award for Best New Performer.

Heather Tsui / Taiwan / 2018 / 96 mins

In 1980s Saigon, an unlikely relationship forms between a ruthless debt collector and a cai lương (Vietnamese opera) actor whose troupe seeks a loan after falling into financial trouble. This film will be enjoying its Los Angeles premiere.

Set amidst the indigenous communities in Taiwan, this heartwarming

students for a dance competition. Winner of the 2018 Golden Horse

film revolves around a newbie teacher from the city who prepares

Monday, May 6 / 9:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE (Free Program)

Saturday, May 4 / 6:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



EERIE

Mikhail Red / Philippines, Singapore / 2018 / 110 mins

In this distinctly Filipino spin on the Catholic horror genre, a guidance counselor of an all-girls, Catholic high school investigates a murder by chasing the crime's sole witness — the ghost of a student.

Friday, May 3 / 9:30 pm / Downtown Independent



VAI

Nicole Whippy, 'Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Matasila Freshwater, Amberley Jo Aumua, Miria George, Marina Alofagia McCartney, Dianna Fuemana, Becs Arahanga / New Zealand / 2018 / 90 mins

This film made by nine female Pacific Islander filmmakers employs a different indigenous actress to portray Vai (which means "water") at different ages. In one continuous storyline, Vai comes into her own and navigates her roles as daughter, mother, community leader, and grandmother.

Thursday, May 9 / 6:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE





HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD

Bora Kim / South Korea, USA / 2018 / 138 mins

In a changing Seoul circa 1994, a lonely 14-year-old moves through life like a hummingbird searching for a taste of sweetness wherever she may find it. Deprived of attention from her family, she attempts romantic relationships with both girls and boys alike. Winner of this year's Grand Prix Generation 14plus in Berlin.

Tuesday, May 7 / 8:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

Our International Documentary Feature Competition highlights new films and filmmakers from around the world. We look forward to bringing you films that exemplify the global multiplicity we live in.

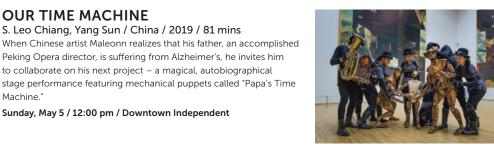


FOR MY FATHER'S KINGDOM

Vea Mafile'o, Jeremiah Tauamiti / New Zealand / 2019 / 97 mins

Driven by his deep faith in God and traditional culture, a flat-broke Tongan pensioner must navigate not only the rough streets of South Auckland, but also his tumultuous relationship with his New Zealand born son who struggles to accept his father's commitment to a Kingdom that tore their family apart.

Saturday, May 4 / 4:00 pm / Tateuchi Democracy Forum





FOR SAMA

Waad al-Kateab, Edward Watts / UK / 2019 / 95 mins Dedicated to her young daughter, citizen journalist-turned-pro Waad al-Kateab documented the Syrian uprising for Britain's Channel 4 News, all while undergoing the transformative life events of marriage and motherhood. Winner of the 2019 SXSW Grand Jury Award Winner for Best Documentary Feature.

Monday, May 6 / 6:15 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



LAST NIGHT I SAW YOU SMILING

Kavich Neang / Cambodia, France / 2019 / 78 mins

The past is not a foreign country. Filmmaker Kavich Neang's documentary feature debut is an experimental love letter to Phnom Penh and his Cambodia. Winner of the NETPAC Award at the 2019 International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Preceded by A MILLION YEARS (Danech San / 2018 / 20 mins)

Monday, May 6 / 9:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



MERATA:

HOW MUM DECOLONIZED THE SCREEN

Heperi Mita / New Zealand / 2018 / 95 mins

Contributing to a greater breadth of media representation in indigenous cinema and recouping suppressed histories within New Zealand's film culture, the inimitable Maori filmmaker. indigenous rights activist, educator and feminist Merata Mita gets her long overdue close-up in this portrait by her youngest son.

Tuesday, May 7 / 6:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



OUR TIME MACHINE

S. Leo Chiang, Yang Sun / China / 2019 / 81 mins

Sunday, May 5 / 12:00 pm / Downtown Independent

Peking Opera director, is suffering from Alzheimer's, he invites him

to collaborate on his next project - a magical, autobiographical

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Pay special attention to our Special Presentations as we revisit stories from our heritage, history, and identities, and discover how they still hold true to the stories we try to tell today.



ACTRESS WANTED

Minh Duc Nguyen / USA / 2016 / 83 mins

In this intergenerational exploration of Vietnamese American identities, cultural memories, and collective trauma, this twisted tale concerns a lonely recluse and his employment of a local, young actress to help him relive the experience of his beloved, dead wife.

Saturday, May 4 / 3:30 pm / Downtown Independent

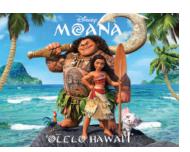


AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY

Dianne Fukami / USA / 2018 / 60 mins

Perhaps no one person embodies all the core values we celebrate during Asian Pacific Heritage Month more than Norman Mineta. The former US Secretary of Transportation, Mayor of San Jose, and the first Asian American politician on the world stage gets his just dues in this thoughtful cine-memoir.

Friday, May 3 / 6:30 pm / Tateuchi Democracy Forum



DISNEY MOANA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I

University of Hawai'i for Creative Media System / USA / 2017 / 60 mins

Students, faculty, and staff from 5 UH campuses translated over 10,000 words and recorded over 4,000 audio files in the re-recording of MOANA in 'Ölelo Hawai'i. Original stars Auli'i Cravalho and Nicole Scherzinger joined over 30 local 'Ölelo Hawai'i speaking actors and singers to produce this unique educational endeavor. Presented by Disney, Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, Gold House, and the Academy for Creative Media, University of Hawai'i

Thursday, May 9 / 7:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE (Free Program)



IN THE LAND OF LOST ANGELS

Bishrel Mashbat / USA / 2018 / 90 mins

Two young immigrants, desperate for cash, hatch a plot to kidnap a rich kid. An engrossing tale of a crime gone wrong, watch this rare contemporary work featuring the Mongolian-American community filmed in LA's Koreatown.

Thursday, May 9 / 9:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE



Dean Hamer, Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Joe Wilson / Tonga, USA / 2018 / 70 mins

Joey Matele, a prominent Tongan trans activist, leads the charge for transgender equality with the help of the leitis of Tonga. In a land where transgender individuals were once sacred until the arrival of Christian missionaries, Matele and her crew work to find justice and build community through an annual beauty pageant.

Presented by Pacific Islanders in Communications

Wednesday, May 8 / 6:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE (Free Program)



Valerie Soe / USA / 2019 / 65 mins

"In the days before Tinder," to quote *Angry Asian Man*, this government-sponsored summer program attracted a diverse breadth of youthful participants amongst overseas Taiwanese and various Chinese diasporas with its promise of romance and unsupervised shenanigans abroad. Come aboard to the world premiere, we're expecting you.

Saturday, May 4 / 1:00 pm / Downtown Independent



OMENG SATANASIA

Frank Gray Jr. / Philippines / 1977 / 140 mins

In this virtual mind trip of surreal imagery and sight gags filtered through a late 70's era Manila aesthetic, a devil strikes a deal with an old scientist who must find true love within a year or his soul will burn in hell. Starring the Filipino "King of Comedy" Dolphy, catch this precious time capsule of an era's collective humor, conflict, and outlook.

Wednesday, May 8 / 8:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE (Free Program)



PING PONG PLAYA

Jessica Yu / USA / 2007 / 96 mins

In this sports comedy that was the Opening Night film of LAAPFF 2008, a slacker must preserve his family's honor by winning a table tennis tournament. Join us for this retrospective screening of films by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Jessica Yu, one of the 2019 honorees at Visual Communications' Past//Forward Gala on May 18th. *Preceded by*

MEET MR. TOILET (Jessica Yu / 2012 / 4 mins) SOUR DEATH BALLS (Jessica Yu / 1992 / 4 mins) THE KINDA SUTRA (Jessica Yu / 2012 / 9 mins)

Thursday, May 9 / 8:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE (Free Program)



SHORTS PROGRAMS



STAYCATION

Tanuj Chopra / USA / 2018 / 61 mins

Winner of the LA Muse Award at the 2018 Los Angeles Film Festival, this intimate feature follows Luke and Peggy, an average Taiwanese American millennial couple, ordering take out, getting #lit, and having sex. When Luke discovers a photo of Peggy's ex on her phone, they start to question territories of their relationship that were once uncharted.

Sunday, May 5 / 9:30 pm / Downtown Independent



THE UGLY MODEL

Doris Yeung / USA / 2019 / 92 mins

Can Asian men be sexy? Looking at fitness model Kevin Kreider's chiseled physique and effortless smile, the easy and obvious answer is yes. However, underneath those layers of muscle fibers lies a loneliness and insecurity that deeply affects the psyche of a Korean adoptee growing up as an Asian male in America.

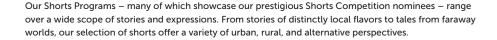
Saturday, May 4 / 9:15 pm / Tateuchi Democracy Forum



SPECIAL SCREENING TBA

Check festival.vcmedia.org on Opening Night (May 2) for special presentation additions.

Wednesday, May 8 / 8:00 pm / Regal L.A. Live



ITSY BITSY SHORTS

Wonder, discover, and be captivated at this eye popping and ear perking hodge-podge of sights and sounds for all ages. Selected by the family team of Glenda Gamboa, Children's Librarian and mom, Kamayo Quizon, Pre-Teen Movie Aficionado and son, and Joel Quizon, the dad. — Joel Quizon

Saturday, May 4 / 10:00 am / Tateuchi Democracy Forum / 26 mins (Free Program)

Screening is followed by a gayageum performance by artist Joyce Kwon and a children's activity by Echo Park Film Center at the JANM Courtyard.

CORPS EXQUIS (Kaylee SooHyun Lee / 2018 / 5 mins)
GEOMETRY (Simo Liu / 2018 / 2 mins)
LITTLE BIRD (Sun Yeo / 2018 / 3 mins)
RACCOON AND THE LIGHT (Hanna Kim / 2018 / 4 mins)
SHELLS (Justin Pixler / 2018 / 5 mins)
THE SYMPHONY OF TRIANGLE (Simo Liu / 2017 / 2 mins)
TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR (Sun Yeo / 2017 / 5 mins)



FROM VISIONS TO REEL: FINDING HOME

Is home a place, a person, a moment in time, a favorite meal? Finding Home showcases the Asian and Asian American experience from the point of view of young, emerging filmmakers. Find out what home means to the next generation of must-see Asian American and Pacific Islander talent. — Trent Nakamura

Saturday, May 4 / 11:00 am / Downtown Independent / 55 mins (Free Program)

Nathan Ramos (Club Mickey Mouse, As We Babble On) will present a short keynote prior to the opening of this program.

16 (Kristal Chan / 2019 / 1 min)

FOR HERE OR TO GO (Ryan Nguyen / 2018 / 8 mins)

GRADUATION (Mahya Shakibnia-Shirazi / 2018 / 3 mins)

KEEPSAKE (Megan Siu Lau / 2017 / 10 mins)

NO ONE EVER REALLY DIES (Anika Kan Grevstad, Mari Young / 2018 / 13 mins)

PINEAPPLE (Jane Chow / 2018 / 9 mins)

THE MISSING INGREDIENT (Yue Huang / 2018 / 5 mins)

THE SUNFLOWER CHILD (RJ Siu / 2018 / 6 mins)

27 • SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
SHORTS PROGRAMS • 28

SHORTS PROGRAMS



PACIFIC CINEWAVES

The culture and stories of Oceania have been carried on, from one generation to the next. These works highlight contemporary story-telling from 3 regions of Oceania diaspora: Hawaii, Micronesia and Guam. — Micki Davis

Saturday, May 4 / 1:00 pm / Tateuchi Democracy Forum / 118 mins

DOWN ON THE SIDEWALK IN WAIKĪKĪ (Justyn Ah Chong / 2019 / 20 mins)

HAE HAWAI'I (Ty Sanga / 2018 / 17 mins)

LAST TAXI DANCE (Brayden Yoder / 2018 / 18 mins)

MAUKA TO MAKAI (Alika Maikau, Jonah Okano / 2018 / 25 mins)

THE BAY (Neil Tinkham / 2018 / 17 mins)

THE PIT WHERE WE WERE BORN (Alexander Bocchieri / 2019 / 12 mins)

WE DRANK OUR TEARS: RAFAEL MAFNAS'S STORY (Angelo Manese, Justin Ocampo / 2018 / 9 mins)



KIDS SHORTS (NOT THE KIND YOU WEAR)

Stories of courage, determination, fascinations, and plain old hunger. The will of the young and the young at heart is strong. Selected by the family team of Glenda Gamboa, Children's Librarian and mom, Kamayo Quizon, Pre-Teen Movie Aficionado and son, and Joel Quizon, the dad. — Joel Quizon

In partnership with JACCC's Fiesta Matsuri

Sunday, May 5 / 11:00 am / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC / 44 mins (Free Program)

BRUSH: A FOX TALE (Faustina Arriola, Willi Anton / 2018 / 4 mins)
DAISY (Yu Yu / 2018 / 10 mins)

HUNGER, COME TO ME! (Mabel Ye / 2018 / 2 mins)
TAIL END OF THE YEAR (Chieh Yang / 2018 / 22 mins)

YOKO (Wesley Fuh / 2018 / 6 mins)



I GOTCHU FAM, ALWAYS

It's the terror of knowing what the world is about, don't be alone when you find out. — Kirby Peñafiel

Sunday, May 5 / 7:00 pm / Downtown Independent / 104 mins

DIVE BAR (Dorothy Xiao / 2019 / 9 mins)

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (Patrick Green / 2018 / 19 mins)

GANJA MAMA (Mukesh Vidyasagar / 2017 / 7 mins)

LUMPIA CAMPESINA (Robert Karimi / 2018 / 8 mins)

MAMA PINGPONG SOCIAL CLUB (Shiang An Chuang / 2018 /

20 mins)

SHELL YEAH (Ridge Hirano / 2018 / 4 mins)

THE PATIENTS (Tess Paras / 2019 / 16 mins)

WEEKENDS (Trevor Jimenez / 2017 / 15 mins)

THE TIPPING POINT

Little things can make a big difference. Watch how these femaledriven films – although short – will make you laugh, cry, gasp, or fall out of your chair. Your evening won't be the same. — Dorothy Xiao Monday, May 6 / 8:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 96 mins

ANDROMEDA (Emily Limyun Dean / 2018 / 15 mins)
GLORIOUS MRS. KIM (Monica Cho / 2018 / 16 mins)
KARAOKE MAMAS (Andrea Bang, Diana Bang / 2018 / 10 mins)
LOVE & LOSS (Yiying Li / 2018 / 22 mins)
PUSSY TALK (Kim Tran / 2018 / 7 mins)
SPINSTERHOOD (Jhanvi Motla / 2018 / 11 mins)
THE VISIT (Roxy Shih / 2018 / 15 mins)



WWYD (WHAT WOULD YOU DO?)

Pixelated glimpses of some of the intimate moments of life. From a panicked search for a missing child, to the remnants of loss and war; this collection of live action, experimental, and animated works poignantly asks, "What would you do?" — Annie Liang & Eseel Borlasa Monday, May 6 / 6:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 73 mins

CHILDREN OF THE SOIL (Judhajit Bagchi, Ranadeep Bhattacharyya / 2018 / 5 mins)

GLISSANDO (Min Shi / 2018 / 4 mins)

I CAN'T BRING YOU AWAY (Li-Wei Lin / 2018 / 5 mins)

IN FULL BLOOM (Maegan Houang / 2018 / 11 mins)

LUCY IN THE SKY (Bertha Bay-Sa Pan / 2018 / 14 mins)

MERRY-GO-ROUND (Ray Wu / 2018 / 9 mins)

MY MOON (Eusong Lee / 2018 / 9 mins)

NOWHERE (HyeonJeong Cho / 2018 / 4 mins)

SISTER (Siqi Song / 2018 / 8 mins)

WAYWARD EMULSIONS (Tina Takemoto / 2018 / 4 mins)



SHORTS PROGRAMS



BLOOMING COLORS

With a myriad of new voices emerging in queer cinema and a deep desire to move beyond the traditional coming out narrative, LGBTQ filmmaking is breaking new ground. Sexy, heart breaking, visceral, and even funny, join us and immerse yourself in these colorful worlds. — Trent Nakamura

Tuesday, May 7 / 9:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 104 mins

ENGAGED (David Scala / 2019 / 17 mins)
GENTLEMAN SPA (Yu Jhi-Han / 2019 / 18 mins)
I THINK SHE LIKES YOU (Bridey Elliott / 2018 / 9 mins)
MASKS (Mahaliyah Ayla O / 2018 / 22 mins)
RANI (Hammad Rizvi / 2018 / 14 mins)
ZERO ONE (Nick Neon / 2018 / 24 mins)



REEL SPORTS

These documentaries follow the lives of athletes on the futbol field, beyond the basketball court and within the wrestling ring. — Eseel Borlasa

Tuesday, May 7 / 9:15 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 101 mins

FINDING BIG COUNTRY (Kat Jayme / 2018 / 43 mins) FUTBOLISTAS 4 LIFE (Jun Stinson / 2018 / 40 mins) LITTLE MISS SUMO (Matt Kay / 2018 / 18 mins)



PARENTALS

How do parents and children take on the complexities of today's world? — Eseel Borlasa

Wednesday, May 8 / 6:30 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 108 mins

ALL IN MY FAMILY (Hao Wu / 2019 / 39 mins)
DIFFICULT PEOPLE (Sohil Vaidya / 2018 / 19 mins)
MANILA IS FULL OF MEN NAMED BOY (Andrew Stephen Lee / 2018 / 21 mins)
SWIMMING (Anna Chi / 2018 / 29 mins)



It's more than a lyric in a Dave Matthews song – it's the name of a short film program line-up! More importantly, it defines the emotional rhythms and themes reverberating through these films; each featuring mysterious forces that attract and repel us, sometimes affecting disparate beings in the most unlikely ways. — Faroukh Virani Wednesday, May 8 / 9:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 101 mins

AYESHA (Yanyu Dong / 2018 / 20 mins)
CARE LESS (Tuan Quoc Le / 2018 / 13 mins)
HANDS IN THE AIR (Reginald Espiritu / 2018 / 12 mins)
MY FRIEND MICHAEL JONES (Ian Leaupepe, Samson Rambo / 2018 / 15 mins)

SECRET LIVES OF ASIANS AT NIGHT (KEFF / 2019 / 18 mins) TIDES (Masami Kawai / 2018 / 12 mins) TUNDRA (Carol Nguyen / 2018 / 11 mins)



EPISODICS

Carving new paths of storytelling, these works lead you to provocative moments of wit, laughter, and intimacy. — Eseel Borlasa

Thursday, May 9 / 6:45 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 55 mins

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (Woody Fu / 2018 / 8 mins)
SCENES FROM A REAL MARRIAGE (Michelle Krusiec / 2018 / 21 mins)
THE FOB AND I (Meenakshi Ramamurthy / 2017 / 14 mins)
THE KIDS TABLE (Adina Luo, Vivian Huang / 2018 / 12 mins)



#LIFE

A cinematic invitation to step into contemporary perspectives on family, culture, and career. — Eseel Borlasa

Thursday, May 9 / 8:45 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 105 mins

FINDING MAURITIUS (Sandra Carbonell-Kiamtia / 2017 / 5 mins)
HALO-HALO (Bernard Badion / 2018 / 9 mins)
I'LL BE A STAR (Sultankazy Pirzhan uulu / 2018 / 18 mins)
LIGHTS UP: ASIAN AMERICAN THEATER AT UCLA (Arielle Frances
Bagood / 2018 / 8 mins)

MASTER OF DIVINITY (Eugene Suen / 2019 / 20 mins)
OUR MAN IN TOKYO (THE BALLAD OF SHIN MIYATA) (Akira Boch / 2018 / 20 mins)

SPEAK EASY, B (Becca Park, Jun Shimizu / 2018 / 15 mins)
THE MISSING PIECE PROJECT (Daniel Luu / 2018 / 10 mins)



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HBO APA VISIONARIES 2019

In a unique filmmaker support initiative between Visual Communications and HBO, we present the winning entries from the 2019 HBO APA Visionaries Short Film Competition, in which Asian Pacific American artists bring to light their worlds, their visions, and their voices. — Abraham Ferrer Friday, May 3 / 7:00 pm / Pacific Design Center / 43 mins (Invite Only)

HALWA

Nirav Bhakta / USA / 2018 / 15 mins
An immigrant Indian woman decides to rekindle
her relationship with her childhood companion
through Facebook messages, until her abusive
husband finds out.



MOONWALK WITH ME

So Young Shelly Yo / USA / 2018 / 12 mins
A Korean American girl named Juno is haunted by her father's disappearances. Upon his return, Juno must decide to keep her drifting father grounded or to let him go.



ZOETIC

Julie Zhan / USA / 2018 / 16 mins
A coming of age story about a single, 60-year-old
Chinese immigrant mother navigating the world of
online dating.



FILM FESTIVAL

PROUD TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE

LOS ANGELES

ASIAN

PACIFIC

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ARMED WITH A CAMERA VOL. 2019

Visual Communications is proud to guide the next generation of storytellers in visualizing their amazing stories through the Armed With a Camera Fellowship. These films range from a mother's reconciliation with her cancer prognosis, to a visionary experimental representation of toxic masculinity. — Milton Liu This program is dedicated to Elizabeth Sung

Thursday, May 9 / 7:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 40 mins



ANGELS LANDING

David R. Liu / USA / 2019 / 5 mins

Two estranged brothers visit their childhood spot in downtown Los Angeles in an attempt to reconcile.



COLOR-BLIND

Sarah H. Cho / USA / 2019 / 5 mins Dahlia lies to everyone - her husband, her lover, herself; but, the most dangerous lie she's telling may not be so obvious...



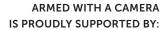
CURD

Varun Chounal / USA / 2019 / 5 mins Ignored by her busy son, a lonely Indian mother in the US steps out of her comfort zone to make a new friend.



DAY BY DAY

Eleanor Cho / USA / 2019 / 5 mins
DAY BY DAY explores the changing relationship within a Korean marriage when the wife is diagnosed with Stage IV Metastatic Breast Cancer.







MEN HELPING WOMEN

Isue Shin / USA / 2019 / 5 mins

A conversation on gender politics through the way objects open and break, voiced by you and me.



PASSENGER

Xin Li / USA / 2019 / 5 mins

A woman recounts the last moment of a crumbling relationship in the form of a journal entry.



PORRIDGE

Leatrice Ching / USA / 2019 / 5 mins Eric's family dinners are just like any other. They come with its fair share of drama, discomfort, and



TRAILS

dilemmas.

Chris Nguyen / USA / 2019 / 5 mins

A personal and non-linear portrait of Orange County's Little Saigon exploring a history of war & displacement – in regards to how memories are embodied



35 • #LAAPFF2019 ARMED WITH A CAMERA VOL. 2019 • 36

Visual Communications' Digital Histories program brings the unique perspectives of our older adult filmmakers and allows them to share their personal, yet universal ideas through their art. — Joel Quizon Preceded by FLO'S BUS (Dean Ishida / USA / 2019 / 20 mins)

Sunday, May 5 / 2:00 pm / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC / 72 mins



A DAY BEFORE I DIE

David Osako / USA / 2019 / 6 mins

A day's reflections on the ineffable experiences of life and dying, expressed through the Japanese American director's memories in and around Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.



BUDDHAHEAD BREAKFAST

George Wada / USA / 2019 / 7 mins

Americans (Sansei) linked by their shared past.



CLUB

The first wave of the third generation Japanese



DRAGON BOAT

Kevin Shore / USA / 2019 / 7 mins

Meet Nathan Salazar, and discover the empowering world of Dragon Boat racing. See what can be accomplished when the human spirit works together as one.



JUST FOR YOU

ON WHEELS

celebrated in car shows.

Carol Shubin / USA / 2018 / 5 mins

The third generation Japanese American car

HOME IS LITTLE TOKYO

Steve Nagano / USA / 2019 / 7 mins

creation, and the story behind its images.

Artist Tony Osumi reveals how the Little Tokyo

mural originated, the processes involved in its

A young man questions his life's journey searching for answers to happiness. A total stranger changes his life's course.



GONE

Robert Shoji / USA / 2019 / 6 mins

GONE examines the transformation of Little Tokyo and challenges us to fight and save our community's history and heritage before it is gone forever.



Tracy Quan-Nichols / USA / 2019 / 6 mins Luong Tan, a commercial artist who lived in

Vietnam during the war, now lives in Los Angeles where he enjoys helping with art classes.





DIGITAL HISTORIES 2019



MY RESILIENT 102 YR-OLD NISEI MOM

George Takaki / USA / 2019 / 6 mins A 102 yr-old Nisei woman overcomes two major obstacles in her life.



SACRED RICE BLESSING

Aimee Aiko Kurland / USA / 2019 / 5 mins This film explores the possible sacredness of the humble grain of rice via ancient Japanese rites.



THE LITTLE THINGS

Barbara Kagawa Shore / USA / 2019 / 4 mins Treasures can be found in the strangest places. A heartwarming look at how to find joy in the simplest of things.



WALKING THE TALK

Fran Ito, Steve Nagano / USA / 2019 / 5 mins Ann Burroughs shares her journey as a young activist in South Africa to the current President and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum.

DIGITAL HISTORIES IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:









SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT Warmly Salutes

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

2019 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival



ELIZABETH SUNG, FROM ACTOR TO ICON

CINEMA MUSICA PRESENTS



Even as she was hard at work carving out a career on both the big and small screen, Elizabeth Sung (1954-2018) actively sought opportunities to transcend her one-dimensional persona as an actress, the better to become an all-encompassing artist and auteur. From her early work with future acting colleagues and an extended career on daytime network soap operas, a pivotal invitation to the American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women set the stage for Elizabeth's development into a multi-hyphenate artist: as actor, director, writer, producer, and even mentor. In this special tribute program, we recognize Elizabeth's wide-ranging career and, in particular, her impact on generations of Asian Pacific American cinematic and performing talents who would follow her. — Abraham Ferrer

Wednesday, May 8 / 7:00 pm / Regal L.A. LIVE / 77 mins (Free Program)

HALF-ASS (Victor Wong Huey / USA / 1988 / 13 mins)

The decade-old relationship of a world-weary couple who met and fell in love in China years before reaches a breaking point.

L.A. COFFIN SCHOOL (Erin Li / USA / 2011 / 5 mins)

A once-renowned Chinese painter is kicked out of her son's home, prompting her to enroll in a controversial school that claims to teach people how to start life anew.

REQUIEM (Elizabeth Sung / USA / 1995 / 30 mins)

A struggling dancer loses a brother to AIDS.

THE WATER GHOST (Elizabeth Sung / USA / 1999 / 29 mins)

A mystical encounter with a spirit trapped under the waters of a lake helps a young Chinese American girl overcome the death of her mother and frees the ghost from her watery prison.

Cinema Musica is the recognition and celebration of the unique interplay of sight and sound. Experience the intersection of cinema and music as presented by the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

COUNTERFLOW: CURRENTS IN NEW FILIPINA/O MUSIC

A visual mixtape experience featuring against the grain music from the Philippines from artists redefining and reworking the contemporary Filipina/o music landscape. A video companion to the Counterflow: Currents In New Filipina/o Music playlist. — Joel Quizon

Saturday, May 4 / 9:00 pm / Downtown Independent / 90 mins

"Acheron" by Moki McFly (Gym Lumbera / 3 mins)
"bbgirl" by BP Valenzuela ft. No Rome and August Wahh (Rome

Gomez / 4 mins)
"Cards" by BP Valenzuela (Apa Agbayani / 4 mins)

"Galatians 5.4" by similarobjects (Dominic Bekaert / 3 mins)

"Honey (Where U At?)" by NVTHVN x ok2222 (Juliet Bryant / 3 mins)

"Huemans" by dot.jaime (Jaime San Juan / 3 mins)

"Limbo" by Calix (ft. JamySyks) (Alrik Daniel Metrio / 5 mins)

MANILA RISING (Barkada Worldwide / 8 mins)

"Mkmehl" by similarobjects (Raymond Teraoka Dacones / 4 mins)

"No Fun" by Eyedress (Julius Valledor / 1 mins)

"Reflektions" by spaaawn (Jaime San Juan) / 4 mins)

"See You In My Dreams" by Aira (Cobbie Karagdag / 3 mins)

TO LIVE AND DIE IN MANILA (Angela Stephenson / 17 mins)

"Tonight!" by Ruru (Robin Estargo / 4 mins)

"Upset" by Teenage Granny (Martika Ramirez Escobar / 3 mins)

RE-SCORED: A FILM AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE

RE-SCORED celebrates the contributions and artistry of film composers in our community. Through a live performance setting, it is also an experiment in capturing that moment when music and image embrace into one, evoking emotions and creating indelible memories. A mixed-media event featuring groundbreaking composers, emerging talent, and legendary artists who will perform alternative live scores for short films from Visual Communications' award-winning filmography. Composers/Performers include Winston Raval, Diwa de Leon, Joy Ngiaw, and Kyoko Takenaka. — Joel Quizon

Sunday, May 5 / 7:00 pm / Tateuchi @ JANM / 60 mins

CITY CITY (Duane Kubo / 1974 / 12 mins)
DJ:LA (Jerry Chan / 2007 / 5 mins)
LITTLE TOKYO HOME MOVIES (Yasijiro Kawasaki / 1934 / 27 mins)
MOCHI MONSTER (Van Troi Pang / 1985 / 2 mins)
THE JOURNEY (Pat Lau, Glen Iwasaki / 1972 / 6 mins)





REORIENT: EMERGING MEDIA

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN



REORIENT is our new showcase for cutting-edge virtual reality, mixed reality, interactive installations, and beyond. Join us for a series of innovative experiences exploring the intersection of art, technology, and the future of storytelling. — Sue Ding

INSTALLATIONS & MOBILE VR Saturday, May 4 - Sunday, May 5 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm NCPD Democracy Lab @ JANM (Free and Open to the Public) MOBILE VR ONLY Monday, May 6 - Thursday, May 9 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Regal L.A. LIVE (Free and Open to the Public)

AMA'S MEMENTO Installation

Awu Chen, Kevin Ke, Maryyann Landlord / Taiwan, USA / 2019 / 25 mins

ASIAN IN AMERICA Installation/Mobile VR

Jenny Dorsey / USA / 2018 / 8 mins

Pop-up dinners will take place on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 at 7pm at the Toshizo Watanabe Exhibition Center @ JACCC. See festival.vcmedia.org for more info.

GIRL ICON Mobile VR

Sadah Espii Proctor / India / 2019 / 8 mins

HOMESTAY Installation

Paisley Smith, Jam3, NFB Digital Studio / Canada / 2018 / 15 mins

PACIFIC GATEWAY: ANGEL ISLAND Mobile VR

Felicia Lowe / USA / 2018 / 5 mins

SELYATAĞI (FLOODPLAIN) Mobile VR

Deniz Tortum / Turkey / 2018 / 13 mins

WONDER BUFFALO Installation

Christine T. Berg / USA / 2017 / 4 mins

The 35th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) shines a light on the country of Taiwan, presenting the very best in Taiwanese cinema and showcasing all its diversity in genres and peoples that make this island nation one of the most unique countries in Asia.

This year, LAAPFF is honored to present two award winning feature films — Heather Tsui's directorial debut LONG TIME NO SEA, and Malaysian born Wi Ding Ho's CITIES OF LAST THINGS.

Inspired by her personal experiences and involvement with an aboriginal tribe of Taiwan island, Heather Tsui's debut LONG TIME NO SEA follows themes of indigenous identity and family traditions. The aboriginal dance troupe, in real life, has won national awards and has been invited to perform both nationally and internationally. What is captured on screen truly makes Taiwan a true Asian melting pot, bridging the indigenous cultures with Chinese and everything in-between.

From its striking opening image of a man hurling himself to his death from an apartment building, Wi Ding Ho's CITIES OF LAST THINGS, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and won the juried Platform award, is an engrossing, evocative tripartite character portrait told in reverse, working back from the Taiwan of the near future to the recent past.

In addition to these two features, this year's spotlight also highlights the works of emerging filmmakers from the Taiwanese diaspora, a record five short films, the most Taiwanese shorts presented in one festival edition: MAMA PINGPONG SOCIAL CLUB by Shiang An Chuang, THE VISIT by Roxy Shih, GENTLEMAN SPA by Yu Jhi-Han, MERRY-GO-ROUND by Ray Wu, and I CAN'T BRING YOU AWAY by Li-Wei Lin. As LAAPFF is an Academy Award®-qualifying festival for Short Film Awards, short films at the Festival get special recognition and serve as a barometer for the next generation of successful filmmakers.



Sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Republic of China (Taiwan) and Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles





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Presented by Visual Communications, CENTERING THE MASSES is a series of free pop-up events and programs at 341 FSN, in the heart of Los Angeles Little Tokyo's historic district. This nine-week series running from April 5th to May 30, 2019 will bring together artists, cultural workers, entertainment professionals, and civic personalities to celebrate and explore all the ways that motion pictures and media artworks impact our lives. Through intimate conversation, screenings, and visual art presentations, this project will be a space to address the current realities of a community that sits at the crossroads of shifting racial, generational, and economic conditions.

Join us for the following events during Festival Week. (FREE ADMISSION)

Gallery Exhibit "OUT OF THE SHADOWS" at 341 FSN will also be open for viewing. For the list of films playing in the shorts programs and to learn more, visit vcmedia.org/centerthemass

BEATS, RHYMES, AND RESISTANCE REVIVAL: DAWN MABALON TRIBUTE

Presenting a revival screening of BEATS, RHYMES, AND RESISTANCE (1997), the landmark short documentary about Filipinos in Hip Hop in Los Angeles directed by Dawn Mabalon, Lakan de Leon, and Jonathan Ramos. A tribute to the late Dawn Mabalon featuring a panel discussion on the impact of the film and the legacy of Dawn's work. We ponder the question: What would a 2019 version of the film look like? Panelists include Lakan de Leon, Faith Santilla, Kiwi Illafonte, Kat Carrido, and Wendell Pascual. — Joel Quizon

Friday, May 3 / 7:00 pm / 341 FSN / 60 mins

REMEMBER WHEN IT WAS LIKE THIS?

The "power of place" endures in this collection from past editions of Visual Communications/DISKovery Center filmmaking initiative for older adults, Digital Histories. This grouping celebrates Little Tokyo and its many cultural institutions, yet keeps a wary eye on an increasingly uncertain future. — Abraham Ferrer Saturday. May 4 / 12:30 pm / 341 FSN / 60 mins

GRASSROOTS RISING

Robert Winn / USA / 2005 / 57 mins

This film examines the resurgence of community-based labor organizing and the role that APAs play in a movement characteristic of working-class communities of color. Heartrending stories of working life, family, and community organizing are intertwined with evocative murals and rare archival photographs of the Asian immigrant experience and a lyrical narration written and performed by Alison De La Cruz.

Saturday, May 4 / 3:00 pm / 341 FSN

SUPER '80S: GREATEST HITS FROM VC'S FILMMAKERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

As a pioneer in small-format, community-based mediamaking during the 1980s, Visual Communications supported a new generation of emerging artists who lacked the access to a traditional film school program. The result, as seen in this program of works that included a major production produced beyond the classroom but with weighty things on its mind, was nervy, at times awkward, but full of spirit and vision.

— Abraham Ferrer

Sunday, May 5 / 1:00 pm / 341 FSN / 69 mins

DOCUMENTALLY MINDED

The ongoing legacy of Visual Communications' vanguard Armed With a Camera Fellowship for Emerging Artists placed a great emphasis on "emerging" artists. Many of these then-budding filmmakers had never handled a motion picture camera before undertaking the Fellowship. All have gone on to bigger and better projects, but with an eye on spotlighting what's really important to them. — Abraham Ferrer

Sunday, May 5 / 3:30 pm / 341 FSN / 60 mins

OMAI FA'ATASI: SAMOA MO SAMOA

Takashi Fujii / USA / 1978 / 30 mins

One of the crown jewels of Visual Communications' landmark video docu-drama series "Hidden Treasures," OMAI FA'ATASI profiles the Samoan American youth development organization of L.A.'s South Bay communities, and unveils the history of Samoan migration to America. Offering a crucial voice to the perspectives and aspirations of Samoan American youths and young adults, OMAI FA'ATASI provides a glimpse into a largely misunderstood community whose members strive to become integrated into American society without losing their traditions and values.

Sunday, May 5 / 5:30 pm / 341 FSN

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C3: CONFERENCE FOR CREATIVE CONTENT

presented by NIELSEN

C3: Conference for Creative Content brings together foremost media professionals in film, television, cable, digital, and transmedia to create a dialogue on the ever-changing media industry, share best practices, network, celebrate and build a collective vision for our community. We're excited to bring the ninth edition of C3 to the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, from Friday May 3 to Thursday May 9.

Building off of our previous C3 Conferences, the way we create, consume, and connect content continues to shift and evolve rapidly – it's our goal to dive in and hear from the forerunners of this change, especially from Asian Americans leading the way.

For more information on C3 programs, visit festival.vcmedia.org



PRICING

FREE for Festival Badge Holders

(Single Program Price)

\$15 – General

\$14 - Students & Seniors

\$13 - VC Members

(All-Day Pass to Saturday May 4)

\$35 - General

\$30 – Students, Seniors, & VC/JANM

Members



C3: CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, May 3 / 12:00 pm Aratani Central Hall @ JANM

(Free Program)

BREAKING THROUGH presented by NBCUniversal

Saturday, May 4 Aratani Central Hall @ JANM

(Only All-Day Pass Available)

10:00 am

FESTIVAL INDUSTRY WELCOME BRUNCH

presented by NIELSEN

(invited filmmakers and industry guests only)

12:00 pm

C3: Program presented by WARNER BROS.

1:30 pm

POST-PRODUCTION ROUNDTABLE: BEYOND THE CUTTING ROOM presented by Motion Picture Editors Guild

2:00 pm

FOREVER CHANGED: IMPACTFUL MOMENTS THAT SHAPE US

3:30 pm

FIRESIDE with JUSTIN CHON

4:45 pm

C3: Program presented by WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA

6:00 pm

NEVER ERASED: CULTURAL PRESERVATION IN MEDIA

7:00 pm

C3: CONFERENCE PARTY

hosted by the Asian Pacific Filmmakers Experience Committee

Sunday, May 5 / 10:30 am / 341 FSN

(Free Program)

AN ASIAN DUDE'S GUIDE TO SURVIVING HOLLYWOOD presented by X. Dean Lim

Sunday, May 5 / 3:00 pm Tateuchi Democracy Forum @ JANM

(Free Program)

FAMILY STYLE

presented by Stage 13 & YOMYOMF

Tuesday, May 7 / Regal L.A. LIVE

6:00 pm (Free Program)

OPINIONATED: A CONVERSATION W/ WALT LOUIE

hosted by Spencer Nakasako

7:30 pm (Single Program Price)

STILL ALL-AMERICAN: ALL-AMERICAN
GIRL 25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION
SCREENING

presented by Angry Asian Man & SAG-AFTRA

Thursday, May 9 / 6:00 pm

Regal L.A. LIVE (Single Program Price)
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FLASH/CUTS

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AT FIRST LIGHT

THE DAWNING OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICA

MAY 25, 2019 - OCTOBER 20, 2019





At First Light: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America is a multi-media exhibition that explores and celebrates the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity.

The exhibition draws from the collections of Visual Communications, the first Asian Pacific American media organization in the country, which formed in Los Angeles in 1970 to capture and cultivate the newfound unity that was Asian Pacific America. The resiliency and resistance embodied in At First Light serves as a reminder—as well as a call to action—of what can be accomplished when people unite as a community with commitment.

Visit **vcmedia.org/atfirstlight** for more information about the exhibition and related programs.

At First Light is supported in part by the Aratani Foundation, California Arts Council, The California Wellness Foundation, and individual donors.

HOLLYWOOD

Tickets On Sale May 5

















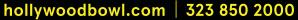








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CELEBRATING OUR 49TH ANNIVERSARY

PAST // FORWARD



2019 // THE PRESENT 2020 // 50 MORE

PAST//FORWARD is Visual Communications' series of signature events to celebrate the organization's upcoming 50th anniversary. Our goal is to celebrate VC's past, present, and <u>future by (re)connecting</u> with people and communities who made great things happen.

Founded in 1970 with the understanding that media and the arts are powerful forms of storytelling. Visual Communications has dedicated five decades to creating cross cultural connections between peoples and generations through the media arts. While Visual Communications' mission and programming has shifted to meet the changing needs of our diverse communities, the organization has always had a constant element -- a group of people passionate about social and cultural acceptance through the arts.

PAST // FORWARD recognizes and appreciates the people behind the charge for change (builders + connectors + mobilizers + believers + storytellers) and what we have all accomplished together.



please visit: vcmedia.org/vc50

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7:00 // PROGRAM & DINNER
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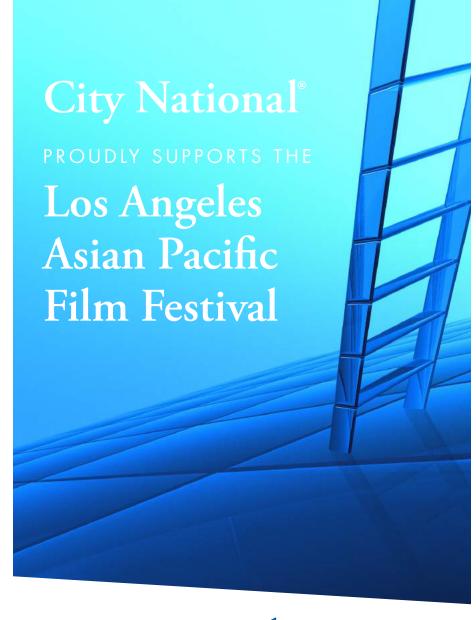
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Founded in 1970 with the understanding that media and the arts are powerful forms of storytelling, Visual Communications creates cross cultural connections between peoples and generations. Our mission is to develop and support the voices of Asian American & Pacific Islander filmmakers and media artists who empower communities and challenge perspectives.

Our programming includes: the annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and year-round screenings and exhibitions; the Armed With a Camera Fellowship for Emerging Media Artists; the Digital Histories media production and storytelling project for older adults; and C3: Conference for Creative Content. We are home to the VC Archives, one of the largest photographic and moving image archives on Asian Pacific experiences in America.

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