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**ARTSEMERSON CO-PRODUCES THE 12TH ANNUAL
*BOSTON ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL***

**NEW ENGLAND'S LARGEST ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL GOES
VIRTUAL AND ANNOUNCES ITS PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

OCTOBER 21 – 25, 2020

**THIS YEAR'S FEST TO INCLUDE EXTENDED STREAMING OPTIONS
FOR SELECTED TITLES**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW [HERE](#)

[Boston, MA – Thursday, October 15, 2020] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary stage and screen artistry from around the world and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, is proud to co-produce the 12th annual **Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF)** along with the Asian American Resource Workshop. This year's festival will take place virtually from October 21-25, 2020 and includes a wide range of over 50 narrative and documentary feature and short films, many featuring panel discussions with artists.

Tickets are now available, priced at \$12 for opening, centerpiece, and closing films; \$10 for all other features except **KEEP SARAY HOME**, which is pay-what-you-can.



DEFINITION PLEASE *June Street Productions*



COMING HOME AGAIN *Outsider Pictures*

Among the highlights of BAAFF are its Opening Night Feature, **DEFINITION PLEASE**, and its Centerpiece Narrative, **76 DAYS**. Directed by Sujata Day, **DEFINITION PLEASE** follows the life of a former Scripps Spelling Bee champion who lives at home with her ailing mother, and who must reconcile with her estranged brother in order to take the first steps toward realizing her dreams and moving on with her life. **76 DAYS** is the highly-anticipated documentary that captures the struggles of patients and frontline medical professionals battling the Covid-19 pandemic in Wuhan, China. Both of these programs will include post-screening filmmaker Q&A's.

BAAFF will also be offering extensive shorts programming this year, organized into five themed blocks: ALTERNATIVE REALITIES, QUEER & HERE, BENEATH THE SURFACE, TIES THAT BIND, and FINDING YOUR WAY. A ticket to stream individual on-demand programming blocks are \$10 each, and those who wish to access all five programs may purchase a Shorts Pass for \$30. All short films will be available for streaming beginning October 22 @ 12:00AM ET and continuing through November 01 @ 10:00PM ET. Tickets are available [here](#).

Susan Chinsen, Creative Producer at ArtsEmerson, shares, "This year's festival represents a strong line up, reflecting a wide range of stories that pulls viewers together while we have to be physically apart." She adds, "BAAFF seeks to connect people and build community through film and storytelling, and each film was chosen based on the artist's ability to speak to each of us now, especially those in the Asian American community seeking a safe space where they feel seen."

In addition to extended access to shorts screenings, this year's Centerpiece Narrative, **COMING HOME AGAIN** will be available for post-festival streaming October 26 AT 12:00 AM ET – November 01, 2020 @ 10:00PM ET.

"The relationship with BAAFF has been growing every year, since I first met Susan Chinsen on my arrival at ArtsEmerson in 2012," says ArtsEmerson Artistic Director David Dower. "Now, Susan and the Festival are integral contributors to our efforts to connect with our Asian American neighbors and protect a place of belonging, both in our programming and in our venues. This Festival lands at an intense and troubling time in our culture and opens an important opportunity for dialogue about many of the issues challenging our sense of unity across difference."

Production stills and other media kit assets are available [here](#).

[FEATURE FILM SCHEDULE](#)

October 21 @ 7:30PM ET

DEFINITION PLEASE

Opening Night Film

Directed by Sujata Day

91 mins

A former Scripps Spelling Bee champion, who lives at home with her ailing mother, must reconcile with her estranged brother in order to take the first steps in realizing her dreams and moving on with her life.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 9:15PM ET

Premieres October 22 @ 7:00PM ET through October 25

KEEP SARAY HOME

Directed by Brian Redondo

41 mins

Far from Mexico and the southern border, in the outskirts of Boston, Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees are facing their own battle against family separation. ICE is detaining and deporting community members on a scale not seen before. Though families live in uncertain fear, refugees have developed a knack for pulling through. They learn to rally together and are doing everything they can to keep their families intact. This portrait of a community shaken examines the on-the-ground impact of a broken immigration system through the eyes of three families facing the deportation of a loved one. They laugh, they cry, and they fight on.

Preceded by **GHOST MOUNTAIN**

The story of Bunseng Taing, a Cambodian refugee who made his way to Connecticut in 1980 after surviving both the Killing Fields and a second horror never before documented. He was among 45,000 refugees who managed to escape to what they believed was safety in Thailand, only to be forced back over the Cambodian border in an area heavily infested with landmines.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 8:15PM ET

Premieres October 23 @ 7:00PM ET through October 25

76 DAYS

Directed by Hao Wu, Weixi Chen, Anonymous

93 mins

In this intimate and eye-opening film, 76 DAYS captures the struggles of patients and frontline medical professionals battling the COVID-19 pandemic in Wuhan, China. From the start, it's a haunting look at how the pandemic impacted the hospitals and neighborhoods in Wuhan. These are images that could be out of a sci-fi feature. On January 23, the city of 11 million people went into a lockdown that lasted 76 days.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 8:45PM ET

Premieres October 23 @ 9:30PM ET through October 25

TAKE OUT GIRL

Directed by Hisonni Mustafa

100 mins

Tera Wong delivers Chinese food for her mother's struggling restaurant located in the "Low Bottoms," an infamous Los Angeles project. And everyone around her, including her unpredictable brother (Saren), are financially trapped in this crime and violence-ridden neighborhood. That is until, Tera takes a job from the local drug Kingpin, moving his "product" inside her takeout food boxes. With the cash rolling in, Tera intends to move the family restaurant to the suburbs and go clean. But after a series of tragic events, the dream that Tera built on a foundation of lies, may crumble.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 11:15PM ET

Premieres October 24 @ 1:00PM ET through October 25

THE DONUT KING

Directed by Alice Gu

94 mins

The rise, fall, and rise again of a Cambodian refugee who escaped genocide and overcame poverty to build a life for himself and hundreds of other immigrant families by baking America's favorite pastry and building an unlikely empire of donut shops.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 2:45PM ET

Premieres October 24 @ 4:00PM ET through October 25, with an extended run through November 1

COMING HOME AGAIN

Centerpiece Narrative

Directed by Wayne Wang

86 mins

Based on a personal essay by Chang-rae Lee published in The New Yorker, Coming Home Again is an intimate family drama about a mother, a son, and the burden of family expectations. Chang-rae, a first-generation Korean American, has returned to his family home in San Francisco to care for his ailing mother. He wants only to fulfill his role as the supportive son, but must also come to terms with his conflicted emotions towards his mother. The film takes place over the course of one full day depicting Chang-rae's dilemma of living with the permanent scars of family sacrifice unresolved, or the risk of opening new wounds with his mother dying.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 5:30PM ET

Premieres October 24 @ 7:00PM ET through October 25

THE PAPER TIGERS

Directed by Bao Tran

108 mins

Three childhood Kung Fu prodigies have grown into washed-up, middle-aged men – now one kick away from pulling their hamstrings. But when their master is murdered, they must juggle their dead-end jobs, dad duties, and overcome old grudges to avenge his death.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 9:00PM ET

Premieres October 25 @ 4:00PM ET through October 26

A THOUSAND CUTS

Directed by Ramona S. Diaz

110 mins

Nowhere is the worldwide erosion of democracy, fueled by social media disinformation campaigns, more starkly evident than in the authoritarian regime of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. Journalist Maria Ressa places the tools of the free press—and her freedom—on the line in defense of truth and democracy.

Filmmaker Q&A to follow at 6:00PM ET

SHORTS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All Shorts Programs available for on-demand streaming from

OCT 22 @ 12:00AM ET – NOV 01 @ 10:00PM ET

ALTERNATIVE REALITIES

OCT 22 @ 12:00AM ET – NOV 01 @ 10:00PM ET | \$10

113 mins | Filmmaker Q&A to follow

Filmmakers show us their vision of what our malleable realities can become and what possibilities we may evoke. Between shorts about love hypnosis, miscarriage signs, and robot chefs, Alternative Realities sets no barriers for what our world could look like.

INTELLIGENTIA | Director: Ken Shinozaki

TINA | Director: Gayatri Bahl

KUMQUAT | Director: Meeni Hardart

THE SILENT FALL | Director: Helen Jung

SEARCHING FOR THE NONE | Director: Jean Louis Droulers

IN SYNC | Director: Eddie Shieh

MAKE A WISH | Director: Dinh Thai

BRUNCH WARS | Director: Kamran Khan

THE CHEF | Director: Hao Zheng

PUSSY TALK | Director: Kim Tran

BECOMING EDDIE | Director: Lilan Bowden

QUEER & HERE

OCT 22 @ 12:00AM ET – NOV 01 @ 10:00PM ET | \$10

94 mins | Filmmaker Q&A to follow

Queer & Here illustrates the multitude and depth of queer experiences and lives. Filmmakers bring us into queer individual's stories at every stage and turn - from NYC nightclubs, to writing lessons in rural India and to Samoan cookouts - where being queer is just one part of our lives.

THE ROGERS | Director: Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson

ABOUT A SHORT FILM | Director: Kevin Yee

U FOR USHA | Director: Rohan Parashuram Kanawade

SOBA-CHAN'S MORNING | Director: Vlasov Sergey

SAFE AMONG STARS | Director: Jess Snow

GENTLEMAN SPA | Director: Jay Lin

DANCING ON MY OWN | Director: Alexandra N Cuerdo

BENEATH THE SURFACE

OCT 22 @ 12:00AM ET – NOV 01 @ 10:00PM ET | \$10

110 mins | Filmmaker Q&A to follow

Challenge your first perceptions and sink into the underlying truths and pasts. From recycling's global underbelly to a punk café in J-Town LA, Beneath the Surface digs deeper into things that may not be all they seem.

STRANGER | Director: Chen Yang
DETOURNING ASIA/AMERICA | Director: Valerie Soe
PASSAGE | Director: Asavari Kumar
PROVIDENCE | Director: Daniel Lee
DEEPER I GO | Director: Michael P. Vidler
DIRTY BUSINESS | Director: Yutao Chen
GROWING PAINS | Director: LIN, Po-Yu
THE HOLE | Director: Will Kim
ATOMIC CAFE | Director: Akira Boch, Tadashi Nakamura

TIES THAT BIND

OCT 22 @ 12:00AM ET – NOV 01 @ 10:00PM ET | \$10

113 mins | Filmmaker Q&A to follow

Through friends, family, and community, we are all bound together in social fabrics spanning vibrant and complicated relationships. Ties that Bind traverses continents, languages, and cultures to explore the connections

YAI NIN | Director: Champ Ensminger
CHICKEN | Director: Emma Li
MO'O! | Director: Anela Ling
FELT LOVE | Director: Angeline Vu, Arlene Bongco
KEEP IN TOUCH | Director: Memie Osuga
WAVES | Director: Jane Hae Kim
AWAKEN-FILM | Director: Leena Pendharkar
TRI AND KHANH | Director: Daphne Xu
AHMA & ALAN | Director: James Y. Shih
FUGETSU-DO | Director: Kaia Rose

FINDING YOUR WAY

OCT 22 @ 12:00AM ET – NOV 01 @ 10:00PM ET | \$10

108 mins | Filmmaker Q&A to follow

Through navigating difficult situations, facing a hostile outside world, or reflecting on previous experiences, we deepen our understanding about ourselves. Finding Your Way showcases these experiences and how they become a catalyst for personal metamorphosis.

BLACK GHOST SON | Director: Christopher Low
REPRESENTATION | Director: Jj Querubin
PAPAYA | Director: Kayleb Lee
THE OUTCOME | Director: Lisa Lam
CURTAIN CALL | Director: Angel Yau
BIG HAPPINESS | Director: Da Hee Kim
MICHELLE | Director: Kenya Gillespie
YUAN YUAN AND THE HOLLOW MONSTER | Director: Catherine Chen
EXTRA CREDIT | Director: Angel Yau
SI (only available through Oct. 25) | Director: Thomas Percy Kim
BUT YOU'RE NOT BLACK | Director: Danielle Ayow

Boston Asian American Film Festival

New England's Largest Asian American Film Festival, BAAFF empowers Asian Americans through film by showcasing Asian American experiences and serving as a resource to filmmakers and the Greater Boston Community. BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop.

Asian American Resource Workshop

The mission of the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) is to work for the empowerment of the Asian Pacific American community to achieve its full participation in the U.S. society. AARW is a member-based organization that seeks to document the diverse Asian Pacific American histories, experiences, and social conditions. Our resources and activities are used to respond to current Asian Pacific American issues and to promote Asian Pacific American identity.

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson's mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — we committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative season of globe-spanning performances, film, and dialogue invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower and Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

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