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ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES NEW FILM PROGRAMMING THROUGH APRIL 2022

NEW FEATURE FILMS FOR BOTH ARTSEMERSON'S **PROJECTING CONNECTIONS** AND **SHARED STORIES** SERIES INCLUDING
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF **FANNIE LOU HAMER'S AMERICA**

PARTNER FILM SERIES AND FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING ALSO ANNOUNCED

[Boston, MA – Friday, February 11, 2022] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, today announced new film programming through April 2022 and a return to in-person film events. The organization continues its commitment to engaging with audiences and promoting connection and conversation, new platforms, and new approaches to process, as well as expanding film programming.

ArtsEmerson's **Shared Stories** film series returns with both virtual and in-person events at the Bright Family Screening Room in 2022. A monthly collaboration with the **Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF)**, **Boston Latino International Film Festival (BLIFF)**, and the **Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm)**, **Shared Stories** seeks to build community, shared conversation, and experiences through cinema by, creating a shared space to find commonality across experiences, and to encourage the exchange of stories and ideas.

Shared Stories premieres in 2022 on Friday, February 18 with the **world premiere** of **Fannie Lou Hamer's America**, co-presented with GBH/World in person at the Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room. This special showing will include a post-screening conversation moderated by GBH's Host and Commentator, Callie Crossley with the filmmakers and panelists Noemi Ramos (NEU4Justice), Christine Chen (APIA Vote), and Tanisha Sullivan (NAACP Boston Branch). Director Joy Davenport and Executive Producer Monica Land will also be joining the conversation virtually. In March, **Shared Stories** will stream **Try Harder!** from director Debbie Lum (Seeking Asian Female), which follows students from San Francisco's prestigious public Lowell High School, with a post-film conversation with the filmmaker.



Curtain Up!

Photo courtesy of Hui Tong and Kelly Ng



Fannie Lou Hamer's America

Photo courtesy of George Ballis

ArtEmerson's **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences** film series, co-presented by **Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF)**, also returns in February. This initiative is designed to use

cinema as a lens to reflect on the vast lived experiences of the Chinese in the Greater Boston Area, and features films and post-show curated discussions to build and foster meaningful community conversation.

Projecting Connections kicks off on Saturday, February 19 with a virtual streaming presentation of **Curtain Up!**, a documentary chronicling elementary school kids in New York's Chinatown. On Friday, March 25, the film series will host an in-person event, the Boston Premiere of Arthur Jones' **The Six**, the untold story of RMS Titanic's Chinese survivors. Next up will be another in-person presentation of director Evan Jackson Leong's (Linsanity) **Snakehead** at the Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room on Saturday, March 26. Both films are presented with film festival partner Boston Asian American Film Festival for its Spring Showcase.

"We are excited to be returning **Shared Stories** and **Projecting Connections** with both in-person and virtual programming," says ArtsEmerson Creative Producer and Founding Director of the Boston Asian American Film Festival Susan Chinsen. "We are adapting and continuing to offer engaging community spirited programs and conversations that foster our connections to each other."

ArtsEmerson continues its long-standing partnership with the Department of Visual and Media Arts at Emerson College, the **Bright Lights Film Series**, which returned to in-person screenings in January 2022 with Thursday night films at the Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room. Next up for Bright Lights is **Bulletproof**, on Thursday, February 17. Directed by Todd Chandler, the screening is co-presented with the DocYard and is a documentary that explores the complexities of violence in schools by looking at the strategies employed to prevent it.

ArtsEmerson also announced its partner **Boston Baltic Film Festival** will present its three-day festival from February 25 – 27, 2022 in person at the Bright Family Screening Room; the festival will present virtual offerings from February 28 – March 6, 2022. The third annual festival will offer award-winning films from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. A full list of screening events and festival programs can be found [here](#).

Wicked Queer: Boston's LGBTQ+ Film Festival again partners with ArtsEmerson in 2022, and this year's Festival will take place in person at the Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room over two weekends, April 8 - 10 and April 15 - 17. The full line-up of events will be available soon [here](#).

For more information on all new film programming, please visit www.ArtsEmerson.org.

For production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#).

FILM LISTINGS INFORMATION

Please Note: Proof of vaccination is required for entry to all events.

People aged 12 and older must show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination to enter Emerson College Venues.

Please note: According to the CDC, “full COVID-19 vaccination” means one dose of a single-shot regimen, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two doses of an mRNA vaccine such as Pfizer or Moderna. Currently, booster shots are not required under the new policy, according to the City.

As has been in place since public performances re-started at the Theatres of Emerson College, all ticket buyers will be required to review and agree to the updated Shared Code of Conduct when reserving a ticket or when signing up for a program. Programs, performances, and films will be ticketed with a potential of reaching 100% of venue capacity, and masks covering mouth and nose are mandatory inside all venues at all times (except for speakers, performers, and musicians while actively participating in a performance or presentation. Based on most recent scientific findings, we are recommending N95, KN95, or well-fitting 3-ply surgical masks; however, any mask with at least 3-ply construction is permissible. No gaiters, bandanas, or masks with vents are allowed.

The Theatres of Emerson College firmly believes in the importance of a fully vaccinated community, and the utmost priority is the safety of patrons, program participants, artists, and team members. Efforts will continue to re-evaluate and establish new guidelines to ensure that protocols fulfill the promise of supporting the well-being of all.

Shared Stories

Fannie Lou Hamer’s America

Directed by Joy Davenport

February 18, 2022 at 7:30PM ET

WORLD PREMIERE IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented by GBH/World

Synopsis: “Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave?” With those words at the 1964 Democratic Convention, Fannie Lou Hamer changed the course of Civil Rights forever. By working in the cotton fields of Mississippi from the age of six, Fannie Lou Hamer was keenly aware of the racial injustices that forced her family to labor so much while earning so little. Encouraged by her participation in groups like the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Fannie Lou Hamer devoted herself to voter enfranchisement and increasing Black political representation. Her efforts would mobilize thousands of Black people to register to vote and inspire her historical run for Senate. Fannie Lou Hamer's America explores and celebrates the lesser-known life of a Mississippi sharecropper-turned-human-rights-activist and one of the Civil Rights Movement’s greatest leaders. Through the layering of audio recordings and archival video footage of her powerful speeches, soul-stirring songs and impassioned pleas for equal rights, Fannie Lou Hamer tells her extraordinary story in her own words.

Running time: 60 minutes

Join us for a live post-screening conversation moderated by GBH’s Callie Crossley with panelists Noemi Ramos, New England United 4 Justice, Christine Chen, APIA Votes and Tanisha Sullivan, NAACP Boston Branch and filmmakers, Joy Davenport, Director and Monica Land, Executive Producer.

Tickets \$15 and available [here](#)

Try Harder!

Directed by Debbie Lum

Streaming March 11 at 7:30PM ET – March 14, 2022 at 12:00PM ET

VIRTUAL EVENT

Synopsis: At Lowell High School, the top public high school in San Francisco, the seniors are stressed out. As they prepare for the emotionally draining college application process, students are keenly aware of the

intense competition for the few open spots in their dream colleges. At Lowell—where cool kids are nerds, nearly everyone has an amazing talent, and most of the student body is Asian American—the things that usually make a person stand out can feel commonplace. With humor and heart, director Debbie Lum captures the reality of the American college application process and the intersection of class, race, and educational opportunity as young adults navigate a quintessential rite of passage.

Screened in English and Chinese – subtitles also available

Running time: 85 minutes

Post-screening pre-recorded Q&A will also be included

Tickets Pay What You Can and available soon at ArtsEmerson.org

[Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences](#)

Curtain Up!

Directed by Hui Tong and Kelly Ng

Streaming February 19 at 7:30PM ET – February 28, 2022 at 12:00PM ET

VIRTUAL EVENT

Synopsis: **Curtain Up!** follows elementary school kids in New York's Chinatown as they prepare for the musical production of "Frozen Kids" and begin to discover their identities. Behind the scenes, they face Asian stereotypes, families' expectations and uncertainties post-graduation. Interestingly, it is through rehearsing for this American favorite that these kids come to grapple with their Chinese roots.

Screened in English and Chinese

Running time: 68 minutes

Tickets FREE and available [here](#)

Post-screening pre-recorded Q&A with the filmmakers will also be included

Snakehead

Directed by Evan Jackson Leong

March 12, 2022 at 7:30PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Synopsis: In this historical piece, we are transported to New York's Chinatown where Sister Tse (Shuya Chang) arrives by a snakehead, a human smuggler. There she fights to stay alive and in time she goes from survive to thrive. Her morals are pushed to the limit and it's up to her where her story goes.

Running time: 90 minutes

Tickets \$15 and available soon at ArtsEmerson.org

The Six

Directed by Arthur Jones

March 25, 2022 at 7:30PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Synopsis: When RMS Titanic sank on a cold night in 1912, barely 700 people escaped with their lives. Among them were six Chinese men. Arriving in New York with the other survivors, the six were met not with compassion, but suspicion and slander. Less than 24 hours later, they were expelled from the country, and vanished. What became of them, and why did they disappear so completely? In an epic journey that crosses continents, an international team of investigators sets out to uncover the truth about the six Chinese, and to right a century-old injustice. For the first time, we discover who these men really were, tracing their origins and tracking down descendants denied access to their history. The Six is an extraordinary story of survival and dignity in the face of racism and anti-immigrant policy that still reverberates today.

Screened in English and Chinese – subtitles also available

Running time: 107 minutes

Tickets \$15 and available soon at ArtsEmerson.org

[Bright Lights Film Series](#)

Bulletproof

Directed by Todd Chandler

February 17, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with the DocYard

Synopsis: **Bulletproof** explores the complexities of violence in schools by looking at the strategies employed to prevent it. The film observes the longstanding rituals that take place in and around American schools: homecoming parades, basketball practice, morning announcements, and math class. Unfolding alongside these scenes are a collection of newer traditions: lockdown drills, teacher firearms training, metal detector screenings, and school safety trade shows. **Bulletproof** asks what these rituals reflect back at us, looking beyond immediate causes and responses to mass shootings in a cinematic meditation on the array of forces that shape the culture of violence in the United States.

Running time: 84 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion with director Todd Chandler to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

Spencer

Directed by Pablo Larraín

February 24, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with the Independent Film Festival Boston

Synopsis: The marriage between Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumors of affairs and a divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at the queen's estate. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game, but this year, things will be profoundly different.

Running time: 117 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion with documentarian Annie Berman to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

The Faithful

Directed by Annie Berman

March 3, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with the Boston Women's Film Festival, Boston Jewish Film Festival and the DocYard

Synopsis: A Pope John Paul II lollipop. An Elvis Presley shower curtain. A Princess Diana teacup. These are just some of the countless pieces of memorabilia that these pop culture icons' most devoted fans collect and cherish – but why? **The Faithful's** director, Annie Berman, explores the deep veneration and legacies of the Pope, the Princess, and the King. Over the course of 20 years, Berman profiles these figures' biggest fans and makes numerous pilgrimages to Vatican City, Graceland, and Kensington Palace. As the years go by, the film itself becomes increasingly entwined with Berman's daily life and identity, much like how these officially-licensed knick-knacks define the fans she filmed.

Running time: 90 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion with documentarian Annie Berman to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

Tahara

Directed by Olivia Peace

March 17, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with Wicked Queer, the Boston Underground Film Festival, the Roxbury International Film Festival and the Boston Jewish Film Festival

Synopsis: Carrie Lowstein and Hannah Rosen have been inseparable for as long as they can remember. When their former Hebrew school classmate, Samantha Goldstein, commits suicide, the two girls go to her funeral as well as the “Teen Talk-back” session designed to be an opportunity for them to understand grief through their faith. But, after an innocent kissing exercise turns Carrie’s world inside out, the best friends find themselves distracted by the teenage complications of lust, social status, and wavering faith.

Running time: 78 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

Inhabitants: An Indigenous Perspective

Directed by Costa Boutsikaris and Anna Palmer

March 24, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with Roxbury International Film Festival and the Living on Earth Podcast

Synopsis: Inhabitants follows five Native American Tribes across deserts, coastlines, forests, and prairies as they restore their traditional land management practices. For millennia Native Americans successfully stewarded and shaped their landscapes, but centuries of colonization have disrupted their ability to maintain traditional land management practices. From deserts, coastlines, forests, mountains, and prairies, Native communities are restoring their ancient relationships with the land. As the climate crisis escalates these time-tested practices of North America’s original inhabitants are becoming increasingly essential in a rapidly changing world.

Running time: 76 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion led by Emerson professor Adam Spry to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

C’mon C’mon

Directed by Mike Mills

March 31, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with the Independent Film Festival Boston

Synopsis: Johnny is an emotionally stunted and soft spoken radio journalist who travels the country interviewing a variety of kids about their thoughts concerning their world and their future. Then Johnny’s saddled with caring for his young nephew Jesse. Jesse brings a new perspective and, as they travel from state to state, effectively turns the emotional tables on Johnny.

Running time: 109 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion led by Emerson professor Mike Ryan to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

Golden Arm

Directed by Maureen Bharoocha

February 7, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with the Boston Women's Film Festival and Emerson College Comedic Arts

Synopsis: When her best friend, Danny, ropes her into taking her spot at the Women’s Arm-Wrestling Championship, Melanie, who is a baker, must trade whisks for barbells to compete against the reigning champ for a chance at the grand prize.

Running time: 90 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion with director Maureen Bharoocha to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

Rebel Dykes

Directed by Harri Shanahan

February 14, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented as part of Wicked Queer: The Boston LGBT Film Festival with the Boston Underground Film Festival and the Boston Women's Film Festival

Synopsis: The story of a community of women in 1980s post-punk London who met doing art, music, politics and sex, and how they went on to change their world by becoming artists, performers, musicians and activists.

Running Time: 79 minutes

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion led by historian Rachel Corbman and film scholar Rox Samer to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

Flee

Directed by Jonas Poher Rasmussen

February 21, 2022 at 7:00PM ET

IN-PERSON EVENT

Emerson Paramount Center – Bright Family Screening Room

Co-presented with the Roxbury International Film Festival and Wicked Queer

Synopsis: **Flee** tells the story of Amin Nawabi as he grapples with a painful secret he has kept hidden for 20 years, one that threatens to derail the life he has built for himself and his soon to be husband. Recounted mostly through animation to director Jonas Poher Rasmussen, he tells for the first time the story of his extraordinary journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan.

Running Time: 90 minutes

Screened in In Danish and English with English subtitles

Join for a live 45-minute moderated discussion led by Emerson College professor and author Yasser Munif to follow.

Tickets FREE [here](#)

Boston Baltic Film Festival

February 25 – 27, 2022

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL

Emerson Paramount Center - Bright Family Screening Room

Tickets available soon at ArtsEmerson.org

More information can be found [here](#)

Wicked Queer: Boston's LGBTQ+ Film Festival **(formerly the Boston LGBT Film Festival)**

April 8 – 17, 2022

IN-PERSON

Emerson Paramount Center - Bright Family Screening Room

Tickets available soon at ArtsEmerson.org

More information can be found [here](#)

PRESENTER/PARTNERS INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, and its 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 — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and virtual

performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by 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 Theater 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 3,700 undergraduates and 1,400 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. The College has an active network of 51,000 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). www.octopustheatricals.com

Boston Asian American Film Festival

The Boston 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. www.BAAFF.org

Boston Latino International Film Festival

Since its inception in 2001, the Boston Latino International Film Festival has been committed to using the power of film to break stereotypes, bring cultures and communities together and reveal the complex issues that affect the Latinx community in the United States, Latin America and Spain. www.bliff.org.

Bright Lights Film Series

The Bright Lights Film Series is presented by the Department of Visual and Media Arts at Emerson College. The mission of the series is to create community through cinema and welcomes both Emerson faculty, students, and staff as well as the general public. Bright Lights seeks to create an environment where cinema is not only viewed and appreciated but where a dialogue is fostered and a community of media makers, academics, and aficionados are engaged and supported. The series is committed to screening at least 50 percent of films directed by women and crafting a diverse program including filmmakers of color, queer cinema, and films dealing with disability. Sessions are always free and open to the public. This series is curated and managed by the Head of Film Exhibition and Festival Programs, Anna Feder.

Roxbury International Film Festival

The Roxbury International Film Festival is the largest festival in New England that celebrates people of color. Our mission is to support diverse filmmakers by providing an opportunity for audiences to view their works and experience the stories often overlooked in mainstream media. RoxFilm continues to showcase and honor the works of emerging filmmakers of color as well as established filmmakers, and has become the largest festival in New England dedicated to this genre. www.roxfilmfest.com

The Boston Baltic Film Festival

BBFF showcases the best contemporary films from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. This year in particular with the current crisis in Eastern Europe viewers may find much to interest them in the reactions of the three Baltic nations towards their historical aggressors. The BBFF seeks to broaden local awareness of the Baltic film tradition and promote better understanding of this part of the world. www.bostonbalticfilm.org

Wicked Queer: Boston's LGBTQ+ Film Festival

Formerly known as the Boston LGBT Film Festival, Wicked Queer was founded in 1984 by film programmer George Mansour. It is the 4th longest running LGBTQ+ Film Festival in North America and is an all volunteer

organization. Our mission is to build community and to celebrate Queer storytelling and filmmaking through the uplifting of voices and stories not yet heard and to present and preserve the vibrancy of our histories.

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