

Welcome to the 2005 Boston Asian American Film Festival, celebrating innovative film and video production by showcasing independent features, documentaries, and shorts from established and emerging Asian American directors! Thank you for coming to help us recognize the presence of Asian Americans both in front of and behind the lens.

Thursday, September 15, 2005, 7 PM
 OPENING NIGHT
 TAIPEI 101: A TRAVELOGUE OF SYMPTOMS
 (SENSITIVE VERSION)

Feature: ETHAN MAO

Friday, September 16, 2005, 7 PM
 GRASSROOTS RISING PROGRAM
 WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED
 OVERSHADOWED: BOSTON'S CHINATOWN
 Feature: GRASSROOTS RISING

Saturday, September 17, 2005, 7 PM
 ASIAN AMERICA UNEDITED:
 Shorts Program
 MY FATHER'S EYES
 SUMMER OF THE SERPENT
 CRIMSON HAZE
 WHOSE CHILDREN ARE THESE?
 UNTITLED
 IN WHOSE NAME
 PAWNS OF THE KING
 THE HAIRS
 DICK HO, ASIAN MALE PORN STAR

Sunday, September 18, 2005, 7 PM
 CLOSING NIGHT
 Feature: SLOW JAM KING

CLOSING NIGHT MIXER WITH DIRECTOR,
 STEVEN E. MALLORCA, 9pm
 Jasper White's Summer Shack,
 (50 Dalton St, Boston)

www.aarw.org/film_website

Playing at the Institute of
 Contemporary Art
 955 Boylston St, Boston,
 MA

Thursday, September 15, 2005, 7 PM
 OPENING NIGHT

TAIPEI 101: A TRAVELOGUE OF SYMPTOMS
 (SENSITIVE VERSION) * Boston premiere *

(United States, 2004, 23mins) Dir./Scr.: James T. Hong
 An angry Asian-American man encounters America on a pilgrimage to Taiwan.

Director JAMES T. HONG, together with ZUKUNFTSMUSIK, has been producing films and videos for the past 7 years in San Francisco, California. Some of his works have shown in festivals in the United States, Europe, and Asia, but many of his works have not. He shoots a lot of film, but completes few, and he considers those he completes to be expressions of the failure of the American experiment.

ETHAN MAO * Boston premiere *

(United States/Canada, 2004, 87 min) Dir./Scr.: Quentin Lee
 18-year-old Ethan has been kicked out of home because he's gay, and has had to make do with a lonely life on the street hustling, and



selling his body to older men. Things change when he befriends fellow hustler and drug dealer, 19-year-old Remigio. In what turns out to be a life-changing decision, he persuades Remigio to help break into his parents home. When Ethan's parents return home unexpectedly, Ethan, his family

and Remigio are forced to confront unresolved conflicts and feelings long kept secret. This coming of age tale successfully blends elements of family drama, romance and thriller into one tightly wound package.

Director QUENTIN LEE's first feature *Shopping for Fangs* opened to critical acclaim during its limited theatrical release in the U.S. Following *Fangs*, Quentin produced, wrote and directed *Drift*, a drama that became a hit in the gay and lesbian film festival circuit. Through Margin Films that he founded and run, Quentin has single-handedly distributed and promoted a slate of American and international independent films in the U.S. *Ethan Mao* is Quentin Lee's third feature as a writer/director. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Quentin is a Canadian citizen and U.S. resident.

Co-sponsored by Queer Asian Pacific Alliance (www.qapa.org)

Friday, September 16, 2005, 7 PM
 GRASSROOTS RISING PROGRAM

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

(United States, 2003, 35mins) Dir./Scr.: Providence Youth-Student Movement

A documentary film about a Southeast Asian youth uprising against the forced deportation of Cambodian refugees in Providence, Rhode Island. Hundreds of youth marched to the Providence INS, joined arms to block off a traffic intersection, and poured flowers on the doorsteps of immigration. This struggle created a new organization, the Providence Youth-Student Movement, and this is their story of their quest for justice.

PROVIDENCE YOUTH-STUDENT MOVEMENT (PrYSM) started as a community-wide youth movement in March of 2002 to protest the sudden "diplomatic" agreement between the U.S. and Cambodia to deport over 1,500 Cambodian Americans. Since its inception, PrYSM has transformed into a non-profit organization, offering a GED program, a gay and lesbian program called SEAQUEL: Southeast Asian Queers United for Education and Leadership, and the Organizing Circle which leads the "We Shall Not Be Moved" campaign against deportation.

*PrYSM will be present for screening! *

OVERSHADOWED: BOSTON'S CHINATOWN

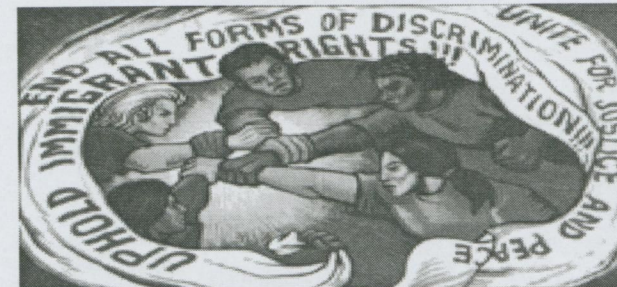
(United States, 2005, 60mins) Dir./Scr.: Paul Niwa & the Emerson College Journalism Documentary Class

Overshadowed: Boston's Chinatown focuses on the changing landscape of Boston's Chinatown amid many new controversial developments, including Kensington's proposed construction of a 30-story luxury apartment building on the site of a historic theatre. Featuring interviews from politicians, community activists, and residents, the documentary looks at re-development projects, the demolition of the Gaiety Theatre and how Chinatown residents are coping with the rising cost of living.

Overshadowed: Boston's Chinatown was created by a class of four graduates and five undergraduates enrolled in a documentary class at Emerson College's Journalism Department.

* Filmmakers will be present for screening! *

GRASSROOTS RISING * Boston Premiere *
 (United States, 2004, 60mins) Dir./Scr.: Robert C. Winn

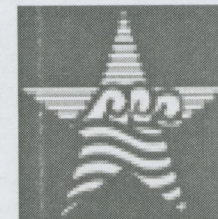


A powerful documentary exploring the lives of Asian immigrant workers through their search for justice, liberty and equality and their innovative contributions to the current worker-led labor movement in L.A. Juxtaposing poetry by spoken word artist Alison de la Cruz with the stories of immigrant workers, slave laborers, and activists alike, the film tells the stories of Koreatown restaurant workers arbitrarily fired despite being too ill to work, Pilipino housekeepers kept as cheap labor, Thai women held captive in a virtual prison sweatshop along with supermarket workers picketing for better wages and working conditions.

ROBERT C. WINN is an award-winning producer and director of documentaries living in Los Angeles. Robert focuses on documentaries that explore issues of social justice, immigration, and cultural dislocation.

Co-sponsored by Providence Youth-Student Movement
 (www.prysm.us) & Chinese Progressive Association
 (www.cpaboston.org)

There will be a short Q&A after the film screening.



The 2005 Boston Asian American Film Festival was made possible by generous funding from THE WANG FOUNDATION, and support from **naa@ap BOSTON** (www.naaapboston.org)

Thanks to our Individual Sponsors: Anonymous, Todd Fry, Anna Ing, Chi Chi Wu & Andrew Leong, Helen Liu, Jacob Smith Yang & James K. Marko!

We could not have done this without the energy, time, love and support of our volunteers: Lori Donnelly, Jane Jung, Jason B. Wang, Anita Yip, Suzanne Pan, Alejandra Hung, Hang Lee, Jeanne Chiang, Linda Lam, Anna Law, Karen Young, Susan Chinsen, Carol Choi, Michael Liu, Carolyn Leung, Francis Kim, Lawrence Joe, Don Misumi, Sophia Kim & Celina Lee!

And A Special Thanks to Elizabeth Toupin, Albert Ng, Kristin Ming, Kohei Ishihara & Sarath Suong, Karen Chen, Tri Quach, Angela Kim & Paul Niwa, Leslie Ito & Visual Communications & Olivia Newman & Women Make Movies.

Saturday, September 17, 2005, 7 PM

ASIAN AMERICA UNEDITED:

SHORTS PROGRAM

MY FATHER'S EYES * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2004, 5mins) Dir./Scr.: Lisa Fotedar Miller
A young, mixed-race American woman meets her Asian-Indian father for the first time

Director LISA FOTEDAR MILLER is not only an actress but also active as a writer, producer and director. Lisa will be seen in a bit part on the Sopranos Season 6 (airs spring 2006) and has held lead roles in both theatre and independent film. Lisa is currently bi-coastal (LA and NYC).

* Director will be present for screening! *

SUMMER OF THE SERPENT * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2004, 27mins) Dir./Scr.: Kimi Takasue

* A Women Make Movies Release * (www.wmm.org)

Eight-year old Juliette sits at the side of the local pool waiting for another lonely summer day to pass when an unexpected Japanese newcomer arrives. Fascinated by the stranger, Juliette embarks on a surreal adventure of discovery.

Director KIMI TAKASUE is a Rockefeller Fellow in Film and Video. Her award-winning films *Summer of the Serpent* (2004), *Heaven's Crossroad* (2002), *Rosewater* (1999) and *Bound* (1995) have been televised in the U.S. and have screened at over 150 film festivals and museums internationally including the Rotterdam International Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, London's Institute of Contemporary Art, and the Walker Art Center.

CRIMSON HAZE * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2005, 6mins) Dir./Scr.: Wenhua Shi

Experimental meditation on color, decay and rhythm

Director WENHUA SHI, originally trained as a doctor in China, departed from the medical field and began working in radio and TV in his hometown of Wuhan. At the end of 2000, he came to Colorado and started making films and exploring film as a medium at the University of Colorado at Boulder. (BA & BFA)

WHOSE CHILDREN ARE THESE? * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2004, 27mins) Dir./Scr.: Theresa Thanjan

Whose Children are These? provides a glimpse into the post 9/11 world of three youngsters impacted by the federal policy of Special Registration and prejudice. The film tells the stories of three Muslim youth, an honors student whose father was put into a detention center, a popular high school athlete who confronts pending deportation, and a youngster who finds a new life's calling to combat bias crimes in New York City as a youth activist. They represent the tragic and untold story of thousands of immigrant youth who are struggling in a post 9-11 environment to redefine a life, livelihood, and a country that they no longer recognize.

Director THERESA THANJAN has been an advocate in the South Asian immigrant community for over ten years. As a community organizer for Catholic Charities, she helped to start the first senior center for South Asian elderly in Richmond Hill, Queens. She has organized conferences around understanding bi-cultural issues faced by South Asian Youth and how domestic violence impacts the South Asian community. Theresa Thanjan was recently awarded a grant from the Film and Video Arts Center of New York and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Community Arts Fund.

UNTITLED * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2005, 2mins) Dir./Scr.: Jay J. You

Take a trip through the interior of today's most popular audio player.

Director JAY J. YOU holds a Bachelor's degree from Binghamton University in Computer Science, and a master's degree in Digital Imaging from New York University, as well as workshop experience at the New York Film Academy. His passion for filmmaking combined with his technical education has led him to pursue a career in digital filmmaking. He is currently employed at Blue Sky Studios as a Lighting TA.

IN WHOSE NAME? * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2004, 11mins) Dir.: Nandini Sikand

A filmic essay which explores the co-opting of icons by political agendas. This experimental short is told through personal narrative, Super 8mm home movies, Bollywood film and comic book art.

Born and raised in New Delhi, Director NANDINI SIKAND is an independent filmmaker and freelance television producer based in New York City. All her films have won awards and have screened at numerous domestic and international film festivals. Nandini is an Indian Classical dancer and is co-founder and co-director of the Trinayan Collective (www.trinayan.org). She is



also pursuing a PhD at in Cultural Anthropology at The Graduate Center, CUNY and has taught courses on production and film theory at Hunter College, CUNY and Swarthmore College, PA.

PAWNS OF THE KING * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2005, 17mins) Dir./Scr.: Ming Lai

A World War II Zero fighter pilot, haunted by the past, is forced to confront his fears when he meets an old enemy, a U.S. Army 442nd soldier, and plays a fateful game of chess.

Director MING LAI is the producer/writer/director of *Pawns of the King* and is also the producer/writer/co-director/co-director of photography of *Driving Blind*, a short film that comments on the state of race relations between Caucasians and African Americans. In addition to being a filmmaker, Ming is an award-winning advertising creative director/copywriter, creating concepts and writing copy for TV commercials and print ads.

THE HAIRS * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2004, 5mins) Dir./Scr.: Yohei Kawamata



A man comes into his bathroom, looks at the mirror, and starts touching his hair with his hands, smoothly and gently. Before long, his hair starts falling out. Shortly, his hair is gone. But the story does not come to an end. His other hairs are about to fall out soon. Why? What happens?

Director YOHEI KAWAMATA's movies have been selected by more than 60 film festivals in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Europe. He has received several awards and honorable mentions, including Best Picture. He is interested in not only writing and directing, but acting - he usually casts himself as the lead. His Japanese background makes his movies unique.

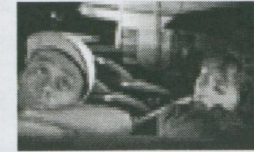
DICK HO, ASIAN MALE PORN STAR * Boston Premiere *

(United States, 2004, 31mins) Dir./Scr.: Jeffrey Lei

The film explores an Asian male porn legend named Dick Ho who supposedly existed during the 1970s-80s golden era of porn and who allegedly had the biggest member during his time. This investigative UFO-style documentary explores alleged seventies film footage of Dick Ho in the attempt to verify his existence as there are practically no Asian male porn stars in the history of American adult cinema. He is a controversial mystery akin to Bigfoot and alien abduction. Complete with rumors of a conspiracy within the porn industry to eliminate any knowledge of his existence, the film includes testimonials from porn veterans: Annie Sprinkle, Kay Parker, Juliet Anderson, Mika Tan, and Sharon Mitchell.

A film graduate from San Francisco State University, Director JEFFREY LEI is a Bay Area native and is the writer/director of *Take-Out*, which premiered at S.F. Int'l Asian American Film Festival in 1998 and was a

recipient of the Best Picture Award at the Davis Film Festival. The film was also nominated for Best Short at the Austin Film Festival and the L.A. Visual Communications Film Festival. *Dick Ho: Asian Male Porn Star* is his fourth and latest work and his first "documentary" which screened at the 2005 San Francisco Sex Worker Film & Arts Festival and received the Erotic Spirit Award at the 2005 SinCine Fest: NYC Erotic Film Fest. In addition to writing and directing, Jeffrey Lei is also a stand-up comedian.



Sunday, September 18, 2005,
7 PM

CLOSING NIGHT

SLOW JAM KING

(United States, 2004, 1 hr. 49 min) Dir./Scr.: Steven E. Mallorca

Slow Jam King skews genre lines and racial iconography, combining the quirky characterizations of *Rushmore* with the hip-hop sensibilities of *Boyz n Da Hood*, and the countrified outrageousness of *Oh Brother Where Art Thou?*

JoJo Enriquez, a Filipino-American, poseur gangsta-pimp, thinks he hears his call to the streets and carjacks Vance, a mysterious traveling perfume salesman. In tow is Devaun, JoJo's best friend, who tries desperately to protect Vance from JoJo, and JoJo from the law. But no one is safe from JoJo's impulses, as the motley trio hits the road to Nashville, and slowly succumb to an escapist adventure that takes them further away from JoJo's reality, but closer to Vance's reality. When JoJo discovers the truth about his reluctant road companion, the trip takes a turn that leads the three of them to truth, love, and the dirty underbelly of the Nashville country music scene, where they encounter the militant Black country music star, Buck Garvey.

Filmmaker and musician STEVEN E. MALLORCA currently works as a director and editor at the New York-based production company, Woo Art International and has worked extensively on broadcast tv, commercials, industrials, museum installations and music videos. As a composer, Mallorca has written music for Comedy Central, Showtime, and The Oxygen Network. Co-founder of the New York based indie record label, Riding Mower Records, his band, P.I.C., was the house band for Comedy Central's Premium Blend, appearing onstage with host Wanda Syke and has released 2 albums. His short films *Barrio fiesta*, *Wisp of Naima*, *Smooth Daddies from the Manila*, and *Asian Man in America* have screened at festivals across the country. He is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Film and Television Production.

* Director & Producer will be present for screening & Closing Night Mixer after the film screening! *