



NEWS RELEASE



Asian CineVision with Asia Society presents the Asian American International Film Festival '08, July 10–19, 2008

Announcing Short Films line-up, *New Landscapes: Media and its Adaptation*, and Special Programs

Asian American International Film Festival

Tickets Members of Asian CineVision, Asia Society & valid NYU ID-holders | \$7
Students, Seniors & Partner Organizations | \$9 (limit 1 per ID)
General | \$11

Opening Night Presentation: THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA + Gala
General Admission \$60 | Members \$40 | Gala only \$35

Centerpiece Presentation: THE SPEED OF LIFE

General Admission \$15 | Members \$12

Closing Night Presentation: PING PONG PLAYA + Awards Ceremony

General Admission \$30 | Members \$20

Box Office: 212.327.9385 / aaiff.org

June 26, 2008 (New York, NY) – Presented by Asian CineVision with Asia Society and sponsored by Toyota Matrix, the Asian American International Film Festival '08 (AAIFF) today announced the rest of its line-up of groundbreaking programming and events for 2008 including Short Films, *New Landscapes: Media & its Adaptation*, and Special Programs. Representing the latest in independent in Asian and Asian American filmmaking, AAIFF will run from July 10–19, 2008, at the Asia Society (725 Park Avenue at 70th Street).

SHORT FILMS

AAIFF08's Short Films line-up features a wide array of programs divided into nine thought-provoking themes.

Nominees for the juried award for **Excellence in Short Filmmaking** include: director Hyung-suk Lee for **155MILE**, director Anjali Sundaram for **CANADA**, director Mark Reyes for **GOD ONLY KNOWS**, director Hyoe Yamamoto for **WHEN I BECOME SILENT**, and director Tongpong Chantarangkul for **WINGS OF BLUE ANGELS**. Jurors for the Excellence in Short Filmmaking Award are Maggie Kim (shorts programmer, Tribeca Film Festival), Jimmy Tsai (co-writer, actor, PING PONG PLAYA), and Warrington Hudlin (president, Black Filmmaker Foundation). Winners will be announced at the Closing Night Awards Ceremony on Saturday, July 19 at 900P.

CONTINUES....

CAMUS, ANYONE? (Wed 7.16 | 700P)

Ah, mon cher, for anyone who is alone, without God and without a master, the weight of days is dreadful. Our rumination on Camus dives into questions of the self, memory, love, and meaning—or perhaps, meaninglessness—of it all. FIRST MEMORIES, THE NOTHING PILL, WHEN I BECOME SILENT, DISSOLUTION OF BODIES, FLY OUT BLUE, and LEMON TREE.

COLLISION THEORY (Tue 7.15 | 730P)

Random encounters can bring a bit of light to our otherwise mundane and repetitive lives. For those briefly shared moments, the universe enjoys the spark of human connection and we see a glimmer of order through the unpredictability of life. THE CONTEST, GIVING CARE, MAMO'S WEEDS, LIGHT YEARS, DIGGERS, PREAMBLE, and WINGS OF BLUE ANGELS.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL UP (Sat 7.12 | 900P)

Each stage of growth brings challenges, puzzles, tasks, and monsters. Each inch forward is fought for with ingenuity, learned skill, and pure heart. It gets difficult, but at the end of the day, there are a few newly acquired lessons and hard-earned tools in our kit that bring us a bit further. DAYDREAM, MOON LADY, COOKIES FOR SALE, CINEMA PARADISE, SILENCE, CANADA, MUZAK., PUT HIM IN THE GROUND, and THE YEARS FLOW LIKE WATER.

FIST OF LOVE (Fri 7.18 | 645P)

Love, both wonderful and painful, has the ability to strike us like a fist in the mouth. Couples fall in love, fall out of love, lose each other, find each other, and suffer all the icky, sticky stuff that comes along with romance. SHOUTING DISTANCE, LAUNDROMAT, THE BREAK UP, OF LOVE AND RACE, LONG AFTER, 364 CRANES, and DAMN THE PAST!

I ♥WKW (Sun 7.13 | 900P)

If imitation is the highest form of flattery, then these films are pure adoration. All they're missing are the doe-eyed popstars, which are as much Wong Kar-Wai's cinematic signature as his visually saturated films about unrequited love. In the mix are nods to other influential films and filmmakers, such as MOMMY DEAREST and the Coen brothers. LONG DISTANCE, PASSAGE, SHOOTING DOWN PICTURES #902 (43): HOUR OF THE STAR, HULAHOOP SOUNDINGS, RICH TRADITIONS, MY BROTHER'S KEEPER, and THE POSTCARD.

LOOKING GLASS (Fri 7.11 | 915P)

Self-reflection begins with taking a look at the lives of others. Biography and autobiography, fact and fiction, these portraits are constructed out of the stories, personal struggles, memories, and motivations of those outside ourselves. 24 FRAMES PER DAY, BLUE SKY, JOHN, GOD ONLY KNOWS, MY MOTHER SAID, YELLOW STICKY NOTES, COMFORT ZONE, RECOLLECTIONS, and THE STATE OF SUNSHINE.

NEITHER VICE NOR VIRTUE (Thu 7.17 | 930P)

Happiness lies in choice, according to Marquis de Sade. Taking a step into the dark side, we find the individual and the collective alike confronted by dilemmas not of morality or immorality, but personal and shared fulfillment. BOOKIE, LOVING WORK, BLOOD DEBTS, SWINGERS' CLUB SACHI, and RED-LIGHT DISTRICT GRAFFITI.

STATE OF FLUX (Fri 7.11 | 630P)

Do places define people? Or do people define their space? It's a conundrum as old as that of "the chicken or the egg?" Six filmmakers capture six worlds disrupted by tourism, migration, and globalization. THE WOMEN'S KINGDOM, TAJ MAHAL POSTCARD, BEIJING HAZE, LOOK AT US SEÑOR, SHATTERED, and GODOG.

ZONING CONFLICTS (Fri 7.18 | 930P)

Political conflicts often have two or more major players. Those caught in the middle seldom have a say about which side they're on and by whose rules they're playing. But it is the lives of these forgotten voices that are most affected. 155MILE, ISMAEL, PIERRE-PIERROT, THE PAIN WITH BEING THIRSTY, RABIA, and 4960.

Selected Short Film programs will be followed by a Q&A.

Asian CineVision with Asia Society and in partnership with NYU's Asian/Pacific/American Institute proudly announces *New Landscapes: Media and its Adaptations*, an inaugural interdisciplinary series of panels, discussions and events exploring new visions in Asian and Asian American media, culture and politics. Panels include:

NEW LANDSCAPES: MEDIA AND ITS ADAPTATIONS**China and the Environment (Sat 7.12 | 615P)**

As the 2008 Summer Olympics convene in Beijing, this diverse panel will discuss the environmental and human health consequences of industrial growth, and how film and cultural representations can build awareness and possibly lead to global change. With panelists **Mathieu Borysevicz** (*Learning from Hangzhou*), **Orville Schell** (Arthur Ross Director of the Center for U.S.-China Relations, Asia Society), **Michael Zhao** (Asia Society Center for U.S.-China Relations), moderated by **Julie Sze** (associate professor, American studies, UC Davis)

Documentary Subjects, Female Gaze (Thu 7.17 | 645P)

Women have innovated and galvanized the field of documentary filmmaking, turning an astute and unflinching eye on their subjects. This year, AAIFF08 will present different documentaries exploring politics and humanity: from artists working amidst political unrest in Peru to Japanese kamikaze pilots coping with a complex past. These women filmmakers take their cameras abroad to portray the difficulties of confronting political and social distress, specifically how politics play out in interconnected notions of masculinity, nationalism and resistance. With panelists **Risa Morimoto** (director, *WINGS OF DEFEAT*), **Ann Kaneko** (director, *AGAINST THE GRAIN: AN ARTIST'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO PERÚ*), **Mirjam van Veelen** (director, *MEGUMI*), moderated by **Anne del Castillo** (director of development and special projects, P.O.V./American Documentary).

Extra Lives: Intersections of Video Games and Film (Sun 7.13 | 345P)

Video games have increasingly occupied an integral share of our visual media vocabulary for the past two decades. From simple moving dots (*Pong*) to visceral melodrama (*Metal Gear Solid* series), games are evolving to incorporate highly sophisticated film-like narratives. Films created through game engines and real-time graphics, known as machinima, have emerged as an inexpensive, readily accessible way to tell stories. The panel will explore the intersections of film and video games, popular examples of their convergence, and what it means for the future of both media. With panelists **Matt Dominianni** (creative director, The Electric Sheep Co.), **Austin Chang** (director of strategy & operations, Online Games at MTV Networks), **David Surman** (co-founder and senior lecturer, computer games design, University of Wales, Newport), moderated by **Raina Lee** (publisher, *1-Up MegaZine*).

New York Geographies (Sat 7.12 | 100P)

The intimate and tightly-woven geography of New York City has long served as inspiration for filmmakers from Woody Allen to Michael Kang. How do filmmakers navigate its multiple, overlapping communities? With panelists **Ed Radtke** (director, *THE SPEED OF LIFE*, AAIFF08), **Karin Chien** (producer, *SANTA MESA*, AAIFF08), **Paul Lee** (location scout), **David Moy** (supervisor of field

operations, Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting), moderated by **Ron Simon** (curator, Paley Center for Media—Museum of Radio & Television).

On Asian/American Aesthetics (Sat 7.12 | 345P)

As cultural borders contest geopolitical borders, this panel grapples with the question of Asian aesthetics. As Asian cinema and the Asian art garners attention globally for its innovation, it remains in dispute whether and how it challenges and rethinks assumptions of Asian aesthetics and culture. This panel brings together filmmakers, curators and artists to address how Asian aesthetics plays out in artistic and film practice. With panelists **David Henry Hwang** (playwright), **Mary Ping** (designer), **Billie Tsien** (architect), **Wayne Wang** (director, *PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA* and *SMOKE*), moderated by **Dennis Lim** (film critic and editorial director, Museum of the Moving Image).

One On One with Jessica Yu (Sat 7.19 | 145P)

Oscar-winner Jessica Yu entered filmmaking through the world of documentaries with award-winning projects such as *BREATHING LESSONS*, *PROTAGAINST* and *IN THE REALMS OF THE UNREAL*. She has also extended her directorial vision to television and commercial spots. This year, Yu makes her narrative feature debut with the hilarious comedy *PING PONG PLAYA*. Yu will discuss her transition from films dealing with disability, outsider artists and extremists, to a light-hearted comedy. She will explore the ability of film to be simultaneously socially conscientious, commercial, critical and above all, fun.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

In addition to our standard line-up, AAIFF 2008 presents a range of special programs and workshops geared to educate and provide more creative outlets for Asian American media arts, which include:

72 Hour Shootout (Sun 7.13 | 1230P)

At this special screening, AAFilmLab along with AAIFF will announce prize winners and screen the top ten finalists of the 5th annual 72 Hour Shootout. Now in its 5th year, 72 HOUR SHOOTOUT is a nationwide competition where filmmaking teams have 72 hours to write, shoot, edit, and produce short digital films up to five minutes on a surprise theme. The aim of this competition is to create opportunities for Asian Americans to demonstrate their talent, gain exposure, and positively impact the visibility of Asian Americans in the entertainment industry.

Screenplay Reading (Sun 7.13 | 615P)

Mr. Miyagi's Theatre Company will stage and direct a staged reading of the winner of our 8th annual Screenplay Competition, *CITIZEN KIM* by Nathan Kitada. With jurors Ramsey Fong (finance and business affairs manager, Killer Films), Sarah Kuhn (film and television writer, *Back Stage*), and Brian Yang (founder, 408 Films).

For Youth By Youth (Sun 7.13 | 100P)

See life through the eyes of today's youth. From Seoul to San Diego, a new generation of filmmakers meditates on problems old and new by documenting life as they see it. From them we learn that no question is too big or small to be asked. *LOOK TO BOTH SIDES*, *OVER THE TABLE*, *ASIAN AMERICANS AND CLASSICAL MUSIC*, *UNSOCKUMENTED*, *SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER*, *A SIGN OF THE TIMES*, *3 QUEER MICE*, *A MODERN WITCH HUNT: THE DALE AKIKI STORY*, *BATMAN NOT CHINESE*, and *SEOUL, FARTHER THAN HEAVEN*. The One to Watch Award will be presented at the Closing Night Awards Ceremony.

Work in Progress (Wed 7.16 | 630P | Tribeca Cinemas)

Award-winning filmmaker Greg Pak (*ROBOT STORIES*, AAIFF05) leads our annual Work in Progress program guiding filmmakers through the process of molding an unfinished work into the final cut. This

year, Pak will lead the workshop featuring GIVE IT UP TOMORROW by Marty Syjuco and co-director Michael Collins.

ABOUT THE ASIAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (AAIFF)

Since 1978, the Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF) has introduced new works by Asian and Asian American filmmakers to a s curious audience of cultural enthusiasts. Premiering the works of then unknown directors such as Mira Nair (SO FAR FROM INDIA, AAIFF83), Ang Lee (FINE LINE, AAIFF 85), Wayne Wang (CHAN IS MISSING, AAIFF82), Park Chan-wook (JSA, AAIFF01) and Justin Lin (FINISHING THE GAME, AAIFF07), the AAIFF was the nation's first annual festival dedicated to screening works by media artists of Asian descent and films about the Asian community. It continues to be a leading showcase for independent Asian and Asian American film and video. For more information visit us online at aaiff.org.

ABOUT ASIAN CINEVISION (ACV)

Asian CineVision, Inc (ACV) is a not-for-profit national media arts organization dedicated to the development, promotion and preservation of film and video arts by and about people of Asian descent. Founded in 1976 by Hong Kong cinema legend Tsui Hark (ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA), Oscar-nominated director Christine Choy, Danny Yung, and Peter Chow, ACV began as a media activism organization. The organization continues to serve the Asian American community by promoting the works of Asian and Asian American filmmakers, and providing a window to the diverse experiences and livelihoods of the Asian diaspora. For more information, visit asiancinevision.org.

ABOUT ASIA SOCIETY

Asia Society is the leading global and pan-Asian organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders and institutions of the United States and Asia. Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III, the Society reaches audiences around the world through its headquarters in New York and centers in Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, DC, Hong Kong, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, Seoul, and Shanghai. For more information, visit asiasociety.org.

ABOUT TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC.

Toyota Motor Sales (TMS), U.S.A., Inc. is the marketing, sales, distribution and customer service arm of Toyota, Lexus and Scion. Established in 1957, TMS markets products and services through a network of more than 1,400 Toyota, Lexus and Scion dealers. Toyota directly employs over 36,000 people in the U.S. and sold more than 2.6 million vehicles in 2007. For more information about our company, please visit toyota.com, lexus.com, and scion.com.

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