

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boston Asian American Film Festival (October 19th – 22rd, 2017) Announces 2017 Opening, Closing, and Centerpiece Films with Full Lineup

Featuring *The Jade Pendant*, *Resistance at Tule Lake*, *Gook* and a panel “Beyond Orientalism”

BOSTON, MA [September 28, 2017] – The **Boston Asian American Film Festival** (BAAFF), a production of the **Asian American Resource Workshop** (AARW), announces a provocative and entertaining program of **independent cinema** highlighting recent, significant works by and/or about Asian and the Asian diaspora. The festival theme this year is *Liberty & Justice*, a showcase of inspiring stories about the challenges and victories of self-empowerment and civic responsibility as individuals and community leaders. .

The theme of **Liberty & Justice** is especially relevant in our changing world--locally, nationally, and globally. The anchor films for the festival commemorates the 135th anniversary of the passing of The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066--led to the mass incarceration of Americans of Japanese descent in 1942, and the 25th anniversary of the LA Uprising following the Rodney King verdict in 1992.

BAAFF's hope is to reflect, learn from, and move towards a more free and just society for all Americans, regardless of race, background, citizenship status, gender, class, and/or other intersecting identities. Together, as friends, citizens, and neighbors, we are calling to protect and preserve liberty and justice for all.

BAAFF 2017 features over 30 films

This year, the festival takes place **October 19-22, 2017** in Boston at ArtsEmerson's Bright Family Screening Room in the **Paramount Center** and in Cambridge at the **Brattle Theatre**.

The **Boston Asian American Film Festival** (BAAFF) is pleased to announce the 2017 festival will open with a **New England Premiere** – a special presentation of *The Jade Pendant*. Filmed in Utah, “The Jade Pendant” is directed by Hong Kong veteran **Leong Po-Chih** (“The Detonator,” “Out of Reach”) and follows the journey of a young girl who, fleeing an arranged marriage in China, finds herself on American shores. Her tragic love story is set against the 1871 burning of Chinatown in Los Angeles and the largest mass lynching in American history. The film is targeted to release theatrically October 24, on the anniversary of the **Chinese Massacre of 1871**. The opening film will screen at **7:30PM on Thursday, October 19th** at the **Brattle Theatre**, 40 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA.

The festival's centerpiece film will feature *Resistance at Tule Lake*, directed by filmmaker **Konrad Aderer**. *Resistance at Tule Lake* tells the long-suppressed story of 12,000 Japanese Americans who dared to resist the U.S. government's program of mass incarceration during World War II. Branded as 'disloyals' and re-imprisoned at Tule Lake Segregation Center, they continued to protest in the face of militarized violence, and thousands renounced their U.S. citizenship. Giving voice to experiences that have been marginalized for over 70 years, this documentary challenges the nationalist, one-sided ideal of wartime 'loyalty.' Director **Konrad Aderer** will be present for this screening on **Saturday, October 21 at 6:30pm** at the **Paramount Center**, 559 Washington St, Boston, MA.

The Boston Asian American Film Festival will close with the film *Gook*, a narrative film by independent filmmaker and actor, **Justin Chon**. *Gook* follows two Korean American brothers, Eli and Daniel, who own a struggling shoe store. Set during the first day of the LA Riots, the film follows their unique and unlikely friendship with a young 11-year-old African American girl, Kamila and the reality of defending their store while contemplating the future of their own personal dreams and the meaning of family. *Gook* has won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and premiered in Boston at the Independent Film

Festival of Boston. Producer **James Yi** will attend the screening and participate in a Q&A, **Sunday, October 22nd at 5:30pm, Paramount Center.**

Also, on Saturday October 21st, there will be a free panel discussion and featured performance by Flying Orb (Lowell, MA), **Beyond Orientalism: The Boston Forum.** Presented by New England Foundation for the Arts, **Saturday, October 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m, Paramount Center.** Beyond Orientalism is a national initiative to explore the topics of misrepresentation onstage and in the media, diversity and inclusivity in the performing arts as it relates specifically to API (Asian Pacific Islander) issues, and practical action steps to advance racial equity. This event will be a launch for the first network of API artists and arts organizations in the Greater Boston area. The event will be livestreamed on the HowlRound TV network at howlround.tv.

Photography opportunities will take place prior to each screening, and following most screening there will be a conversation/Q&A with film talent in attendance.

For more information including the full line up, please visit: www.baaff.org or www.facebook.com/baaff

THURSDAY

10/19 7:30pm Jade Pendant | OPENING NIGHT

FRIDAY

10/20 7pm Family Matters | SHORTS

10/20 9:30pm AKA Seoul

SATURDAY

10/21 10am Beyond Orientalism | FREE PANEL

10/21 1pm Finding Kukan

10/21 3:15pm Life & Liberty | SHORTS

10/21 6:30pm Resistance at Tule Lake | CENTERPIECE

10/21 9pm Blasian Narratives

SUNDAY

10/22 12:30pm Chinatown Speaks | SHORTS

10/22 2:30pm I Can I Will I Did

10/22 5:30pm Gook | CLOSING & RECEPTION

The Boston Asian American Film Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sponsors and partners: ArtsEmerson, Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), Tufts Medical Center, South Cove Community Health Center, PAO Arts Center, Sampan, Boston Cultural Council. *This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts + Culture.*

For screeners, interviews and tickets contact: Minh Nguyen, minguyen5@gmail.com or Susan Chinsen, baaff@aarw.org

About 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 Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW).

About 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 resource and activities are used to respond to current Asian Pacific American issues and to promote Asian Pacific American identity.

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