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For Immediate Release

Boston Asian American Film Festival Announces 2011 Line Up
*24 Independent Films and Videos at 4 venues in Boston and Cambridge, and a special
spotlight event with legendary actor James Hong
November 10-13, 2011*

Boston, MA, Tuesday, October 18, 2011 —The Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF), a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), announces another thought-provoking, entertaining lineup of independent cinema and a special lecture by James Hong. Festival dates are November 10-13.

The festival includes 24 films and videos, 7 screening events; 1 special lecture; 4 venues; and 13 co-presenting partners. The most current information and list of activities are also available at: BAAFF.org

“We are thrilled that this season’s range of films show the complex dynamics within families and challenge social stereotypes of Asian American identity, beauty, and sexuality in both a thought-provoking and entertaining setting,” says Susan Chinsen, Co-Director of BAAFF. “Additionally, the festival is growing, we’ve added a second shorts program—one of our most popular features—and are in the process of confirming filmmakers who will be attending!”

Sponsors for the festival currently include Tufts Medical Center, Lev Kia of Framingham, Sun Life Financial, Rule Boston and Massachusetts Cultural Council. Media sponsors are Xfinity and MNET. Community co-presenters for the festival are Asian American Resource Workshop, Boston Asian American Students' Intercollegiate Conference, and National Association of Asian American Professionals Boston.

Featured Films and Videos

Opening Night

Thursday, November 10 at 8:00pm

Brattle Theater, Harvard Square
40 Brattle Street, Cambridge
(T: Harvard Square)

Special Performance by Genki Spark, Japanese Taiko Drumming Troupe

Almost Perfect
2011 | 106 mins | Drama
Directed by Bertha Bay-Sa Pan
Post-screening Q & A with Director

When you need a ride from the airport, you call Vanessa (Kelly Hu). When your boyfriend leaves, you call Vanessa. When you need someone to take over the family business, you call Vanessa -- and she'll never, ever say no. At 34, she's still her large and boisterous family's go-to girl, with a threadbare excuse of a life of her own. Suddenly, she runs into an old friend (Ivan Shaw), the almost perfect guy who just might be perfect for her. But, as those sparks fly, her family starts to go up in flames. Her high-maintenance fashion designer sister (Christina Chang) is on the brink; her surf bum brother (Edison Chen) has gone AWOL; and her over-analyzing, over-intellectual mother (Tina Chen) has barred her father (Roger Rees) from their home, sending him into his own mid-life crisis. They all need Vanessa, all the time, to fix all the problems. Trapped in the eye of the storm, Vanessa has to find her way back to love. In the process, she discovers that the only person she really has to save is -- herself!

Friday, November 11 at 7:00pm

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
222 Memorial Drive, Building 10, Room 250 (Second Floor), Cambridge, MA
(T: Kendall Station)

SPOTLIGHT EVENT:

James Hong: Behind the Scenes Secrets of Hollywood

Actor James Hong has a prolific film and television career that spans 57 years with more than 500 roles. He is currently filming R.I.P.D in Boston and recently concluded filming "Safe" and is busy in Hollywood dubbing more of Mr. Ping (Po's dad) in "Kung Fu Panda." Other credits include "Seinfeld," "Blade Runner," "Mulan," "Big Bang Theory," "Big Trouble in Little China," and "Balls of Fury."

In this spotlight event, Mr. Hong will speak about his career and reveal secrets about the magic and realities of Hollywood.

Friday, November 11 at 9:15pm

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
222 Memorial Drive, Building 10, Room 250 (Second Floor), Cambridge, MA

Pot Luck Shorts: Art of Love

Mother

2010 | 7 mins | Drama

Directed by John P. Raposas

A young wife struggles to keep her family together by winning the acceptance of her deaf adoptive child.

Room #11

2010 | 7 mins | Drama

Directed by ManSee Kong

When tenants of a single-room occupancy building in New York's Chinatown are forced to evacuate, a mother and daughter decide to lock themselves in their tiny, cramped room -- the only home they know.

Angel Island Profile: Tyrus Wong

2009 | 6 mins | Documentary

Directed by Jeffrey Gee Chin

Tyrus Wong, a 100 year-old retired artist, shares his journey to the United States to discover the truths about "Gold Mountain." At a young age Tyrus learned to paint and draw, when he arrived to America he studied hard to build a career out of something he loved to do. Currently, Tyrus is retired, but continues his passion by creating cards and flying homemade kites out on Santa Monica Beach.

Brides Wanted

2010 | 5 mins | Documentary

Directed by Michael Wong

Jatesh is a 20-something Indian male that must deal with his family and culture face on, in the matters of traditional arranged marriage customs. While he struggles to find a compromise with his Western upbringing, his parents are heavily pursuing the perfect future daughter in law.

My Name is Seven

2011 | 7 mins | Dance

Directed by D.B. Cheng

Seven secretly loves break dancing, but is worried that his skills are mediocre. But Seven quickly ups his game to impress Michi, a champion dancer, with a long line of suitors.

Asian American Jesus

2010 | 11 mins | Narrative

Directed by Yasmine Gomez

Meet Truth-Is-Real, self-professed 'mad scientist of the spoken word,' and the subject of college freshman Suzette Law's final project for her Ethnic Studies class, 'Performing the Diaspora: Asian Americans and the Arts.' In this hilarious and insightful mockumentary, writer-performer Samantha Chanse plays six different compelling and memorable characters exploring post-racial art, excuses for bad poetry, and the truth about dying on stage.

Wear I Fit ★★BAAFF'S *Short Waves* Short Video Competition Winner★★

2011 | 5 mins | Narrative

Directed by Pratna Kem

Kem's story is about self image/self perception and how the clothes we wear become our way of conforming... or rebelling.

The Bus Pass

2010 | 4 mins | Drama

Directed by Narissa Lee

A woman sees the girl of her dreams on the train home from work. Will she dare take the plunge and ask for her number?

The Potential Wives of Norman Mao

2011 | 9 mins | Drama

Directed by Derek Nguyen

Norman Mao is an overweight, and socially-awkward man-child from Hong Kong, who at the age of 33 is still unwed. Desperate to get him married, his parents take him on an international junket across the globe to find him a worthy Chinese wife. The Maos arrive to a New York City hotel, which is their final stop on their trip and their last hope to find Norman a bride. Having hired a professional matchmaking service, the Maos meet with three matches for Norman. Will one of these women be a potential wife for Norman or is he destined to lead a terribly lonely life?

Saturday, November 12 at 2:00pm

Paramount Center, Bright Family Screening Room

559 Washington Street, Boston

(T: Boylston or Downtown Crossing)

One Big Hapa Family

2010 | 85 mins | Documentary

Directed by Jeff Chiba Stearns

After a realization at a family reunion, half Japanese-Canadian filmmaker, Jeff Chiba Stearns, embarks on a journey of self-discovery to find out why everyone in his Japanese-Canadian family married interracially after his grandparents' generation. This feature live action and animated documentary

explores why almost 100% of all Japanese-Canadians are marrying interracially, the highest out of any other ethnic group in Canada, and how their mixed children perceive their unique multiracial identities. *One Big Hapa Family* challenges our perceptions of purity and makes us question if mixing is the end of multiculturalism as we know it.

Saturday, November 12 at 6:30pm

AMC Loews Boston Common 19
175 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

Heart

2011 | 8 mins | Animation

Directed by Erick Oh

An exploration of transcendence. *Heart* presents questions through abstract metaphors and symbols, illustrated by the human heart.

Touch

2011 | 109 mins | Drama

Directed by Minh Duc Nguyen

A mechanic looking to save his faltering marriage strikes up an unlikely friendship with a shy Vietnamese-American manicurist, who not only cleans his greasy hands but also gives him advice about his love life. This sensual film explores the sense of touch and its emotional impact — how with just a simple touch, we can reveal our deepest longings and even heal a wounded soul.

Saturday, November 12 at 9:00pm

AMC Loews Boston Common 19
175 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

Bang Bang

2011 | 101 mins | Drama

Directed by Byron Q

Justin, a troubled teen looking for a way out of the gang life, takes refuge at the home of his best friend Charlie, a rich Taiwanese kid who lives in the nice part of town. Caught in the midst of teenage angst, gang life, and alienation, the two friends find themselves heading down two different paths of life.

Sunday, November 13 at 1:00pm

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
60 Vassar Street, Building 26, Room 100, Cambridge, MA

Potluck Shorts: Passion and Courage

Top Spin

2010 | 4 mins | Documentary

Directed by Sara Newens, Mina T. Son

Ariel Hsing exudes a quiet confidence and intensity that rivals any young professional athlete working hard to become an Olympic champion. *Top Spin* goes beyond her personal dedication and also reveals the family sacrifices that foster her talent as one of the best junior table tennis champions in the U.S.

Rehearsing the Future

2009 | 4 mins | Documentary

Directed by Liang-Shun Lim

Shin Lim takes the non-traditional Asian path of pursuing the performing arts. He imagines what his future as an entertainer will be and that includes lots of practice!

A Tree Falls in the Forest

2010 | 8 mins | Documentary

Directed by Bao Nguyen

Told through the voices of three subjects who experienced the tragedy firsthand, *A Tree Falls in the Forest* is a visual meditation about the impact of September 11th on New York City's Chinatown.

Ballet of Unhatched Chicks

2010 | 2 mins | Animation

Directed by Shaun Kim

Chicks just hatching out from eggs get a spotlight from the world. They celebrate this warm and happy moment together with dancing ballet together.

First Draft of Yao Ming's Retirement Speech

2011 | 5 mins | Spoken Word

Directed by David Kong, Junshien Lau, Giles Li

International basketball star, Yao Ming, retired this summer after nine seasons in the NBA. This is the farewell message he might have given if his closest advisers were spoken word performers.

Boys and Girls

2010 | 4 mins | Drama

Directed by Chris Tipton-King

Nerves abound, Keith and Marion primp, shave, and rehearse for some hot first dates.

Lunchtime

2010 | 7 mins | Drama

Directed by Keo Woolford

After finding himself bullied on the playground once again, fifth grader Henry decides to spend lunch with his former kindergarten teacher, Mr. Loh.

Memory of Forgotten War

2011 | 10 mins | Documentary

Directed by Deann Borshay Liem and Ramsay Liem

The Korean War (1950-1953) was devastating. It pitted the United States, South Korea, and 16 other countries against North Korea and China. A mere three years of fighting left 3 million civilians and nearly 1.5 million dead, decimated Korea's natural and social infrastructure, and divided the nation separating 10 million Koreans from family members for over a half century. But the war never ended. It remains stalemated in a military armistice agreement. *Memory of Forgotten War* tells this story through the lives of 4 Korean Americans who harbor the war past and its legacies to this day.

N as in Name

2011 | 5 mins | Documentary

Directed by Emma Pimthida Tiemchaiyapum

"N as in Name: Danh Nguyen" is a short documentary that discusses the experiences of being Asian American, through a simple self-identification as a name.

Fatakra

2011 | 19 mins | Drama

Directed by Soham Mehta

Naveen left India to chase his dreams in America. Today, three years and a recession later, his wife and son join him. Sparks fly as a family reunites.

Sunday, November 13 at 4:30pm

AMC Loews Boston Common 19
175 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

Knots
2011 | 77 mins | Drama
Directed by Michael Kang

When eldest daughter Lily (Kimberly Rose-Wolter) rejects her boyfriend's marriage proposal, she decides to return home to Hawaii for family support. It turns out the family is having troubles of their own -- their wedding planning business is being run into the ground by Lily's two half-sisters Twinnny (Mia Riverton) and Hoku (Janel Parrish). It's left to Lily to get things on the right track. If things couldn't get worse, Lily's ex-boyfriend Kai (Sung Kang) enters the picture, as does a surprise reveal that makes reconciliation no easy matter.

Venues

AMC Loews Boston Common 19

The Brattle Theatre

Bright Family Screening Room, Paramount Theater

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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 program of the Asian American Resource Workshop.

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.

Additional funding is provided by WANG Foundation and Community Works.

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