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September 26, 2016

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## **Boston Asian American Film Festival Announces 2016 Lineup**

### **New Independent Films Debut in Boston October 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

#### **East Coast Premieres of Pamela Tom's *Tyrus*, William Lu's *Comfort* and Lena Khan's *The Tiger Hunter***

**BOSTON, MA** [September 26, 2016] – 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 Americans and the Asian diaspora. The festival theme is ***Call to Action***, which showcases inspiring films about Asian American contributions to creating change within their communities – compelling stories about Asian-American self-empowerment, change-makers, civic responsibility, activists and advocates.

This year, the festival takes place **October 20 to 23, 2016** 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 2016 festival will open with a special presentation of a documentary feature ***Tyrus*** from filmmaker **Pamela Tom** (*Two Lies, Behind Closed Doors, Mandela and DeKlerk*). ***Tyrus*** has won Audience Awards at the San Diego Asian Film Festival, the Hawaii International Film Festival, the Newport Beach Film Festival; Best Feature Documentary at the DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon; and the Jury Prize at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific International Film Festival.

Following the true story of a 105-year-old pioneering Chinese American painter, ***Tyrus*** is a feature-length documentary film about the life, art, and enduring impact of Disney Legend, Tyrus Wong. Seventeen years in the making, ***Tyrus*** combines the decades of artwork from his enormous collection of art throughout his career combined with filmmaker **Pamela Tom's** intricate research of his life and work, including historic photos, artwork, and interviews and commentary from Wong himself. Tyrus Wong's impact on American art and animation is truly documented through this moving and influential film.

The opening film will screen at **7:30PM on Thursday, October 20th** at the **Brattle Theatre**, 40 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA. Writer and Director **Pamela Tom** will be in attendance.

The festival's centerpiece film will feature ***Comfort***, directed by first-time filmmaker **William Lu**, recipient of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Armed with a Camera Fellowship. ***Comfort*** is a romantic drama that unfolds as a late night courier agrees to pick up the feisty daughter of an important client. The two form a close connection after spend two nights exploring Los Angeles' local food scene while their romance blossoms. YouTube Star **Christopher Dinh** and Director **William Lu** will be present for this screening. **(Saturday, October 22 at 6:30PM, Paramount Center)**

The Boston Asian American Film Festival will close with the film ***The Tiger Hunter***, a comedy by independent

filmmaker **Lena Khan**. *The Tiger Hunter* is a coming of age story of Sami Malik, a young South Asian who travels to 1970s America to become an engineer in order to impress his childhood crush and live up to the legacy of his father – a legendary tiger hunter back home. When Sami’s job falls through, he takes a low-end job and joins with a gang of oddball friends in hopes of convincing his childhood sweetheart that he’s far more successful than he truly is, or could ever be. *The Tiger Hunter* is director and writer **Lena Khan’s** first feature film. **Lena Khan**, will be in attendance at this screening. **(Sunday, October 23 at 5pm, Paramount Center)**.

The BAAFF 2016 features over 25 films. The full lineup is: Tuesday, October 18, at 6:30 PM, Paramount Center (*free screening as part of Bright Lights*): **Good Luck Soup**, Thursday, October 20, at 7:30 PM Brattle Theater: **Tyrus (opening)**, Friday, October 21 at 7:00 PM, Paramount Center: **Shorts Program: Roots and Reflections** (Life of Zili, A Children’s Song, The Last Tip, Up in the Clouds Angels and Demons, Forever, Chinatown), **Front Cover**, **Saturday, October 22** at 9:30 PM, **Paramount Center: Shorts Program: Be True** at 1:30 PM (Got it Maid, Encore, The Monkey King is in Town, Fanny Pack, Ba, Gaysians, Pamanhikan), **Right-Footed** at 4:15 PM, **Comfort (Centerpiece)** at 6:30 PM, Kite Fight, **Bad Rap** at 9:15 PM. On **Sunday, October 23**, BAAFF continues with the **Shorts Program: “It’s Complicated”** at 1:00 PM: (Empty Spaces, Boxer, Song on Canvas, Unspoken, Pata, Harry on the Clouds, The Waltz, Halmoni), **Breathin’: The Eddy Zheng Story** at 3:00 PM, and concludes with **The Tiger Hunter (Closing)** at 5:00 PM. **Q&A will follow most screenings with film talent in attendance.**

#### **PREVIEW PARTY**

The community is invited to attend a free preview party at Crave, on Oct. 5. (6:30 – 8:00 PM at 75 Kneeland Street in Chinatown) for a sneak peak at the screenings and a chance to win tickets. Visit <http://www.baaff.org/preview-party> for more information and to RSVP by Oct. 4.

#### **FREE COMMUNITY PANEEL**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Paramount Center, there will be a free panel discussion with filmmakers and other special guests in the arts arena entitled:

#### **Asian Americans On Screen & On Stage: Answering the Call to Action**

This past year with #OscarsSoWhite, #EmmaStoned and greater attention to Whitewashing in Hollywood and on Broadway, we have also seen an increase in theatrical productions in Boston. BAAFF is recognizing career paths that have a positive influence on what we see on stage and on screen. Join us on Oct. 22 and be inspired by our panelists that have answered the "call to action," and find out what motivates them to be change-makers.

Michael Tow, Actor — *Warrior Class, Chinglish* (Lyric Stage), Producer/Actor — *East of Hollywood*  
Salima Koroma, Director — *Bad Rap*  
Elisa Choi, Chair — MA State Asian American Commission, Vice President — Company One  
Chris Hastings, Executive Producer — The WORLD Channel, WGBH

For more information and tickets, please visit: [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org) or [www.facebook.com/baaff](http://www.facebook.com/baaff)

The Boston Asian American Film Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sponsors and Festival partners: ArtsEmerson, Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), Tufts Medical Center, South Cove Community Health Center, TEAM (Together Empowering Asian Minds), Asian American Commission, Eastern Bank, Spotlight Cinema Networks, Jet Blue, Lobs Boston, SAMPAN, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Lyric Stage Company of Boston. *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, administrated by the Mayor's Office of Arts + Culture.*

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### **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. Funded in part by Community Works and MA Humanities Council.