((6) 20TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO 500 170+ FILMS FF ASIAN FILM **40 LANGUAGES 29 COUNTRIES 8 VENUES 1 FESTIVAL** SDAFF.ORG Festival @PACARTSMOVEMENT **#SDAFF2019** NOVEMBER 7-16, 2019

TICKET INFORMATION

- Tickets for all presentations are available at sdaff.org.
- Walk-up tickets for presentations at UltraStar go on sale at the UltraStar box office starting FRIDAY NOV 1.
- Walk-up tickets for presentations at non-UltraStar locations are available at that venue's box office ONE HOUR before showtime.
- SDAFF will call opens ONE HOUR before showtime.
- Vouchers can be redeemed in person for regular screenings (not valid for special presentations) at SDAFF box office/will call. See back of voucher for details.
- All ticket sales are final.

	NON-MEMBER	PAC ARTS MEMBER	GROUP TICKETS*
GENERAL ADMISSION	\$ 12	\$ 9	\$ 10
OPENING / CLOSING FILMS	\$ 40	\$ 30	\$ 30
CENTERPIECE FILM	\$ 15	\$ 12	\$ 13
FESTIVAL 6-PACK	\$ 60	_	_
ALL FESTIVAL PASS	\$ 295	\$ 195	_

Discounts

Student / Senior / Military: \$ 10

At door only with valid ID.

*Group Tickets: Minimum of 10 tickets per screening. Email membership@pacarts.org for more information.

Free Screenings

All Free Screenings require a physical ticket. To receive a ticket, visit the venue's box office.

FREE FILMS AT 4

All films at 4:00PM on weekdays of the festival are FREE.

VIRTUAL REALITY: WATER MELTS

SAT & SUN / NOV 9 & 10 (SEE PAGE 34) FREE screenings of this 17 min VR film on a first-come, first-served basis in the UltraStar Lobby.

SHORTS FOR SHORTIES

SAT / NOV 9 (SEE PAGE 34)

A collection of international short films for kids, FREE for all ages.

REEL VOICES

SUN / NOV 10 (SEE PAGE 33)

World premiere of our high school documentary program, FREE to the public.

ALL SCREENINGS AT UCSD PRICE CENTER THEATER

FREE for UCSD students, faculty, and staff with valid ID.

PAC ARTS MEMBER SCREENING

TUE / NOV 12 (SEE PAGE 19) The screening of WE ARE CHAMPIONS is FREE for Pac Arts members with membership card.



We are 20. Not many film festivals make it to 20, so excuse us if SDAFF parties especially hard this year.

We're marking our 20th year by celebrating the communities that have sustained us for two decades. We open the festival with the world premiere of Pac Arts' first-ever feature-length production: **THE PARADISE WE ARE LOOKING FOR**, an omnibus film of four short documentaries highlighting Asian American stories in distinct and overlooked San Diego neighborhoods. The festival then proceeds to celebrate 20 years of Asian American filmmakers by playing some of the most monumental films from our history: **SAVING FACE**, **COLMA: THE MUSICAL, REFUGEE, IN THE FAMILY**. We also celebrate new visions of Asian America: three films about undocumented Filipino Americans, an Iraqi American documentary, a Mongolian American crime drama. The look back into our history only reveals how far Asian American filmmakers have come in 2019, and what visionary directions are still left undreamed.

We are also celebrating virtual reality, Taiwan and Tibet, the Conrad in La Jolla, a much-requested return to Edwards Mira Mesa, and the festival winners to be named at our legendary Awards Gala to be held this year at the landmark U.S. Grant Hotel. We'll be celebrating over 170 films in 40 spoken languages and countless cinematic ones. But above all, we celebrate you—the audience—for 20 years of support and giving us the confidence and audacity to keep expanding our horizons to match the boundless ambitions of Asian and Pacific Islander film artists around the world.



Address: Pacific Arts Movement, 2508 Historic Decatur Road #140, San Diego, CA 92106



PACIFIC ARTS MOVEMENT





OPENING NIGHT: NOV 7 THE CONRAD PREBYS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 7600 Fay Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037 CONRAD

MAIN VENUE: NOV 8–14 ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY 7510 Hazard Center Dr #100, San Diego, CA 92108

SDAFF AWARDS GALA: NOV 9 THE US GRANT 326 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101 GRANT

TAIWAN FILM SHOWCASE: NOV 9–11 UCSD PRICE CENTER THEATER 9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA 92093 UCSD

MIRA MESA SCREENINGS: NOV 14-15 EDWARDS MIRA MESA STADIUM 10733 Westview Pkwy, San Diego, CA 92126

EDMM

INDIE FILMS IN NORTH PARK: NOV 16 DIGITAL GYM CINEMA 2921 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104 DGYM

CELEBRATING WOMEN DIRECTORS: NOV 16 MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS 1649 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101 MOPA

CLOSING NIGHT: NOV 16 SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM 1788 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101

PARTIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Night Receptions (SEE PAGE 6)

THE CONRAD PREBYS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

FREE for Opening Night ticket holders & passholders

THU / NOV 7 5:30PM-7:00PM Pre-Screening Reception 9:00PM-11:00PM After Party

John Denver Trending Reception

(SEE PAGE 17) ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY FREE for John Denver Trending ticket holders & passholders

FRI / NOV 8 / 6:00PM-7:30PM

SDAFF Awards Gala & After Party

THE US GRANT Gala: \$200 for Pac Arts members; \$250 general After Party: FREE for passholders

SAT / NOV 9 5:00PM–9:30PM Awards Gala 9:30PM–midnight After Party Purchase tickets at pacarts.org/awards-gala

Get Out! Reception (SEE PAGE 31)

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY FREE for Get Out! ticket holders & passholders

SAT / NOV 9 / 8:30PM-10:00PM

Filmmaker & Industry Brunch

HAZARD CENTER, 3RD FLOOR Filmmaker & industry guests only SUN / NOV 10 / 10:30AM–12:30PM

Reel Voices Reception (SEE PAGE 33) HAZARD CENTER, 3RD FLOOR

FREE for Reel Voices ticket holders & passholders SUN / NOV 10 / 2:00PM-3:30PM

Centerpiece Reception (SEE PAGE 7)

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY FREE for Centerpiece ticket holders & passholders SUN / NOV 10 / 5:30PM–7:00PM

Last Night In Hawai'i Reception

(SEE PAGE 32) ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY FREE for Last Night In Hawai'i ticket holders & passholders

MON / NOV 11 / 4:30PM-6:00PM

Taiwan Film Showcase Reception

(SEE PAGE 35) UCSD PRICE CENTER FREE for Taiwan Film Showcase ticket holders & passholders

MON / NOV 11 / 5:00PM-6:00PM

SDAFF Youth Days

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY FREE screenings for invited classrooms from San Diego County public schools

TUE & WED / NOV 12 & 13 / 9:00AM-12:00PM

Member & Passholder Reception

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY FREE for Pac Arts members & passholders

TUES / NOV 12 / 5:30PM-7:00PM

SDAFF Happy Hours: Suds & Snacks

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY Suggested Donation. Open to the public.

WED / NOV 13 / 6:30PM-8:00PM THU / NOV 14 / 6:30PM-8:00PM

Closing Night Receptions (SEE PAGE 7)

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM FREE for Closing Night ticket holders & passholders

SAT / NOV 16 5:30PM-7:00PM Pre-Screening Reception 9:00PM-11:00PM After Party

For more special events, visit sdaff.org.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

THU / NOV 7 / 7:00PM / CONRAD

OPENING NIGHT

THE PARADISE WE ARE LOOKING FOR

NOBERT SHIEH, QUYÊN NGUYEN-LE, JOSEPH MANGAT, R.J. LOZADA / USA / 2019 / 90 MIN

Admission includes special Opening Night Pre-Screening Reception and After Party San Diego has been called many things—including a paradise. It's also a refugee city, a cluster of neighborhoods, a militarized zone, a border town. And Asian American. This collection of four short documentaries, commissioned on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the San Diego Asian Film Festival, maps many such San Diego's—across ethnicity, geography, and history. At the same time, they hold on to some notion of paradise, however illusory: a haven from war, the dreams of an immigrant, precious teenage reminiscences, solace in the afterlife, and spaces for creative expression.

At the helm are four emerging cinematic voices who grew up in San Diego, have studied here, or have once called it home. Norbert Shieh's stirring film essay recalls a 2008 University City plane crash that cast a somber shadow over a military city. Quyên Nguyen-Le introduces us to the City Heights mortuary workers who help refugee families grieve. Joseph Mangat's rousing observational piece thrusts us into the electric immigrant space of a karaoke-restaurant in National City. R.J. Lozada interviews former classmates at his 20th high school reunion in the South Bay, and finds that memories, including his own, are not always reliable.



SUN / NOV 10 / 6:55PM / ULTRA

Centerpiece

STRAIGHT UP JAMES SWEENEY / USA / 2019 / 95 MIN

Admission includes special Centerpiece Reception Todd is a gay man in his 20's, and his love life is absolutely dead. His OCD fear of bodily fluids may be the culprit. But maybe he's...straight? After a therapist plants the possibility he's not who the world thinks he is, Todd decides to date like a bro, failing miserably until he meets Rory, a neurotic, struggling actress and fellow OCD enthusiast.

Filled with irreverent and mile-a-minute banter, STRAIGHT UP's triple threat director, writer, and lead actor James Sweeney has made a quirky and sharply funny comedy, one that plays on the slippages that occur when neuroses intersect with the messiness of queer identification.



SAT / NOV 16 / 7:00PM / NAT

CLOSING NIGHT

TO LIVE TO SING

JOHNNY MA / CHINA, FRANCE / 2019 / 100 MIN

Admission includes special Closing Night Pre-Screening Reception and After Party. Zhao Li lives for Sichuan opera but knows not everyone does. Only the elderly still show up for her theater's performances. Meanwhile, the performers in her troupe have their eyes on more lucrative and modern stagecraft. So when Zhao Li receives the devastating news that her theater is about to be demolished by the government, she keeps it a secret, not simply to protect troupe morale, but to delay everyone's inevitable departure. Fable-like and romantic, Zhao Li's plight—to protect her livelihood and her lifeblood—is every bit as heartfelt and whimsical as the operas she brings to life on stage.



The Asian American Film Canon **REVISITING THE GREATEST**

This October, SDAFF Artistic Director Brian Hu teamed up with the Los Angeles Times to conduct a critics and curators poll of the greatest Asian American films of the past 20 years. With over 20 ballots received, the poll announced the first of its kind: a canon of Asian American cinema that we can watch, study, and debate. The list is designed to engage new audiences, as well as to remind us that well before Crazy Rich Asians and The Farewell, independent Asian American filmmakers, often with only credit cards and wild ambitions, had been telling the community's stories. Now is as good a time as any to rediscover them. For a link to the full list, see *sdaff.org*.

Not surprisingly, many of the films on the LA Times list once played the San Diego Asian Film Festival. To celebrate SDAFF's 20th anniversary, we're bringing the films out of the archives and back into the community.

ASIAN AMERICAN FILMS **OF THE PAST 20 YEARS**

PRE-FESTIVAL COMMUNITY SCREENINGS (FREE TO THE PUBLIC)

The Grace Lee Project GRACE LEE / 2005 WED / OCT 23 / 9:35AM SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE, ROOM MS 162

Better Luck Tomorrow JUSTIN LIN / 2002 **ТНU / ОСТ 24 / 6:00РМ** UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SOLES BUILDING, WARREN AUDITORIUM

Minding the Gap BING LIU / 2018

FRI / OCT 25 / 6:00PM

American Revolutionary: The Evolution Of Grace Lee Boggs

GRACE LEE / 2013 <u>ТUE / ОСТ 29 / 4:00РМ</u> UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SOLES BUILDING, WARREN AUDITORIUM

The Motel MICHAEL KANG / 2005 SAT / NOV 2 / 5:00PM

Festival screenings



COLMA: THE MUSICAL RICHARD WONG / USA / 2006 / 103 MIN

nov 10 1:10PM ultra

SIIN

Director's Cut. The sleepy cemetery city of Colma is no haven for gays, artists, and dreamers. What better locale for a musical! This miracle indie about three Bay Area teens on the cusp of adulthood introduced the world to the inventive eye of director Richard Wong and the infectious melodies of H.P. Mendoza.

IN THE FAMILY PATRICK WANG / USA / 2011 / 169 MIN

Undeterred by bigotry and armed

with nothing but decency and the help of good friends, Joey faces an uphill legal battle to gain custody of his late partner's son. One of the most composed, uniquely intelligent, and bighearted film debuts of the past decade.



REFUGEE SPENCER NAKASAKO / USA / 2003 / 63 MIN

13 8:15pm ultra

Three young Cambodian American men who grew up in San Francisco's Tenderloin district take a trip to Cambodia to reunite with long-absent fathers, sisters, and brothers. This landmark documentary collapses filmmaker/subject and personal/political to intimately capture the emotional swirl of resentment, curiosity, regret, and acceptance following war and family separation.

SAVING FACE ALICE WU / USA / 2004 / 91 MIN



SAT

NOV

8:25PM

ULTRA

Surgeon Wil, a closeted lesbian, must suddenly take in her pregnant, unwed mother as a roommate, while hiding a growing romance with the beautiful dancer Vivian. A romantic comedy that broke barriers in its time and sparkles as freshly today, with an all-star Asian American cast that shines.

ASIAN AMERICAN PANORAMA



AMERICAN WOMAN

MON NOV 11 8:45PM ULTRA

SEMI CHELLAS / CANADA / 2019 / 80 MIN

Inspired by the Patty Hearst kidnapping, a Japanese American radical must decide whether to protect the granddaughter of a publishing magnate or the militant group whose beliefs she has clashed with.

THE CANCER JOURNALS REVISITED

NOV 9 1:20PM ULTRA

SAT

LANA LIN / USA / 2019 / 98 MIN

In this deeply stirring and exploratory film, 27 women revisit the 1980 memoir, *The Cancer Journals*, by legendary Black lesbian poet Audre Lorde. Applying Lorde's words to their own illness, a new generation of women consider how a body transformed by cancer might also transform society politically.

CHINATOWN RISING

HARRY CHUCK, JOSH CHUCK / USA / 2019 / 112 MIN

NOV 8 6:55PM ULTRA

FR

20,000 feet of film gathering dust in Harry Chuck's garage is now an electrifying documentary, tracing massive changes in San Francisco Chinatown, from the tumultuous 1960s to today. Ethnic studies, bilingual ed, housing rights this is a love letter to three generations of Asian American activism and the father-son relationship that rekindled dreams. COME AS YOU ARE RICHARD WONG / USA / 2019 / 106 MIN



How will two men in wheelchairs and

one blind guy get to a Canadian "special needs" brothel to lose their virginity...without telling their moms? With an all-star cast, Richard Wong directs this virgin road trip and all its comic misadventures. P.S. The blind guy shouldn't be driving.

Preceded by: PROM TIME! Jessica Liu / USA / 2019 / 9 min

The best of Asian American cinema in all of its colors—from stories of activism and history-making, to tales of woe and humor.



DRIVEWAYS ANDREW AHN / USA / 2019 / 84 MIN

NOV 9 12:50PM ULTRA

ĥ

2:30PM

While cleaning out the house of her

late estranged sister, Kathy (played by the great Hong Chau) finds herself knee-deep in the life of a woman she didn't know. Meanwhile, her eightyear-old son dips his feet into small-town life while befriending an elderly veteran next door.



EMPTY BY DESIGN ANDREA A. WALTER / USA, PHILIPPINES / 2019 / 86 MIN NOV 10 3:50PM

Feeling foreign in a country that is supposed to be home, a lonely stuntman and brokenhearted grad return to the Philippines and discover an unlikely friendship filled with welcome distractions. With an all-star cast including Dante Basco, Osric Chau, and Yoshi Sudarso.

Preceded by: BAICHI AND THE THREE BLIND RATS Jeff Fong / USA / 2019 / 6 min



GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP

DEANN BORSHAY LIEM / USA / 2019 / 82 MIN

Thirty years after the Korean War, South Korea emerged as the leader in international adoption despite a flourishing economy. Pioneering director Deann Borshay follows four non-traditional adoptees as she investigates the US/Korea political relationship that created an adoption market and its impact on migration, nationhood, and belonging.

IN THE LAND OF LOST ANGELS

WED NOV 13 4:00PM ULTRA

BISHREL MASHBAT / USA / 2019 / 90 MIN When two Mongolian American friends in LA

need to get rich quick, their plan to ransom a wealthy son turns into a tense 7-day heist gone wrong. Lean, low-budget storytelling from a rarely seen Mongolian underworld.

ASIAN AMERICAN PANORAMA





4:10PN

ULTR/

JADDOLAND NADIA SHIHAB / USA / 2018 / 90 MIN

Filmmaker Nadia Shihab's smart, inquisitive, and tender look at her mother, Lahib Jaddo, a prolific Iraqi artist living alone in...Lubbock, Texas. Both a portrait of a sharp mother-daughter duo in creative parallel play, and an unusual diasporic film about the surprising shifts that lie below the surface.



JERONIMO JOSEPH JUHN / USA / 2019 / 93 MIN

An encounter with a taxi driver unearths the little-known history of Koreans trafficked to Latin America and the heroic odyssey of a Korean Cuban named Jeronimo Lim Kim—charismatic son of slaves who worked with revolutionaries Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, and eventually redefines what it means to be Korean.



A KANDAHAR AWAY AISHA JAMAL / CANADA / 2019 / 82 MIN



Kandahar, Saskatchewan is pretty

inconspicuous until Abdul Bari Jamal impulsively buys land for his city-loving kids to remind them of the home they left behind—Kandahar, Afghanistan. This cross-cultural comedy follows the filmmaker's family as they navigate town welcome parties, Jamal's plans for a war memorial, and ultimately, how to redefine home.

LINGUA FRANCA ISABEL SANDOVAL / USA, PHILIPPINES / 2019 / 95 MIN



3:10PM

Director and lead actress Isabel Sandoval ignites the screen with this tense drama about an undocumented Filipina trans woman in Brooklyn navigating work, romance, and a man she's paying for a green card marriage. Paranoia builds—from the gaze of ICE, family members, and potential partners—and everyday rhythms take on dangerous undertones.



LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN VALERIE SOE / USA, TAIWAN / 2019 / 63 MIN

15 8:30pm

Since the 1960s, the Taiwan government has hosted summer culture camps for young overseas Chinese. But "Love Boat," as it became known, turned into wild excuses for partying, romancing, and more. An exposé and a love letter, Valerie Soe's documentary is a frolicking testament to soft power by any means necessary.



LUCKY GRANDMA SASIE SEALY / USA / 2019 / 87 MIN

Grandma Wong can't stand the idea of leaving her Chinatown apartment and moving in to her son's posh brownstone. Her fortune teller promises an auspicious day. What comes next—gambling, gang wars, bodyguards, hostage situations—can only be described as a comedy-thriller swan song.

Help: do I decline questions on citizenship???

NO DATA PLAN MIKO REVEREZA / USA / 2019 / 70 MIN



MON

Digital camera in tow, filmmaker Miko Revereza travels by train across the United States capturing fleeting conversations between strangers and confronting memories from his past. The result is an intimately personal experimental documentary and a glass-smudged vision of America during the Trump presidency.

Followed by: DISTANCING Miko Revereza / USA / 2019 / 10 min

RITUALS OF RESISTANCE



2:30PM

TENZIN PHUNTSOG, JOY DIETRICH / INDIA, NEPAL, TIBET, USA / 2018 / 63 MIN

A stunning journey from India to San Diego portrays three generations of Tibetans in exile who adopt wildly different forms of resistance to Chinese occupation: from a woman who pursues the non-violent Middle Path to an exile's use of self-immolation, and a monk who takes up guerilla warfare.

ASIAN AMERICAN PANORAMA



SEADRIFT TIM TSAI / USA / 2019 / 69 MIN



Investigating a sensational courtroom case, KKK targeting, and the capacity for reconciliation years later, director Tim Tsai revisits a shocking 1979 killing in Seadrift, TX, a small fishing town boiling over from violent racial tensions between white and Vietnamese refugee fishermen, and the surprising impact still felt today.



STRAY DOLLS SONEJUHI SINHA / USA / 2019 / 97 MIN

nov 12 7:55PM

Riz left a secret life in India only to end up cleaning rooms at a sketchy motel in a shady landscape of shredded passports and drug deals. After befriending the wild runaway Dallas, the two become unlikely partners in crime on their only road to freedom in an amoral world.



OUGIE PAK / USA / 2019 / 47 MIN

NOV 9 6:45PM ULTRA

SAT

Yeon Jae visits Min Suk in New York

City, hoping to pick up their teenage romance where it left off in Korea. But she's just completed her freshman year in the big city, and he doesn't even know what the TOEFL is. A sharp and witty comedy.

Preceded by: MASTER OF DIVINITY Eugene Suen / USA, South Korea / 2019 / 20 min

YELLOW ROSE DIANE PARAGAS / USA / 2019 / 94 MIN SAT NOV 9 3:55PM

Country musical meets immigration road story as 17-year-old undocumented Rose chases music stardom while looking over her shoulder the whole way. As ICE agents take her mom and force her into hiding, a cast of sympathetic Texans help Rose reach her dreams. With Broadway icons Eva Noblezada and Lea Salonga.

ASIA POPI

Films to make you laugh, cry, and cheer, featuring gorgeous young lovers, butt-kicking sisters, and unwitting dancing stars.





THE 12TH SUSPECT KO MYOUNGSUNG / SOUTH KOREA / 2019 / 102 MIN nov 13 5:30PM ultra

Nearly completely set in the tense confines of an ordinary cafe, this political whodunit swirls with post-Korean War instability, as artists, philosophers, and poets are interrogated by a military detective over an unsolved murder.



TERUO NOGUCHI, KIYOSHI YAMAMOTO / JAPAN / 2019 / 114 MIN

Akio desires a stronger relationship with his stoic dad—so what's a millennial to do? Befriend him anonymously through the online Final Fantasy world! As their bond grows stronger, Akio learns more about his father—including a secret that changes their relationship IRL.



CAN'T STOP THE DANCING

SHINOBU YAGUCHI / JAPAN / 2019 / 103 MIN

Shizuka is unexpectedly hypnotized at a traveling show, and now she's stuck with the most embarrassing of maladies: whenever she hears music, she uncontrollably breaks out into song and dance. And so Shizuka hits the road, dodging loan sharks and any trace of music, in search of the hypnotist who can reverse the spell.



ULTRA

CHHICHHORE NITESH TIWARI / INDIA / 2019 / 143 MIN

Teenaged Raghav thinks he's a loser for not getting into his dream college. To lift his spirits, Raghav's dad reveals his own youthful tales of loserdom. An underdog epic told across two time periods, full of cheerful reunions, schoolyard hijinks, sports melodrama, music, and of course romance, CHHICHHORE is a full-throttled emotional ode to the losers we love. SUN NOV 10 6:20PM ULTRA THU NOV 14 6:40PM ULTRA

NOV

8:30PM

EDMM

ASIA POPI



FAGARA HEIWARD MAK / HONG KONG / 2019 / 118 MIN

After her father dies, Acacia discovers she has two half sisters when she sees their chats on his phone. From awkward funeral introductions to saving Dad's hot pot restaurant, the three sisters reckon with painful pasts and how to form family on their own terms. An allstar cast with Sammi Cheng.



EDMN



FLY ME TO THE SAITAMA HIDEKI TAKEUCHI / JAPAN / 2019 / 107 MIN

In this spirited alternate-universe fantasy, residents of the muchridiculed Tokyo suburb Saitama finally get some respect when one of their own (played by pop idol Gackt) infiltrates the Tokyo elite and catches the eye of the governor's son.

NOV
9
9:00PM
ULTRA
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8:35PM
ULTRA



GOODBYE MOTHER TRINH DINH LE MINH / VIETNAM / 2019 / 107 MIN



In this poignant drama, when Nau Van must leave the US and return to Vietnam for his father's death anniversary and the exhumation of his grave, he uses the opportunity to bring his boyfriend and possibly come out to his family.

HEAVY CRAVING HSIEH PEI-JU / TAIWAN / 2019 / 90 MIN

Ying-Juan just wants to be recognized for her cooking. Despite the popular dishes she cooks for kids, she's considered too heavyset to be the face of their school, and instead is pressured into a dispiriting weight-loss program. But two unlikely friendships set her on a comedic path of self-discovery. SAT NOV 9 7:20PM UCSD SAT NOV 16 12:30PM MOPA





HIT ME ANYONE ONE MORE TIME

KOKI MITANI / JAPAN / 2019 / 127 MIN

What if the nation's most hated prime minister of all time loses his memory after a protestor chucks a rock at his head? As a bona fide bad guy tries to return to his nice guy roots, this hilarious, feel-good comedy may just have you believing in politics again.



EDMM



HOPE FROZEN PAILIN WEDEL / THAILAND, USA / 2019 / 75 MIN

THU NOV 14 5:30PM ULTRA

A riveting look at the Naovaratpongs, a family who cryogenically preserved their daughter in the hopes of reviving her and curing her cancer. As father and son both dedicate their scientific careers to this future, they struggle with Buddhist question marks and a media firestorm. A fascinating look into love that bridges spirituality and science.



IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD SHOW HSIEH NIEN-TSU / TAIWAN / 2019 / 103 MIN

To appease the mob, a TV executive needs to lower the network's value as quickly as possible. His solution: strip its budget and hire the worst performers and writers. To his astonishment, his young hires come up with ingenious, low-budget solutions that turn the network into a surprise hit.

JOHN DENVER TRENDING

FRI NOV 8:00PM

ARDEN ROD CONDEZ / PHILIPPINES / 2019 / 96 MIN

A bullied boy from the lower class is accused of stealing his schoolmate's iPad. Set in a rural village in present day Philippines, the boy's mother defends him round after round from teachers to policemen as misinformation spreads through social media. At stake: the boy and the truth.

Admission includes special pre-screening reception. (SEE PAGE 5)

6:05PM

ASIA POP!



JUST 6.5 SAEED ROUSTAEE / IRAN / 2019 / 134 MIN

Through tireless alleyway chases and virulent backroom interrogations, cops try their grittiest to curtail a drug epidemic. Payman Maadi (A Separation) plays a detective whose investigation gets hot when dots start connecting, leading him to a notorious drug lord. But the clearer the target, the hazier the solutions.

19

6:50PM

ULTRA

5:40PM

ULTRA



NO MERCY LIM KYOUNG-TACK / SOUTH KOREA / 2019 / 94 MIN

After her parents' death, In-Ae swore to protect her younger sister. But one day, sis is abducted by human traffickers, none of whom scare In-Ae as she rampages into the underworld wielding a gun, a sledgehammer, and the whip-smash ferocity of her fists. This is Korean revenge action with deadly high heels.

	SAT
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SEND ME TO THE CLOUDS

TENG CONGCONG / CHINA / 2019 / 99 MIN

Society tells Sheng Nan her life's over because she doesn't have a husband. A doctor's report has even worse news. The chance to pay off medical bills by ghostwriting a rich man's memoirs sends her to an enchanting faraway mountainside where she explores the intimacy she's long repressed.

SUMMER OF **CHANGSHA** ZU FENG / CHINA / 2019 / 120 MIN

A cop has already put in his resignation letter when a severed arm in a river brings him back to the force for one last investigation. As it turns out, far more labyrinthine than the murder mystery are the passageways of guilt that the search unlocks in him.

SAT NOV 8:50PM ULTRA TUE NOV 7:15PM III TP



ULAN IRENE VILLAMOR / PHILIPPINES / 2019 / 92 MIN



Maya may write about romance, but every time she meets her Prince Charming, a rainstorm curses her chance at happily ever after. Things come to a head as *tikbalang* and a big storm threaten Maya's one true love. Nadine Lustre and Carlo Aquino star in this unusual mix of magic realism and Filipino melodrama.



6:00PM UCSD

TUE

NOV

7:00PN

ULTR/

WE ARE CHAMPIONS CHANG JUNG-CHI / TAIWAN / 2019 / 117 MIN

When beef between once-inseparable brothers interferes with basketball glory and dreams for a better life, they must struggle to work it all out while on opposite teams in the prestigious Taiwanese High School Basketball League tournament.

NOV 11 admission includes special pre-screening reception. (SEE PAGE 5)



WILD GOOSE LAKE DIAO YINAN / CHINA, FRANCE / 2019 / 113 MIN

A wounded gangland boss becomes the subject of an epic manhunt after petty grievances over criminal territory erupt in grand displays of violence. Slithery motorbike-riding thugs, cops in neon kicks, and bathing beauties make up the shady and lethal population of Diao Yinan's brutal Chinese neo-noir.

3:35PM

SCHEDULE

THU/NOV7

CONRAD

7:00PM OPENING NIGHT: THE PARADISE WE **ARE LOOKING FOR** 90 MIN / PAGE 6

5:30PM-7:00PM 9:00PM-11:00PM **VR: WATER MELTS** 17 MIN / PAGE 34

VR

FRI/ NOV 8

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY

4:00PM	SHORTS: SHE EXPERIMENTS 45 MIN / PAGE 33	FREE
5:45PM	CAN'T STOP THE DANCING	
	103 MIN / PAGE 15	
6:10PM	BALLOON	TIBET
	102 MIN / PAGE 24	IIDEI
6:40PM	SO LONG, MY SON	
	185 MIN / PAGE 25	
6:55PM	CHINATOWN RISING 112 MIN /	PAGE 10
8:00PM	JOHN DENVER TRENDING	
	96 MIN / PAGE 17	
8:15PM	TO THE ENDS OF THE EART	н
	120 MIN / PAGE 25	
9:45PM	MYSTERY KUNG FU THEATR	RE
	90 MIN	

FREE FREE SCREENINGS (SEE PAGE 2) AAFC ASIAN AMERICAN FILM CANON (SEE PAGE 8) VR VIRTUAL REALITY (SEE PAGE 34) ΤШ TAIWAN FILM SHOWCASE (SEE PAGE 35)

TIBET SPOTLIGHT ON TIBET (SEE PAGE 35)

SAT / NOV 9

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY

11:00AM	SHORTS FOR SHORTIES! FREE 48 MIN / PAGE 34
12:50PM	DRIVEWAYS 84 MIN / PAGE 11
1:00PM	SHORTS: AN ESCAPE ROOM
	OF ONE'S OWN 97 MIN / PAGE 30
1:20PM	THE CANCER JOURNALS
	REVISITED 98 MIN / PAGE 10
1:30PM	BRAVE FATHER ONLINE: OUR
	STORY OF FINAL FANTASY XIV 114 MIN / PAGE 15
3:10PM	JERONIMO 93 MIN / PAGE 12
	WILD GOOSE LAKE
	113 MIN / PAGE 19
3:55PM	YELLOW ROSE 94 MIN / PAGE 14
4:00PM-	-10:00PM
	VR: WATER MELTS
1.0EDM	17 MIN / PAGE 34 SHORTS: FIGHT ME BITCH!
4.05511	98 MIN / PAGE 30
5:45PM	COME AS YOU ARE
	106 MIN / PAGE 10
	FAREWELL SONG 116 MIN / PAGE 24
6:30PM	SHORTS: GET OUT! 98 MIN / PAGE 31
6:45PM	SUNRISE / SUNSET
	47 MIN / PAGE 14
8:25PM	IN THE FAMILY
	169 MIN / PAGE 9
8:40PM	NO MERCY 94 MIN / PAGE 18
8.20PM	SUMMER OF CHANGSHA
0.001 m	120 MIN / PAGE 18
9:00PM	FLY ME TO THE SAITAMA
	107 MIN / PAGE 16
UCSD P	RICE CENTER THEATER
7:20PM	HEAVY CRAVING

90 MIN / PAGE 16

SUN / NOV 10

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY

12:00PM	SHORTS: REEL VOICES FREE 115 MIN / PAGE 33
1:00PM	SHORTS: ANIMATION: JUMPING THE LINE 94 MIN / PAGE 29
1:10PM	COLMA: THE MUSICAL 103 MIN / PAGE 9
1:30PM	SHORTS: FULL CONTACT 100 MIN / PAGE 30
2:00PM-	-7:00PM
	VR: WATER MELTS 17 MIN / PAGE 34
2:30PM	LUCKY GRANDMA 87 MIN / PAGE 13
3:35PM	RITUALS OF RESISTANCE 63 MIN / PAGE 13
3:50PM	EMPTY BY DESIGN 86 MIN / PAGE 11
4:10PM	JADDOLAND 90 MIN / PAGE 12
4:30PM	CAN'T STOP THE DANCING 103 MIN / PAGE 15
5:40PM	SO LONG, MY SON 185 MIN / PAGE 25
6:20PM	CHHICHHORE 143 MIN / PAGE 15
6:35PM	TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 120 MIN / PAGE 25
6:55PM	CENTERPIECE:
	STRAIGHT UP
9:00PM	THE HORSE THIEFTIBET88 MIN / PAGE 24
UCSD P	RICE CENTER THEATER
2:00PM	THREE MAKES A WHOLETW96 MIN / PAGE 25TW
4:05PM	WILD SPARROWTW94 MIN / PAGE 28
6:05PM	IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD SHOW

103 MIN / PAGE 17



SCHEDULE

MON / NOV 11

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY

3:15PM FAREWELL SONG 116 MIN / PAGE 24

- 4:00PM SHORTS: TEMP LIFE 107 MIN / PAGE 34
- 4:30PM HIT ME ANYONE ONE MORE TIME 127 MIN / PAGE 17
- 5:40PM SHORTS: LAST NIGHT IN HAWAI'I 103 MIN / PAGE 32
- 5:55PM THE HOUSE OF US 92 MIN / PAGE 27
- 6:40PM SEADRIFT 69 MIN / PAGE 14
- 7:15PM FAGARA 118 MIN / PAGE 16
- 7:55PM VAI 90 MIN / PAGE 28
- 8:20PM NO DATA PLAN 70 MIN / PAGE 13
- 8:45PM AMERICAN WOMAN 80 MIN / PAGE 10

UCSD PRICE CENTER THEATER

4:35PM THE CHIEF OF YANCHENG DISTRICT 51 MIN / PAGE 26

TW	

6:00PM WE ARE CHAMPIONS 117 MIN / PAGE 19



 FREE
 FREE SCREENINGS (SEE PAGE 2)

 AAFC
 ASIAN AMERICAN FILM CANON (SEE PAGE 8)

 VR
 VIRTUAL REALITY (SEE PAGE 34)

 TW
 TAIWAN FILM SHOWCASE (SEE PAGE 35)

TIBET SPOTLIGHT ON TIBET (SEE PAGE 35)

TUE / NOV 12

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY

- 4:00PM SHORTS: GO FOR BROKE 96 MIN / PAGE 31
- 5:00PM TBA
- 5:40PM A FRENCH WOMAN 88 MIN / PAGE 26
- 6:15PM WHAT WE LEFT UNFINISHED 71 MIN / PAGE 28
- 7:00PM WE ARE CHAMPIONS 117 MIN / PAGE 19
- 7:15PM SUMMER OF CHANGSHA 120 MIN / PAGE 18
- 7:35PM A KANDAHAR AWAY 82 MIN / PAGE 12
- 7:55PM STRAY DOLLS 97 MIN / PAGE 14

WED / NOV 13

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY

4:00PM IN THE LAND OF LOST ANGELS 90 MIN / PAGE 11

FREE

- 5:10PM FROM TOMORROW ON, I WILL 60 MIN / PAGE 26
- 5:30PM THE 12TH SUSPECT 102 MIN / PAGE 15
- 5:40PM SEND ME TO THE CLOUDS 99 MIN / PAGE 18
- 6:50PM JUST 6.5 135 MIN / PAGE 18
- 7:10PM MANOHAR & I 118 MIN / PAGE 27
- 7:45PM A FIRST FAREWELL 88 MIN / PAGE 26
- 8:15PM REFUGEE 63 MIN / PAGE 9

THU / NOV 14

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY

- 4:00PM SHORTS: BELOVED 101 MIN / PAGE 29
- 5:30PM HOPE FROZEN 75 MIN / PAGE 17
- 5:45PM PRESENT. PERFECT 124 MIN / PAGE 27
- 6:15PM TBA
- 6:40PM CHHICHHORE 143 MIN / PAGE 15
- 7:50PM LINGUA FRANCA 95 MIN / PAGE 12
- 8:20PM SHORTS: INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION 101 MIN / PAGE 32
- 8:35PM FLY ME TO THE SAITAMA 107 MIN / PAGE 16

EDWARDS MIRA MESA STADIUM

- 5:40PM GOODBYE MOTHER 107 MIN / PAGE 16
- 6:10PM FAGARA 118 MIN / PAGE 16
- 8:30PM BRAVE FATHER ONLINE: OUR STORY OF FINAL FANTASY XIV 114 MIN / PAGE 15
- 8:40PM NO MERCY 94 MIN / PAGE 18

FRI / NOV 15

EDWARDS MIRA MESA STADIUM

4:00PM SHORTS: JORTS 95 MIN / PAGE 32

FREE

- FREE
- 5:40PM HIT ME ANYONE ONE MORE TIME 127 MIN / PAGE 17
- 6:30PM ULAN 92 MIN / PAGE 19
- 8:15PM CASTLE OF DREAMS 86 MIN / PAGE 24
- 8:30PM LOVE BOAT: TAIWAN 63 MIN / PAGE 13

SAT / NOV 16

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS (MOPA)

- 12:30PM HEAVY CRAVING 90 MIN / PAGE 16
- 2:30PM GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP 82 MIN / PAGE 11
- 4:50PM SAVING FACE 97 MIN / PAGE 9

AAFC

DIGITAL GYM CINEMA

- 1:00PM THE SCIENCE OF FICTIONS 106 MIN / PAGE 28
- 3:05PM LAST NIGHT I SAW YOU SMILING 78 MIN / PAGE 27

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

7:00PM CLOSING NIGHT: TO LIVE TO SING 100 MIN / PAGE 7

MASTERS

Fresh from Venice, Busan, and other prestigious international film festivals, these are premiere works by the world's best directors.



BALLOON PEMA TSEDEN / TIBET / 2019 / 102 MIN

6:10PM

Contraceptives become contraband as a sheepraising couple on the Tibetan grasslands tries to avoid fines from China's birth control policy. Meanwhile, their sons use their dwindling supply of condoms as delightful balloons. An unexpected pregnancy has the family wondering about reincarnation and survival in Pema Tseden's latest dreamy look at spiritualism in a changing world.



CASTLE OF DREAMS REZA MIRKARIMI / IRAN / 2019 / 86 MIN

nov 15 8:15PM

SUN

NOV

9:00PM

ULTRA

An ex-con named Jalal reluctantly

takes custody of his estranged young children after their mother falls deathly ill. Anchored by nuanced performances, Iranian writer/director Reza Mirkarimi crafts a painful domestic drama about a deeply flawed man who must confront the emotional trauma caused by his prolonged absence.



FAREWELL SONG

AKIHIKO SHIOTA / JAPAN / 2019 / 116 MIN

A love triangle can only simmer for so long before complications set in. And so a beloved pop duo and their manager hit the road for one last tour, dancing around feelings by day, singing their hearts out at night, and indulging fans with love songs that may be their last.



THE HORSE THIEF TIAN ZHUANGZHUANG / CHINA / 1986 / 88 MIN

Navigating his Buddhist faith and the pressures to feed his family, Norbu turns to stealing horses. For years only seen in a Mandarin dub, the new restoration of this all-time classic finally brings together Tian Zhuangzhuang's visionary portrait of the Sangke Grassland with the rare Tibetan-language soundtrack.

SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2019



SO LONG, MY SON WANG XIAOSHUAI / CHINA / 2019 / 185 MIN

The three decades following the Cultural Revolution are traced by the strange fates of two families—once close friends, now tied inextricably by the accidental death of one of their young sons. Told elliptically and in flashback, uncovering shattering secrets and epic sacrifices, this is director Wang Xiaoshuai's masterpiece.



THREE MAKES A WHOLE

NOV 10 2:00PM

SUN

ZERO CHOU / TAIWAN / 2019 / 96 MIN

Zero Chou pays tribute to director Liu Li-li with a biopic in the mode of the soapy melodramas that made her famous in the 1970s-80s. We meet Liu as a young woman finding her narrative voice in the stage, and later film, while juggling romance with a married director.



TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

KIYOSHI KUROSAWA / JAPAN, UZBEKISTAN, QATAR / 2019 / 120 MIN

While on assignment in Uzbekistan, a Japanese reporter confronts her own biases while partaking in a series of reality television culture clashes with local residents. Kiyoshi Kurosawa's delicate character drama sees fear as the natural prelude to a moving, melancholic exploration of the self. 8:15PM ULTRA SUN NOV 10 6:35PM ULTRA



DISCOVERIES

From Asia's most innovative and thought-provoking filmmakers come new stories and new ways of telling them.



THE CHIEF OF YANCHENG DISTRICT

ADIONG LU / TAIWAN / 2019 / 51 MIN

There once was a song about sensuous spirits, that had everyone in Taiwan aching to hear it. But the story grew complex because it combined politics and sex, And now we need a documentary just to believe it.



A FIRST FAREWELL WANG LINA / CHINA / 2018 / 88 MIN nov 13 7:45PM Ultra

In this tender ode to Uyghur life,

young farmboy Isa tries to hold it all together with the help of his spirited best friend—from cheerfully co-parenting a lamb to caring for his mother, while the pressures of Mandarin schooling threaten to unravel their way of life.

A FRENCH WOMAN

KIM HEE-JUNG / SOUTH KOREA, FRANCE / 2019 / 88 MIN



TUE

4:35PM

Once a promising actor, middle-aged Mira heads straight from a divorce and a lifetime in Paris to reunite with old theater school friends in a Seoul bar. As strange time reversals and guilty memories flood Mira's days and nights, her search for solid ground arrives at a remarkable destination.

FROM TOMORROW ON, I WILL

nov 13 5:10PM ultra

WED

IVAN MARKOVIĆ, LINFENG WU / GERMANY, CHINA, SERBIA / 2019 / 60 MIN

Migrant workers in Beijing share an underground apartment, sleeping in shifts. A delivery man works all day while his roommate sleeps, and the rapidly-changing city above comes to life. A sleepwalk meditation on the dual sides of urban development in contemporary China.

Preceded by: THE HONGKONGERS Ian Lui / Hong Kong / 2019 / 30 min

SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2019



THE HOUSE OF US YOON GA-EUN / SOUTH KOREA / 2019 / 92 MIN

Fed up with her parents' fighting, 12-year-old Ha-Na finds solace in friendship with two young sisters she meets during summer vacation. As they laugh and play, the trio concocts plans to save their respective homes—and form a sisterhood beyond the purview of fickle adults.



NOV

3:05PN

DGYM

LAST NIGHT I SAW YOU SMILING

KAVICH NEANG / CAMBODIA, FRANCE / 2019 / 78 MIN

The iconic "White Building" of Phnom Penh, home to 493 families including the director's own, is set to be demolished by a Japanese developer. Kavich Neang's documentary captures families packing their belongings and peeling back memories, and stands as a dedication to the building's last breaths of resilience.



MANOHAR & I AMITABHA CHATERJI / INDIA / 2018 / 118 MIN

nov 13 7:10PM ultra

5:55PM

ULTRA

A love note to storytelling and the everyday people of Calcutta, an unlikely friendship develops between a young woman and older gentleman who meet on their daily walk home, savoring each other's graceful conversation until an unexpected death changes everything. PRESENT. PERFECT. SHENGZHE ZHU / USA, HONG KONG / 2019 / 124 MIN

Shengzhe Zhu takes a deep dive into the phenomena of DIY live-streaming in China and emerges with a monumental collage of the diverse personalities who cam, as well as a collective portrait of the crowd glued to their every move.

THU

DISCOVERIES



THE SCIENCE OF FICTIONS

nov 16 1:00PN dgym

YOSEP ANGGI NOEN / INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, FRANCE / 2019 / 106 MIN

After witnessing a faked moon landing in 1960s Indonesia, Siman's tongue gets cut off, rendering him a possessed spacewalker and mute witness to history's fictions. Mesmerizingly performative and strange, Yosep Anggi Noen's latest sideways crack at Indonesian history examines the persistence of personal trauma amidst new lies the nation tells itself.



VAI

NICOLE WHIPPY, 'OFA-KI-LEVUKA GUTTENBEIL-LIKILIKI, MATASILA FRESHWATER, AMBERLEY JO AUMUA, MIRIA GEORGE, MARINA ALOFAGIA MCCARTNEY, DIANNA FUEMANA, BECS ARAHANGA / NEW ZEALAND / 2019 / 90 MIN

From the producers of *Waru*, the profound and poetic life story of Vai—from struggling young girl to ceremonial elder—each starring a different indigenous actor, set on 8 different Pacific Islands, connected by single takes, and filmed by 9 women filmmakers.



WHAT WE LEFT UNFINISHED



TUE

MARIAM GHANI / USA, AFGHANISTAN, QATAR / 2019 / 71 MIN

Long thought disappeared, five unfinished films reveal the scrappy directors and studios who persisted amidst the whims and whiplash of regime changes in Communist Afghanistan. Fascinating interviews and recovered excerpts animate the anxieties and dreams of state power through hair-raising stories of film shoots that overlapped with wartime shoot-outs.



WILD SPARROW SHIH LI / TAIWAN / 2019 / 94 MIN



Deep in the Taiwan mountains, quiet young Han's life with his great grandma is interrupted when his absentee mother relocates him to Taipei, where he watches her unstable life as an escort spiral out of his control.

SHORTS

ANIMATION: JUMPING THE LINE (94 MIN)

Working in stop motion, traditional 2D, digital 3D, cutout, paint, and more, these short films from around the world tackle topics of love, identity, gender, and death.

- SISTER Siqi Song / China, USA / 2018 / 8 min
- MY MOTHER TOLD ME Yasmin Rai / Hong Kong / 2019 / 2 min
- UMBILICAL Danski Tang / USA / 2019 / 7 min
- SHATTERED Suyoung Jang / USA / 2019 / 2 min
- KINGDOM Wei Keong Tan / Singapore / 2018 / 6 min
- THE WHEEL TURNS Sang Joon Kim / USA, South Korea / 2018 / 13 min
- LES LÈVRES GERCÉES Fabien Corre, Kelsi Phung / France / 2018 / 5 min
- GRANDPA Zozo Jhen, Tena Galovic, Marine Varguy, Yen-Chen Liu, Ellis Kayin Chan / France / 2018 / 5 min
- JESA Kyungwon Song / USA / 2019 / 6 min
- MOVEMENTS Dahee Jeong / South Korea / 2019 / 10 min
- A DOG'S STORY Jill D'Agnenica / USA / 2018 / 8 min
- THE DAWN OF APE Mirai Mizue / Japan / 2019 / 4 min
- ADORABLE Cheng-Hsu Chung / UK / 2019 / 6 min
- THE THREE TALISMANS Matsusaki Kimiko / Japan / 2018 / 11 min



SUN / NOV 10 / 1:00PM / ULTRA

Beloved (101 min)

An ode to Toni Morrison's monstrous love, wandering ghosts, and the unruly histories that stick to skin and bone.

- IN FULL BLOOM Maegan Houang / USA / 2019 / 11 min
- PAÏ PAI Pauline Khamphone, Matthieu Cabanes / France, Laos / 2019 / 16 min
- HUNGRY GHOST Benjamin Eckersley / Hong Kong, USA / 2019 / 11 min
- WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WATER AND THE MOON Jian Luo / China / 2019 / 16 min
- LUCKY GIRL Sidi Wang / USA / 2019 / 11 min
- BURNING VS Sanoj / India / 2018 / 18 min
- HANDS AND WINGS Sungbin Byun / South Korea / 2019 / 18 min



THU / NOV 14 / 4:00PM / ULTRA





AN ESCAPE ROOM OF ONE'S OWN (97 MIN)

From rooms to wombs, the curious architectures that trap, vex, and sometimes offer sweet relief. A bustling SoCal surrogacy business, a science fiction safehouse, the comedic fight-or-flight of couples therapy, and a love motel that is decidedly, not.

- THE LOVE MOTEL Henry Chen / Taiwan / 2019 / 12 min
- MY AMERICAN SURROGATE Leslie Tai / USA / 2019 / 24 min
- A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN Jeong Han / South Korea / 2018 / 18 min
- SCENES FROM A REAL MARRIAGE: I AM MARISSA Michelle Krusiec / USA / 2019 / 10 min
- SIGNAL Chloé Hung / USA / 2019 / 18 min
- PEPPER Jayil Pak / South Korea, USA / 2018 / 15 min



SAT / NOV 9 / 4:05PM / ULTRA

FIGHT MC, BITCH! (98 MIN)

Sometimes, feminism is shaped like a fist, a Tinder swipe, or the last dumpling. From the mean girl, to the mother with postpartum depression, to the woman just trying to get by, these shorts have a battle to win, so fight me, bitch!

- GONG JU Jerome Yoo / Canada / 2019 / 11 min
- EMPTY Kim Min Jae / South Korea / 2019 / 20 min
- TAIL END OF THE YEAR Chieh Yang / Taiwan / 2018 / 22 min
- CUL-DE-SAC Cara Lawson / USA / 2019 / 13 min
- LIGHTHOUSE Sining Xiang / USA / 2019 / 20 min
- SUZIE WRONG Stacie Gancayco-Adlao / USA / 2019 / 11 min



SUN / NOV 10 / 1:30PM / ULTRA

FULL CONTACT (100 MIN)

Both mundane and performative, the physical contact in these shorts—dancing, fighting, touching oneself, flying into cars—taps into memories and imagined experiences only possible when we leave our heads and let the body lead the way.

- GUMMY POWER Brian Cheng / USA / 2019 / 4 min
- BOZE Fuyuko Mochizuki / Japan / 2019 / 14 min
- LEOTARD Stephanie Cheng / USA / 2019 / 6 min
- FUNFAIR Kaveh Mazaheri / Iran, Canada / 2019 / 15 min
- WOODSIDE Vicente Roxas / USA / 2018 / 15 min
- THE MASK FROM HOME Jordan Hwang / USA / 2019 / 13 min
- FAYETTENAM Gerald Ding / USA, Canada / 2019 / 9 min
- FRAN THIS SUMMER Mary Evangelista / USA / 2018 / 9 min
- NEW LAND BROKEN ROAD Kavich Neang / Cambodia, Malaysia / 2018 / 15 min



GET OUT! (98 MIN)

From a romp with an anxiety deity and an encounter with a mysterious figure to an awkward night at the bar, these queer stories traverse the line between real and surreal.

- KISS OF THE RABBIT GOD Andrew Thomas Huang / USA / 2019 / 14 min
- MOTHER-IN-LAW Shin Seung Eun / South Korea / 2019 / 24 min
- MORTIS Xindi Lou / USA / 2019 / 3 min
- UNSPOKEN Patrick G. Lee / USA / 2019 / 17 min
- ABOUT A SHORT FILM Kevin Yee / USA / 2018 / 7 min
- JEREMIAH Kenya Gillespie / USA / 2019 / 10 min
- I THINK SHE LIKES YOU Bridey Elliott / USA / 2019 / 9 min
- FROM THE OTHER SIDE Bob Yang, Frederico Evaristo / Brazil / 2018 / 14 min

Special VR Presentation, FREE in the UltraStar Lobby: WATER MELTS (SEE PAGE 34)

Admission includes special post-screening reception. (SEE PAGE 5)



SAT / NOV 9 / 6:30PM / ULTRA

GO FOR BROKE (96 MIN)

Chasing windmills means inventing new rules in these vibrant stories—from an elaborate ruse to win a father's love, a casino bus turned Hawai'i-on-wheels, and a young translator-for-hire on a yellow brick road to dancing seniors.

- MANILA IS FULL OF MEN NAMED BOY Andrew Stephen Lee / USA, Philippines / 2018 / 21 min
- THE COIN Siqi Song / USA / 2019 / 7 min
- DUE Anna Mikami / USA / 2019 / 18 min
- FLO'S BUS Dean Ishida / USA / 2019 / 20 min
- LIVE WELL Bingyu Jiang / China / 2019 / 15 min
- TAIWANESE CHA CHA CHA YuHui (Judie) Yang / Taiwan, USA / 2019 / 16 min



TUE / NOV 12 / 4:00PM / ULTRA





THU / NOV 14 / 8:20PM / ULTRA

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION (101 MIN)

A cinematic conflagration of flowering desires, rumbling dissent, and neighborhood curiosities electrify this year's competition for best short films from Asia.

- GRAND BOUQUET Nao Yoshigai / Japan / 2019 / 14 min
- SHE RUNS Qiu Yang / China, France / 2019 / 20 min
- STUDENT BODIES Ho Rui An / Singapore / 2019 / 27 min
- QUAN MA HE Lee Yong Chao / Taiwan / 2018 / 26 min
- STAY AWAKE, BE READY Pham Thien An / Vietnam, South Korea, USA / 2019 / 14 min

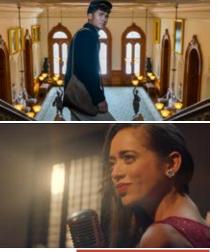


FRI / NOV 15 / 4:00PM / EDMM

JORTS (95 MIN)

Jeans meet shorts in these fresh takes on awkward lengths, '90s nostalgia, and thinking outside the denim box. From black comic book writers to Filipino house parties and a Vietnamese teen desperately seeking lost love.

- SIGH GONE Jeannie Nguyen / Vietnam / 2019 / 10 min
- TABLE STAKES Khai Thu Nguyen / USA / 2019 / 17 min
- LOTUS Beibei Xu / USA / 2019 / 13 min
- CHERRY Eugene Kim / USA / 2019 / 18 min
- KAAWAY (ENEMY) Wester Demandante / USA / 2019 / 13 min
- HIEU Richard Van / USA / 2019 / 24 min



MON / NOV 11 / 5:40PM / ULTRA

LAST NIGHT IN HAWAI' (103 MIN)

From an astronaut spitting at the apocalypse to a young thief safeguarding the Hawaiian flag, these shorts span the intimacies of imperialism, futurism, and tourism from some of the most exciting Hawaiian filmmakers today.

- HAE HAWAI'I Ty Sanga / USA / 2018 / 17 min
- LAST TAXI DANCE Brayden Yoder / USA / 2018 / 18 min
- THE PIT WHERE WE WERE BORN Alexander Bocchieri / USA / 2019 / 13 min
- DOWN ON THE SIDEWALK IN WAIKIKI Justyn Ah Chong / Hawai'i / 2019 / 20 min
- THE MOON AND THE NIGHT Erin Lau / USA / 2018 / 19 min
- KĀLEWA Mitchel Viernes / USA / 2019 / 16 min

Admission includes special pre-screening reception. (SEE PAGE 5)



REEL VOICES (115 MIN)

Reel Voices empowers high school youth, one film at a time—tackling topics like self love, intergenerational trauma, and cultural identity, in stories that are both personal and deeply relevant to the broader San Diego community.

- SALAAM Daud Abdinasir / USA / 2019 / 7 min
- HECHO EN MEXICO Samantha Del Rio / Mexico / 2019 / 8 min
- INTERMISSION Amiahlina Figueroa / USA / 2019 / 16 min
- CONVALESCENT Cassondra Flanery / USA / 2019 / 9 min
- MADE WITH LOVE Sophia Lee / USA / 2019 / 8 min
- · DAUGHTERS Roxy Morris / USA / 2019 / 8 min
- MARCHING ON Matthew Nazloo / USA / 2019 / 7 min
- CHILDHOOD Sumedh Neelakanti / USA / 2019 / 8 min
- BLOOM Melissa Ruiz / USA / 2019 / 7 min
- KID SISTER Ysabella Smiley / USA / 2019 / 11 min
- · QUINCE Arianna Washington / USA / 2019 / 6 min

Admission includes special post-screening reception. (SEE PAGE 5)



SUN / NOV 10 / 12:00PM / ULTRA

SHE EXPERIMENTS (45 MIN)

Take a break from Normal with a slate of unusual shorts that play, scratch, and explode what takes place in the frame. Ground beef insurrections, nail polish on celluloid, internet imaginations, and whipsmart women throw down creative subversions.

- · FIRST Daniel Chew, Micaela Durand / USA / 2019 / 12 min
- SWORDED LOVE Tina Takemoto / USA / 2019 / 5 min
- DÉTOURNING ASIA/AMERICA WITH VALERIE SOE Mila Zuo / USA / 2019 / 13 min
- PINK SLIME CAESAR SHIFT: PROPOSAL 2 Jen Liu / USA / 2018 / 6 min
- SNAKESKIN Grace Zhang / USA / 2019 / 8 min







SAT / NOV 9 / 11:00AM / ULTRA

SHORTS FOR SHORTIPS! (48 MIN)

A selection of family-friendly shorts to empower and excite the coming generation of bright, young dreamers and achievers.

- DONG KAE (MY LITTLE ONE) Steven Go / Canada / 2019 / 13 min
- INVINCIBLE BOY Julian Park / USA / 2018 / 20 min
- BRUSH: A FOX TALE Faustina Arriola, Willi Anton / USA / 2018 / 4 min
- GRANDPA Zozo Jhen, Tena Galovic, Marine Varguy, Yen-Chen Liu, Ellis Kayin Chan / France / 2018 / 5 min
- GOOD NIGHT Makiko Nanke / Japan / 2018 / 6 min



TEMP LIFE (107 MIN)

Whether full-time or temp, these stories defy the work/life divide and remind us that some of the strangest fictions and frictions take place on the clock. Explore the uncanniness of the workspace from middle aged hazing, DMZ meltdowns, and the surreal food delivery hustle.

- CLAM DOG Jeannie Nguyen / USA / 2019 / 19 min
- LUCKY'S Teddy Ninh / USA / 2019 / 2 min
- A SWEET AND SOUR CHRISTMAS Aram Siu Wai Collier / Canada / 2019 / 17 min
- CUBA SCALDS HIS HAND Abby Sun, Daniel Garber / USA / 2019 / $4\ \mathrm{min}$
- TO EACH YOUR SARAH Deokgeun Kim / South Korea / 2019 / 26 min
- AIR CONDITIONER IN PANMUNJEOM Lee Tae-hun / South Korea / 2018 / 24 min
- ALIEN Jegwang Yeon / South Korea / 2019 / 15 min



THU / NOV 7 / OPENING NIGHT / CONRAD SAT / NOV 9 / 4:00-10:00PM / ULTRA SUN / NOV 10 / 2:00-7:00PM / ULTRA

VIRTUAL REALITY: WATER MELTS (17 MIN)

By popular demand, virtual reality is back at SDAFF, this time from the shores of Asian America. In this touching portrait of romance and healing, beachgoers experience a temporary space between life and death that can only bring out the most awkward behavior.

- WATER MELTS Lilian Mehrel, Mary Evangelista / USA / 2019 / 17 min
- * The VR experience is available for Opening Night ticket holders during pre- and post-screening receptions.
- * UltraStar screenings take place in the lobby and are FREE and open to the public on a first-come first-served basis.

SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2019



TAIWAN FILM SHOWCASE

For the 8th straight year, SDAFF presents the Taiwan Film Showcase, the largest annual spotlight on Taiwan cinema in North America.

All screenings at UCSD Price Center. Free to UCSD students, faculty, and staff.

HEAVY CRAVING

大餓 (see page 16) SAT / NOV 9 / 7:20PM

THREE MAKES A WHOLE

三下,我愛你 (SEE PAGE 25)

SUN / NOV 10 / 2:00PM

WILD SPARROW 野雀之詩 (SEE PAGE 28) SUN / NOV 10 / 4:05PM IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD SHOW 瘋狂電視台瘋電影 (SEE PAGE 17)

SUN / NOV 10 / 6:05PM

THE CHIEF OF YANCHENG DISTRICT

塩埕區長 (SEE PAGE 26) MON / NOV 11 / 4:35PM

WE ARE CHAMPIONS

下半場 (SEE PAGE 19)

MON / NOV 11 / 6:00PM Preceded by free reception. Director Chang Jung-Chi in attendance

SPOTLIGHT ON TIBET

SDAFF presents a rare opportunity to experience three films from Tibet—from classics, new masters, and emerging voices from the Tibetan diaspora. Films include BALLOON, New Wave director Pema Tseden's latest; RITUALS OF RESISTANCE, a portrait of three different Tibetans in exile; and THE HORSE THIEF, newly restored from the original and long-buried Tibetan-language version.

All screenings at UltraStar Cinemas Mission Valley.

BALLOON (SEE PAGE 24) FRIDAY / NOV 8 / 6:10PM

RITUALS OF RESISTANCE (SEE PAGE 13) SUN / NOV 10 / 3:35PM Guests scheduled to appear

THE HORSE THIEF (SEE PAGE 24) SUN / NOV 10 / 9:00PM





PACIFIC ARTS MOVEMENT

ABOUT PACIFIC ARTS MOVEMENT

Pacific Arts Movement (Pac Arts) is one of the largest media arts organizations in North America that focuses on Asian and Asian American cinema. Our mission is to present Pan Asian media arts to San Diego residents and visitors in order to inspire, entertain, and support a more compassionate society.

OUR PROGRAMS

Pac Arts is committed to sharing powerful stories with audiences year-round through the San Diego Asian Film Festival, Spring Showcase, Spotlight Screenings, and Outdoor Screenings. From our award-winning high school documentary program Reel Voices to Youth Days at the festival, we are also dedicated to educating and nurturing a new generation of creative leaders and storytellers.



SPRING SHOWCASE, COMING SPRING 2020 An eight-day presentation of the best of Asian and Asian American cinema on the other side of the calendar year.



REEL VOICES A 10-week summer documentary program training local high school students to become sociallyconscious digital storytellers. Since 2005, Reel Voices empowers high school youth to learn the art of documentary filmmaking and to tell stories that are both personal and deeply relevant to the broader San Diego community.



YOUTH DAYS Two days of free youthoriented film screenings to educate, enlighten, and enhance local students' film and cultural literacy



OUTDOOR CINEMA Pac Arts presents year-round film programs such as Spotlight and Outdoor Screenings throughout San Diego County.

Learn how you can support our programs at **pacarts.org/donate**



BECOME A MEMBER AT PACIFIC ARTS MOVEMENT!

STARTING AT ONLY \$60, when you join as a member, you'll not only receive member benefits and insider access to all of our films and events, but you also help to strengthen our mission to inspire, entertain, and support a more compassionate society.





ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- Discounted tickets and passes to advanced screenings, special events, festival merchandise, and film festivals
- Presale access to our ticketed events before the general public
- Subscription to the Pac Arts membership e-newsletter
- Recognition on our Pac Arts online membership roster
- Invitations to our member-only events

Student / Senior / Military (must show valid ID), Legacy, Corporate, and Dual-Level memberships are available.

As a 501(c)(3), memberships are partially tax deductible.

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Congratulations to San Diego Asian Film Festival for celebrating 20 years

Thank you for your dedication to sharing Asian American and international films that inspire and entertain our community.

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So in 1971, a little heart built a different kind of airline—one that made sure everyone could fly.

Everyone has important places to go. So we invented low-fares to help them get there.

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Here, we think everyone deserves to feel special, no matter where you sit or how much you fly.

And with all the places we're going next, we'll always put you first, because our love of People is still our most powerful fuel.

Some say we do things differently.

We say, why would we do things any other way?

Without a Heart, it's just a machine.









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www.williammalefoundation.org



FEATURE FILMS

The 12th Suspect 15 American Woman 10 Balloon 24 Brave Father Online: Our Story of Final Fantasy XIV 15 Can't Stop the Dancing The Cancer Journals Revisited 10 Castle of Dreams 24 Chhichhore 15 The Chief of Yancheng District 26 Chinatown Rising 10 Colma: The Musical 9 Come As You Are 10 Driveways 11 Empty by Design 11 Fagara 16 Farewell Song 24 A First Farewell 26 Fly Me to the Saitama 16 A French Woman 26 From Tomorrow On, I Will 26 Geographies of Kinship 11 Goodbye Mother 16 Heavy Craving 16 Hit Me Anyone One More Time 17 Hope Frozen 17 The Horse Thief 24 The House of Us 27 In the Family 9 In the Land of Lost Anaels 11 It's a Mad. Mad. Mad. Mad Show 17

laddoland 12 leronimo 12 Just 6 5 18

John Denver Trending 17 A Kandahar Away 12 Last Night I Saw You Smiling 27 Lingua Franca 12 Love Boat: Taiwan 13 Lucky Grandma 13 Manohar & I 27 No Data Plan 13 No Mercy 18 The Paradise We Are Looking For 6 Present, Perfect, 27 Refugee 9 Rituals of Resistance 13 Saving Face 9 The Science of Fictions 28 Seadrift 14 Send Me to the Clouds So Long, My Son 25 Straight Up 7 Stray Dolls 14 Summer of Changsha 18 Sunrise / Sunset 14 Three Makes a Whole 25 To Live to Sing 7 To the Ends of the Earth 25 Ulan 19 Vai 28 We Are Champions 19 What We Left Unfinished 28

Wild Goose Lake 19 Wild Sparrow 28 Yellow Rose 14

SHORT FILMS

About a Short Film 31 Adorable 29 Air Conditioner in Panmunjeom 34 Alion 34 Baichi and the Three Rlind Rats 11 bloom 33 BOZE 30 Brush: A Fox Tale 34 Burning 29 Cherry 32 Childhood 33 Clam Dog 34 The Coin 31 Convalescent 33 Cuba Scalds His Hands 34 Cul-De-Sac 30 Daughters 33 The Dawn of Ape 29 Détourning Asia/America with Valerie Soe 33 Distancing 13 A Dog's Story 29 Dong Kae (My Little One) 34 Down on the Sidewalk in Waikiki 32 Due 31 Empty 30 Fayettenam 30 First 33 Flo's Bus 31 Fran This Summer 30 From the Other Side 31 Funfair 30 Gong Ju 30 Good Night 34 Grand Bouquet 32 Grandpa 29, 34

Gummy Power 30 Hae Hawai'i 32 Hands and Wings 29 Hecho en Mexico 33 Hieu 32 The Hongkongers 26 Hungry Ghost 29 In Full Bloom 29 Intermission 33 Invincible Boy 34 I Think She Likes You 31 Jeremiah 31 Jesa 29 Kaaway (Enemy) 32 Kālewa 32 Kid Sister 33 Kingdom 29 Kiss of the Rabbit God 31 Last Taxi Dance 32 Leotard 30 Les lèvres gercées 29 Lighthouse 30 Live Well 31 Lotus 32 The Love Motel 30 Lucky Girl 29 Lucky's 34 Made with Love 33 Manila is Full of Men Named Boy 31 Marching On 33 The Mask from Home 30 Master of Divinity 14 The Moon and the Niaht 32 Mortis 31 Mother-in-law 31 Movements 29 My American Surrogate 30 My Mother Told Me 29

New Land Broken Road 30 Paï Paï 29 Pepper 30 Pink Slime Caesar Shift: Proposal 2 33 The Pit Where We Were Born 32 Prom Time! 10 Quan Ma He 32 Quince 33 A Room of One's Own 30 Salaam 33 Scenes From a Real Marriage: Lam Marissa 30 Shattered 29 She Runs 32 Sigh Gone 32 Signal 30 Sister 29 Snakeskin 33 Stay Awake Be Ready 32 Student Bodies 32 Suzie Wrong 30 A Sweet and Sour Christmas 34 Sworded Love 33 Table Stakes 32 Tail End of the Year 30 Taiwanese Cha Cha Cha 31 The Three Talismans 29 To Each Your Sarah 34 I Imbilical 29 Unspoken 31 Water Melts 34 What Do You Know About the Water and the Moon 29 The Wheel Turns 29 Woodside 30







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