

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF) 2016 Presents  
Array of LGBTQ Stories, Actors, Actresses, and Filmmakers**

The 39th Asian American International Film Festival is proud to screen films that feature LGBTQ stories and celebrate LGBTQ actors, actresses, and filmmakers. In addition to our Opening Night Presentation and Closing Night Presentation, AAIFF is also presenting a LGBTQ shorts program that feature six short films by Asian and Asian American filmmakers looking at the intersectionality of the LGBTQ and Asian communities.

**OPENING NIGHT: SPA NIGHT**

In his feature debut, director Andrew Ahn shares the Korean-American immigration story with homage to Korean spas, which often serve as a meeting place and bridge between cross-generations of immigrant families. Following the lives of one struggling family, SPA NIGHT explores the complexities and realities when personal desire, disillusionment, and sense of tradition overlap with one another.

SPA NIGHT will screen on Thursday, July 21st at 7:00pm at Asia Society.

**CLOSING NIGHT: FRONT COVER**

FRONT COVER tells the story of Ryan Fu, a gay Chinese-American who has learnt to suppress his Chinese heritage to climb up the social ladder as a fashion stylist. Ryan gets assigned to Ning, an actor from Beijing and their egos and opinions clash, resulting in a difficult working relationship. Soon enough, however, a mutual attraction begins to develop. As they fall in love, a Chinese tabloid magazine exposes Ning as gay. Ryan must now decide whether to help Ning or stay true to himself. Directed by Ray Yeung (CUT SLEEVE BOYS), FRONT COVER is a "bittersweet dramatic comedy that looks at the Asian American experience with humor, irony, and insight."

FRONT COVER will screen on Saturday, July 30th at 8:00 pm at the Museum of Moving Image.

**LGBTQ Shorts Program**

These short films in the LGBTQ Shorts Program explore the myriad of ways in which the LGBTQ+ community and the Asian American community intersect and work together. While some aim to directly address this intersection, through meditations on family, Asian American culture, and identity clashes, others feature characters learning to be both LGBTQ+ *and* Asian American successfully. The program is on Sunday, July 24 at 1:00 pm at Village East Cinema.

**GAYSIANS**



In this illuminating patchwork documentary, five queer and trans Asian Americans explore their relationships with their family and culture. Living an authentic life can be one of the most difficult things to do and these subjects offer a vibrant snapshot of how each has accomplished that, sharing their processes in doing so.

*Director Vicky Du will be in attendance for the post screening panel.*

## **I HATE THE COLOR RED**



A moving comedy about Sophie, a lesbian video store owner, and her carefree, troublemaking brother. Still recovering from the loss of their parents, the siblings receive bad news about their inherited store. With the fate of their family's beloved store on the line, Sophie is forced to get creative.

*Director Jazmin Jamias will be in attendance for the post screening panel.*

## **BALLOT**



Christine, a young Chinese American woman is out with her friends but not with her family at home. She fights with her conservative mother about Proposition 8 in California, a ballot proposition created by same-sex marriage opponents in 2008. This conflict pushes both mother and daughter to confront their own fears, spotlighting the irony of being in denial.

## **HEART STATION**



In a waiting room, a man hears his name called out. This coming-of-age drama features a gay man's infatuation with a straight actor. Eventually, he enrolls in his crush's acting classes where his true feelings can pass as a convincing performance. When he receives a scary potential diagnosis, his life begins to take a turn.

**COMING FULL CIRCLE**



Nearly half a century after she was adopted, a transgender activist named Pauline Park, currently based in New York City, finally makes her first visit to her native Korea. Compelling and powerful, this documentary short follows Park as she reconnects with her birth country, attempts to find answers, and participates in the Korea Queer Festival.

*Director Larry Tung and Pauline Park will be in attendance for the post screening panel.*

## LIKE HOPE



A Chinese foreign exchange student in America falls in love with his straight friend and, during a few fleeting moments of pure, unedited honesty, he dares to hope for what cannot be.