



Presenting *Image Movers: UCLA Asian American Studies Center 50th Anniversary Film Festival* March 6-21, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES (Feb. 25, 2020) – Inspired by Russell Leong’s words, “In moving the image, we open the future.” Showcasing powerful imagery and poignant commentary around some of the most meaningful issues facing Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, UCLA Film & Television Archive, UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC), UCLA Center for Ethnocommunications, Melnitz Movies, and the Hugh M. Hefner Classic American Film Program, present *Image Movers: UCLA Asian American Studies Center 50th Anniversary Film Festival* from March 6 through 21 at the Billy Wilder and James Bridges Theaters.

Image Movers marks 50 years of Asian American Studies at UCLA and AASC’s legacy of uplifting Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Throughout its history, AASC has supported students, activists, scholars, and community members in sharing their own lived experiences and narratives in film, as well as in the academia. This paralleled the proliferation of Asian American Studies scholarship that makes UCLA the premier institution for Asian American Studies research, teaching and civic engagement.

This three-weekend film festival features a diverse range of classic and new narrative and documentary films and creative works, and highlights key themes and topics selected by the faculty and staff of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, in consultation with their collaborators at UCLA Film & Television Archive, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, and Visual Communications, the presenter of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. Each program will also include short films from the UCLA Center for Ethnocommunications’ Creating Community Media and VC’s Armed with a Camera programs. Ticketed opening and closing night celebrations will take place on March 6 and March 20, respectively.

[Image Movers: UCLA Asian American Studies Center 50th Anniversary Film Festival](#)

March 6, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. (Billy Wilder Theater) [Asian Americans](#) – featuring a sneak preview of the groundbreaking documentary series premiering May 2020 on PBS

In person: episode producer Grace Lee, series producer Renee Tajima-Peña, librarian, activist Florante Ibanez and professor Karen Umemoto. Ticketed opening night reception follows program. Screening: *Pilgrimage* (2006) and *Asian Americans* (2020)

March 7, 2020 – 2:00 p.m. (James Bridges Theater) [Punching at the Sun](#)

In person: Set Hernandez Rongkilyo, co-founder – Undocumented Filmmaker Collective.

Screening: *The Seattle Underground Railroad* (2006), *Lost and Found* (2007), *Missing Piece Project* (2018) and *Punching at the Sun* (2006)

March 7, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. (Billy Wilder Theater) [Better Luck Tomorrow](#)

In person: social justice defender Kirn Kim, professor erin Khuê Ninh.

Screening: *Fighting For Family* (2019) and *Better Luck Tomorrow* (2003)

March 7, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. (James Bridges Theater) [Awesome Asian Bad Guys](#)

In person: filmmaker/actor Patrick Epino, filmmaker/actor Stephen Dypiango, screenwriter/activist Milton Liu.

Screening: *The Collector* (2018), *Mama Pingpong Social Club* (2018), *Secret Lives of Asians at Night* (2019) and *Awesome Asian Bad Guys* (2014)

March 8, 2020 – 2:00 p.m. (James Bridges Theater) [Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#)

In person: performance artist, writer, comedian and elected representative in Koreatown L.A.

Kristina Wong and therapist, trauma informed yoga & meditation teacher traci ishigo

Screening: *Muscles and Mascara* (2017), *hiya* (2018) and *Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2011), *Radical Cram School*, season two webisodes (2020)

March 13, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. (Billy Wilder Theater) [Saving Face](#)

In person: producer Teddy Zee and professor Sean Metzger. Screening: *The Weight Off My Chest* (2017), *Now Apocalypse*, Episode 1: “This is the Beginning of the End” (Starz, 3/10/2019) and *Saving Face* (2004)

March 14, 2020 – 2:00 p.m. (James Bridges Theater) [Bad Rap](#)

In person: director Salima Koroma, rapper Rekestizzy. Screening: *Master of the Sky* (2015), *Step In: Asian American Urban Dance Communities* (2019), *Across the Yumiverse* (2017), *Queering Movements* (2019), *Cultural Collage* (2018), *Roots and Shoots* (2017), *Mother Tongue / Tiếng Mẹ Đẻ* (2019) and *Bad Rap* (2016)

March 14, 2020 – 3:00 p.m. (Billy Wilder Theater) [Film Quarterly Panel: Asian American Film and Media: Past, Present, Future](#)

In person: Panelists include Lan Duong (USC), Josslyn Luckett (NYU), Melissa Phruksachart (Michigan), Viola Lasmana (USC), Oliver Wang (Cal State Long Beach); moderators Brian Hu, B. Ruby Rich.

March 14, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. (Billy Wilder Theater) [Moananuiakea: One Ocean. One Canoe. One People.](#)

In person: filmmaker Nā‘ālehu Anthony and professor Randall Akee. Proudly presented by the Polynesian Voyaging Society and ‘Ōiwi TV, Moananuiākea illustrates the crucial role of indigenous voices and perspectives in both storytelling and in creating paradigm-changing solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.

March 15, 2020 – 2:00 p.m. (James Bridges Theater) [Final Recipe](#)

In person: filmmaker Gina Kim, actor Lori Tan Chinn and professor Valerie Matsumoto. Screening: *Eat Your Baon* (2019), *Phoenix Bakery: Sweets for the Sweet* (2020) and *Final Recipe* (2013)

March 20, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. (Billy Wilder Theater) [Always Be My Maybe](#)

In person: actor Vivian Bang and professor, activist Dan Mayeda. Ticketed Closing Night Reception to follow program.

Screening: *Lights Up: Asian American Theater at UCLA* and *Always Be My Maybe* (2019)

March 21, 2020 – 2:00 p.m. (James Bridges Theater) [Enter the Dragon](#) (1973) – 4K restoration!

In person: blogger Phil Yu (Angry Asian Man)

Considered one of the most popular martial arts films of all time, this U.S./Hong Kong co-production fully captured Bruce Lee's immense screen presence, sinewy athleticism and bona fides while elevating him into international stardom.

March 21, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. (Billy Wilder Theater) [Nitrate Screening: Daughter of Shanghai](#)

In person: producer, activist Anna Wong and professor Sean Metzger. Screening: "Anna May Wong Visits Shanghai, China" (5/1/1936) and *Daughter of Shanghai* (1937)

For full event information and updates on in-person guests, please visit aasc.ucla.edu/aasc50/film

The Billy Wilder Theater is located at the Hammer Museum, doors open 30 minutes prior to program start time, for venue and ticket rates details, please [visit this link](#).

For programs at the James Bridges Theater, [located at UCLA's Melnitz Hall](#), please purchase tickets at [film festival website](#).

Free admission for UCLA students (please RSVP at [film festival website](#)).

Press Interview Session

Prior to the opening program on March 6 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, we invite press to interview with UCLA Asian American Studies Center director and professor Karen Umemoto; filmmaker and UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications director and professor Renee Tajima-Peña; UCLA Theater, Film and Television scholar and professor Sean Metzger; filmmaker and UCLA Theater, Film and Television professor Gina Kim. Please RSVP at events@aasc.ucla.edu for location and more information.

About UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC)

Established in 1969, the Center (AASC) is a national research center advancing historical, transformative and interdisciplinary scholarship by bridging research with community voices. The Center grew out of the social movements of the 1960s, as students called for greater access to higher education that would help address vital issues in their communities. Today, UCLA is recognized as the premier research and teaching institution in the fields of Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies. The Center's mission is to gather, produce and disseminate knowledge of the

lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) through research, documentation, publications and civic engagement.

About UCLA Film & Television Archive

Now part of the UCLA Library, the Archive is internationally renowned for rescuing, preserving and showcasing moving image media and is dedicated to ensuring that the visual achievements of our time are available for information, education and enjoyment. The sixth-largest moving image repository in the world, and the second largest in the U.S., behind only the Library of Congress, the Archive's more than 450,000 holdings are stored in a state-of-the-art facility that meets and exceeds all preservation standards, from nitrate film to digital.

For more information, please contact Marisa Soto at (310) 206-8588 or msoto@cinema.ucla.edu.