

## **UCLA Asian American Studies Center Film Festival February 19-28**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOS ANGELES (Feb. 12, 2021)** – The UCLA Film & Television Archive and UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) celebrate the legacy of Asian American studies with the [UCLA Asian American Studies Center Film Festival](#) presented virtually on February 19-21 and 26-28, 2021.

The online program includes six features, 13 short films, one television episode and one webisode offering powerful imagery and poignant commentary about meaningful issues facing Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Virtual audiences will hear from filmmakers and actors on their creative journeys, as well as from scholars, artists and community leaders on themes that apply to today's world.

“For 51 years, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has continuously worked to give voice to Asian American scholars, students and communities so that society at large can have a deeper understanding of our experiences and perspectives,” said Karen Umemoto, Ph.D., Director of Asian American Studies Center. “Partnering with the UCLA Film & Television Archive to present this festival is an opportunity for all of us to be immersed in the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through moving images.”

The virtual festival is a continuation of the 2020 in-person [UCLA Asian American Studies Center 50th Anniversary Film Festival](#), cut short after opening weekend due to stay-at-home measures implemented in Los Angeles County due to Covid-19.

### **[UCLA Asian American Studies Center Film Festival](#)**

**February 19, 2021, 4 p.m. PT – Complexities of Race**

**Please note: this screening is limited to UCLA students, faculty, staff and alumni. Pre-order must be made with a UCLA email address. Space is limited.**

Short films: *Liquor Store Babies* (2018), *Thank You, Come Again* (2020), *The Dope Years: The Story of Latasha Harlins* (2021)

*Down a Dark Stairwell* (2021) *Special sneak preview screening; space is limited and restricted to viewers within the United States.* This film will premiere on PBS' *Independent Lens* on April 12, 2021. In Cantonese, Mandarin and English with English subtitles.

Pre-recorded conversation to follow with filmmaker Ursula Liang and filmmaker Allison A. Waite. Moderated by filmmaker, UCLA Asian American Studies Department professor and UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications director Renee Tajima-Peña.

**February 20, 2021, 3 p.m. PT – Anna May Wong: Asian American Icon**

**“Anna May Wong: The First Asian American Movie Star” (4/8/2020)**

The episode of *Unladylike2020* (a series that premiered as part of PBS’ *American Masters* series).

***The Toll of the Sea*** (1922), silent, musical accompaniment provided by Cliff Retallick.  
Preserved by the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

Conversation to follow with Anna Wong, niece of Anna May Wong and actor, writer, director Michelle Krusiec. Moderated by UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television associate dean and professor Sean Metzger. The conversation will include the following clips:

**“Anna May Wong Visits Shanghai, China” (5/1/1936)**

Stock footage shot for, but never used in, Hearst Metrotone News of Anna May Wong arriving on a Dollar Line boat, surrounded by a group of cameramen and newspapermen.

***Hollywood: Season 1, Part 2*** (5/1/2020)

Clips from Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan’s *Hollywood* courtesy of Netflix.

**February 21, 2021, 2 p.m. PT – Environmental Justice and Spirit of Aloha, Part 1**

Short films: ***Back to the Source*** (2020), ***Standing Above the Clouds*** (2019), ***This is the Way We Rise*** (2020)

Conversation to follow with filmmaker Jalena Keane-Lee, director of photography Chapin Hall and filmmaker Sandra Carbonell-Kiamtia. Moderated by Alika Bourgette, University of Washington Ph.D. student.

**February 21, 2021, 5 p.m. PT – Environmental Justice and Spirit of Aloha, Part 2**

***Moananuiākea: One Ocean, One People, One Canoe*** (2018)

Available to view between February 19 and 22 on the [Archive’s Vimeo page](#).

Conversation with filmmaker Nā’ālehu Anthony and moderator Noah Patterson Hanohano Dolim, UC Irvine Ph.D. student.

For details and to RSVP for the Zoom webinar, [click here](#).

**February 26, 2021, 4 p.m. PT – Finding Home/Lands**

Short films: ***The Price of Cheap Rent*** (2020), ***Gone*** (2019), ***Reopening*** (2020), ***Cambodia Town: Not For Sale*** (2019), ***Kama’āina (Child of The Land)*** (2019)

***Chinatown Rising*** (2021)

Special sneak preview screening; space is limited. This screening is restricted to viewers within the United States.

Pre-recorded conversation to follow with filmmakers Harry and Josh Chuck. Moderated by UCLA professor in Urban Planning and Asian American Studies and UCLA Asian American Studies Center director Karen Umemoto.

## **February 27, 2021, 3 p.m. PT – Visions of Fire: LGBTQ+ Voices**

Program will be introduced by UCLA Film & Television Archive Director May Hong HaDuong.

Short films: *Shu Mai Online* (2020), *Razor Tongue: Episode 1* (2019), *Unspoken* (2019)

*Fruit Fly* (2009), 10th Anniversary Sing-Along Edition!

Post-screening conversation to follow with filmmaker H.P. Mendoza and actress, filmmaker, producer Rain Valdez. Moderated by UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television associate dean and professor Sean Metzger.

## **February 28, 2021, 5 p.m. PT – Food & Family**

Short films: *Spamfight* (2020), *Phoenix Bakery: Sweets for the Sweet* (2020)

*Final Recipe* (2013)

Pre-recorded conversation to follow with director/producer and UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television professor Gina Kim, screenwriter and UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television professor George Huang and actor Chin Han.

**For details and updates on in-person guests, please [visit this link](#).**

## **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**

A division of 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 Archive has over 450,000 film and television holdings conserved in a state-of-the-art facility at the Packard Humanities Institute Stoa in Santa Clarita, CA, that is designed to hold materials ranging from nitrate film to digital video at all preservation standards. Many of the Archive's projects are screened at prestigious film events around the globe.

For more information, please contact Marisa Soto at (310) 489-6002 or [msoto@cinema.ucla.edu](mailto:msoto@cinema.ucla.edu).