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ANNOUNCING THE 5TH ANNUAL COLORADO DRAGON FILM FESTIVAL

A partnership between Denver Film and Dragon 5280

DENVER – Jan. 24, 2020 – Denver Film and Dragon 5280 have announced the line-up for the 5th Annual Colorado Dragon Film Festival, opening Feb. 20 and running through Feb. 23 with 10 screenings at the Sie FilmCenter.

Founded in 2016, this year's Colorado Dragon Film Festival features a new partnership with Denver Film. This four-day Festival is programmed with the theme, "Wellness in the Community," celebrating the creative ways that wellness expresses itself in community relationships, food, identity, healthcare, LGBTQ health, and the arts.

The Feb. 20 Opening Night presentation kicks off with a reception sponsored by Dae Gee Korean BBQ. The reception will be followed by a screening of Hye-Reong Park's documentary, *The Wandering Chef*, a film about a chef who travels around the Korean peninsula, in search of the most unique ingredients, honouring Mother Nature with whom he has a very strong and personal relationship. The Festival will wrap up on Sunday, Feb. 23 with the closing night presentation of Johnny Ma's, *To Live to Sing*, a film about a Sichuan Opera troupe that is faced with dissolution and the demolition of their theater.

"Colorado Dragon Film Festival welcomes our new partnership with Denver Film. Together, our festival will showcase the contributions and talents from Asian and Asian American filmmakers. We are honored to be working with Denver Film and their passionate staff to bring the only all Asian and Asian American film festival to Colorado," states Board Vice Chair and CDFE Board Liaison, Elaine Yang.

The festival will also feature in-person filmmakers celebrating their work with Denver audiences. The **Asian American Documentaries and Filmmaker Talkback** will take place on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. featuring filmmakers in person. Filmmakers will also be on hand at the **Colorado Showcase and Filmmaker Talkback** on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. Attendees are

invited to join filmmakers and programmers for Q&A discussions immediately following their screenings.

Other highlights include our Opening Night Red Carpet Reception with sponsor Dae Gee Korean BBQ, a Foraged Food Presentation from Katrina Blair, Founder of Turtle Lake Refuge, Mushroom Foraging 101 with Modern Forager, Chinese Opera Mask Making, Healthcare Panel with Asian American Physicians, a festival-long Wellness Mini-Market, and Special Events that include fun cultural experiences.

Individual tickets are currently on sale and full festival passes are available at denverfilm.org.

[Click to see the full schedule and purchase tickets and passes](#)

"We're excited to expand upon our longtime collaboration with Dragon 5280 and serve as an official partner in the production of the 5th Annual Colorado Dragon Film Festival," said Denver Film Marketing Director Kevin Smith. "This four-day event shines a spotlight on the diverse programming across our 2020 slate. We're grateful for the opportunity to work with Dragon 5280 on this Festival and look forward to nurturing our work together in the years to come."

Members of the press interested in covering the Colorado Dragon Film Festival for their outlet may contact, Becca Propper at becca@denverfilm.org.

FILMS IN PROGRAM:

THE WANDERING CHEF

Director: Hye-Ryoung Park / South Korea

Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrity chef Jiho Lim, better known as the "Wandering Chef" travels from one end of the Korean peninsula to the other, in search of natural ingredients with medicinal properties. He journeys through different landscapes, meeting diverse people, and feeding a multitude of communities. All of his sources come from mother nature itself, who was his nurturer due to his unusual upbringing. He grew up sleeping on her soil using leaves as his blanket and eating herbs for survival. But the pain of having had no one to call 'Mother' was a trauma he carried for years. Until one day, he meets someone very special on the road that leads to the most important cooking of his lifetime.

Special Event - Opening Night Red Carpet Reception with Dae Gee Korean BBQ

LUCKY GRANDMA

Director: Sasie Sealy / USA

Friday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.

A Chinese-American widow lives in New York City's Chinatown and decides to head to the casino after a fortune teller predicts a run of good luck. After losing her savings, she takes a bag of cash that lands her in hot water with a local gang. She recruits a bodyguard from a rival gang for protection and struggles to forge an independent life for herself while dodging crooks.

Special Event - Join us for Mahjong and other game play while enjoying our Boba and Beer Night with Tea Street Denver and Cerebral Brewing

NAMDEV BHAU - IN SEARCH OF SILENCE

Director: Dar Gai / India

Saturday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m.

Namdev Bhau, a 65 year old chauffeur, who is tired of the noises in the obstreperous Mumbai City life and has completely stopped speaking, decides to leave everything in search for 'Silent Valley' which boasts of a naturally occurring phenomena having almost a zero decibel sound level. On this journey he chances upon an exasperating 12-year old boy, who happens to be on his own solo expedition to the mystical "Red Castle".

THE PORTRAIT (ANG LARAWAN)

Director: Loy Arcenas / Philippines

Saturday, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

A musical set in Manila, pre-WW II, two spinster sisters, Candida and Paula, are gifted with a bewildering portrait by their father, Don Lorenzo, a renowned but recluse painter. The sisters reject the attention the portrait receives until sly vaudeville piano player Tony tells he knows an American who is willing to buy it for a high price. Tired of being poor, Candida schemes to sell the portrait with naive Paula as bait. The musical is based on Nick Joaquin's play *A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino*.

ASIAN AMERICAN DOCUMENTARIES AND FILMMAKER TALKBACK

Saturday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m.

Join us in celebrating documentaries featuring Asian American filmmakers and cast members. This showcase features talent and projects from the US. After the screening of the films, we'll host a talkback to hear from the filmmakers themselves. Films include John Beder's *Pallative* and Valerie Soe's *Love Boat: Taiwan*.

Special Event: Meet & Greet with Filmmakers and talent in the Sie FilmCenter Lobby after the film

KOSHIEEN: JAPAN'S FIELD OF DREAMS

Director: Ema Ryan Yamazaki / Japan, USA

Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

Baseball is life for the die-hard competitors in the 100th annual Koshien, Japan's wildly popular national high school baseball championship, whose alumni include U.S. baseball star Shohei Ohtani and former Yankee Hideki Matsui. But for Coach Mizutani and his players, cleaning the grounds and greeting their guests are equally important as honing their baseball skills. In director Ema Ryan Yamazaki's dramatic and intimate journey to the heart of the Japanese national character, will those acts add up to victory or prove a relic of the past?

COLORADO SHOWCASE AND FILMMAKER TALKBACK

Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.

Join us for narrative and documentary shorts exploring wellness in outdoor sports, arts, motherhood, and LGBT communities. Meet our filmmakers after the screenings and learn how they're connecting Colorado to diverse cultures. Films and presentations include CU Professor Dr. Cecilia Wu's *For Tashi*, CU Professor Roma Sur's *MA*, CU Professors Roma Sur & Jessica McGaugh's *The Rock Within*, Marin Lapore's *I Put the Bi in Bitter* Season 2, and Forest Woodward's *(people) of water*.

Special Event: Meet & Greet with Filmmakers and talent in the Sie FilmCenter Lobby after the film

OVERSEAS

Director: Sung-a Yoon / Belgium, France

Sunday, Feb. 23 at 4 p.m.

In the Philippines, women get deployed abroad to work as domestic workers or nannies. In order to do so, they frequently leave their own children behind, before throwing themselves into the unknown. In one of the many training centers dedicated to domestic work that can be found in the Philippines, a group of trainees are getting ready to face both homesickness and the possible abuses lying ahead. During role playing exercises, they alternatively play both the roles of the employee and that of the employers. Bordering on fiction, *Overseas* brings to light the question of modern servitude in our globalized world, while emphasizing these women's determination, their sisterhood, and the strategies they find to face the ordeals that awaits them in the near future.

TO LIVE TO SING

Director: Johnny Ma / China, France

Sunday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.

Zhao Li is the manager of a small Sichuan Opera troupe, living and performing together in a rundown theatre located in the outskirts of Chengdu, China. When she receives the notice of demolition for the theatre, Zhao Li hides the news from everyone else, fearing that this could spell the end of her opera troupe: besides the physical demolition of their space, it's the life of her "family" that is at stake. As she struggles to search for a new theatre for them to both sing and live in, the opera and its fantastic characters slowly begin to seep into her real world...

Special Event - Chinese Opera Mask Making

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Sponsors

Dae Gee, Colorado Office of Film, Television & Media, International School of Denver, Korean Academy, Census

About Denver Film

Founded in 1978, Denver Film is a membership-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit cultural institution that produces film events throughout the year, including the award-winning Denver Film Festival and the popular, summertime series Film on the Rocks. With a vision to cultivate community and transform lives through film, Denver Film provides opportunities for diverse audiences to discover film through creative, thought-provoking experiences.

The permanent home of Denver Film, the Sie FilmCenter, is Denver's only year-round cinematheque, presenting a weekly-changing calendar of first-run exclusives and arthouse revivals both domestic and foreign, narrative and documentary - over 600 per year, all shown in their original language and format. Denver Film's one-of-a-kind programs annually reach more than 200,000 film lovers and film lovers-in-training.

About Dragon 5280

Dragon 5280 is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is achieved through our three programs: the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the Colorado Dragon Film Festival, and the AAPI Emerging Leaders Program. For more information please visit our website at www.cdbf.org.