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Denver Film Media Contacts:

Becca Propper: becca@denverfilm.org

Marty Schechter: marty@schechterpr.com

ANNOUNCING THE COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FILM FESTIVAL LINE-UP

A partnership between Denver Film and Colorado Dragon Boat

DENVER – Feb. 4, 2021 – Denver Film and Colorado Dragon Boat have announced the line-up for the 6th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival, opening March 4 and running through March 7 on Denver Film’s Virtual Cinema. The Festival will be available at www.denverfilm.org and by downloading the Denver Film app for Roku TV or Apple TV.

Founded in 2016, this year’s Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival continues its second-year partnership with Denver Film. The four-day all Asian and Asian American Film Festival is programmed with the theme, “representASIAN,” which focuses on films, organizations, and individuals that boldly highlight our culture and identity.

The March 4 Opening Night will kick off with a special presentation of the film, *Definition Please*, a film about a former Scribbs Spelling Bee champion who must reconcile with her estranged brother when he returns home to help care for their sick mother. The Festival will wrap up on March 7 with the Closing Night presentation of, *Moonlit Winter*, a film about Yoon-Hee who lives with her teenage daughter Sae-Bom. On a winter day, Yoon-Hee receives a letter from Otaru, Japan. Sae-Bom accidentally reads the letter and learns about her mother’s first love, which she never spoke about before.

“We chose the theme of ‘representASIAN’ for this year’s film festival because now more than ever it is important to boldly highlight the amazing accomplishments coming out of our

community. The amount of talent coming from the Asian and AAPI community is vast and too often hidden from the mainstream media. We are working to change that.” states Sara Moore, Colorado Dragon Boat Executive Director.

The festival will feature virtual Q&A’s, panels, and conversations with filmmakers and the Denver community. The Q&A’s will be shown post-film for the following: *Mechamorphosis*, *The Loyal Betrayal*, *Voices*, *The 3 Day Nun*, *Duo Pandemia*, *Ib Tsug 13 Hnub*, *Ntuj Tsim Txom*, *#AsianAmCovidStories*, *I Put the Bi in Bitter* Season’s 1, 2, and 3, and *Checkbox: Other*. A new highlight for this year's festival is the "storytelling" panel where we will hear from community members on their journey of coming to America as a refugee or immigrant. We will also hear from our first-generation Asian Americans on their experiences of being Asian American today.

Other highlights include: The Emerging Artist Showcase which will boldly highlight the amazing films of our student filmmakers. We are honored to be showcasing Marin Lepore's final season of *I Put the Bi in Bitter*, Maddy Santamaria's *Checkbox: Other*, and Steven Thai's *Safe*.

Full festival passes are \$55 for Denver Film Members/\$65 Non-Member and Individual film tickets are \$12 for Denver Film Members/\$15 Non-Member. 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 are very excited to present the Colorado Dragon Boat program. The selection of films really speaks to this year's theme of representation; with several films addressing identity, history, and one's place in the world. A variety of countries, cultures and stories comprise the program, offering a tightly curated sampling of contemporary Asian cinema,” states Matthew Campbell, Denver Film’s Artistic Director.

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

FILMS IN PROGRAM:

DEFINITION PLEASE

Director: Sujata Day

Opening Night - March 4, 2021

When we meet Monica Chowdry in 2005, the eight-year-old is on top of the world as champion of Scribbs National Spelling Bee. Fast-forward to present day: grown-up Monica (writer-director Sujata Day) is still living at home in Greensburg, Pennsylvania with her ailing mom Jaya (Anna Khaja), making a living tutoring a new crop of future overachievers while hesitating to make any big moves in her own life. Monica faces an unwelcome disruption in her mundane routine when her older brother Sonny (Ritesh Rajan) reappears from out of the blue. A sweet-natured, fitness-obsessed goofball, Sonny blithely refuses to address his bipolar disorder, and Monica is wary of embracing his presence lest they repeat past traumas. Known for her role on HBO's INSECURE, Day has crafted an assured directorial debut that pays loving homage to Bollywood fantasy while offering a refreshingly nuanced look at a complicated South Asian-American family. An effervescent, feel-good film packing a genuine emotional punch, DEFINITION PLEASE is a lovely meditation on mental health, cultural expectations, and the universal challenges of growing up.

LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM

Director: Pawo Choyning Dorji

March 4-7, 2021

Struggling with his profession as a teacher, Ugyen is sent to Lunana in northern Bhutan for his final year of training. The high altitude and the lack of amenities make Ugyen want to leave as soon as he arrives. With a warm welcome the local children try to win him over but they don't have much time as the harsh winter is about to arrive in the glacial parts of the Himalaya...

MU AND THE VANISHING WORLD

Directors: Jessica Leung, Paco Beltrán

March 4-7, 2021

"Mu and the Vanishing World is an 86 minute documentary feature that immerses us in the journey of a young single mother and her tribe over the course of 10 years. Ever since fleeing Myanmar as a child, Mu lives confined as a refugee and tourist attraction in a Long Neck Village in Northern Thailand. Soon after she becomes a single teenage mother, the U.N. initiates a resettlement plan for the refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border creating an opportunity for many to start new lives in the USA. Determined to pursue freedom for herself and her baby, Mu ruptures ties with her traditional mother, her culture and tribe to fulfill the requirements of the rigorous vetting process. Once she finally arrives in America, her romanticized ideas are challenged by the reality that unfolds. As Mu strives to give her son a better future, she struggles to find out where her true identity lies."

Includes a post-film community panel

VEINS OF THE WORLD

Director: Byambasuren Davaa

Screening March 4-7, 2021

Amra's father Erdene is the leader of the last nomads opposing global mining companies digging for gold in the Mongolian steppe. After his father dies in a tragic car accident, Amra sets out to continue the fight in his father's spirit – but with the tools of an 11-year-old boy.

FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

Director: Larissa Lam

March 4-7, 2021

When Charles Chiu, a Chinese-American man from California, travels to Mississippi to visit the grave of his father who abandoned him as a baby, he and his family stumble upon surprising revelations that change their lives. Along the way, they meet a diverse group of local residents and historians, who shed light on the racially complex history of the early Chinese in the segregated South. Their emotional journey leads them to discover how deep their roots run in America.

MY PRINCE EDWARD

Director: Yee-Lam (Norris) Wong

March 4-7, 2021

"Serving countless newlyweds in Hong Kong's go-to one-stop-shop of cheap wedding supplies doesn't exempt Fong from social pressure to marry. Since nodding to Edward's proposal, she has been pushed beyond limits by unaffordable housing, archaic customs, and intrusive in-laws. What befuddles her further is the reappearance of Shuwei, a mainlander she's supposed to be divorced from out of a sham marriage that solved her coming-of-age hardship. Zeroing in on nuts and bolts of modern marriage, My Prince Edward pokes around fixated correlations of freedom with relationship status and geographic residence. Like a breath of fresh air out of the breathless space it navigates, the delightful gem contributes a rare humane take on the worldly metropolis's divisions with humor and wisdom. As Fong redefines her best life and writer-director Norris Wong reclaims her home city's narrative from outsiders, the profound thrills sparked by their courage will make you wholeheartedly cheer for a woman's independence and Hong Kong cinema's rejuvenation"

DEATH OF NINTENDO

Director: Raya Martin

March 4-7, 2021

Set in Manila in the 1990s, DEATH OF NINTENDO takes us into the colorful pop- culture world of four friends, back in the days when video games were still a novelty. Mimaw and her friends Paolo, Kachi and Gilligan go on a journey of self- discovery together as they play games and wrestle with new dilemmas – puppy love, circumcision and other horror stories.

THE CELINE ARCHIVE

Director: Celine Parrenas Shimizu

March 4-7, 2021

"Adulteress, traitor, heroine, or prey? In 1932, Celine Navarro was buried alive by her community in Northern California. This film digs up herstory. The filmmaker, a grieving mother, with a long-term commitment to exploring race, gender and immigration, digs up Celine Navarro's story, exposing silences that haunt Filipinx American communities today, along with Celine Navarro's family, community members and scholars who know different details about this largely untold event in American history."

QUEZON'S GAME

Director: Matthew E. Rosen

March 4-7, 2021

In 1938, Philippine President Manuel L. Quezon agrees to welcome Jewish refugees from Germany in the Philippines.

DAYS

Director: Ming-liang Tsai

March 4-7, 2021

Under the pain of illness and treatment, Kang (Lee Kang-sheng) finds himself adrift. He meets Non (Anong Hounghuangsy) in a foreign land. They find consolation in each other before parting ways and carrying on with their days. The latest film from Tsai Ming-liang (Goodbye Dragon Inn, Stray Dogs, The Wayward Cloud), Days marks yet another masterwork in one of contemporary cinema's most extraordinary careers.

ANGRY RICE WIVES

Director: Katsuhide Motoki

March 4-7, 2021

Based on historical events, this comedy drama revolves around a group of ‘desperate housewives’ in 1918 who take on the authorities when the nation’s rice stocks run low. Motoki is known for the Samurai Hustle comedy franchise, while the cast is headed by Mao Inoue who starred in the Boys Over Flowers TV series and won the best actress prize at the Japan Academy Awards for Izuru Narushima’s Rebirth (2011).

MOONLIT WINTER

Director: Dae Hyung Lim

Closing Night – March 7, 2021

Yoon-Hee lives with her teenage daughter Sae-Bom. On a winter day, Yoon-Hee receives a letter from Otaru, Japan. Sae-Bom accidentally reads the letter and learns about her mother's first love, which she never spoke about before.

EMERGING ARTIST SHOWCASE (STUDENT)

March 4-7, 2021

Films and presentations include Marin Lapore’s, *I Put the Bi in Bitter* Season’s 1, 2, and 3, Steven Thai’s *Safe*, and Madison Santa Maria’s *Checkbox: Other*.

Includes post-film Q&A’s

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

March 4-7, 2021

Films and presentations include Tom Huang’s *The Loyal Betrayal*, Cecilia Wu’s *Voices*, David Kaufman’s *Mastery Part I & Part II*, Lava Buckley’s *The 3 Day Nun*, Bowen Tan’s *Mechamorphosis*, Karlton Hester and Cecilia Wu’s *Duo Pandemia*, Chou Xiong’s *Ib Tsug 13 Hnub*, NploojSiab Vaj’s *Ntuj Tsim Txom*, and Valerie Soe’s *#AsianAmCovidStories*.

Includes post-film Q&A’s

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Sponsors

APIA Vote (Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote), Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado, Capital One Café, College of Arts & Media (CAM) - University of Colorado Denver, Elevate Yoga, International School of Denver, Korean Academy of Colorado,

NaFFAA (National Federation of Filipino American Associations) Region 5, TECO Denver (駐丹佛台北經濟文化辦事處 Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Denver)

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 Colorado Dragon Boat

Colorado Dragon Boat is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization advocates for the Asian American Pacific Islander communities through our three programs: the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival, and the AAPI Emerging Leaders Program. For more information visit our website at www.cdbf.org.