

Presented by:
Chinese American Citizens Alliance of
Greater New York

SEPT 30–OCT 1, 2017

21 Pell Street, Chinatown

Pre-Sale @ CACAGNY.org

\$10 Single Screening
- 20% Students & Seniors
\$35 1-Day Pass/Saturday
\$25 1-Day Pass/Sunday
\$45 VIP Full-Festival Pass
\$30 Saturday Reception (8:30pm)

All Sales Final / Non-Refundable
If Purchase at Door, CASH Only

22 films • 8 features • 14 shorts
interactive Q&A after each screening

1st
mid
autumn
film
festival

films by or about
Chinese Americans

Final program subject to change

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

10:00 AM

FESTIVAL OPENS (free)



Welcome by CACAGNY President

Short film: *Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York*

Sneak Peak of select films, features and shorts

CACAGNY Short Film produced by: **Isabella Ding**

Isabella has produced promotional videos for New York Public Library's Annual Community Gala and contributed to creating York Preparatory School's online student research archives. She is currently working on an anthropological documentary on beauty while a first-year student at UCLA.

11:00 AM

Making Social Impact with Film (\$10)

Presentation with Screening of 2 Short Films



Award-winning producers Michael Tow and Teja Arboleda have made social impact films and videos seen by millions. Through several of their satirical and parody films, including *Hawaii Five-Below* and *Defenders Irony Fist*, they will discuss how media which had stereotyped Asian and Chinese Americans can now be used to rally, galvanize and change the perception of Asians in America.

Michael Tow, actor and producer, has extensive credits including film appearances in *Unfinished Business* and *RIPD*; TV credits in *Daredevil*, *Masters of None*, *Royal Pains* and *MacGyver*; and theater credits in *Chinglish*, *Warrior Class* and *Wild Swans*. He created and starred in the award-winning Documentary, *East of Hollywood*.

Teja Arboleda, President of Entertaining Diversity, Inc., also produces and edits documentaries for PBS and Discovery. He has won an Emmy® (1993) and three Telly Awards (2009, 2013 and 2017). His PBS documentaries include "Crossing the Line: Multiracial Comedians" and "Model Minority: Do the Math."

Experimental short films on loop in between session changes by: **Nina Kuo & Lorin Rosen**

Saturday: *Dot Ladies*, *Falling Snow* Sunday: *Robot Restoration*

Nina Kuo

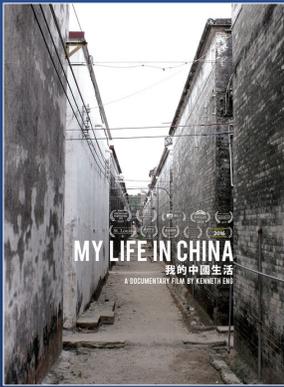
Nina is a visual artist, painter, multimedia artist, and activist who examines the role of women, feminism, and identity in Asian-American art.

Lorin Rosen

An animator and architect, Lorin studied with Emilio Ambasz Taniguchi at Princeton University and UCLA, and has collaborated with artists around the globe.

12:00 PM

Final program subject to change



My Life in China (\$10)

Followed by Q&A

Documentary (1 hour 22 min.) An unfolding vérité and labor of love made by the son of a Chinese immigrant to: immerse the viewer into a world where they begin to understand the 1st generation Chinese-American experience; start a conversation about Chinese identity all across the globe since they're famous for their migrations; inspire people to think about their own family stories; and recognize those who came before us and sacrificed so much so that we can live the life we live.

Director/Executive Producer/Editor: Kenneth Eng

Ken Eng was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007 to launch *My Life in China*. In 2006, Ken's work, *Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball*, a film about the famous Koshien Tournament in Japan was broadcast nationally as part of POV on PBS. In 2001, Ken directed *Me to the River*, a feature length documentary about the Maha Kumbh Mela festival in Allahabad, India.

2:00 PM



American Girl - Ivy & Julie 1976:

A Happy Balance (\$10)

Followed by Q&A with director and Amazon Studios

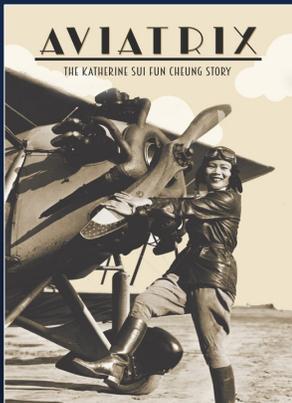
An Amazon Original (43 min.) Set in 1976 San Francisco, Ivy Ling is a second-generation Chinese American who struggles to find balance between her two cultural identities. Though her parents value family and Chinese traditions, Ivy wishes to be like her all-American best friend, Julie Albright. When Ivy's important gymnastics meet and her family's Chinese New Year dinner land on the same night, she has to make a tough decision between the two.

Director: Sasie Sealy

Writer: May Chan

Sasie is an award-winning writer/director whose films have screened at the Smithsonian Institute and festivals around the world. She has twice been awarded the Short Filmmaking Prize at the Tribeca Film Festival, won numerous grants and support from the Sundance Institute, Tribeca Film Institute, New York State Council on the Arts, Sloan Foundation, and others. A fellowship and new short with HBO led to a chance to direct episodic television and her first DGA nomination for her work, *Gortimer Gibbon's Life on Normal Street*. Sasie is based in NYC, where she directs commercials for Maybelline, Tory Burch, Movado and others, and is in development on a pilot with Sarah Jessica Parker's company, Pretty Matches.

3:00 PM



Aviatrix, the Katherine Sui Fun Cheung Story (\$10)

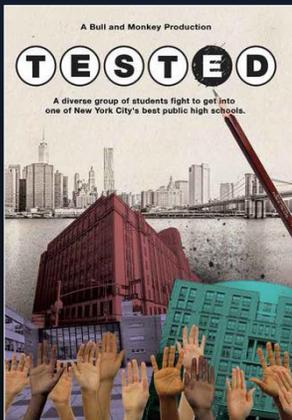
Followed by Q&A with director Ed Moy

Documentary (40 min.) About the pioneering Asian Aviatrix, Katherine Sui Fun Cheung, a Chinese immigrant who defied racial and gender bias to become a daredevil stunt pilot during the Golden Age of Aviation in the 1930s. The documentary won the Audience Award for Short at the Marina del Rey Festival and received the Most Inspirational Short Film Award at the Culver City Film Festival. It was nominated for Best Documentary Short Film at the Long Beach Indie Film Festival. In March 2017, the film received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition in honor of its historical significance in educating the world about the first Chinese woman pilot to earn a pilot's license in America.

Director: Ed Moy

Ed Moy is an award-winning journalist and recipient of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's National Print Media Award in 2000. He directed the award-winning animated short, *Up in the Clouds*, which premiered at the Catalina Film Festival and has played in festivals around the world.

4:00 PM



Tested (\$10)

Followed by Q&A with Curtis Chin

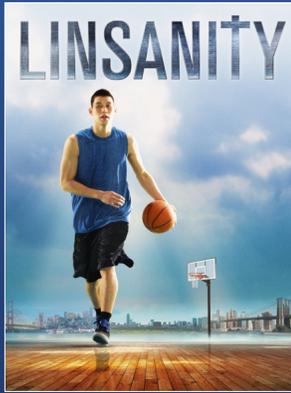
Documentary (1 hour 30 min.) Three NYC high schools educated fourteen Nobel laureates – more than all but a few countries can claim. African Americans and Hispanics, almost 70% of the city's high schoolers, represent less than 10% of the three schools. Meanwhile, Asian Americans represent as much as 60%. Can an 80-year-old NYC public school examination be biased towards Asians? This documentary follows a dozen racially- and economically-diverse 8th graders as they vie for a seat at one of these schools. Their only way in: to ace a single standardized test.

Writer/Producer/Director: Curtis Chin

Curtis has written for ABC, Disney Channel, and Nickelodeon, and won awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, and San Diego Asian American Film Foundation. As a community activist, he co-founded the Asian American Writers Workshop and Asian Pacific Americans for Progress. His first film, *Vincent Who?*, has screened at nearly 400 colleges, NGOs, and corporations in 4 countries.

SATURDAY RECEPTION 8:30 PM (\$30) Ping's Restaurant 22 Mott St., NYC 10013

6:00 PM



Linsanity (\$10 / \$5 off with 1-Day or VIP Pass)
Followed by Q&A

Documentary (1 hour 29 min.) In 2012, an entire nation of basketball fans unexpectedly went 'Linsane.' Stuck in the mire of a disappointing season, the New York Knicks did what no other NBA team had thought about doing. They gave backup point Jeremy Lin an opportunity to prove himself. He took full advantage, scoring more points in his first five NBA starts than any other player in the modern era, and created a legitimate public frenzy in the process. *Linsanity* is a moving, inspirational portrait, chronicling Lin's path from international stardom, the adversities he faced along the way, his struggles to overcome stereotypes, and how he drew strength from faith, family and culture.

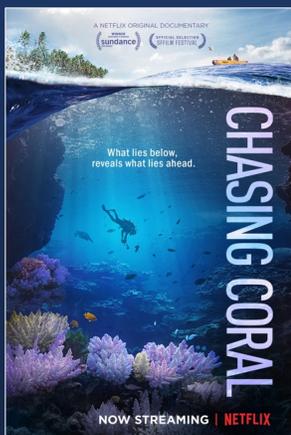
Director: Evan Leong

Most known for *Linsanity* since 2013, Evan also directed *1040: Christianity in the New Asia* in 2010, and the documentary short, *BLT Genesis* in 2002, which tracks the behind-the-scenes making of and trajectory of Justin Lin's film *Better Luck Tomorrow*. He is currently in pre-production on his first feature narrative, *Snakehead*, starring Lucy Liu.

Final program subject to change

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

10:00 AM



Chasing Coral (\$10)
Followed by discussion forum on Climate Change

A Netflix Original (1 hour 33 min.) Breathtaking photography, nail-biting suspense, and startling emotions capture the collective will and wisdom of an ad man, a self-proclaimed coral nerd, top-notch camera designers, and renowned marine biologists as they invent the first time-lapse camera to record bleaching events as they happen. The effort is anything but simple, as the team doggedly battles technical malfunctions and the force of nature as they document the indisputable and tragic transformation below the waves. *Chasing Coral* is a dramatic revelation that won't have audiences sitting idle for long.

Director: Jeff Orlowski

Founder of Exposure Labs and served as director/producer/cinematographer on *Chasing Ice*, which screened at Congress, the White House and U.N., and received an Academy-Award nomination for Best Original Song and a 2014 News & Documentary Emmy® for Outstanding Nature Programming. Jeff also served as Producer on the award-winning film, *Frame By Frame*, and was the inaugural Sundance Institute Discovery Impact Fellow for environmental filmmaking. Jeff was born of Chinese and American parents—Taiwanese mother and father fully-fluent in and taught Mandarin in various high schools in New York City.

3:00 PM



Abacus: Small Enough to Jail
(\$10 / \$5 off with 1-Day or VIP Pass)

Documentary (1 hour 28 min.) The incredible saga of the Chinese immigrant Sung family, owners of Abacus Federal Savings of Chinatown, NY. Accused of mortgage fraud, Abacus becomes the only U.S. bank to face criminal charges in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, despite its loan portfolio performing far better than most other banks'. The indictment and subsequent trial forces the Sung family to defend themselves – and their bank's legacy in the Chinatown community – over the course of a 5-year legal battle.

Director: Steve James

Director and Producer of *Hoop Dreams*, winner of every major critic's prize as well as a Peabody and Robert F. Kennedy Award, and *The Interrupters*, which won an Emmy®, Independent Spirit Award and DuPont Columbia Journalism Award, among others. James' most recent film, *Life Itself*, was named best documentary of the year by over a dozen critics associations, Rotten Tomatoes, Critics' Choice Awards, National Board of Review, and Producers Guild of America; also nominated for Emmy awards for Best Documentary and Outstanding Editing: Documentary and Long Form.

5:00 PM

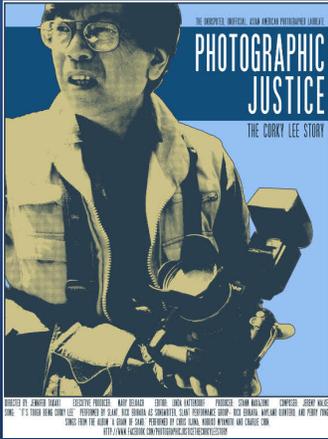


Reunification (\$10)
Followed by discussion with Alvin Tsang and Dr. Joseph Lee, Pace University

Documentary (1 hour 26 min.) Award-winning film that gives an insider view on the contemporary Asian American immigrant experience, divorce and family psychology, personal filmmaking, and reflections of the director's family's migration from Hong Kong to Los Angeles in the early 1980s – fraught with betrayal from his parents' divorce, economic strife and communications meltdown between parents and children. A poetic exploration of 17 unresolved years moves moodily across different channels and modes, bending into labor histories and Hong Kong's colonial trajectories. Tsang turns the camera on his own family, cautiously prodding for answers; fully acknowledging that the only closure he can get will be from deciding how to move on.

Director/Writer: Alvin Tsang

Alvin currently serves as a video documentarian for the pioneering artist Meredith Monk and the Guggenheim Museum NYC, and has created promos for several of Michael Kors' fashion collection. Tsang's other films include shorts *Fish* (2010) and *Preservation* (2011), and he has collaborated on or co-produced other award-winning films.



Photographic Justice: The Corky Lee Story

(5 min.) Documentary on photographer Corky Lee, who has been chronicling the Asian American community with his camera for almost a half-century.

Producer/Director: Jennifer Takaki

Jennifer is a producer who has worked in the journalism industry for over 10 years, including for STAR-TV Hong Kong.

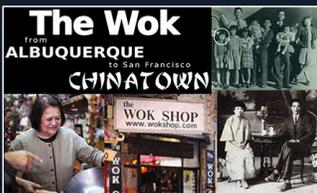


Clean Woman

(10 min.) Story about a Black house cleaner and a Chinese hip-hop producer who fall in love—through her child.

Writer/Director: Sherese Robinson Lee

A Content Professor at School of Visual Arts, Sherese teaches creators how to write, direct, produce, and critique media. Her work has been featured at over 15 film festivals internationally. She was also a writer on ABC's Daytime series, "All My Children" and "Port Charles."



The Wok from Albuquerque to San Francisco Chinatown

(9 min.) Tane Chan, owner of the Wok Shop in San Francisco Chinatown, shares how an act of kindness done by her parents in Albuquerque was paid forward many years later.

Director: Paul Jew

After years hearing about his aunt's legendary tale, Paul captures it for future generations.

Final program subject to change

6:50 PM Collection of 10 Short Films (\$10)

Followed by Q&A with panelists:

- Jennifer Takaki, Producer/Director: *Photographic Justice: The Corky Lee Story*
- Christine Choy, NYU Film Professor and Writer: *Legal Smuggling with Christine Choy*
- Sherese Robinson Lee, SVA Film Professor and Writer/Director: *Clean Woman*
- Johnson Cheng, Writer/Director: *Iron Hands*
- Patrick Chen, Writer/Director: *The Last Tip* and *Confucius Plaza*
- Shirley N. Lew, Producer/Director: *Meet Chad Tanaka Pak*
- Julie Jew, family for: *The Wok from Albuquerque to San Francisco Chinatown*



Iron Hands

(11 min.) As a 12-year-old girl prepares for her final test in the traditionally all-boys Chinese youth Olympic weightlifting team, she makes an unlikely connection with the gym's reclusive groundskeeper.

Writer/Director: Johnson Cheng

Johnson began his career as an intern at PIXAR. He also worked as a Story Editor on *The Book of Mojo*, and an Asst. Editor on DreamWorks' *Kung Fu Panda 3*, among other accomplishments. *Iron Hands* is a U.S.-China co-production which acts as a prelude to his feature film in development.



Confucius Plaza

(5 min.) Within this building of 762 apartments, a story lies in each one.



The Last Tip

(5 min.) During the course of his meal, a patron reminisces into his past memories at his favorite restaurant one last time.

Both by **Writer/Director: Patrick Chen**

Prior films were appointed top finalists by Asian American Film Lab's 72 Hours Shootout competition, and showcased at AAIFF, PAAFF, SAG-AFTRA Showcase, and NYC Media.

Meet Chad Tanaka Pak

(5 min.) Fourth generation Chad Tanaka Pak shares his past struggles as a gay Asian American and of his faith in God.

Producer/Director: Shirley N. Lew

Contributor to online news blog, "Asian American News" and on-camera host for Manalapan NJ TV. Shirley was also part of an all-female team during the 2016 Democratic National Convention.



Legal Smuggling with Christine Choy

(4 min.) As the price of cigarettes become astronomical in NYC, Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Christine Choy, goes the extra mile to secure her favorite brand. Bouncing from one airport to another, her duty free cigarettes get lost in the shuffle, forcing an attempt at smuggling.

Screenwriter: Christine Choy

An award-winning director, producer and writer, Christine Choy is an Academy member with her Nomination for the documentary, *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*. She is currently teaching the craft of documentary storytelling at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.



Evan Cheng

(8 min.) Character designer for "Sesame Street" explains how a drawing practice and an alter ego helped him evolve his artwork and his career. **Produced by: Lynda.com**

This is China

(11 min.) Follows a homeless woman who speaks about the loneliness and difficulties she experiences, all the while delivering compassion by purchasing and cooking food for others who are down and out.

Director: Timmy Beckman

A young documentary filmmaker studying at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Timmy volunteers at homeless services while working on passion projects throughout New York City.