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ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES MAY & JUNE FILM PROGRAMMING

PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:

**MAY AND JUNE FILMS FOR PROJECTING CONNECTIONS: CHINESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCES AND THE SHARED STORIES FILM SERIES
PLUS MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT IN
CONVERSATION WITH ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES**

[Boston, MA – Friday, May 6, 2022] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, is excited to announce film programming for May and June 2022.

ArtsEmerson adds to its spring programming schedule the latest offerings for the **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences** film series: in May a virtual on demand screening of Tatsu Aoki’s **Within These Walls (work-in-progress)** May 12 – 22, 2022 and in June 11 an in-person screening of **American Girl** at the Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room. ArtsEmerson also continues the **Shared Stories** film series starting with an in-person collection of shorts – **Changing the Narrative: Pandemic Communities** which combines three shorts including **Plague at the Golden Gate (excerpt)**, **Chelsea: An Essential City**, and **This Body** on May 14 at Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room. On June 26, **Shared Stories** is excited to partner with the Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm) to present Anike Tourse’s **America’s Family**.



Within These Walls

Photo: Hoa Huynh



Plague at the Golden Gate

Photo: Genthe photograph collection, Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division

“We are so excited to close out the season with such strong films and collaborations, highlighting important community voices,” says ArtsEmerson Creative Producer and Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) Founding Director Susan Chinsen. “In April it was an honor to premiere **Convergent Waves** live at Pao Arts Center, and we are honored to present another chance for Boston area audiences to get to experience a work-in-progress by Lenora Lee, **Within These Walls**.”

ArtsEmerson presents **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences**. Using film as a lens to reflect on the vast lived experiences of the Chinese in the Greater Boston Area, this special series will feature films and post-show curated discussions designed to build and foster meaningful community conversation. ArtsEmerson presents its next **Shared Stories** screening, **Changing the Narrative: Pandemic Communities**. **Shared Stories** is a spring film series in collaboration with the Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF), CineFest Latino Boston, and the Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm) seeking to build community, shared conversation, and experiences through cinema. This series aspires to create a shared space to find commonality across experiences, and encourage the exchange of stories and ideas.

ArtsEmerson film event tickets may be reserved 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org) or by calling the ArtsEmerson Box Office at 617-824-8400 (open Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET.

For ArtsEmerson production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#)
For WITHIN THESE WALLS production stills, click [here](#)
For PANDEMIC COMMUNITIES production stills, click [here](#)

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR PROJECTING CONNECTIONS: CHINESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCES

Friday, May 13 at 7:30PM ET - Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 10:00PM ET

Within These Walls (work-in-progress)

Directed by Tatsu Aoki and Produced by Lenora Lee

Virtual On Demand Streaming

50 minutes

Pre-recorded conversation with filmmakers following the film

Co-presented by the Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) and Pao Arts Center

In association with Lenora Lee Productions, Innocent Eyes and Lenses Films, and Asian Improv aRts, Asian Improv aRts Midwest, powered by Asian Improv Nation

Film was Recipient of two Isadora Duncan Dance Awards: Special Achievement for Outstanding Performance

Tickets are [Pick Your Price](#)

Inspired by experiences of those detained, interrogated and processed at the U.S. Immigration Station, Angel Island State Park in San Francisco Bay, **Within These Walls** is a film in which dance, memory, music, and poetry serve as a meditation on healing, resilience, and compassion. This U.S. Immigration Station is an International Site of Conscience, site of remembrance transformed and animated as part of a community-wide commemoration of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, speaking to the power of individuals and communities to transcend.

About Tatsu Aoki

Tatsu Aoki (director) is a prolific artist, a filmmaker, composer, musician, fellow educator, and a consummate bassist and shamisen lute player. Based in Chicago, Aoki works in a wide range of musical genres, ranging from traditional Japanese music, jazz, experimental, and creative music and producing experimental films. Aoki studied experimental filmmaking at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he is now adjunct associate professor in the Film, Video, and New Media Department, teaching film production and history. He has produced more than 30 experimental films and is one of the most in-demand performers of bass, shamisen, and taiko, appearing in over 90 recording projects. www.tatsuaoki.com

About Lenora Lee

Lenora Lee (producer, choreography director)

Lenora Lee has been a dancer, choreographer, artistic director, and producer for over 24 years. She has been an Artist Fellow at the de Young Museum, a Djerassi Resident Artist, a Visiting Scholar at New York University through the Asian/Pacific/American Institute, an Artist in Residence at Dance Mission Theater, and a 2019 United States Artists Fellow. She is Artistic Director of Lenora Lee Dance, Artist in Residence at ArtsEmerson and Pao Arts Center, and Project Manager for Asian Improv aRts. Lenora's work integrates contemporary

dance, film, music, and research and has gained increasing attention for its sustained pursuit of issues related to immigration, global conflict, and its impacts, particularly on women and families. www.LenoraLeeDance.com

Saturday, June 11 at 3:00PM ET

American Girl

Directed by Feng-I Fiona Roan

Produced by Clifford Miu

In Person Event – Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room

101 minutes

Conversation with filmmakers following the film

Presented in partnership with Taiwan Film Festival of Boston (TFFB) and Taiwanese American Professionals (TAP-Boston)

Tickets are \$15 and available soon at ArtsEmerson.org

Uprooted from Los Angeles after her mother is stricken with breast cancer, thirteen year old Fen struggles to adjust to life in Taipei. As Fen navigates her way through school and reconnects with her long-separated father, her turbulent bond with her mother worsens. Fen drifts further away from her mother through a series of rebellious acts before her younger sister is misdiagnosed with SARS, pushing Fen and her mother towards a heated, long-gestating confrontation.

About Feng-I Fiona Roan

Feng-I received her Directing MFA degree from AFI and was previously trained in classical Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University. Her latest work JIEJIE won the HBO Asian Pacific American Visionary Award and will be distributed by HBO this May.

Feng-I's bilingual works focus on female protagonists and family relationships.

Her debut feature, **American Girl**, was selected by Golden Horse FPP 2018 and Film Independent Fast Track Program.

About Clifford Miu

Clifford Miu is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts where he majored in Film & Television. In 2016, he co-founded Bering Pictures Inc. which has made short films that received a total of more than 35 "Official Selections" at Academy-qualifying film festivals. He is a 2020 Film Independent Fellow and a 2021 Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 honoree.

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR SHARED STORIES

Saturday, May 14 at 7:30PM ET

Shorts Program - Changing the Narrative: Pandemic Communities

In Person Event – Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room

60 minutes – combined running time of 3 shorts

Live discussion with community leaders following the film.

This collection of 3 short films – **Plague at the Golden Gate (excerpt)**, **Chelsea: An Essential City** and **This Body** – reflect the relationship between communities of color, health disparities and public health crises from a historical lens to the present.

Co-presented by Globe Docs

Tickets are [FREE with reservation](#)

Plague at the Golden Gate (from American Experience/PBS)

Directed by Li-Shin Yu

30 minute excerpt

A Co-Production of American Experience (PBS broadcast premiere Tues, May 24)

Over 100 years before the deadly COVID-19 pandemic set off a nationwide wave of fear and anti-Asian sentiment, an outbreak of bubonic plague in San Francisco's Chinatown unleashed a similar crisis. The death of a Chinese immigrant in 1900 would have likely gone unnoticed if a sharp-eyed medical officer hadn't discovered a swollen black lymph node on his body — evidence of one of the world's most feared diseases,

bubonic plague. When others started dying, health officials and business leaders were torn about how to stave off an epidemic without causing panic and derailing the city's booming economy. A fascinating medical mystery and timely examination of the tense relationship between the medical community, city power brokers and San Francisco's Chinese-American community, this screening of **Plague at the Golden Gate** will feature excerpts of the film which tells the gripping story of the desperate race against time to save San Francisco and the nation from the deadly plague. Based on David K. Randall's *Black Death at the Golden Gate*, the film is directed by Li-Shin Yu (*The Chinese Exclusion Act*) and features interviews with a robust range of medical experts, authors and Asian-American historians.

Li-Shin Yu, Director

Li-Shin Yu, a New York-based film editor, has collaborated with Director Ric Burns for the past twenty-three years and is co-directing *The Chinese Exclusion Act*. Yu and Burns are best known for their epic series *NEW YORK: a documentary film*, an eight-part production chronicling the city's rise from a remote Dutch outpost to the cultural and economic center of the world, for which Yu received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Editing. Their films have garnered multiple awards including Emmys, Peabodys, Writers Guild of America, Dupont-Columbia awards amongst many others.

Chelsea: An Essential City (from *Latinos are Essential* PBS series)

Directed by: Sabrina Avilés

Produced by: Jenny Alexander

5 minutes

Two-thirds of the residents of the port city of Chelsea are Latino and four out of five are essential workers.

Meet A young city councilwoman and a sanitation worker who are keeping their city running. (2020)

Sabrina Avilés, Director

Sabrina Avilés is an award-winning independent filmmaker, whose work has taken her throughout Latin America, Canada and Europe. During her 25+ year career, she has worked on many PBS programs, among them the six-hour Peabody award-winning series, *Latino Americans*. Currently, she is in production for her first feature-length documentary on the city of Chelsea, MA and its response to the pandemic.

In 2016, Ms. Avilés became the Executive Director of the Boston Latino International Film Festival, after having served as its Associate Director from 2004 – 2007. In 2019, the festival received a special commendation from the Boston Society of Film Critics, " For her work as a filmmaker, Ms. Avilés has received grants from ITVS' Diversity Development Fund, the LEF Foundation, Mass Humanities, Latino Public Broadcasting, and the New England Foundation for the Arts.

This Body (from *Reel South* PBS Series)

Directed by Zac Manuel

In partnership with WORLD Channel

13 minutes

THIS BODY explores the fraught relationship between African Americans and the medical industry. As Sydney Hall participates in an experimental coronavirus vaccine trial in hopes of protecting her beloved New Orleans community, she and her loved ones confront the history of medical abuse and experimentation on Black bodies.

Zac Manuel, Director

Zac Manuel is an award-winning, New Orleans bred-and-based filmmaker, and the son of a touring jazz musician and a community builder at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His film work explores intimacy, Black masculinity, class, identity and inheritance.

Sunday, June 26 at 5:00PM ET

America's Family

Written and Directed by Anike Tourse

In Person Event – Emerson Paramount Center Bright Family Screening Room

103 minutes

Conversation with the filmmaker following the film
RoxFilm presentation in partnership with BAAFF & Cinefest Latino Boston
Tickets are available soon at ArtsEmerson.org

When ICE raids the Diaz family home on Thanksgiving, Mother Marisol is put in detention, son Koke is deported and father Jorge flees for protective sanctuary. The two American born children; freshman attorney Emiliano and his disabled teen sister Valentina, scramble to do whatever they can to reunite the family while their parents and brother do what they have to do to get home.

About Anike Tourse

Anike Tourse is a multimedia maker with accomplishments both in front of, and behind, the scenes. She has written for television series including One Life to Live, and Girlfriends, and is the writer and director of award-winning short film America; I Too now in distribution with New Day Films. Anike has penned and performed several solo shows touring her productions across the country as well as for the Edinburgh (Scotland) Fringe Festival; the largest international theater festival in the world, on a national Nigerian tour sponsored by the 7-UP Bottling Company and most recently as the keynote performance for the Bates College Student orientation. Anike's projects in development include the animated short film Frances the Fish about the little salmon that could and an Untitled Documentary Project about the history and rise of the Jews of Color Movement in the United States.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, and its mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and virtual performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theater District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,700 undergraduates and 1,400 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals. The College has an active network of 51,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

Boston Asian American Film Festival

The Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) empowers Asian Americans through film by showcasing Asian American experiences and serving as a resource to filmmakers and the Greater Boston Community. BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop. www.BAAFF.org

CineFest Latino Boston

CineFest Latino Boston is a premiere film festival, founded and led by Boston filmmaker Sabrina Avilés, is committed to using the power of film to break stereotypes, bring cultures and communities together and reveal

the complex issues affecting the Latinx community in the United States, as well as communities in Latin America and Spain. www.cinefestlatino.com

Roxbury International Film Festival

The Roxbury International Film Festival is the largest festival in New England that celebrates people of color. Our mission is to support diverse filmmakers by providing an opportunity for audiences to view their works and experience the stories often overlooked in mainstream media. RoxFilm continues to showcase and honor the works of emerging filmmakers of color as well as established filmmakers, and has become the largest festival in New England dedicated to this genre. www.roxfilmfest.com

Taiwan Film Festival Boston

Founded in 2019, the Taiwan Film Festival of Boston (TFFB) is a non-profit organization that strives to foster cross-cultural connection amongst its communities within Taiwan, North America, and beyond through the showcasing of compelling stories that revolve around poignant topics of growth, identity, discovery, and adventure. TFFB aims to highlight the cultural beauty of Taiwan as a nation brimming with international flavors and transcendent artistry. www.taiwanfilmfest.org

TAP-Boston

TAP-Boston is a springboard for driven and passionate individuals interested in Taiwanese heritage to develop as leaders and to serve Greater Boston. Founded in 2012, Taiwanese American Professionals (TAP-Boston) is a chapter of the largest network of young Taiwanese American professionals in the United States. www.tap-boston.org

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