

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA PRESENTS  
**CAAMFEST 36**

**CAAMFest Opens with World Premiere Film of AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY and Closes with Live Performance of AUNT LILY'S FLOWER BOOK: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LEGALIZED RACISM**

Early bird ticket sales for opening and closing nights are available March 27, 2018

**San Francisco, CA, March 27, 2018** - CAAMFest, the annual festival from the Center for Asian American Media, opens May 10, 2018 with the world premiere film AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY at the Castro Theatre. The festival concludes with AUNT LILY'S FLOWER BOOK: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LEGALIZED RACISM, a live performance piece from America's foremost Asian storyteller, Brenda Wong Aoki, at the Herbst Theatre on May 24, 2018.

AN AMERICAN STORY: NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY, directed by Bay Area native Dianne Fukami, captures the life, career, and contributions of Norman Mineta. Mineta is the first Asian American mayor of a major city; the first Japanese American from the mainland to be elected to Congress; and the first Asian American to serve in a presidential cabinet.

At the CAAMFest opening night screening, the city of San Francisco will also be presenting Norman Mineta an honorary award in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Mineta receives this award for his contributions and service to the local community. The screening takes place at the Castro Theatre on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 7:00pm and is followed by the Opening Night Gala at the Asian Art Museum.

AUNT LILY'S FLOWER BOOK: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LEGALIZED RACISM, a live performance piece from writer-producer-performer Brenda Wong Aoki, her Emmy winning musician husband Mark Izu, and koto master Shoko Hikage, will close CAAMFest. The live performance piece shares a collection of personal memories recently discovered from a family diary tracking over 100 years of western American history. This closing night performance takes place at the Herbst Theatre on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 7:00pm. Before the performance, Brenda Wong Aoki will also be presenting a pre-talk with CAAM Executive Director, Stephen Gong, CAAM Festival Artistic Director, Masashi Niwano, and renowned Bay Area psychologist Satsuki Ina at 6:15pm.

Aoki and Izu both have strong ties to the local Asian communities in the Bay Area. Aoki's grandfather was a founder of San Francisco's Japantown in the 1890's, and her grandmother was a leader of the first Chinatown garment union. Aoki and her husband Mark Izu were both founding faculty members of Stanford's Institute of Diversity for the Arts at Stanford University.

Early bird ticket sales for the opening and closing night events are available online only at CAAMFest.com beginning Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 10:00am. Tickets for the opening night screening and gala will be available at a discounted rate of \$60 for general public and \$55 for CAAM members. Tickets for the closing night performance are available at a discounted rate of \$18 for general public and \$15 for CAAM members. Ticket prices for both events jump on Friday, April 12, 2018.

For more information on CAAMFest and early bird ticket purchases, please visit [www.caamedia.org](http://www.caamedia.org).

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**About CAAMFest:**

CAAMFest, formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF), celebrates the world's largest showcase for new Asian American and Asian film, food, and music programs. Annually presenting over 120 works in the Bay Area, CAAMFest presents its 36th year from May 10-24, 2018. For more information, please visit <http://www.caamfest.com>.

**About CAAM:**

CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible. CAAM does this by funding, producing, distributing and exhibiting works in film, television and digital media. For more information on CAAM, please visit [www.caamedia.org](http://www.caamedia.org).