

ALL FILM SCREENINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*
 *Conference registration is not required.

SCHEDULE BY DATE

Thursday, March 14, 2024

SCREENING TIME	FILM TITLE	LENGTH	Q&A	COUNTRY/REGION OF FOCUS	PAGE
10:00am	<i>1975.Kim sang-jin</i>	75 min		South Korea	3
11:15am	<i>Melting Icecream</i>	75 min	IN PERSON	South Korea	3
12:45pm	<i>Even the Women Must Fight</i>	45 min	IN PERSON	Vietnam	4
1:30pm	<i>When the Tide Goes Out</i>	120 min		Canada/South Asian Diaspora	4
3:30pm	<i>Building Bridges: Bill Youren's Vision of Peace</i>	82 min	IN PERSON	China/New Zealand	5

Friday, March 15, 2024

SCREENING TIME	FILM TITLE	LENGTH	Q&A	COUNTRY/REGION OF FOCUS	PAGE
8:30am	<i>Shadowlands</i>	35 min		Pakistan	6
9:05am	<i>We are Human!</i>	115 min		Japan	6
11:00am	<i>All God's Children</i>	85 min	IN PERSON	Indonesia	7
12:25pm	<i>The Invisible Tong Talun</i>	33 min	IN PERSON	Malaysia	7
1:15pm	<i>Cirque du Cambodia</i>	105 min		Cambodia	8
3:00pm	<i>Padauk: Myanmar Spring</i>	60 min		Myanmar	8
4:00pm	<i>Threads: Sustaining India's Textile Traditions</i>	60 min		India	9
5:00pm	<i>Finding Vega</i>	22 min	IN PERSON	US, China	9

Saturday, March 16, 2024

SCREENING TIME	FILM TITLE	LENGTH	Q&A	COUNTRY/REGION OF FOCUS	PAGE
8:30am	<i>Voices of the Silenced</i>	140 min		Japan, South Korea	10
10:40am	<i>Forever 17</i>	36 min	IN PERSON	Hong Kong	10
11:30am	<i>Escaping Agra</i>	23 min	IN PERSON	Kashmir, India	11
12:30pm	<i>Trans Kashmir</i>	80 min		Kashmir, India	11
1:50pm	<i>Paradise</i>	50 min		South Korea	12
2:40pm	<i>Khata: Poison or Purity?</i>	45 min	IN PERSON	Tibet	13
3:40pm	<i>Stories of Pang Jai (風吹布動)</i>	50 min	IN PERSON	Hong Kong	13
4:45pm	<i>Yellow Jazz Black Music</i>	54 min	IN PERSON	China	14
6:05pm	<i>Let There Be Light</i>	34 min	IN PERSON	England, France	14

The Film Expo is curated and managed by the *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies.

Film titles, in the film directory following this page, are listed in the order of screening schedule and include director/producer, year of release, country/region of production, duration, country/region featured, film description, and distribution contact/website.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

1975.Kim sang-jin

Thursday, March 14, 10:00am

Directed by AN Byung-Kwon. 2022. South Korea. 75 minutes
Country/Region Featured: South Korea

UNAVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING.

1975.KIM SANG-JIN tells the story of a young activist whose political suicide leads to mass campus demonstration and violent crackdown at Seoul National University, triggering a wave of student protests against the Park Chung-hee government following the events.

Self-distributed by the filmmaker.

Contact: AN Byung-Kwon, anbyungkwon@gmail.com

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwlu_5fLNoEdt2pELqbTp_A



Melting Icecream

Thursday, March 14, 11:15am

Directed by HONG Jinhwon. 2021. South Korea. 70 minutes.
Country/Region Featured: South Korea
In-person Q&A with scholar Jihoon Kim (Author of *Activism and Post-activism: Korean Documentary Cinema, 1981-2022* [OUP, 2024]).

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

In the warehouse of the Korea Democracy Foundation, old rolls of film titled, "Film damaged by the Flood" are mysteriously found. Through the restored films and interviews with the photographers, the documentary reveals the once forgotten images and memories of labor struggles during a tumultuous time of Korean democracy.

Distributed by Cinema DAL.

www.cinemadal.com | <https://siff.kr/en/films/30806/>



Even the Women Must Fight

Thursday, March 14, 12:45pm

**Directed and Produced by Karen Turner and Phan Thanh Hao
2023. United States. 25 minutes.
Country/Region Featured: Vietnam
In-person Q&A with scholar Tri Phuong**

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

Rare interviews with female veterans of Ho Chi Minh's volunteer youth brigades. Women tell their stories of wartime hardship and post war challenges, backed by historical footage from Northern Vietnamese combat photographers. A new view of an old war.

Self-distributed by the filmmaker.

Contact: Karen Turner at kturner@holycross.edu | eventhewomenmustfight.com



When the Tide Goes Out

Thursday, March 14, 1:30pm

**A film by Ajay Bhardwaj.
2021. Canada. 118 minutes
Country/Region Featured: Canada/South Asian Diaspora**

UNAVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING.

By tracing the history of intercommunity organizing in a strand of the South Asian diasporic labour movement in Vancouver after four decades, the film discovers the persistent albeit hidden patriarchal discourse, overwriting the gentle power that fuels the struggle. The patriarchy's all-pervasive yet elusive presence is missing from movement art, erasing the gendered experience of organizing from the movement's collective memory.

Self-distributed by the filmmaker.

Contact: Ajay Bhardwaj, ajayunmukt@gmail.com



THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

Building Bridges: Bill Youren's Vision of Peace

Thursday, March 14, 3:30 PM

Directed by John Chrissotoffels.
2022. Aotearoa/New Zealand. 82 minutes.
Country/region featured: China and New Zealand
In-person Q&A with scholar/filmmaker Richard Bullen.

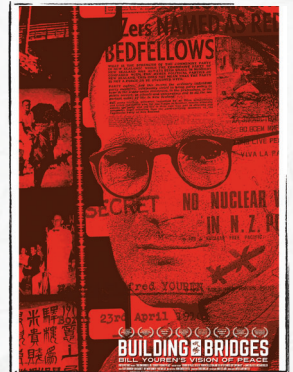
AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

A tireless campaigner for world peace, New Zealander Bill Youren courted controversy by visiting China in 1952, 1956, and 1960, where he witnessed events seminal in the first years of the People's Republic, which he captured on his 8mm camera. He also collected Chinese art, which he exhibited throughout New Zealand as an alternative image of China to that was offered by the government and mainstream press. Bill's story is told through his letters and publications, as well as his own 8mm footage and slides.

Produced by Porter Pictures | <https://www.porterpictures.co.nz>

Distributed by Lime Light Distribution

<https://www.limelightdistribution.co.nz/film/building-bridges-bill-yourens-vision-of-peace>



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

Shadowlands

Friday, March 15, 8:30 AM

A film by Dostain Baloch and Nida Kirmani. 2023. Pakistan. 31 minutes.
Country/region featured: Pakistan

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

Shadowlands follows the stories of two residents of Lyari in Karachi, Nawaz Laasi and Amna Baloch. Both have lost family members to gang violence in the area. Nawaz has lost four sons, two to gang violence and two at the hands of the police, and Amna's husband was killed by the police. Through telling their stories, this documentary sheds light on the on-going ramifications of violence and questions whether peace has truly been achieved for the people of Lyari.



Self-distributed by the filmmaker

Contact: Nida Kirmani, nidakirmani@gmail.com | <https://shadowlandsthefilm.org/>

We Are Human!

Friday, March 15, 9:05 AM

Directed by Ko Chanyu. 2022. Japan. 114 minutes.
Country/region featured: Japan

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

On March 6, 2021, Rathnayake Liyanage Wishma Sandamali (aged 33) died in a state of starvation and organ failure following seven months of detention in an immigration detention centre in Nagoya, Japan. The horrific circumstances of her death sparked a wave of citizen protests and brought the harshness of the Japanese government's legal and institutional control of immigrants and refugees into the public consciousness.



This documentary outlines the history of Japan's Alien Registration Act, established primarily to control the Korean population in Japan in the aftermath of WWII, and illustrates how the oppressive framework of control has continued through to the present day, bringing the non-Japanese interviewees to share a common cry: "We are not animals--we are human!"

Distributed by Alexander Street | <https://alexanderstreet.com> | <https://ningenda.jp/>

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

All God's Children

Friday, March 15, 11:00 AM

Directed by Robert Lemelson. 2023. USA. 67 minutes.
Country/region feature: Indonesia
In-person Q&A with filmmaker Annie Tucker

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

The film tells the story of Idris, a nonverbal autistic teenager living in rural Central Java. Idris's mother, Isti, struggles to understand Idris and meet their basic needs, especially since the two moved away from Idris's neurotypical twin brother and biological father over thirteen years ago.

Distributed by Documentary Educational Resources
<https://www.der.org> | <https://store.der.org/all-gods-children-p1073.aspx>



The Invisible Tong Talun

Friday, March 15, 12:25 PM

Directed by Keng-Khoon Ng & Goh Xin Le, Luke.
2023. Malaysia and Singapore. 33 minutes
Country/region featured: Semporna, Sabah Malaysia
In-person Q&A with filmmakers Keng-Khoon Ng

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

The *Invisible Tong Talun* depicts the publicly unknown lives of statelessness in Semporna, Sabah Malaysia, where the place was historically known as Tong Talun – the living shores of Bajau Laut boat-dwelling nomads. The three episodes render true stories of indigenous students, local youth leaders and teachers from Borneo Komrad, by excavating how a strong sense of fortitude, solidarity and resilience brings them together as a force of social change movements.

The documentary is co-produced by NUS College, the honour college of the National University of Singapore (led by Dr Keng-Khoon Ng) and Borneo Komrad, a Sabah-based NGO that advocates the right to education and nationality for the stateless children.

Self-distributed by the filmmaker
Contact: Keng-Khoon Ng, keng.ng@nus.edu.sg



Cirque du Cambodia

Friday, March 15, 1:15 PM

Directed and produced by Joel Gershon. 2020. USA. 85 minutes
Country/region featured: Cambodia

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

Cirque du Cambodia follows the journey of two youths who live out every child's fantasy - to run away from home and join the circus. But not just any circus - they dream of taking the stage with Cirque du Soleil, the largest theatrical company in the world. Their home, a rural village in the ancient, faraway Kingdom of Cambodia, makes their quest even more extraordinary.

Self-distributed by filmmaker | filmhub.com

Contact: Director@cirqueducambodia.com | cirqueducambodia.com



Padauk: Myanmar Spring

Friday, March 15, 3:00 PM

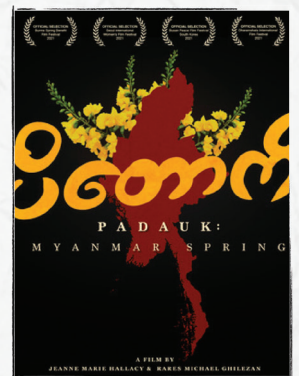
Directed by Jeanne Marie Hallacy and Rares Michael Ghilezan
2022. United States. 56 minutes.
Country/region featured: Myanmar

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

Padauk: Myanmar Spring takes the viewer to the streets of Myanmar during the heady days following the February 2021 military coup. Through Nant, a young, first-time protester, we meet three human rights activists whose lives have been turned upside down by the coup.

Distributed by Documentary Educational Resources

<https://www.der.org> | <https://store.der.org/padauk-p1067.aspx>



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

Threads: Sustaining India's Textile Traditions

Friday, March 15, 4:00 PM

Directed and produced by Katherine Sender and Shuchi Kothari. 2023. United States. 58 Minutes
Country/region featured: India

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

Threads explores the relationship between traditional weavers and fashion designers in India. After decades of decline in a demand for legacy fabrics, collaborative relationships between designers and artisans (communicated and negotiated between social economic classes from different social positions) have led to fashion designers now recognizing the autonomy of artisan designers and the need to work with them.

Distributed by Documentary Educational Resources
<https://store.der.org/threads-p1069.aspx>



Finding Vega

Friday, March 15, 5:00 PM

Directed by Joey Xuetong Zhao & executive produced by Fei Yan. 2023. United States. 22 Minutes
Country/region featured: United States and China
In-person Q&A with filmmakers Joey Xuetong Zhao and Fei Yan.

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

A 12-year-old girl who lives in a Chinatown single-room-occupancy family with her vegetative state mother has a passionate love for the starry sky. While eagerly wanting to realize her self-worth, she experiences a collision of reality and realizes what is important.

Distributed by American Film Institute | <https://www.afi.com>
Contact: Joey Zuetong Zhao, xzhao@alumni.afi.edu
<https://www.joey-zhao.com/finding-vega>



SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

Voices of the Silenced

Saturday, March 16, 8:30 AM

**A film by Soo-nam PARK and Maeui PARK.
2023. South Korea/Japan. 137 minutes.
Country/region featured: South Korea and Japan**

UNAVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING.

Voices of the Silenced intricately interweaves together three layers of the structure: (i) digitally restored 16mm films from the 1980s by Park Soo-nam, a second-generation *zainichi* filmmaker with failing eyesight; (ii) Park's own intimate reflections in front of the camera; and (iii) the questions posed by her daughter, Park Mai, who edits the restored footage and becomes her mother's eyes in a fading world. This interweaving offers a rich, multi-dimensional exploration of their lives and histories across Japan and the two Koreas.

Distributed by ARTicle Films
Contact: emi@articlefilms.com



Forever 17

Saturday, March 16, 10:40 AM

**Directed by Kit Hung. 2019. Hong Kong. 36 minutes.
Country/region featured: Hong Kong
In-person Q&A with filmmaker Kit Hung.**

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

After his partner of 40 years passed away, memories flood Ricky whenever he tidies up their bed. A flashback shows the love story between Ricky and Roger, and the story re-imagines a future: in 2029, Hong Kong legalises same-sex marriage.

Distributed by GagaOoolala.
<https://www.gagaoolala.com/>
<https://www.goldenhorse.org.tw/film/programme/films/detail/2236?r=en>



SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

Escaping Agra

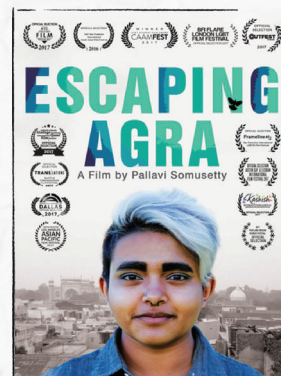
Saturday, March 16, 11:30 AM

**A film by Pallavi Somusetty. 2016. United States. 23 minutes.
Country/region featured: India
In-person Q&A with filmmaker Pallavi Somusetty.**

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

In *Escaping Agra*, a documentary by Pallavi Somusetty, college student Naveen Bhat chronicles their experience of being illegally detained in Agra, India after their gender and sexual orientation are discovered. As Naveen battles their parents in and out of court, they find support from the Indian Supreme Court's recognition of a third gender. The 23-minute film follows Naveen's journey home to California as they piece their life back together.

Distributed by Chandi Films
chandifilms.com/watch-escaping-agra | escapingagra.com



Trans Kashmir

Saturday, March 16, 12:30 PM

**Directed by Surbhi Dewan and SA Hanan and produced by
Surbhi Dewan and Afia Mushtaq
2022. India. 62 minutes
Country/region featured: Kashmir, India**

UNAVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING.

For generations, the transgender women of Kashmir have worked as matchmakers and performers but their gender, economic and socio-political realities make them some of the most vulnerable people in the world today. Offering an intimate glimpse into their unique culture, resilience, and beauty, this documentary chronicles their growing movement to secure basic human rights.

Distributed by Frameline
<https://www.frameline.org/> | <https://www.paintedtreepictures.com/transkashmir>



Paradise

Saturday, March 16, 1:50 PM

**Directed by Minki Hong and produced by Todd A. Henry
2023. South Korea. 31 minutes.**

Country/region featured: South Korea

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

Paradise revisits South Korea's era of authoritarian development (1970s-1980s) through the lens of queer livelihood. Despite the harsh realities of successive dictatorships, compulsory military service, and expectations of marriage and childbirth, six elderly gay men reveal how they converted second-run theaters and nearby bars into popular sites of erotic liberation, same-sex friendships, and romantic encounters. Using rare footage of Seoul's only extant second-run movie house, visual archives, and historical animation, *Paradise* documents South Korea's vibrant gay underground before the solidification of democracy and the introduction of the internet in the 1990s. Along the way, it follows the pain and joy of queer citizens, whose stories appear for the first time in this empowering film of self-discovery and community building.



Distributed by Post Fin Co., Ltd. | <http://www.postfin.co.kr/>

Contact: Soyeon KWON, soyeon@postfin.co.kr

<https://www.facebook.com/Paradise2023Official>

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

Khata: Poison or Purity?

Saturday, March 16, 2:40 PM

A film by Huatse Gyal. 2023. China. 45 minutes
Country/region featured: Tibet
In-person Q&A with scholar/filmmaker Huatse Gyal.

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

This documentary film explores the mass production and mass consumption of Khata with a special focus on discarded Khatas. The Khata is a ceremonial scarf used as a gift on many occasions in the Himalayan world, including births, weddings, graduations, and the arrival and departure of guests.

Self-distributed by the filmmaker.
Contact: Huatse Gyal, huatse@rice.edu



Stories of Pang Jai (風吹布動)

Saturday, March 16, 3:40 PM

Produced and directed by Jimmy Lo; Executive Producer: Ruby Yang
2023. Hong Kong. 50 minutes.
In-person Q&A with filmmaker Jimmy Lo.

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

"Pang Jai" stands as a poignant relic of Hong Kong's fabric markets. Its hallowed lanes, etched with the essence of craftsmanship and tradition, echo with the indomitable spirit of resilient vendors. "Stories of Pang Jai" unveils the vivid tapestry of their everyday lives and the epic struggle against the juggernaut of forced demolition.

Self-distributed by the filmmaker. | <https://vimeo.com/jimmylo>
Contact: Jimmy Lo, jimmylofilm@gmail.com
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt24659544/reference/>
<https://theatrefilm.ubc.ca/profile/jimmy-lo/>



Yellow Jazz Black Music

Saturday, March 16, 4:45 PM

Directed by Marketus Presswood and co-produced by Marketus Presswood and Eric Sun

2021. United States. 54 minutes.

Country/region featured: China

In-person Q&A with scholar/filmmaker Marketus Presswood.

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

In the 1920s and 1930s, African American musicians in Shanghai became crucial to define that era. This documentary is about a story of “the half has never been told,” that is the history of jazz as experienced by African American and Chinese musicians in China from past to present. This film traces the story of some of the important historical figures past and present that shaped part of the Chinese music scene. Featuring musicians Jasmine Chen and Theo Croker.

Self-distributed by the filmmaker.

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/yellowjazzblackmusiceduc>

Contact: Marketus Presswood, marketus@gmail.com



Let There Be Light

Saturday, March 16, 6:05 PM

Directed by Caroline Chu. 2023. France. 34 minutes.

Country featured: England and France

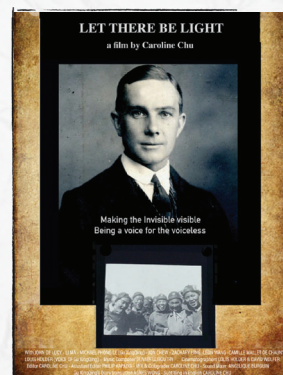
In-person Q&A with filmmaker Caroline Chu.

AVAILABLE FOR VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND VIEWING. REGISTER AT FILM EXPO DESK.

History is often told according to the interpretation and biases of prevailing historical actors, but remnants of the past, can help us tell History differently. By investigating through his family history, John has shed a new light on World War One’s mechanisms.

Distributed by Cinelora | <https://www.carolinechu.net>

Contact: Caroline Chu, carolinechu.uk@gmail.com



Screenings are located in the Seattle Convention Center, Rooms 309 & 310

The **CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC STUDIES (CEAPS) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN** is the steward of campus-wide teaching, research, programming and outreach on East Asia, as well as Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) is an engagement program of CEAPS promoting the understanding of Asian cultures and peoples by assisting educators at all levels, from elementary schools to colleges and universities, in finding resources for learning and teaching about Asia. Established in 1998, AEMS has curated the Association for Asian Studies Film Expo at the annual conference since 2011, and the AsiaLENS Film Series at the University of Illinois since 2008.

www.ceaps.illinois.edu

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