



Association for
Asian Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

AAS 2026 FILM EXPO



ALL FILM SCREENINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*

*Conference registration is not required.

SCHEDULE BY DATE

Thursday, March 12, 2026

TIME	FILM TITLE	LENGTH	Q&A	COUNTRY/ REGION OF FOCUS	PAGE
10:30am	<i>Dreaming of Words</i>	60 min		India/South Asia	4
11:30am	<i>Nirop (Farewell)</i>	25 min		India/South Asia	4
11:55am	<i>Soul of Solace</i>	6 min		India/South Asia	5
12:05pm	<i>5201314: XXXX XXXX (Fourth Cut)</i>	19 min	In person	Hong Kong/East & Inner Asia	5
12:35pm	<i>Give and Take</i>	60 min	In person	Hong Kong/East & Inner Asia	6
1:50pm	<i>The Returning Tide, Thirty Years On</i>	60 min	In person	Japan, Korea, Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan/East & Inner Asia	6
3:05pm	<i>Coroner to the Stars</i>	84 min		Japan, US/Northeast Asia	7

Friday, March 13, 2026

TIME	FILM TITLE	LENGTH	Q&A	COUNTRY/ REGION OF FOCUS	PAGE
8:30am	<i>The Lama's Son</i>	73 min		Nepal/South Asia	7
9:45am	<i>Our Mr. Matsura</i>	97 min	In person	Japan/Northeast Asia	8
11:40am	<i>Landscapes of Home</i>	55 min	In person	Canada, Japan/Northeast Asia	8
12:50pm	<i>Just Being There: The Cambodian Photographs of Colin Grafton</i>	70 min	In person	Cambodia/Southeast Asia	9
2:15pm	<i>Ghost Mountain: The Second Killing Fields in Cambodia</i>	40 min	In person	Cambodia, US/Southeast Asia	9
3:10pm	<i>Submerged</i>	25 min		India/South Asia	10
3:35pm	<i>No Ark: Contending Faith in a Changing Climate</i>	42 min	In person	Bangladesh/South Asia	10
4:30pm	<i>Who has seen the sounds?</i>	25 min	In person	China/East & Inner Asia	11
5:05pm	<i>Abundance: Living with a Forest</i>	22 min		India/South Asia	11

Saturday, March 14, 2026

TIME	FILM TITLE	LENGTH	Q&A	COUNTRY/ REGION OF FOCUS	PAGE
8:30am	<i>The Ozu Diaries</i> (Sneak Peek)	140 min		Japan/Northeast Asia	12
10:50am	<i>Késheng ja waray batbat. The exhumation of human bones in an Ibaloi community</i>	73 min	In person	Philippines/Southeast Asia	12
12:20pm	<i>Ingatan dari Timor (Memories of Timor)</i>	70 min	In person	Timor-Leste, Indonesia/Southeast Asia	13
1:45pm	<i>Hikayatussistance</i>	19 min		Indonesia/Southeast Asia	13
2:05pm	<i>Left Behind</i>	7 min	In person	Laos/Southeast Asia	14
2:25pm	<i>All Static & Noise</i>	103 min	In person	China, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, France, Norway, US/East & Inner Asia	14
4:25pm	<i>Songs of Love from Hawaii</i>	62 min	In person	US, South Korea/Northeast Asia	15
5:45pm	<i>MOLA - A Tibetan Tale of Love and Loss</i>	84 min	In person	Tibet, Switzerland/East & Inner Asia	15

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

Special thanks to Yuchia Chang, Jason Finkelman, Tim Liao, Bing Wang, and Matthew S. Winters for serving as 2026 film reviewers.

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.

Dreaming of Words

Thursday, March 12, 10:30am

Directed/Produced by Nandan
2021. India. 60 min.

Country/Region Featured: India

Languages: Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu with English Subtitle

Njattiyela Sreedharan, a fourth standard drop-out, compiles a dictionary connecting four major Dravidian languages. Travelling across four states and doing extensive research, he spent twenty-five years making the multilingual dictionary. This unique dictionary offers a comparative study of Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. *Dreaming of Words* traces Sreedharan's life, work, love for languages and the struggles to get the dictionary published. The film also explores the linguistic and cultural diversity in India.

Official Film Website: <https://nandan.in/films>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

Nirop (Farewell)

Thursday, March 12, 11:30am

Directed by Samar Vinayak Thakur | Produced by Enable Media
2025. India. 25 min.

Country/Region Featured: India | Languages: Marathi

Kalpna is a working woman who juggles her job, household chores, and caregiving duties. Her father has come to stay with her family for the monsoon. But as the rains begin to clear and the time for him to leave nears, Kalpna finds herself increasingly caught between her daily obligations and fleeting moments with him.

Official Film Website: https://www.instagram.com/niropfilm?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igsh=ZDNIZDc0MzIxNw==



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

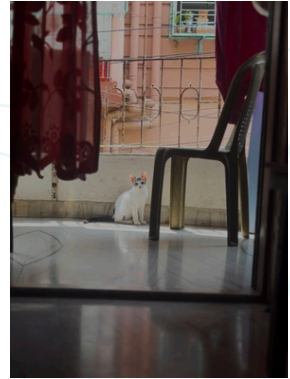
Soul of Solace

Thursday, March 12, 11:55am

Directed by Debanshu Ghosh | Produced by Debanshu Ghosh and Swayam Songmen Rai
2025. India. 6 min.
Country/Region Featured: West Bengal, India
Languages: Bengali with English Subtitles

This short documentary film is on a lady, Gita Saha, who has been feeding stray dogs and cats for twenty-eight years.

Official Film Website: <https://youtu.be/eGsGYUXbJRU?si=rzFgmj2tEF2H0td>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

5201314: XXXX XXXX (Fourth Cut)

Thursday, March 12, 12:05pm

Directed/Produced by Winnie W. C. Lai
2024. United States. 19 min.
Country/Region Featured: Hong Kong | Languages: Cantonese
In-person Q&A with Director Winnie W. C. Lai (Dartmouth University)

The film is an ethnographic video essay that examines emergent practices of self-censorship in Hong Kong following the 2019 pro-democracy movement and the subsequent transformation of its political and legal environment. The eight Xs signify the erasure of eight Cantonese words from a protest slogan, while “5201314” operates as a layered sonic cipher: in Cantonese, it closely echoes a line from the banned anthem “Glory to Hong Kong”; in Mandarin, it resonates with the phrase “I love you forever.” This dual articulation encapsulates the affective intensity of protest attachments to the city. Situated within Hong Kong’s “semi-authoritarian” condition (Tai 2020) and its reconfigured “landscape” (LaBelle 2021), the film explores how sonic and vocal expression has become newly politicized. The project traces how “situated listening” (Feld 2015) operates as an affectively charged process shaped by power, territoriality, and the maintenance of “bodies politic” (Protevi 2009). Conceptualizing this dynamic as political aurality, it examines how listening mediates the material and energetic flows of governance and resistance and advances ethnographic documentary as a multimodal, decolonial archive that preserves affective histories otherwise at risk of erasure in Hong Kong’s censored present.



Official Film Website: <https://www.winniesound.info/>

Give and Take

Thursday, March 12, 12:35 PM

**Directed by Jimmy Lo | Produced by Jimmy Lo and Helena Wu
2025. Canada. 60 min.**

**Country/Region Featured: Canada, Hong Kong | Languages: Cantonese
dialogue with English and Chinese Subtitles.**

In-person Q&A with Director/Producer Jimmy Lo & Producer Helena Wu

Amid the post-2019 Hong Kong exodus, a schoolteacher and an artist embark on a three-year immigration journey to Canada, where they grapple with unforeseen psychological challenges, putting their decision, identity, and relationship to the test in a relentless search for a place to call home. The unspoken question – “Is it worth it?” – lingers between them, and the camera searches for an answer.

Official Film Website: <https://www.instagram.com/giveandtakefilm/>

Distributor: Jimmy Lo | <https://jimmylocm.wixsite.com/jimmylo>



The Returning Tide: Thirty Years On

Thursday, March 12, 1:50 PM

**Directed by Xiaotong Xu and Iris Yu Yang | Produced by Yuan Feng
and Xiaotong Xu**

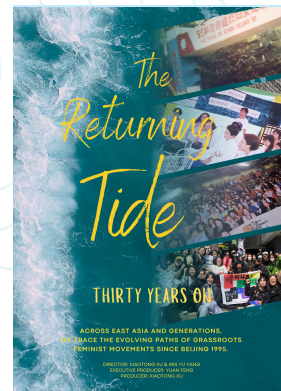
2025. Hong Kong, SAR & Canada. 60 min.

**Country/Region Featured: East Asia (including Japan, Korea, Mainland
China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan) | Languages: Chinese, Cantonese,
Japanese, Korean, and English**

**In-person Q&A with Executive Producer Yuan Feng and Co-Directors
Xiaotong Xu and Iris Yu Yang**

The film revisits more than twenty feminist activists from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China to trace the lasting impact of the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing across East Asia. It follows the connections forged during the conference, examines gender mainstreaming frameworks, and explores the rise of grassroots, queer movement and digital rights alongside the backlash these activists now face. Through these intertwined stories, the film continually asks what sustains such struggles and how feminist movements persist, transform, and evolve across generations and regions.

Official Film Website: <https://www.thereturningtide.com/>



Coroner to the Stars

Thursday, March 12, 3:05 PM

Directed/Produced by Ben Hethcoat
2025. United States. 84 min.

Country/Region Featured: United States/Japan | Languages: English

Coroner to the Stars chronicles the extraordinary journey of Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the former Los Angeles County Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner whose groundbreaking high-profile autopsies of icons like Marilyn Monroe, Robert Kennedy, and Natalie Wood thrust him into the spotlight - even as Hollywood elites and political adversaries sought to silence him - and forever shaped American culture.

Official Film Website: <https://www.coronertothestars.com/>

Distributor: Grasshopper Film | <https://store.grasshopperfilm.com/coroner-to-the-stars.html>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

The Lama's Son

Friday, March 13, 8:30 AM

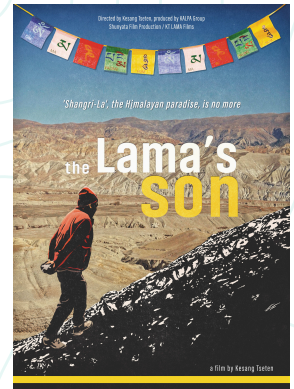
Directed by Kesang Tseten | Produced by Kalpa Group/KT Lama Films
2025. Nepal, Switzerland. 73 min.

Country/Region Featured: Nepal | Languages: Tibetan (Dolpo, Mustang) and Nepali

A Lama's priestly lineage is in jeopardy because his son, a sushi chef in New York, will not return to take over. In Mustang, people are migrating to distant places in search of better lives and to escape the worsening environment. In Dolpo, where development hasn't reached, another lama performs an ancient ritual that celebrates community, supported by a unique subsistence way of life. Then in Queens, New York, Himalayan immigrants adapt to America even as they recreate tradition and community. Is 'Shangri-La', if it ever existed, crumbling?

Official Film Website: <http://www.shunyatafilm.com>

Distributor: shunyata film production/KT Lama Films/shunyata film production | kt lama films



Our Mr. Matsura

Friday, March 13, 9:45 AM

Directed/Produced by Beth Harrington

2025. US/Japan. 97 min.

Country/Region Featured: Pacific Northwest/Hirado/Tokyo/Yokohama

Languages: English and Japanese

In-person Q&A with Scholar/Film Advisor ShiPu Wang (UC Merced)

Frank Matsura, the orphaned son of a samurai, emigrated to the American West in 1901, settling in remote Washington State. There he joined a community of Native people and newly arrived settlers. He quickly became the region's leading photographer and most beloved citizen. His work which transcended the prosaic photographs typical of the times, was characterized by unusual self-portraits and playful collaborations with his subjects. His death at age 39 was a blow to all. A century later, the people of the county and the tribes still have pride and a sense of personal connection to the work he created.

Official Film Website: <https://ourmrmatsura.com>

Distributor: Beth Harrington | <https://www.bethharrington.com>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

Landscapes of Home

Friday, March 13, 11:40 AM

Directed by Alice IL Shin | Produced by Eiko Kawabe Brown

2024. Canada. 55 min.

Country/Region Featured: Canada, Japan | Languages: English

In-person Q&A with Jeff Chiba Sterns and Karen Wong (Moving Images Distribution)

The film examines the lives of two doctors in the mid-20th century: Henry Shibata, a Japanese-Canadian born in Vancouver, and Stuart Cooper Robinson, a Canadian born in Nagoya, Japan. Their worlds are upended by WWII, with Shibata facing internment in the Rockies, while Robinson is pushed from his lifelong home in Japan amidst growing intolerance. The documentary captures their resilience and the indelible marks left by displacement, reflects on the Japanese-Canadian struggle, and redefines what it means to find home against a backdrop of war and loss.

Official Film Website: <http://aliceshin.com/landscapes-of-home/>

Distributor: Moving Images Distribution | <https://movingimages.ca/>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

Just Being There: The Cambodian Photographs of Colin Grafton

Friday, March 13, 12:50 PM

Directed/Produced by Robert Carleton-Chhaing
2026. Cambodia/USA. 70 min.

Country/Region Featured: Cambodia | Languages: English and Khmer
In-person Q&A with Director/Producer Robert Carleton-Chhaing

Just Being There follows British photographer Colin Grafton, who arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 1973, just before the Khmer Rouge genocide, and later volunteered in refugee camps along the Thai border. Amid civil war, he captured rare, intimate photographs of daily life, revealing the beauty and humanity of Cambodia's capital city. Decades later, the film revisits these images and the people within them, offering a powerful act of remembrance. By unveiling this unseen archive, *Just Being There* restores a vital piece of cultural memory, bridging loss and survival, history and healing.

Official Film Website: <http://www.akarafilms.com>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

Ghost Mountain: The Second Killing Fields in Cambodia

Friday, March 13, 2:15 PM

Directed/Produced by James Taing and Virginia Lynch Dean
2022. United States and Cambodia. 40 min.

Country/Region Featured: United States and Cambodia
Languages: English and Khmer
In-person Q&A with Director/Producer James Taing

Ghost Mountain is the story of Bunseng Taing, a Cambodian refugee who made his way to Connecticut in 1980 after surviving both the Killing Fields and a second horror never before documented. He was among 45,000 refugees who managed to escape to what they believed was safety in Thailand, only to be forced back over the Cambodian border in an area heavily infested with landmines.

Official Film Website: <https://www.pvfund.org/ghostmountain>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

Submerged

Friday, March 13, 3:10 PM

Directed by Iqbal Hussain | Produced by Pinky Brahma Choudhury, Shobhit Jain
2023. India. 25 min.

Country/Region Featured: India | Languages: Nimadi and Hindi

Kotmir, a village in the Dharaji Panchayat, was under the submergence area of the Omkareswar Dam but the residents refused to leave the village due to unsettled compensation packages and were compelled to work as migrant labourers in the cities. During the country wide lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, when all the migrant labourers in the city were forced to return home, these people faced a unique situation. They were left without any village body to address their issue as Dharaji Panchayat was dissolved since the villages were officially 'under the submergence area'.

Official Film Website: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BgBc-RKrUPZEAO5J4csAL-nN-JKshqO7?usp=sharing>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

No Ark: Contending Faith in a Changing Climate

Friday, March 13, 3:35 PM

Directed by Bratto Amin | Produced by Sudipta Roy
2024. Bangladesh. 42 min.

Country/Region Featured: Bangladesh | Languages: Bangla with English subtitles

In-person Q&A with Producer Sudipta Roy

Understanding the role of faith in climate change is crucial for developing effective and inclusive strategies. In Bangladesh, where faith is deeply woven into the social fabric, leveraging the influence of religious communities can enhance resilience and drive sustainable solutions. Sadly, much of the existing literature and dialogue on climate change in Bangladesh neglects this vital faith component. Over 14 months, a filmmaker dove deep into Bangladesh, interviewing over 60 people of various faiths, attending religious festivals, and exploring the impact of climate change on religious practices.

Official Film Website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559703510859>



Who has seen the sounds?

Friday, March 13, 4:30 PM

**Directed by Xiaohui Liu and Siyu Piao | Produced by Xiaohui Liu
2025. China. 25 min.**

**Country/Region Featured: China | Languages: Chinese and English
In-person Q&A with Director Xiaohui Liu (University of Texas at Austin)**

In Nasoni Village, Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, we created a short documentary about the local sounds, exploring the stories related to sound in Tibetan areas and the deep connection between Tibetans and sound. As Tibetan Buddhism suggests, sound originates not only from the external world but also partly arises from the heart. Tibetans' perception of sound encompasses not just what they hear, but also what they see, experience, and feel internally. Sound constructs the life memories and worldly relationships of Tibetans in Nasoni.

Official Film Website: <https://www.instagram.com/x.hui.cc/>

Distributor: Xiaohui Liu | <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/anthropology/faculty/xl22989>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing.
Register at Film Expo desk.

Abundance: Living with a Forest

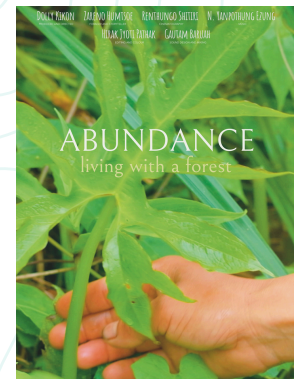
Friday, March 13, 5:05 PM

**Directed/Produced by Dolly Kikon
2024. India. 22 min.**

Country/Region Featured: Nagaland, India | Languages: Lotha and English

Abundance: Living with a Forest is a biography of foraging, forest, and jhum cultivation. It follows Zareno, a Lotha forager in the forest of Khumtsü, and traces the foraged edible plants as they make their way to the market in Wokha town. The film gestures to an impending loss that Indigenous communities encounter across the world. *Abundance: Living with a Forest* presents Indigenous foraging practice in the Eastern Himalayan region, and the commitment of foragers and community members to work towards renewal of Indigenous values, courage, and sustainable practice.

Official Film Website: <https://dollykikon.com/projects/abundance-living-with-a-forest/>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing.
Register at Film Expo desk.

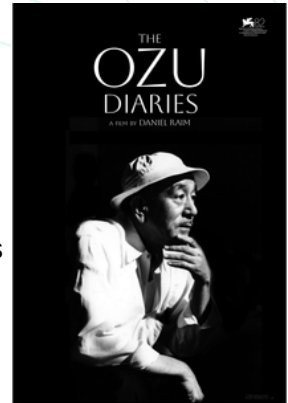
The Ozu Diaries (Sneak Peek)

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 AM

Directed by Daniel Raim | Produced by Yuki Machida, Daniel Raim
2025. USA. 140 min.

Country/Region Featured: Japan | Languages: Japanese and English
In-person Q&A with David Averbach (The Film Collaborative)

The film, directed by Academy-Award-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim, is a cinematic journey that explores the inner world of Japanese master filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu, drawing from his private diaries, wartime notebooks, letters, interviews, photographs, and never-before-seen home movies. Through Ozu's own words, combined with reflections from Kyoko Kagawa, Wim Wenders, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Tsai Ming-liang, and Luc Dardenne, the film traces how Ozu transformed personal loss and wartime trauma into enduring masterpieces such as *Early Summer*, *Tokyo Story*, and *An Autumn Afternoon*.



Official Film Website: <https://danielraim.com/the-ozu-diaries>

Distributor: The Film Collaborative | <https://thefilmcollaborative.org/films/theozudiaries>

Késheng ja waray batbat. The exhumation of human bones in an Ibaloi community

Saturday, March 14, 10:50 AM

Directed/Produced by Antoine Laugrand, Frédéric Laugrand, Jazil Tamang, and Gliseria Magapin
2019. Philippines. 73 min.

Country/Region Featured: Philippines | Languages: Ibaloi and English
In-person Q&A with Antoine Laugrand, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Ottawa

The film portrays a three-day ritual of exhumation and reburial performed to restore harmony between the living and the dead and follows a family who, after dreams and illness, consult a mambonong and learn that a son's damp tomb and incomplete burial rites caused misfortune. Through divination, offerings, dances, and feasts, the ritual reestablishes balance. Blending local authorship and ethnographic collaboration, the film offers a sensory immersion into Ibaloi cosmology and the enduring care that binds generations.



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing.
 Register at Film Expo desk.

Official Film Website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFUS9aSpqjw>

Ingatan dari Timor (Memories of Timor)

Saturday, March 14, 12:20 PM

Directed by Ari Trismana | Produced by Rita Padawangi

2025. Indonesia and Timor-Leste. 70 min.

Country/Region Featured: Timor-Leste and Indonesia, Southeast Asia |

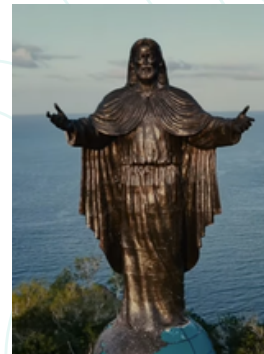
Languages: Indonesian, Tetun, and English

In-person Q&A with Producer Rita Padawangi (Singapore University of Social Sciences)

An Indonesian student's capstone research project turned into a journey of a lifetime, as she explored the dark history of Timor-Leste that she had not seen before in textbooks. From visits to torture chambers to meeting the young generation of Timor-Leste, this film chronicles the effort to unearth memories. Not for revenge, but to prevent similar tragedies from reoccurring.

Official Film Website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIE3tSX88ug&t=6s>

Distributor: Watchdoc Media Mandiri | <https://watchdoc.co.id/>



Hikayat assistance

Saturday, March 14, 1:45 PM

Directed by Muhammad Hendri | Produced by Muhammad Maulana

2025. Indonesia. 19 min.

Country/Region Featured: Indonesia | Languages: Indonesian and Acehese with English subtitles

In a crimson space, Fuadi Klayu, an Acehese oral storyteller, performs Dongeng Sebelum Gulita (Tales Before Darkness), a hikayat that tells the story of a fertile land now on the brink of destruction.

Official Film Website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZX2TAbVjB40>

Distributor: acehmenonton | www.youtube.com/@acehmenonton



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing. Register at Film Expo desk.

Left Behind

Saturday, March 14, 2:05 PM

Directed/Produced by Taen Bounthapanya
2025. USA. 7 min.

Country/Region Featured: Laos | Languages: Lao and English
In-person Q&A with Writer/Director Taen Bounthapanya

Laos became the most heavily bombed country in modern history after the United States dropped approximately 2 million tons of bombs from 1964 to 1973. Millions of the bombs, unfortunately, remain embedded in the country's lands and fields as unexploded ordinance, commonly known as "bombies." The legacy of the U.S. involvement in Laos during the U.S.-Vietnam War leave behind scars that remain visible today. Individual stories often get lost in the larger narrative of war, but this creative documentary short film shows the human story that echoes the legacy of bombies left behind.

Official Film Website: <https://youtu.be/tUSyxbRK1jo>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing.
 Register at Film Expo desk.

All Static & Noise

Saturday, March 14, 2:25 PM

Directed by David Novack | Produced by Janice Englehart
2023. USA. 103 min.

Country/Region Featured: China, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, France, Norway, US | Languages: Mandarin Chinese, Uyghur, Kazakh
In-person Q&A with Scholar Victoria Hui (University of Notre Dame)

Jewher, daughter of Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, lands in the US after she is separated from her father at the Beijing airport as he is detained. Abduweli, a linguist and poet imprisoned and tortured for teaching Uyghur language to 6-year-olds, makes his way to Istanbul upon his release. Together, they join survivors of China's network of "re-education camps" and their families, in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Europe and the United States to expose atrocities unfolding in their homeland with the hope that global awareness will bring change.

Official Film Website: <https://www.allstaticandnoise.com/>

Distributor: Journeyman Pictures | <https://www.journeyman.tv/film/8540>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing.
 Register at Film Expo desk.

Songs of Love from Hawai'i

Saturday, March 14, 4:25 PM

**Directed by Jinyoung Lee | Produced by Jinyoung Lee, T.S. Choi
2025. United States. 62 min.**

Country/Region Featured: HI | Languages: English and Korean

In-person Q&A with Director/Writer/Executive Producer Jinyoung Lee

Airing on PBS and earning a 97% rating during its 16-week theatrical run in South Korea, this beautifully moving film unveils Hawai'i's untold stories. Blending history, music, and the immigrant experience, it tells three distinct stories featuring extraordinary performances by world-class musicians.

Official Film Website: <https://www.therainbowwords.com/songs-of-love>

Distributor: Collective Eye Films

<https://www.collectiveeye.org/products/songs-of-love-from-hawaii>



Also available for virtual on-demand viewing.
Register at Film Expo desk.

MOLA - A Tibetan Tale of Love and Loss

Saturday, March 14, 5:45 PM

**Directed by Yangzom Brauen and Martin Brauen | Produced by Martin Brauen, Yangzom Brauen, Sonam Dolma Brauen, Jim Haygood, Samir Samperisi, Katherine LeBlond, and Daniel Stanca-di Marco
2025. Switzerland, USA. 84 min.**

Country/Region Featured: Tibet and Switzerland | Languages: Tibetan and Swiss German

In-person Q&A with Co-Director Martin Brauen

After nearly 60 years in exile, 100-year-old Tibetan nun Kunsang Wangmo - known as "Mola" (grandmother) - dreams of returning home to die in Tibet. As her family in Switzerland navigates the complex visa process, they document their final days together. When permission is finally granted, Mola returns to Tibet but her journey is far from over. As unexpected events unfold, the question remains: will Mola be allowed to stay in the homeland she never stopped longing for?

Official Film Website: <https://www.molafilm.com>

Distributor: Journeyman Pictures | <https://www.journeyman.tv> | bookings@journeyman.tv



Screenings are located in the Vancouver Convention Centre, Rooms 116 & 117

The **CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC STUDIES (CEAPS) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN** is the steward of campus-wide teaching, research, programming, and outreach on East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. Since 2011, CEAPS has sponsored the curation of the Association for Asian Studies Film Expo, first as part of the Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) program and now directly through the Center. CEAPS also runs the AsiaLENS film series at the University of Illinois, which began in 2008.

www.ceaps.illinois.edu

The **ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES (AAS)** is a non-profit dedicated to the advancement of the field of Asian Studies through international exchange, networking, publications, research support, and career development. With over 6,500 members worldwide, representing all regions and countries of Asia and all academic disciplines, the AAS is the largest organization of its kind. Through its publications, online resources, regional conferences, and annual conference, the AAS provides its members with a unique and invaluable professional network.

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Association for Asian Studies

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