



AAS 2017 Film Expo will be presented March 16 - 19, 2017 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

All conference screenings are free and open to the public.

[Click here for more information on AAS Annual Conference 2017](#)

This program is supported by the Asian Educational Media Service, the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Illinois and the Association for Asian Studies.

Schedule by Date:

Thursday, March 16, 2017

12:30 PM	People Are The Sky	94 min	Q&A	N. Korea / USA
2:15 PM	Re: Orientations	68 min	Q&A	Canada
3:35 PM	Tell The Prime Minister	104 min	Q&A	Japan
5:30 PM	Touch Taiwan - Legend that Echoes in the Mountains	14 min	Q&A	Taiwan (R.O.C)
5:55 PM	BREAK until 7:30pm Screening			
7:30 PM	Tharlo	123 min		Tibet / China
9:40 PM	END SCREENINGS			

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2017 AAS Film Screenings

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Friday, March 17, 2017

8:30 AM	A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness	40 min		Pakistan
9:20 AM	Sonita	91 min		Iran/Germany/ Switzerland
11:00 AM	The Silk Road of Pop	53 min	Q&A	China
12:05 PM	The Song Collector	54 min	Q&A	India
1:10 PM	Drawing the Tiger	96 min	Q&A	Nepal/USA
2:55 PM	This Island is Ours	52 min	Q&A	Japan / S. Korea
3:55 PM	The Apology	104 min	Q&A	Japan/S. Korea / Philippines/ China
5:50 PM	Living With Memories, Part 1 - The House of Sharing	72 min		S. Korea
7:10 PM	This Kind of Love	43 min	Q&A	Burma/Thailand
8:00 PM	END SCREENINGS			

>People are the Sky

>Re:Orientations

>Sonita

>Tell the Prime Minister

>Tharlo

>The Apology

>The Silk Road of Pop

>The Song Collector

>This Island is Ours

>This Kind of Love

Saturday, March 18, 2017

8:30 AM	My Own City	56 min	Q&A	India
9:35 AM	Under the Sun	110 min		N. Korea
11:35 AM	Stateless	57 min	Q&A	Philippines / USA
12:40 PM	Guangzhou Dream Factory	65 min	Q&A	China / Ghana
1:55 PM	Bulkland	61 min	Q&A	China
3:05 PM	So Long Asleep: Waking the Ghosts of War	60 min	Q&A	Japan / S. Korea
4:15 PM	Living through March 11, 2011	97 min	Q&A	Japan
6:00 PM	Paths of the Soul	115 min		Tibet
8:05 PM	END SCREENINGS			

>Touch Taiwan - Legend that
Echoes in the Mountains>So Long Asleep: Waking the
Ghosts of War

>Stateless

>Under the Sun

Schedule by Region:**China & Inner Asia**

Touch Taiwan - Legend that Echoes in the Mountains	14 min	Q&A	Thurs, 3/16/17	5:30 PM
Tharlo	123 min		Thurs, 3/16/17	7:30 PM
The Silk Road of Pop	53 min	Q&A	Fri, 3/17/17	11:00 AM
Guangzhou Dream Factory	65 min	Q&A	Sat, 3/18/17	12:40 PM
Bulkland	61 min	Q&A	Sat, 3/18/17	1:55 PM
Paths of the Soul	115 min		Sat, 3/18/17	6:10 PM

Northeast Asia

People are the Sky	94 min		Thurs, 3/16/17	12:30 PM
Tell the Prime Minister	104 min	Q&A	Thurs, 3/16/17	3:35 PM
This Island is Ours	52 min	Q&A	Fri, 3/17/17	2:55 PM
The Apology	104 min	Q&A	Fri, 3/17/17	3:55 PM
Living With Memories - pt. 1. The House of Sharing	72 min		Fri, 3/17/17	5:50 PM
Under the Sun	110 min		Sat, 3/18/17	9:35 AM
So Long Asleep: Waking the Ghosts of War	60 min	Q&A	Sat, 3/18/17	3:05 PM
Living Through March 11, 2011	97 min	Q&A	Sat, 3/18/17	4:15 PM

South Asia

A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness	40 min		Fri, 3/17/17	8:30 AM
Sonita	91 min		Fri, 3/17/17	9:20 AM
The Song Collector	54 min	Q&A	Fri, 3/17/17	12:05 PM
Drawing the Tiger	96 min	Q&A	Fri, 3/17/17	1:10 PM

My Own City	56 min		Sat, 3/18/17	8:30 AM
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Southeast Asia & Pacific Islands

This Kind of Love	43 min	Q&A	Fri, 3/17/17	7:10 PM
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Stateless	57 min	Q&A	Sat, 3/18/17	11:35 AM
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Asian Diaspora

Re:Orientations	68 min	Q&A	Thu, 3/16/17	2:15 PM
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AAS Film Expo 2017

Curator

Jason Finkelman

Director, Global Arts Performance Initiatives
Event programming, Asian Educational Media Service

Film Reviewers

Tim Liao

Director, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies

Angela Williams

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Robert L. Cagle

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Last updated Feb 10, 2017



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Film Descriptions:

Film titles in each section are listed in order of presentation. Please note in the following the film title and director/producer information, we list the year of release, country featured, and duration.



Touch Taiwan - Legend that Echoes in the Mountains

Directed and Produced by Taiyuan Puppet Theatre.

2014. Taiwan. 14 minutes.

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 5:30pm

Online Q&A with Robin Ruizendaal.

The Touch Taiwan program was designed to foster greater awareness of native language and culture for children of Taiwanese aborigine tribes. Through shadow theatre program residencies lasting 2 to 4 days, students create and perform a local story in their native language for other children of the tribe and their families. Over a period of three years this program was conducted with over 20 tribes across Taiwan. Screens and lights were donated to every tribe and school and in several cases, this way of cultural arts education has become part of aborigine schools' curriculum.

Distributed by Robin Ruizendaal, Director, Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum.

Facebook: [Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum](#) (English/Chinese)

Facebook: [Touch Taiwan](#) (Chinese)



Tharlo

Directed by Pema Tseden.

2016. China (Tibet). 123 minutes.

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7:30pm

Traveling from rural Tibet to a nearby town to obtain an ID card, sheep-herder Tharlo is smitten by Yangtso along the way. But town dweller Yangtso's ideas of fun are not quite Tharlo's. Basic pastoral imperatives such as protecting his sheep from hungry wolves run against Tharlo's discovery of the contemporary pleasures of smoking, drinking, singing and sex.

Distributed by Icarus Films.

www.icarusfilms.com



The Silk Road of Pop

Directed by Sameer Farooq. Co-directed by Ursula Engel.

Produced by Stijn Deklerck.

2013. China. 53 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 11:00am

Online Q&A with Stijn Deklerck.

"The Silk Road of Pop" sketches a unique portrait of the vibrant pop music scene among the Uyghur Muslims in North-West China. Featuring traditional musicians, hip-hop crews, rock stars and dynamic music fans, this documentary taps into the rhythmical zeitgeist of what it means to be young and Uyghur in China, showing how music becomes a liberating element for a minority trying to assert its identity within a repressive environment.

Distributed by Smoke Signal Projects.

smokesignalprojects.org



Guangzhou Dream Factory

Directed by Christiane Badgley. Produced by Erica Marcus.

2016. Ghana / China. 65 minutes.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 12:40pm

Online Q&A with Christiane Badgley.

Immigration, globalization, Chinese factories and African dreams... "Guangzhou Dream Factory" weaves stories of Africans chasing alluring, yet elusive 'Made in China' dreams into a compelling critique of our 21st century global economy that offers fresh perspective on China and African development.

Distributed by Raymar Educational Films, Inc.

www.gzdreamfactory.com



Bulkland

Directed and produced by Daniel Whelan.
2016. China. 58 minutes.
Saturday, March 18, 2017, 1:55pm
Online Q&A with Daniel Whelan.

The Futian Market of Yiwu in China is where wholesale buyers come from around the world to buy cheap Chinese goods. Covering 4 million square metres, 120,000 suppliers hawk their wares. In "Bulkland" migrant workers, factory owners and night club dancers struggle to carve out a slice of the pie in the city dedicated to bulk sales of cheap junk.

Film Website: bulklandfilm.com
Distributed by Journeyman Pictures.
www.jman.tv



Paths of the Soul

Directed and produced by Zhang Yang.
2016. China (Tibet). 117 minutes.
Saturday, March 18, 2017, 6:00pm

Filmmaker Zhang Yang blurs the border between documentary and fiction to follow a group of Tibetan villagers who leave their families and homes in the small village of Nyima to make a Buddhist "bowing pilgrimage"- laying their bodies flat on the ground after every few steps - along the 1,200 mile road to Lhasa, the holy capital of Tibet. Though united in their remarkable devotion, each of the travelers embarks on this near impossible journey for very personal reasons. Stunningly photographed over the course of an entire year, with non-professional actors and no script, "Paths of the Soul" is a mesmerizing study of faith.

Distributed by Icarus Films.
www.icarusfilms.com



People Are The Sky

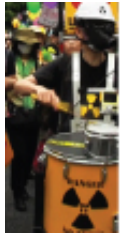
Directed by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson.
2016. North Korea / USA. 94 minutes.
Thursday, March 16, 2017, 12:30pm
Online Q&A with Dai Sil Kim-Gibson.

Director Dai Sil Kim-Gibson makes a pilgrimage to her place of birth in North Korea for the first time in nearly 70 years to explore if it is still home. Kim-Gibson is the first

Korean American filmmaker to be given official permission by the North Korean government to film inside its borders.

Distributed by Women Make Movies.

www.wmm.com



Tell The Prime Minister

Directed by Eiji Oguma.

2015. Japan. 104 minutes.

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 3:35pm

Online Q&A with Eiji Oguma.

The anti-nuclear movement after the Fukushima nuclear disaster mobilized 200,000 people and succeeded to organize a meeting with the prime minister by utilizing SNS. Interviews with eight individuals and footage uploaded to the internet describe this hidden revolution.

Distributed by UPLINK

http://www.uplink.co.jp/kanteimae/index_en.php



This Island is Ours

Directed by Alexander Bukh and Nils Clauss.

2016. Japan / South Korea. 52 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:55pm

Q&A in-person with Alexander Bukh.

This documetary focuses on Dokdo/Takeshima territorial dispute related activism in Japan and Korea. It provides individual activities in both countries with a platform to talk about themselves, their activism and their views of the other country.

Distributed by Contented.

thisiscontented.com



The Apology

Directed and Produced by Tiffany Hsiung.

2016. South Korea / China / Philippines. 104 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 3:55pm

Q&A in-person with Tiffany Hsiung.

Follows the personal journeys of three former "comfort women" who were among the 200,000 girls and young women kidnapped and forced into military sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II. After seventy years of living in silence and shame about their experiences of institutionalized rape and sexual slavery, Grandma Gil in South Korea, Grandma Cao in China, and Grandma Adela in the Philippines give first-hand accounts of the truth. They are seeking an apology and the hope that this horrific chapter of history not be forgotten.

Distributed by Icarus Films.

www.icarusfilms.com



Living with Memories - pt. 1 The House of Sharing

Directed and Produced by Toshikuni Doi.

2015. South Korea. 72 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 5:50pm

"Living with Memories" is on the former Korean "comfort women" and their ongoing struggles for justice since the 1991 public testimony of Kin Hak-sun. The film chronicles the everyday life and thoughts of several women survivors since twenty years ago, when the filmmaker began covering the issue in 1994.

Distributed by Toshikuni Doi.

doi-toshikuni.net



Under the Sun

Directed and Produced by Vitaly Mansky.

2016. North Korea. 110 minutes.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:35am

After years of negotiation the Russian director Vitaly Mansky was invited by the North Korean government to make a film about one girl and her family in the year she prepares to join the Children's Union, on the 'Day of the Shining Star' (Kim Jong-II's birthday). But the government handlers supervising the production did not realize that Mansky kept filming even after they had shouted "Cut."

Distributed by Icarus Films.

www.icarusfilms.com



So Long Asleep: Waking the Ghosts of War

Directed and Produced by David W. Plath.

2016. Japan / South Korea. 60 minutes.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 3:05pm

Q&A in-person with David W. Plath.

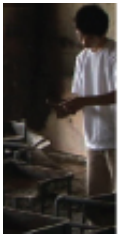
Cameras follow a team of international volunteers carrying home the remains of young Korean men who died doing forced labor in Imperial Japan during the 1940s Asia-Pacific War. Did we forget our dead?

Distributed by Media Production Group.

aems.illinois.edu/mpg/

Forthcoming DER release (Fall 2017)

www.der.org



Living Through March 11, 2011 -

Words that Remember The Great East Japan Earthquake

Directed and Produced by Kenji Aoike.

2013. Japan. 97 minutes.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 4:15pm

Q&A in-person with Susumu Sato, Kumiko Sato, Toshihide Mori, and Atsuko Hashimoto, members of Miyagi Earthquake Film Production Committee.

"The Great East Japan Earthquake" on 11 March 2011 battered 14 elementary and junior high schools in Ishinomaki, Miyagi, Japan, leaving 182 children dead or missing. Enduring the unexpected shaking of the Earth and the looming tsunami, how did the people at the school act in the moment? Over 37 people recall "that moment" on March 11 through to the following morning.

Distributed by Miyagi Earthquake Film Production Committee.

aftertsunami.net



This Kind of Love

Directed and Produced by Jeanne Hallacy.

2015. Burma. 43 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 7:10pm

Online Q&A with Jeanne Hallacy.

"This Kind of Love" follows Burmese human rights and LGBT activist, Aung Myo Min, as he returns after 24 years in exile. Set against Myanmar's historical transition from half a century of brutal military rule, Myo shares his vision for equality for all - from children to transgender person to ethnic nationalities with his countrymen, to be part of his homeland's emergence from the darkness of dictatorship. Myo's story celebrates his belief that community and inclusion are fundamental to creating meaningful political and social change in Burma/Myanmar.

Distributed by DER.

www.der.org



Stateless

Directed by Duc Nguyen.

2014. Philippines / USA. 57 minutes.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 11:35am

Online Q&A with Duc Nguyen.

After lingering in a foreign land for 16 years, more than 2000 Vietnamese refugees' dreams of resettlement are renewed when U.S. officials return to Manila to review the cases of these forgotten, displaced people.

Distributed by Right Here In My Pocket.

www.rhimp.com



A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness

Directed by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy.

2015. Pakistan. 40 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 8:30am



"A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness" follows the story of Saba, a young Pakistani woman who was shot and left for dead by her father and uncle after marrying Qaiser, a man once promised to her by her family. Told through the lens of a true love story, the film is a scathing examination of the contradictions between modernism and tradition within Pakistani society, as Saba struggles with pressures to "forgive" the relatives who tried to kill her - a pronouncement that would set them free.

Distributed by Films Media Group.

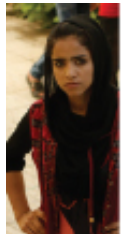
www.Films.com

Sonita

Directed by Rokhsaren Ghaem Maghami.

2015. Iran / Germany / Switzerland. 91 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 9:20am



"Sonita" tells the inspiring story of Sonita Alizadeh, an 18-year-old Afghan refugee in Iran, who thinks of Michael Jackson and Rihanna as her spiritual parents and dreams of becoming a big-name rapper. Unfortunately, her family has a very different future planned for her: as a bride she's worth \$9,000.

Distributed by Women Make Movies.

www.wmm.com

The Song Collector

Directed by Erik Koto.

2016. India (Ladakh). 54 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 12:05pm

Online Q&A with Erik Koto.



When Morup Namgyal sparked a movement to preserve his Himalayan

culture, he never imagined he would ultimately embrace modernization. Through the lives of three generations of the Namgyal family, "The Song Collector" explores the uneasy relationship between culture and development.

Distributed by Erik Koto.

www.thesongcollector.com



Drawing the Tiger

Directed and produced by Amy Benson, Scott Squire and Ramyata Limbu.

2016. US / Nepal. 96 minutes.

Friday, March 17, 2017, 1:10pm

Online Q&A with Amy Benson.

Shot over seven years, "Drawing the Tiger" takes a sweeping view of one Nepalese family's daily struggle to survive off of subsistence farming. When their bright daughter receives a scholarship to study in Kathmandu, the family's prospects suddenly improve by leaps and bounds overnight, but will the weight of their expectations crush her?

Distributed by Women Make Movies.

www.wmm.com



My Own City

Directed by Sameera Jain.

2011. India. 56 minutes.

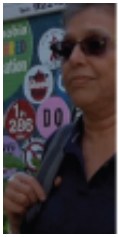
Saturday, March 18, 2017, 8:30am

The experience of a gendered urban landscape - where the gaze, the voice and the body are at all times under surveillance. What if the multiple surveillances were to be turned upon themselves to observe what is contained in the everyday? The film explores whether there is a sense of ownership, of belonging to the city. Can a woman in the city, as she continuously negotiates the polarities of anxiety and comfort, be free? Somewhere just under the surface of the 'normal' and in the lives of women cab drivers lie signs of reclamation of space and the gaze.

Distributed by Sameera Jain, with Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT).

www.psbtt.org





Re:Orientations

Directed by Richard Fung.

2016. Canada. 68 minutes.

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 2:15pm


Q&A in-person with Richard Fung.

A fascinating look into the lives and thoughts of seven Queer Pan-Asian Canadians as they look back on "Orientations," a 1984 documentary in which they featured. How have they changed? And how has the world around them evolved and changed?

Distributed by Third World Newsreel.

www.twn.org

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