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WORLD Channel, the Asian American Documentary Network and the Center for Asian American Media To Co-Produce Documentary Series featuring Asian American Stories of Resilience & Beyond

April 20, 2022 – On the eve of Asian American Pacific Island Heritage Month, World Channel, the Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc), and the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) have announced the co-production of [Asian American Stories of Resilience & Beyond](#), a documentary series featuring stories of resilience from the Asian American community.

Over the past few years, Asian Americans faced a double pandemic of COVID-19 and anti-Asian racism. The tragic killings in Atlanta came after a year of increased violence against the Asian American community, fueled by political rhetoric. Yet the resilience of the community stands out, with a rise of solidarity efforts within Asian American communities, with Asian-Black solidarity movements, and with other BIPOC communities.

“Asian-Americans are now emerging from the pandemic, finding ways to support our families, rebuild our lives, get vaccinated, and deal with the grief, pain, and anger this has brought, as well as moments of joy, resilience, and hope,” said S. Leo Chiang, Co-Founder of A-Doc. “Now, Asian American storytellers demand the opportunity to shape the public discourse about our own community, to tell our stories with complexity and nuance, and to share them far and wide.”

In April 2021, with support from WORLD Channel and the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), A-Doc launched a call for submissions for short films created by Asian American documentary filmmakers. [These films represent both emerging and established creators](#), from a diverse range of AAPI communities, a variety of geographic regions, covering a diverse range of topics that move beyond the pandemic and reflect the complexities of AAPI experiences.

“Our partnership with A-Doc allows WORLD Channel the opportunity to elevate the voices of Asian-American filmmakers,” said Chris Hastings, executive producer of WORLD Channel at GBH in Boston. “Each of these films tells a personal story, reflecting the experience of the Asian-American community. We are honored to be able to present them on WORLD Channel.”

[Seven films were selected](#) from the more than 100 proposals received. Each selected filmmaker was assigned an experienced filmmaker as a mentor to ensure the professional execution and thematic coherence of each film in the series.

The selected films will begin streaming on WORLD's [YouTube channel](#) May 3rd and will release weekly. Films will also be broadcast as interstitials in select episodes of WORLD's award-winning series America ReFramed and will be featured in special episodes of WORLD's Local, USA series to be released later this year. The films will also be available to stream on the WORLD Channel [website](#), PBS Passport and the [PBS App](#).

"These seven short films reflect the broad range of experiences within the Asian American community during the past two years," says Don Young, CAAM Director of Programs. "These stories reflect the ways, big and small, that the pandemic has directly affected Asian Americans and how we are examining our place in society as a result."

The seven films are:

- **Malditas, directed by Bree Nieves, mentor Ramona S. Diaz**
Malditas is the story of two AAPI/FilAm cousins, three years apart, who meet in a rural Florida cemetery, and grapple with what remains of their hometown dreams after the loss of one of their fathers to the pandemic. Bree Nieves is an emerging independent documentary and fiction director and producer. Raised between the Deep South and NYC, her work addressed motifs of faith, catholicism, racialized misperceptions, queerness, familial relationships, southern culture, and the Asian and Black diaspora in the United States. Nieves was mentored by Ramona S. Diaz, an award-winning Asian American filmmaker whose films have screened at Sundance, Berlin, Tribeca, SXSW, IDFA, HotDocs and many other top-tier film festivals.
- **Recording for Dodie, directed by Frances Rubio, mentor Sarah S. Kim**
Recording for Dodie shares the story of a Filipino daughter struggling with depression who finally reunites with her COVID-survivor father at his nursing home after fourteen months physically apart. Filmmaker Frances Rubio is a Filipinx-American with a prior career in academia and advertising. She recently produced *The New Yorker's Herselves*, directed by Kristy Choi and has since produced narrative short films around Asian women and their familial relationships. Rubio was mentored by Sarah S. Kim, a creative producer of the critically acclaimed feature films *August at Akiko's* (IFFR) and *I Was a Simple Man* directed by Christopher Makoto Yogi, which has been supported by the Sundance Labs and Sundance Catalyst, Gotham, Film Independent, Jerome Foundation, and Cinereach.
- **The Lookout, directed by J.P. Dobrin, mentor Tadashi Nakamura**
The Lookout is the story of a Cambodian American refugee who experiences freedom again after being behind bars for 20 years. But the potential of deportation threatens to take it all the way. Director J.P. Dobrin is a multiracial documentary filmmaker and photographer based in Oakland, California. He became passionate about visual journalism while completing his BFA in photography at the Academy of Art San Francisco. He went on to learn documentary film at the U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Dobrin was mentored by Emmy-winning filmmaker Tadashi Nakamura,

named one of CNN's "Young People Who Rock" for being the youngest filmmaker at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and listed as one of the "Top Rising Asian American Directors" on IMDb.

- **On All Fronts, directed by Joua Lee Grande, mentor Bao Nguyen**

On All Fronts is the story of a Minneapolis family as it navigates difficult conversations about how the violence and racial reckoning of 2020-21 impacted them as a biracial family. Directed by Joua Lee Grande, a Minneapolis-based filmmaker determined to shed light on underrepresented experiences and truths. She is currently a Jerome Hill Artist Fellow and was a 2019 Diverse Voices in Docs Fellow. Grande was mentored by Bao Nguyen, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker who has directed, produced, and shot a number of short and feature films that have played in prestigious festivals such as Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca, IDFA, Berlin and museums including MoMA and the Smithsonian. He was a PBS/WGBH Producers Workshop Fellow, an alumnus of the Berlinale Talents, and a Firelight Media Fellow.

- **My Chinatown, with Aloha directed by Kimberlee Bassford, mentor Freida Lee Mock**

My Chinatown, with Aloha tells the story of fourth-generation Chinese American Kimberlee Bassford as she explores her family's relationship to Honolulu Chinatown. The film explores the parallels between the COVID-19 pandemic and the 1899-1900 bubonic plague that hit Hawai'i, highlighting the ways the two public health crises transformed the iconic neighborhood then and now. Director/producer Bassford combines her love for storytelling with her background in journalism to bring underrepresented stories from the Pacific to the world. She was mentored by Academy and Emmy Award winner Freida Lee Mock, director, writer and producer of theatrical documentary films. Her 5 Academy Award nominations include the winner Maya Lin: A Strong Vision, about creativity and the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

- **In Living Memory, directed by Quynh Nguyen-Le, mentor Su Kim**

In Living Memory is a documentary that focuses on the closure of their mother's nail salon at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and how a queer filmmaker works with their mother to articulate the legacy of the salon for their refugee family. Director Quynh NL (they) is a queer filmmaker and writer born to Vietnamese refugee parents. Their work focuses on the ways histories emerge in the quotidian everyday. Previously, Quynh participated in the Armed with a Camera Fellowship at Visual Communications, the North Star Fellowship at Points North Institute, and National Multicultural Alliance Documentary Producer Lab with the Center for Asian American Media. Nguyen-Le was mentored by Producer Su Kim, who has won multiple awards at Sundance and was nominated for an Academy Award in 2019 for "Hale County: This Morning, This Evening."

- **Crossroads, directed by Sarita Khurana, mentor Jean Tsien**

Crossroads takes a close look at the Sikh community response to the "FedEx shooting" in Indianapolis. The film was directed by Sarita Khurana, an award-winning film director

and cultural producer. Khurana's feature film, A SUITABLE GIRL, won the Best New Documentary Director prize at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival. She was mentored by editor, executive producer, and story consultant Jean Tsien who has been working in documentary film for over 35 years. In 2021, Tsien received two Peabody Awards, one for the landmark five-part PBS series Asian Americans, which she executive produced; and the other for her role as producer on 76 Days, winner of the 2021 Primetime Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking.

For more information and films, please visit www.WORLDchannel.org or follow #AsianAmResilience and #AAPStories @worldchannel on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#).

About WORLD Channel

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award, two Webby Awards, and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 195 member stations in markets representing over 75.1% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.

About Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc)

The Asian American Documentary Network is a national network of 1000+ members working to increase the visibility and support of Asian Americans in the documentary field. A-Doc is committed to sharing ideas and resources, providing mutual support and mentorship, and advocating for equity and diversity in the production and distribution of non-fiction storytelling. In 2020, A-Doc launched its first Storytelling Initiative: Asian American Stories in the Time of Coronavirus, a collection of microdocs and personal essays sharing unique perspectives about the pandemic, created to disrupt mainstream narratives about Asian American communities. A-Doc's most recent Storytelling Initiative, Asian American Stories of Resilience and Beyond is a co-production with WORLD Channel and Center for Asian American Media. Visit A-Doc on social media at [@aadocnetwork](#) and at a-doc.org.

About CAAM

For over 40 years, CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) has been dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible. As a nonprofit organization, CAAM funds, produces, distributes, and exhibits works in film, television, and digital media. For more information about CAAM, please visit www.CAAMedia.org.