



COUNCIL OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Publicity/Media Contact
Jieyu Alatchanian
publicity@capa-mi.org

For Immediate Release

May 15, 2017

CAPA presents *We Wove a Net*, a series of documentary shorts about growing up Asian American in Michigan

Northville, MI. - The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) is proud to announce the Metro Detroit premiere of its documentary film project, "*We Wove a Net*."

"*We Wove a Net*" presents short vignettes reflecting the experiences of Asian American women in southeast Michigan. Through talking with four immigrant families in metro Detroit, we hear our community's stories of immigration and pursuing the American Dream. We explore what meaning these narratives hold for us and confront where they fall short.

The film debuted at the United States of Asian America Festival in San Francisco, California and will screen in metro Detroit on **May 31 and June 4**.

Funded by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, this project is the brainchild of Detroit based first-time documentary filmmakers Harsha Nahata and Natasha Tamate Weiss. It is the culmination of a 10-month intergenerational storytelling project to bring together youth and parents to share their experiences of coming to and growing up in America.

"This isn't just a film but a process of exploring and understanding the deepest parts of our identity," says Harsha Nahata, project director. "Through the stories of each of these families, I've been able to understand a little piece of my own."

The film dives into the stories of four Asian American, immigrant families:

- Genevieve, Caroline, and Christine Vang, a Hmong family who fled as refugees after the Vietnam War only to also face the threat of deportation in the United States. Their story centers on a family restaurant, Bangkok 96, and the role it has played in their lives in America.

- Grace and Tammy Hsia, an entrepreneur and a future doctor who reflect on their parents' immigrant stories and their own experiences growing up Chinese American on the border of Troy and Sterling Heights.
- Dr. Marlou Fuentes, Maricel Fuentes Squire, and Ella Squire, three generations of Filipina women, talk about what it means to access our cultural roots and remember who they are, especially in the Midwest.
- Namira Islam, a Bangladeshi organizer and executive director of Muslim ARC shares about navigating her Asian and Muslim identities in the aftermath of 9/11. She delves into how the model minority myth isolates our stories, and discusses how we can reverse this effect to begin finding strength and community among each other.

Screening Dates and Times

Dearborn, MI:

May 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Documentary Screening and Talk Back

Arab American Museum
13624 Michigan Ave,
Dearborn, MI 48126

Troy, MI:

June 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Documentary Screening and Talk Back

Du Pont Automotive
950 Stephenson Hwy,
Troy, MI 48083

These events are free and open to the public. Please RSVP in advance at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-stories-our-voices-presents-we-wove-a-net-tickets-33878534609>

Please direct any questions or requests for information to Harsha Nahata at voices@capa-mi.org.

CAPA is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization that works to unify all Asian Pacific American communities throughout the State of Michigan. With a guiding motto of “diversity is our strength,” its mission is to unite Asian Pacific Americans and the community at large through culture, education, and community service.