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COUNCIL OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

## **CAPA Presents *We Wove a Net*, a documentary about growing up Asian American in the Midwest**

### **For Immediate Release**

**Northville, MI. - April 26, 2017** - Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) is proud to announce debut of its documentary film, "*We Wove a Net*." The film will screen at United States of Asian America Festival in San Francisco, CA on Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>; and in Detroit on Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>.

"*We Wove a Net*" is a short film about what it means to grow up as an Asian American woman in Michigan. Through talking with four immigrant families in metro Detroit, we seek out 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.

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

"For us, 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

#### **San Francisco, CA:**

Friday May 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Documentary Screening and Talk Back

Sunday May 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Documentary Screening

Theatre of Yugen at NOHspace  
2840 Mariposa St  
San Francisco, CA 94110

This event is open to the public.

Attendees can RSVP at: [http://www.apiculturalcenter.org/we\\_wove\\_a\\_net](http://www.apiculturalcenter.org/we_wove_a_net)

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*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.*

*For more information, please visit [www.capa-mi.org](http://www.capa-mi.org)*