

10th Aurora Asian Film Festival

May 31 – June 3, 2007



artist © Mami Yamamoto-Finke

The **Tenth Aurora Asian Film Festival** is slated for **May 31 – June 3, 2007**. Produced by the **Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership** and the film festival professionals at the **Denver Film Society**, in collaboration with the **City of Aurora**, this event is sure to engage, enlighten, educate and entertain.

This award-winning festival has proven to entice the filmgoer to a vivid cultural experience! The **Opening Night Gala** will include a feature film at the **Aurora Fox Arts Center**, followed by an outdoor Asian culinary feast, as well as a culinary art extravaganza complete with competition, demos and showpieces, at nearby Fletcher Plaza. The **East End Arts District** will host a **Summer Art Walk** both Friday evening and Saturday afternoon that will exhibit various Asian-themed art at local galleries—all within walking distance of the theatre. This year's festival feature artist, **Mami Yamamoto-Finke**, will exhibit contemporary Japanese sumi (ink paintings) in the Fox gallery.

The **Closing Night** film will be followed by the popular "Wrap Party" at two local galleries -- **The Other Side Arts** (TOSA) and **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts** (DAVA). TOSA is currently making a call for artists, and DAVA is collaborating with the **Asian Art Coordinating Council** on a photographic exhibit from Hunan, Colorado's Chinese sister province, called *Magic Mountains*, which captures the remote mountainous beauty of the Zhangjiajie region.

The Festival offers a cinematic journey to Asia and the Pacific Islands, allowing for the filmmakers' perspectives on the rich and diverse cultures of Asian/Pacific Islander and Asian Pacific American peoples. Screenings will include feature films and documentaries.

Updates will go up as the film schedule takes shape - - so visit often at www.auroraasian.org or call (303) 326-8695.



10th Aurora Asian Film Festival, May 31 - June 3, 2007
Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, CO 80010

Opening Night, Thursday, May 31st, 7:00 PM; \$30/person

Journey from the Fall (Vietnam/Thailand/USA/2005/135 min./with English subtitles/Adult Content) – Director: Ham Tran

Long Nguyen (as Long Nguyen, South Vietnamese resistance fighter) – Inspired by the true stories of Vietnamese refugees, and those left behind, the story tells of one family's struggle for freedom. Long suffers years of solitary confinement and hard labor, but news of his family's successful resettlement in America encourages his last desperate attempt to join them (Film only: \$15).

Followed by the Opening Night Gala, with an Asian Culinary Arts Extravaganza, on Fletcher Plaza, one block west of the theatre (Gala only: \$15)

Feature Films & Documentaries; \$8/General Admission; \$6/DFS members, Seniors, Students; \$5/Children 12 and under

Fri., June 1st, 6:30 PM: *The Go Master* (China/2006/104 min./Japanese/Chinese w/ English subtitles) – Director: Tian Zhuangzhuang

Chang Chen plays Wu Qungyuan, the world's most renowned master of the ancient game of Go, developed in China. The game requires intense stamina, energy, emotions, strategy and intellect. Wu, emerged as a prodigy and, at a young age, moved to Japan in the mid-20th Century, overturning established traditions and strategies of the game, and becoming a controversial figure in both countries. He's now in his 90s and continues the life of The Go Master (nominated for many Asian Film and Golden Horse awards).

Fri., June 1st, 8:45 PM: *Exiled* (Hong Kong/2006/100 min./Cantonese w/ English subtitles/Adult Content) – Producer/Director: Johnnie To

“Bullet-ridden” – “Star-studded” – “Action-packed” – With superb cinematography, Johnny To's latest film spins the tale of cold-blooded hit men and the traitor who has decided to quit his criminal life (set in 1999, during the turnover of the Portuguese colony of Macau to China).

Sat., June 2nd, 4:30 PM: *The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros* (Philippines/2005/100 min./Tagalog w/ English subtitles/Adult Content)

Director: Aureus Solito

Maximo is a preteen boy who lives a feminine life in the “barrio” with his widowed father and two teenage brothers, who all engage in petty crimes in their impoverished community--an “urban tribe with its own codes and customs”. Victor, a young, good-looking cop, encourages Maximo to aspire to a better life. *Blossoming* is a melodrama with its own peculiar intensity and charm.

Sat., June 2nd, 6:30 PM: *Paprika* (Japan//2006/89 min./Japanese w/ English subtitles) – Director: Satoshi Kon

Japan's most sophisticated anime filmmaker, Satoshi Kon, creates, in this plot, a machine that lets therapists enter patients' dreams. When the machine is stolen, Kon brilliantly shuttles the characters from dream to dream, nightmare to nightmare. Only a woman nicknamed “Paprika” can stop the madness. “Every frame is packed with imagination.”

Sat., June 2nd, 8:30 PM: *Time* (South Korea/2006/96 min./Korean w/ English subtitles/Adult Content) Director: Kim Ki-duk

South Korea's most recognized filmmaker, with actors Park Ji-yun and Ha Jung-woo and Sung Hyun-ah – Time, an obsessive love story, plays with the craze for plastic surgery, which has invaded our modern lives. Jealousy spurs the girlfriend to change her look to become a new woman with whom her boyfriend can fall in love again. Going to the extreme can't seduce the boyfriend, who is still in love with his 'old' girlfriend and won't let himself fall for the “new” woman.

FREE Outdoor Film Screening at Fletcher Plaza's sunken garden:

Sat., June 2nd, 9:00 PM: *Princess Mononoke* (Japan/1998/133 min./Dubbed in English) -- Director: Hayao Miyazaki

A beautifully realized tale of civilization versus nature, *Princess Mononoke* is a true epic by Japan's master animator Hayao Miyazaki. The startlingly fluid movements of these mythological characters are detailed far beyond any other hand-animated production, easily making this one of the most spectacular animated films ever made. PG-13

Sun., June 3rd, 4:00 PM: *The Cats of Mirikitani* (USA/2006/74 min./in English) – Producer/Director: Linda Hattendorf

“Eighty-year-old Jimmy Mirikitani survived the trauma of WWII internment camps, Hiroshima, and homelessness by creating art. But when 9/11 threatens his life on the New York City streets and a local filmmaker brings him to her home, the two embark on a journey to confront Jimmy's painful past. An intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing powers of friendship and art, this documentary won the Audience Award at its premiere in the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival.”

(from the official website: www.thecatsofmirikitani.com)

Closing Night, Sunday, June 3rd, 6:00 PM; \$20/person

Buddha's Lost Children (Thailand/The Netherlands/2006/97 min./Thai w/ English subtitles) – Director: Mark Verkerk

The horse-riding “Tiger Monk”, Abbot Phra Khru Bah, has traveled for 15 years caring for homeless and orphaned children in the Golden Triangle, an impoverished, drug-smuggling, isolated area of northern Thailand near the Burmese border. As a past Thai boxing champion, he holds his own and demands the same of the children, as he teaches them about fitness and survival through meditation, martial arts, good hygiene and horseback riding. His inspired way of life “bursts” from the screen.

Followed by the “Wrap Party” & Asian art exhibits at two local art galleries: *The Other Side Arts (TOSA)*, 1400 Dallas St., three blocks west and one block south of the theatre, AND *Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)*, 1405 Florence St., a block behind, just south of, -the theatre. Pedi-cabs will shuttle guests between the galleries.