



SEPTEMBER 25-28

# DEMOCRACY FORUM

NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY

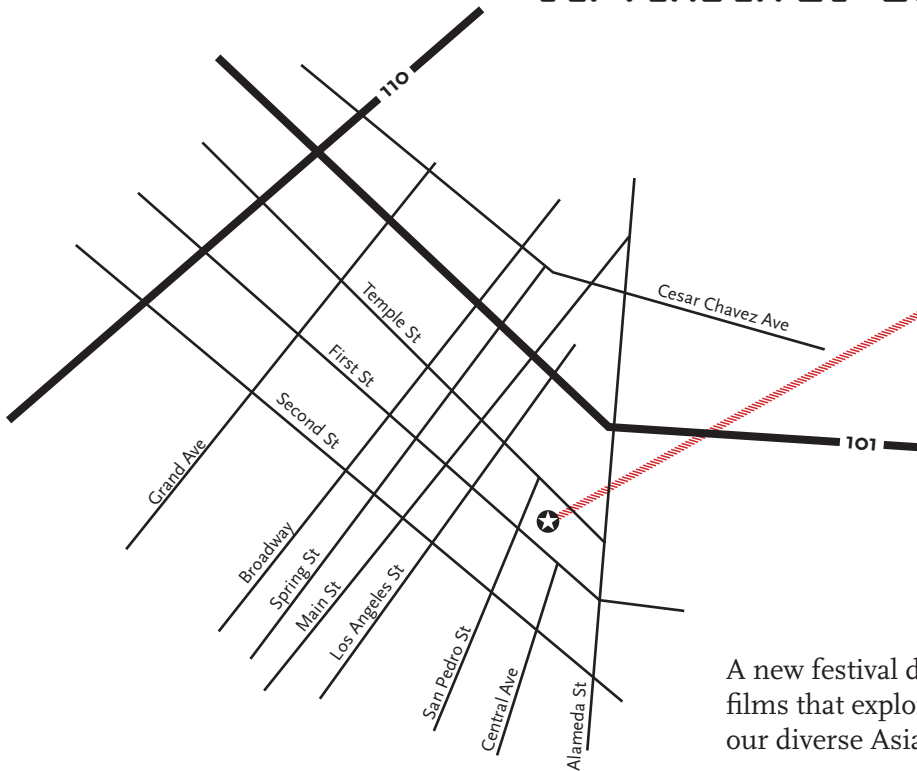
[www.janm.org/events/2008/idfilmfest](http://www.janm.org/events/2008/idfilmfest)



JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

# ID FILM FEST

SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2008



A new festival dedicated to contemporary digital films that explore and celebrate identity crisis in our diverse Asian/Pacific Islander community.

## TICKETS

Free for Japanese American National Museum members; \$5 for non-members for each program. We recommend purchasing tickets in advance by calling 213-625-0414 or visiting the front desk at the National Museum.

Please note, on the day of the program tickets can be purchased with cash only.

## LOCATION

All screenings will be at the Democracy Forum in the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy. The building is located at 111 N. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (directly across the National Museum's courtyard).



# MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMMERS

What Ridley Scott has imagined in *Blade Runner* is already a reality. Los Angeles is a postmodern collage of cultures and identity. Even within the broader umbrella of the “Asian American” community, there are Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian Americans. Further diversifying the community are divisions between first generation immigrants and those who were born here. A crisis of identity is inevitable and necessary even though we fantasize a more utopian unity. ID Film Fest is proud to present contemporary digital films that examine, explore or celebrate the identity crisis in our diverse global Asian community.

Quentin Lee  
*Co-programmer*

What am I? Am I Japanese American? Am I Asian American? Am I American? Or should I just call myself human? At different times I’m different things. It depends mostly on who I’m talking to and where I am. Everyone’s struggle with identity is totally unique but at the same time there are commonalities. The ID Film Festival is meant to explore those similarities and differences and through both, my hope is that everyone will be able to answer the basic question: “What are you?”

Koji Steven Sakai  
*Co-programmer*



SEPTEMBER 25  
THURSDAY 7:30 PM



Ra Choi



Jenny Tran (Not Her Real Name)

## OPENING NIGHT

### **Ra Choi** Opening Film Los Angeles Premiere

Australia, 2005, Color  
DV to Digital Betacam  
118 minutes

**Producer/Writer/Director:**  
M. Frank  
**Cast:**

Paul He, Nammi Le Benson, Nina  
Karen Fernandez,  
Charles Nguyen

### **Jenny Tran** (Not Her Real Name)

*Ra Choi* means “coming out to play” in Vietnamese. It is also the title of M. Frank’s first feature, a docudrama that tells the story of four Asian street kids trying to make a life for themselves in Sydney. Torn by the affects of poverty and drug use, each of our protagonists fights for a level of existence that most of us take for granted. A fascinating examination of street youths with an Australasian context, *Ra Choi* presents a perspective that has almost never been seen in terms of transcontinental Asian identity. Filmmaker M. Frank won the Australian Writers Guild award in 2005 and subsequently made the feature with his own savings so he could preserve the integrity of the film’s uncompromised content and character. *Ra Choi* is an admirable independent feat that puts in focus Asian immigrant youths on the edge.

*Ra Choi* is preceeded by *Jenny Tran (Not Her Real Name)*, a comical short by Aldo Velasco based on a real life Asian American female ecstasy dealer, portrayed in a hilarious and brilliant turn by Suzy Nakamura.

A light reception will follow program.

SEPTEMBER 26  
FRIDAY 7:30 PM



All of Me



Reverse Discri-Mission



Dim Sum and the Racetrack



o5o6HK

## CONFLICTING PASSIONS

### **All of Me** Los Angeles Premiere

### **Reverse Discri-Mission** Los Angeles Premiere

### **Dim Sum and the Racetrack** Los Angeles Premiere

### **o5o6HK** 63 mins, Documentary Quentin Lee

In this program, we bring together short documentary works that present the conflicting identities in the pan Asian/Pacific Islander community. *All of Me* is a short documentary about a group of women friends in the Bay Area who try to create an Asian American “drag king troupe.” On the opposite end of the ideological spectrum, *Reverse Discri-Mission* documents the experiences of a Caucasian pastor at the filmmaker’s local Korean American church to explore ethnic and religious identities. *Dim Sum and the Racetrack* is filmmaker Suilma Rodriguez’s highly personal and autobiographical short where the young filmmaker discovers her dad’s mysterious world at the horse racetracks after his death.

*o5o6HK* is Quentin Lee’s first documentary feature where the filmmaker documents his personal journeys between 2005 and 2006 to Hong Kong, the city where he was born and raised. Interviewing fellow filmmakers, artists, friends and family, Lee humorously and poignantly captures the vanishing identity of his generation of “Hong Kong people” who were born in a British colony which has ceased to exist since 1997.

SEPTEMBER 27

SATURDAY 7:30 PM



## Gone Shopping

Los Angeles Premiere

Singapore, 2007, Color  
HD, 97 minutes

**Writer/Director:**

Li Lin Wee

**Producer:**

Li Lin Wee, Fuzzy Abideen,  
Dawn Kwok Wai Ying

**Cast:**

Kym Ng, Aaron Kao,  
Sonya Nair, Adrian Pang,  
Charmaine Ang

In Asia, shopping malls have unabashedly become sites where communities and identities are formed. For many Asians, shopping is an essential activity. A shopping mall is the setting for *Gone Shopping*, a satirical Singaporean drama that centers on a 40-year-old wealthy Chinese housewife who faces a midlife crisis and runs away to the only place on earth that makes sense to her. Her journey crosses path with an eight-year-old Indian latchkey kid who has been abandoned by her parents in the 24-hour mall and Aaron, a 23-year-old young man who embodies the angstful generation of young Singaporean intelligentsia. Stunningly shot in high definition, *Gone Shopping* reveals the heart of a multi-cultural first world Asian nation who faces a fascinating identity crisis both poignant and capitalistic.

*Gone Shopping* is preceded by Ann Kaneko's comical and experimental sci-fi short *Outer Limits Redux* where she literally retells an *Outer Limits* episode by splicing in original footage that she shot. *Outer Limits Redux* is the ultimate deconstruction short about identity crisis in Los Angeles.

## Outer Limit Redux

World Premiere



SEPTEMBER 28

SUNDAY 12:30 PM



Skate Free



Shanti



Running Dragon



Officer Tsukamoto

## NON/FICTION

### Skate Free

"Non/Fiction" brings together three shorts that tread the boundary of fiction and non-fiction. As the closing program of our first ID Film Fest, these three shorts are each intensely intelligent and informative.

### Shanti

Los Angeles Premiere

*Skate Free* is a spoken word piece by Director/Poet Tony Toka that explores the ideas of being successful, having a job, and the American Dream; versus getting high, tuning out, and being an artist.

### Running Dragon

Downtown Premiere

*Shanti* is one of the very first films about Fijian Indian Americans. Directed by Marlyn M. Bilas, the documentary reveals the main subject Chandra's dreams for her life in the United States after arriving as a 21-year-old bride in a pre-arranged marriage. As she is diagnosed with breast cancer, Chandra's life takes a life-changing turn that allows her to finally achieve "shanty" peace.

### Officer Tsukamoto

Los Angeles Premiere

*Running Dragon* is part documentary and part narrative that tells the story of an aspiring Los Angeles actor, born of a Vietnamese woman and an American soldier, who was adopted as an infant into an All American family. By accident, he discovers his Vietnamese birth mother and plunges into a semi-voluntary quest to explore his "ethnic" heritage. Identity crisis has never been funnier and more satiric.

*Officer Tsukamoto* is a gripping and illuminating documentary about the cold case of a rookie Japanese American police officer Ronald Tsukamoto who was shot and killed during a routine traffic stop in a political turbulent Berkeley in 1970. The documentary brings viewers to the night of the killing and into the short life of the fallen officer to give viewers a glimpse of the identity crisis of racial clashes that defined the era of Black Panther Party and post-Vietnam war which is relevant to this day of seeming tolerance.

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SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2008



Gone Shopping

## Film Source A-Z

### **o5o6HK**

Dir. Quentin Lee  
<http://www.o5o6hk.com>  
Margin Films  
[mail@marginfilms.com](mailto:mail@marginfilms.com)

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### **All of Me**

Dir. Margaret Rhee  
[rheemargaret@gmail.com](mailto:rheemargaret@gmail.com)

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### **Dim Sum and the Racetrack**

Dir. Suilma Rodriguez  
[suegoestochina@yahoo.com](mailto:suegoestochina@yahoo.com)

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### **Gone Shopping**

Dir. Wee Li Lin  
[goneshoppingthemovie.com](http://goneshoppingthemovie.com)  
Bobbing Buoy Films  
[lilin@bobbingbuoyfilms.com](mailto:lilin@bobbingbuoyfilms.com)

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### **Jenny Tran (Not Her Real Name)**

Dir. Aldo Velasco  
<http://www.supermachomovie.com>

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### **Officer Tsukamoto**

Dir. Ling Woo Liu  
<http://www.officertsukamoto.com>  
[info@officertsukamoto.com](mailto:info@officertsukamoto.com)

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### **Outer Limits Redux**

Dir. Ann Kaneko

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### **Ra Choi**

Dir. Michael Frank  
Calloping Films  
[carlos@gallopingfilms.com](mailto:carlos@gallopingfilms.com)

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### **Reverse Discr-i-Mission**

Dir. Christina Aujean Lee  
[aujean@gmail.com](mailto:aujean@gmail.com)

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### **Running Dragon**

Dir. Kim Noonan & Neal Sickles  
[runningdragonshort.com](http://runningdragonshort.com)  
[runingdragn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:runingdragn@sbcglobal.net)

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### **Shanti**

Dir. Merlyn M. Bilas  
[camerawallih.com](http://camerawallih.com)  
Camera Wallih Pictures  
[mmbilas@camerawallih.com](mailto:mmbilas@camerawallih.com)

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### **Skate Free**

Dir. Tony Huang  
[tonysaidhi@gmail.com](mailto:tonysaidhi@gmail.com)

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