

Ph: (415) 431-7363 • Cell: (415) 205-6515 • lisag@igc.org
Festival info: www.i-seaifest.com • Press photos: www.i-seaifest.com/press--media.html

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Contact: Lisa Geduldig – lisag@igc.org
(415) 205-6515 - Please don't publish

Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network (DVAN) Presents....
The Inaugural SF International Southeast Asian (I-SEA) Film Festival

November 20-22, 2015: San Francisco

•Nov 20 @ 7 to 11pm Opening Night screening and party: ATA, 992 Valencia St, SF 94110

•Nov 21-22, 10.30am-midnight: New People Cinema, 1746 Post St, Japantown, SF 94115

Info/Tickets: www.i-seaifest.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/iseaifest & Twitter: [@ISEAFilmFest](https://twitter.com/ISEAFilmFest)

San Francisco, CA... The Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network (DVAN) is commemorating the 40th anniversary of US military involvement in Southeast Asia by launching its inaugural San Francisco International Southeast Asian (I-SEA) Film Festival. The selected films seek dialogue with local and international communities, drawing connections between wars then and now, overseas and on our streets. The films—ranging from horror, experimental, documentaries and more—embrace diverse topics including gender identity, love and modernity. The group previously ran the San Francisco Global Vietnamese Film Festival in 2012 and 2013 and this year is rebranding as I-SEA and branching out to include films from all over Southeast Asia and its diasporas.

There are hundreds of thousands of people of Southeast Asian descent in the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, and other parts of the world. The SF Bay Area has a vast Southeast Asian American population: one of the largest Vietnamese communities in the country as well as sizeable Cambodian, Filipino, and Laotian communities. California is home to the largest concentrations of Southeast Asian immigrants in the world. According to the 2010 US census, almost 1 million Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodians, and Hmong live in California (with the largest population being Vietnamese): approximately 40% of the Southeast Asian American population in the US.

DVAN, which was founded in 2007 to promote artists from the Vietnamese diaspora and to foster their relationship to the Vietnamese American community in the Bay Area and beyond, addresses the under-representation of Southeast Asians in mass media. Working with Southeast Asian cinema experts including professors, curators and filmmakers in the US and Southeast Asia, the festival organizers put together a world-class film going experience.

The I-SEA Film Festival highlights the histories, imaginaries and identities of those with ties to Southeast Asia and its diasporas, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore and the Philippines. The festival will be held on Friday, November 20 from 7 to 11pm (Opening Night interactive screening and party) at Artists' Television Access in San Francisco's Mission District and Saturday-Sunday, November 21-22 from 10:30am to midnight at the New People Cinema in Japantown. The festival will feature the latest works by emerging and established filmmakers, including features, documentaries, shorts, and experimental cinema. Special artists panels will feature directors flying in internationally (Germany) and nationally (East Coast, Southern California). There will be 14 screenings: 11 features and 3 shorts programs. Over 2,000 people are expected to attend the festival.

The festival features work by award-winning directors (Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or, Prince Claus Foundation, Macarthur "Genius" award), Oscar nominees, rebels and art-world stars, and showcases world-class feature films, cutting-edge experimental shorts and controversial documentaries.

Opening Night Screening Event & Party. Friday, November 20, from 7 to 11 pm. ATA
Screening: "Ways of Seeing" - Family home movies, moving and still images from the French colonial era, and scene excerpts from Hollywood films and declassified CIA propaganda films frame the varied histories of Southeast Asians. Co-presenters include Center for Asian American Media's Memories to Light, Stephen Gong and awarding winning Laotian writer Bryan Thao Worra.
(With SUP! Southeast Asian Streetfood Pop-up and music by DJ Richie Traktivist)

All films (except Opening Night) take place at New People Cinema in Japantown.

Festival highlights (& directors' bios): www.i-seafilemfest.com/festival-highlights.html

Cemetery of Splendour (Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Thailand), Sat Nov 21 @ 1:50pm
Soldiers with a mysterious sleeping sickness are transferred to a temporary clinic in a former school. There may be a connection between the soldiers' enigmatic syndrome and the mythic ancient site that lies beneath the clinic. Dir. Apichatpong Weerasethakul is a **Cannes Palme D'Or** (*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*) and **Cannes Competition Jury Prize winner** (*Tropical Malady*).

The Look of Silence (Joshua Oppenheimer, Indonesia, Denmark), Sun Nov 21 @ 2:35pm
Joshua Oppenheimer's powerful **companion piece to the Oscar®-nominated *The Act of Killing***. Through Oppenheimer's footage of perpetrators of the 1965 Indonesian genocide, a family of survivors discovers how their son was murdered, as well as the identities of the killers.

Chanthalay (Mattie Do, Laos), Sat Nov 21 @ 6:30pm
A young girl, raised alone by her overprotective father sequestered in their home in Vientiane, Chanthalay suspects that her dead mother's ghost is trying to deliver a message to her from the afterlife. After a change in the medication treating her hereditary heart condition causes the hallucinations to cease, Chanthalay must decide whether or not to risk succumbing to her terminal illness to hear her mother's last words. **First Laotian horror film; screened at Cannes in 2014; San Francisco premiere.**

Bonne Nuit, Papa (Marina Kem, Germany), Sun Nov 22 @ 4:45pm
This film about conciliation, connection, and farewell documents Marina Kem's search for her father's story—a father who was strange to her in two regards—strange because of his Cambodian origins, strange because of his silence. Tracing the footsteps of his life, she immerses herself deeper and deeper into the history of Cambodia's ideological wars and at the end she finds a new family and reconciles herself with her roots. **Following the screening, join director Marina Kem from Hamburg for a Q&A.**

Finding Phong (Swann Dubus/Tran Phuong Thao, Vietnam/USA), Sun Nov 22 @ 7:05pm
From the time he was a young boy, Phong felt like he was a girl with a mismatched boy's body. His dream to 'find himself' by physically changing sex becomes a reality. The movie follows Phong's struggle with excerpts from his intimate video journal, along with his encounters with family, friends and doctors - all of whom must come to terms with the boy's determination to become a complete girl.

Killing Fields of Dr. Haing (Arthur Dong, Cambodia, USA), Sat, Nov 21 @ 8pm

Dr. Haing S. Ngor, the only Asian to win the Best Supporting Actor Oscar, for the heartrending role of Cambodian photographer Dith Pran in Roland Joffé's 1984 film *The Killing Fields*. Ngor spoke out against Pol Pot's regime and the Vietnamese occupation of his country that followed. He became such a powerful voice that specters of conspiracy still haunt his untimely 1996 death. **Oscar®-nominated** and **Emmy nominated doc-maker, Arthur Dong**, unspools Ngor's phenomenal life with original animation, rare archival material and newly shot footage inspired by his autobiography *Survival in the Killing Fields*. **Following the screening, join director Arthur Dong from Los Angeles for a Q&A.**

Festival links:

*Festival films: www.i-seaifest.com/festival-films.html

*Screening schedule: www.i-seaifest.com/screening-schedule.html

*Tickets: www.i-seaifest.com

*Hi res press photos: www.i-seaifest.com/press--media.html

For Calendar Editors:

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TICKETS: •General Admission (Opening Night and Films): \$12.
(\$9 Early Bird, before November 10.)
•4-pack deal: \$35
•All Access Festival pass: (unlimited access to 14 screenings and the Opening Night Gala): \$125.

INFO: www.i-seaifest.com

PRESS: For further press info/to arrange interviews, please contact Publicist, Lisa Geduldig at (415) 431-7363 or cell: (415) 205-6515 or lisag@igc.org