

VOICES WITH IMPACT 2021

SIDEAH ALLADICE
ADÁN AVÁLÓS
EMILIE CHEUNG
ZIYAO LIU
THEA LOO
JAMEELAH NURIDDIN
ROSIE PIDCOCK
FAN SISSOKO
CAMPBELL
HAO ZHOU





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2021 Films



Frozen Out

Hao Zhou (Experimental, China/USA)



A Chinese immigrant artist retreats to frozen prairies and forests, hoping to escape the anxieties of dislocation and find a meaningful story.

Hao Zhou is a filmmaker from southwest China focusing on LGBTQ+ identities, immigration, and resistance to marginalization. An alum of Cinéfondation Residence and Berlinale Talents, Zhou directed the indie feature "The Night" (Berlinale premiere) and the Oscar-winning short "Frozen Out."



Esther & Sai

Rosie Pidcock & Anaïssa Viser (Drama, Canada)



The night before their first day of nursing school in 1976, two female immigrants to Vancouver face unbearable homesickness.

Rosie is a biracial Chinese Canadian actor. She produced and starred in Thank You For Ghosting and Chime Me Again, with additional credits including Batwoman and Resident Alien. Anaïssa Visser is a biracial (Dutch and Pakistani) filmmaker and arts administrator based in Vancouver.



Fish

Emilie Cheung (Drama, United Kingdom)



Leila, a British-born, second-generation Chinese immigrant, struggles with her dual identity, in an annual celebration of Chinese New Year.

Emilie is a shorts director based in the UK. After training with the BFI Film Academy in 2016, she made her directorial debut at 17, with a commission from Channel 4's 'Random Acts', for her short film 'Pas De Deux'. She's since gone on to direct a variety of projects.



Rompiendo Olas

Adán Àvalos (Documentary, USA)



We follow a migrant worker who periodically fights a personal battle with anxiety and depression. Describing his illness as intense "olas que rompen/waves that break."

Adán Ávalos is a filmmaker and scholar dedicated to blending theory and practice in art. Drawing from his Mexican migrant labor roots, he creates documentaries and installations that honor the lives and experiences of migrant communities.



Could Have, Should Have

Ziyao Liu (Drama, USA)



Stuck in the United States alone and jobless due to COVID-19, Lei is forced to confront the irreconcilable gap between her and her mother when her secrets are unveiled.

Ziyao Liu is a Chinese writer/ director/ editor based on earth. Being a transplant from China and now living in LA, she creates compelling narratives, finding humor in the absurdity of existence, to generate empathy and appreciation of the collective human experience.



Nanay

Thea Loo (Documentary, Canada)



Two Filipino Canadians who recount their experiences as children of Filipina migrant workers. Unveiling the alienation, confusion, and trauma that impacts immigrant Filipino Canadian families.

Thea Loo is a Vancouver-based producer and director with a BFA in Film Production. She highlights underrepresented communities, focusing on Asian Canadian experiences. In 2024, she won the Northern Lights Canadian Prize at VIFF for her feature length documentary based on this short.



On the Surface

Fan Sissoko (Animation, Sweden)



Ada, a young Black woman, goes swimming in the Icelandic sea and reflects on her experience of having a baby in a country that feels nothing like home.

Fan Sissoko is a French-Malian artist and filmmaker based in Reykjavik. Her work explores migration, motherhood and neurodiversity. Her animated short 'On The Surface' screened at more than 50 festivals internationally, including Clermont Ferrand ISFF.



Wholeness

Jameelah Nuriddin (Mixed Media, USA)



Eva, the womxn with the Eve Gene who created life and civilization and, yet, is disconnected from herself, her origins, and her truth; journey with her through her unconscious mind as she reclaims wholeness.

Jameelah Nuriddin is a film producer, program director, and award-winning editor with over 10 years in commercial production. An NAACP award-winning actress from Atlanta, she co-founded Imagine Youth Workshops, using storytelling to drive social change and mentor young artists globally.



be•long

Sideah Alladice (Documentary, Canada)



A Black woman recounts a 17-year battle with mental health, starting with a suicide attempt and ending in sobriety.

Sideah is a Vancouver-based filmmaker passionate about honest storytelling. She creates immersive, emotional narratives and runs Mutton Media while studying Broadcast and Digital Journalism at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.



Still We Thrive

Campbell X (Experimental, United Kingdom)



A film about our healing and self-care under white supremacy. Still I Thrive uses found/archive footage, pieces to camera, voice over, and music to build a story of Black mental health resilience.

Campbell X is a writer/director known for the award-winning queer romantic comedy Stud Life, voted one of the top 10 Black British films by The Guardian. Currently developing his second feature, he co-founded the Wahala Film Fund for QTIPPOC short films.



Premiere



World Premiere & Festival

Voices With Impact will premiere the 10 short films made through its mental health production grant in two online premieres. These events will include guest performers and speakers. The premieres will be followed by interactive workshops with the filmmakers exploring the themes of their films.

June 21: Black Mental Health 5 films exploring Black Mental Health



June 21: Immigrant Mental Health 5 films exploring Immigrant Mental Health



Premiere Performances



VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE



21
JUNE
2021

at VOICES WITH IMPACT
Film Festival Premiere



Timaj Garad



Raye Zaragoza



Free to attend! • Limited seats • Get tickets: bit.ly/vwi2021



Premiere Appearances



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Keyondria Bunch



Dr. Karinn Glover &
Dr. Dilip V. Jeste



Haesue Jo



Keith Chau, Sharon Nyarko
& Vermonte Wong



Tariqh Akoni



Lisa Conn-Akoni

Workshops



Dueling Citzenships

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

10am PDT / 1pm EDT/ 6pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring dual citizenship, heritage, cultural identity, and mental health.

Featuring: *Fish* by Emilie Cheung, *Rompiendo Olas* by Adán Ávalos, and *Nanay* by Thea Loo.

Black Belonging

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

1pm PDT / 4pm EDT/ 9 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring black belonging and mental health. Featuring: *Still We Thrive* by Campbell X, *be•long* by Sideah Alladice, *Wholeness* by Jameelah Nuriddin.

A Foot in Both Worlds

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

4pm PDT / 7pm EDT/ midnight BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring mental health among queer, racialized people. Featuring: *Still We Thrive* by Campbell X, *Frozen Out* by Hao Zhou.

Othered Mothers

Wednesday, June 23, 2021
10am PDT / 1 pm EDT/ 6 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring the complexities of raising children across cultures. Featuring: *On the Surface* by Fan Sissoko, *Could Have, Should Have* by Ziyao Liu and *Nanay* by Thea Loo.

Mother Tongue

Wednesday, June 23, 2021
1 pm PDT / 4 pm EDT/ 8 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring the complexities of raising children across cultures. Featuring: *Esther & Sai* by Rosie Pidcock, *Frozen Out* by Hao Zhou, *Could Have, Should Have* by Ziyao Liu and *Rompiendo Olas* by Adán Ávalos

Landscapes and Mindscapes

Wednesday, June 23, 2021
4pm PDT / 7pm EDT/ midnight BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring how physical environments can shape our mental health. Featuring: *On the Surface* by Fan Sissoko, *Frozen Out* by Hao Zhou, and *Rompiendo Olas* by Adán Ávalos

Beyond the Myths

Thursday, June 24, 2021

10am PDT / 1 pm EDT/ 6 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring perceptions of black strength, vulnerability, and intergenerational trauma. Featuring: *On the Surface* by Fan Sissoko and *Still We Thrive* by Campbell X.

Comfort Food

Thursday, June 24, 2021

1 pm PDT / 4 pm EDT/ 9 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring how people can find nourishment in their heritage. Featuring: *Fish* by Emilie Cheung and *Esther & Sai* by Rosie Pidcock.

Swallowing Bitterness

Thursday, June 24, 2021

4 pm PDT / 7 pm EDT/ midnight BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring Mental Health Stigma in Chinese and Filipinx Cultures. Featuring: *Fish* by Emilie Cheung, *Nanay* by Thea Loo, and *Frozen Out* by Hao Zhou.

Enough

Friday, June 25, 2021

10 am PDT / 1 pm EDT/ 6 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring the mental health impacts of racism, and how it can make it harder for people feel like they are enough. Featuring: *Esther & Sai* by Rosie Pidcock, *Fish* by Emilie Cheung and *be•long* by Sideah Alladice.

Common Threads

Friday, June 25, 2021

1pm PDT / 4pm EDT/ 9pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring how connections among BPOC communities are woven. Featuring an open discussion with 5 of our filmmakers from this year.

Celebrating Black Resilience

Friday, June 25, 2021

4pm PDT / 7 pm EDT/ midnight BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring how physical environments can shape our mental health. Featuring: *On the Surface* by Fan Sissoko, *Frozen Out* by Hao Zhou, and *Rompiendo Olas* by Adán Ávalos

**VOICES
WITH
IMPACT
2021**

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