

Wow! Ten years! The **Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership** celebrated the **10th Aurora Asian Film Festival**, May 31st - June 3rd, held at its 'home' in the East End Arts District, the historic **Aurora Fox Arts Center**.

Opening Night Gala's theme focused on the culinary arts and included sugar and chocolate show pieces produced by the students of **Johnson & Wales University**, a sushi demonstration by **Eric Stein**, a teacher at JWU and wellness chef for his own company, **Enlightened Flavors**. Chef **Ubol Chotinum** of **Old Siam** created beautiful fruit carvings, a learned art in her native Thailand. **Sabo Oriental Market** set up an open Asian market, and offered a free beverage (Indonesian teh jasmin) to the guests.

Asian cuisine was donate by:

- " **Chef's Noodle House**
- " **Manila To Go**
- " **Pho 75**
- " **Korea House**
- " **Taki's**

AND, delicious desserts were donated by the **Philippine American Society of Colorado** (bibingka and maja blanco) and the **Denver Thai Lions Club** (Thai custard and Thai mango sticky rice). Delicious! Yes, it's worth repeating, the desserts were delicious!!

It was a **Culinary Arts Extravaganza** at the **10th Aurora Asian Film Festival**



Robert Meitzer
Custom Ice Carving

Fish, Fruit, Flavor & Fun!

A culinary highlight was the chef's competition. Our judges for the event were **John Wright**, President of the **Asian Chamber of Commerce**; **Joe Nguyen** of **AsiaXpress.com**; **Melissa McKillip** of **Johnson & Wales University**; and **Nimol Hen** of **UCD's Asian American Student Services**. They were privileged to have tasted three culinary delights. The required ingredients were any type of fish, any fruit and any curry flavor of each chef's choice. Judges awarded the following trophies, presented by the evening's beautiful emcee, **Kim Nguyen**, Managing Editor of **TheDenverChannel.com**:

- " **Best Presentation**
Chef Ubol Chotinum
Old Siam Restaurant
- " **Best Taste Sensation**
Chef Yume Tran
Indochine Cuisine
- " **Originality & Creativity**
Chef Leah Eveleigh
Tropical Grill Catering

Congratulations!

Rosemount Estate wine and **Coors** beer completed the culinary feast. Thank you!

Photographs by Kit Williams



Live Coverage by Aurora 8

The Opening Night Gala was featured on Aurora 8, with News Anchor **Jacqueline Palisi** (shown far left) interviewing culinary and visual artists. **Susan Jenson** is shown here in purple, as the two discuss the **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts'** photographic exhibit from Hunan, China, in collaboration with the **Asian Art Coordinating Council**.



Co-Chairs **Edith Pasion**
and **Chuck Hahn**



l-r: **Chefs Ubol, Yume and Leah**



Special Entertainment by the Exuberant and Youthful **SOL PINOY**



Tui Faamausili and his daughters
demonstrating the **ALOHA spirit!**



An Incredible 10-Year Tour of Asian Pacific American Cinema!

With invaluable, expert and professional assistance from the **Denver Film Society**, the **Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership**, in collaboration with the **City of Aurora**, has offered, over the past 10 years, 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.

The 2007 schedule of films was exceptional, including such diverse films as Opening Night's *Journey from the Fall* (Vietnam/USA), *The Go Master* (China), Director/Producer Johnnie To's adventure film *Exiled* (Hong Kong), a look at modern culture in Manila as featured in *The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros* (Philippines), Japanese animé *Paprika* (as well as the free outdoor screening of *Princess Mononoke*), Director Kim-Ki-duk's *Time* (Korea), and two amazing documentaries to wrap up the 10th anniversary, *The Cats of Mirikitani* (USA/Japan), and Closing Night's *Buddha's Lost Children* (Thailand/The Netherlands). Print source information is available.

10th Aurora Asian Film Festival



www.auroraasian.org

www.denverfilm.org



Summer Art Walk -- a complement to the Festival!

Exhibits featuring Asian art and artists offered an added bonus to filmgoers. Within three blocks in every direction of the **Aurora Fox Arts Center**, local galleries participated in the four-day weekend of activities. An international exhibit at **East End Applied Arts**, Domesticated, included work by Filipina artist **Mildred Avendano**. Contemporary art using traditional Japanese woodblock print methods was on display at **Red Delicious Press**. *Raku* firing demonstrations and the **Asian Heritage Center Dragon Dance Troupe** were also included in the Summer Art Walk in the East End Arts District.

Two galleries remained open for the Festival's Closing Night receptions. **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts'** (DAVA) "Magic Mountains" photographic exhibit from Hunan, China, was in collaboration with the **Asian Art Coordinating Council**. **The Other Side Arts** (TOSA) held their 2nd Annual Asian Art Show.

The 10th Aurora Asian Film Festival's featured artist was **Mami Yamamoto-Finke**. Her contemporary Japanese sumi ink paintings (left) were delightful!

Photographs by Kit Williams



Couldn't have done it without them:

left-right: **Brit Withey**, Program Director for the **Denver Film Society**; **Kim Nguyen**, Emcee and Managing Editor of TheDenverChannel.com; and **Mami Yamamoto-Finke**, 2007 Festival featured artist.

Sponsors



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Aurora Visitors Promotion Advisory Board

Kaiser Permanente
Asian Pacific Development Center,
Premier Bank, Raytheon, RFID,
Asian Roundtable of Colorado and the
Philippine American Society of Colorado

SCFD and the Festival's Valued Patrons

Closing Night Receptions

Following the Closing Night film, guests enjoyed Asian-themed art and cuisine at DAVA and TOSA galleries. At left, **AsiaXpress.com's Joe Nguyen** poses next to his own work, on exhibit throughout the Festival at TOSA. Joe provided hours of support through his web site, as well as promotional and marketing expertise. **Sarah Shirazi** and **Asian Avenue Magazine** also provided excellent coverage for the 10th Aurora Asian Film Festival. Special thanks to Closing Night reception sponsors: **Thai Landing Café, Tropical Grill** **Philippine-Asian Cuisine** and **Whole Foods Market**.

