

Cinematic Harvests

September 1, 6-8pm

Bloodline Screening and Filmmaker Q&A, co-presented with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM)

Welcome to the final event in our Cinematic Harvests film program, a special screening of the Emmy-nominated film *Bloodline* (2021). *Bloodline* explores Chef Tu David Phu's genesis as a chef and traces his culinary journey through the lens of family, diaspora, and food. The inaugural film in an anthology series called First Kitchen, which focuses on examining various storytellers' relationships to food through their origins and family lineages, *Bloodline* is rooted in Chef Tu's personal narrative. It takes viewers through his parents' experiences in the Vietnam War and Khmer Rouge, his upbringing in West Oakland, ascent to fame as a contestant on *Top Chef*, and his return home. More than a family history, *Bloodline* is also an investigation of what mainstream U.S. culture and the culinary establishment choose to value or throw away, whether they are certain life experiences or the parts of a fish. Pay attention to the ways in which different 'ingredients' coalesce visually, sonically and metaphorically, as well as the connections this cinematic 'recipe' invokes for you. How do you think about the tension between labor and craft, or the ways in which food can act as a portal for accessing family histories that might be otherwise inaccessible?

This was my first time organizing a film program, and it has been a deeply rewarding experience, thanks to the community around this project. Thank you Thúy Tran, CAAM's Festival and Exhibitions Director, for the thoughtful introduction to the *Bloodline* team. My immense gratitude goes to Chef Tu and Co-directors James Q. Chan and Santhosh Daniel, for providing crucial support at every stage of this process, from finding a food partner to offering their time and energy in answering my endless questions. I certainly couldn't have done any of this without the hard work of the dream team at the Chinese Culture Center — especially YY Zhu and Jane Trieu, who have poured countless hours into producing a consistently sold-out screening series, bringing in visitors from Chinatown and beyond. And to you, the audience: thank you for showing up, especially those of you who are here for the second (or even third) time. You have breathed the life into this program, made it more than I dreamed could be possible. So get comfortable, grab a bite to eat, and enjoy the show.

— Connie Zheng

Schedule

6:00 - 6:30

Doors open. Check-in, grab a snack (generously catered by Gao Viet Kitchen), mingle.

6:30 - 7:00

Screening of *Bloodline* (2021). Directed by James Q. Chan and Santhosh Daniel; story by Tu David Phu and Santhosh Daniel.

7:00 - 7:30

Q&A with Co-director James Q. Chan and Chef Tu David Phu. Moderated by Connie Zheng.