



2022 Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY AAPI PANEL

Join the PACT as they host a Q&A panel with rising stars and key influencers in the entertainment industry to learn about their unique backgrounds, hear about the successes they have achieved and challenges they have overcome throughout their careers.



Joel de la Fuente

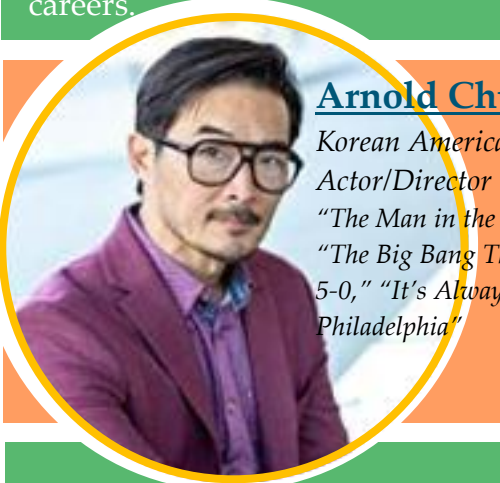
Filipino American Actor

"The Man in the High Castle,"
"Blue Bloods," "Manifest," "Law & Order," "The Blacklist"



Tenelle Christine Luafalemana

Samoan-American Singer-Songwriter



Arnold Chun

Korean American Actor/Director

"The Man in the High Castle,"
"The Big Bang Theory," "Hawaii 5-0," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"



Camile "Eli-Mac" Velasco

Filipino-American Singer-Songwriter

CAPE

The Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE) plays a pivotal role in advancing diversity on the screen and in other aspects of the entertainment industry. The organization seeks to educate, connect and empower AAPI artists and leaders within the industry. By developing a network of AAPI producers, actors, writers, artists, etc., a sound support network is able to nurture and engage creative talent, provide cultural context consulting and talent referrals, influencing the story that is communicated to a broader audience.



Natalie Ficarra

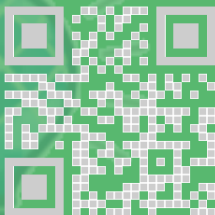
Talent Promoter



STAY UP TO DATE

For the latest happenings around the Department, please visit the [DAF Diversity Page](#)

May Newsletters will be released weekly to celebrate the month's events.



JOIN THE EVENT!

May 19, 2022

1600 EDT

Join on [ZOOM](#)

Passcode: 05192022



OPERATION FREQUENT WING ANNIVERSARY

US Service Members of Vietnamese descent, pay tribute to Veteran's of the Vietnam War in Washington DC. The Wreath laying ceremony falls on the anniversary of [Operation FREQUENT WIND](#), which evacuated Vietnamese citizens in 1975.

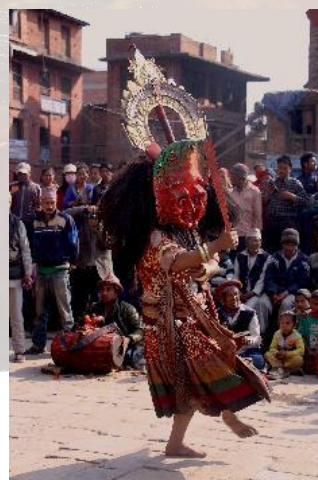


Never Far From the World Stage

The arts have taken a firm grasp on history since the dawn of man. Collectively, they serve as an alternative, yet elaborate form of communication, expressing humanity's creativity and imagination in visual form. Through the eyes of the beholder, one's experiences, biases, desires, feelings, and emotions are intertwined to the physical manifestation of the ideas and feelings played out before them, galvanizing strong sensation and awe that words could fall short of capturing. Even in times of uncertainty and strife, the arts serve as a means of strength and solace, showcasing unique backgrounds, traditions, and histories where differences and humanity can be celebrated, not shunned.

"The job of feet is walking, but their hobby is dancing" -Amit Kalantri

During the month of May, communities all over the United States honor artists from a variety of backgrounds. In New York, the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) showcases an array of videos while simultaneously hosting a wide breadth of artistic achievements of the AAPI community around the museum floor. In Washington D.C., one cannot go far without witnessing numerous celebrations and observances of AAPI customs and traditions. An assortment of riveting exhibits detailing tales of old, powerful showcases of strength, and delicate dances of emotion permeate the streets as proud American citizens demonstrate their rich heritage. Several [museums and libraries](#) within the National Capital Region also provide special tours, tributes, and host exciting events to honor the generations of AAPI that have been and continue to be instrumental in building this country's future. While the arts do not holistically represent all aspects of the vast AAPI cultures, they act as a gateway to inspire those wishing to learn more as they capture the splendors and vibrant storytelling that emanates through mesmerizing song, captivating dance, and jaw dropping craftsmanship.



AAPI - “Origins” Volume 3

Dive into a rich cultural history

“...I was always taught to respect my elders, to be a better listener than a talker.” -Lisa Ling



“As Americans, we live in a melting pot nation intertwined with millions of people who come from different walks of life, all arriving with a unique story. My ancestry’s past defines the present, and I will shape our future. My grandparents are who I thank for the life my family lives today. Originating in the Philippines, they decided to seek refuge in Guam to give their family a brighter future and to shield their children from the times of war they experienced. They planted their roots founded on hard work, determination, grit, and sacrifice. These fundamentals guided my mother into the military and she inspired both me and my sister to follow in her footsteps. She pushed us to be better and blaze the trails for our family’s future. Attending the Air Force Academy was the opportunity of a lifetime. It was also my first time visiting the mainland United States! It educated me while fulfilling

my dream to serve. At the time, I didn’t sense how big of an impact this path would have on my life and didn’t realize I had any passion for aviation. This realization didn’t happen until I attended the Women in Aviation International Conference in my junior year. While there, I came across an inspiring mentor, Lt Col Cathyrine Armandie. At the time, she was the Commander of Air Force Recruiting Service, Detachment 1. She was responsible for hosting the Air Force attendees at the conference.

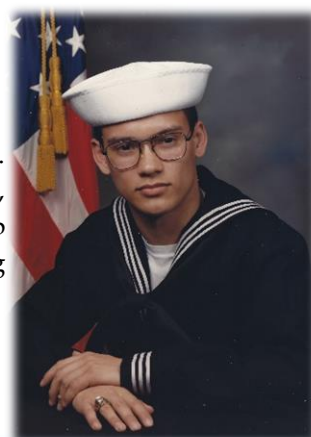
When I heard her speak I found she was easy for me to relate with. She also had AAPI roots and a family founded on the same humble beginnings as mine. Her passion was contagious. I remember her saying, “If they see it, they will believe it.” She and several other female aviators inspired me that day and I could finally see my new future in aviation. Just a few short years later, I started my journey as an officer and student Combat Systems Officer at Naval Air Station Pensacola. It was here our paths crossed once again. She is now my commander, leading the 479th Student Squadron, and continues to inspire me to build my legacy as an aviator, a woman, and as an AAPI. Some would call it coincidence, but I call it fate.”

**-2d Lt Mia Chabanne & Lt Col Catherina Armandie,
Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida
TAIWANESE & CHAMORRO (GUAM)**





"Born in Korat, Thailand to a Thai mother and an American Airman, I immigrated to the United States at the age of 5 and grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Dealing with diversity growing up and conflicting cultural environments, I joined the Navy at 18 where I honorably served for 20 and a half years, honorably retiring from the Navy. I then joined the Civil Service workforce in the Navy and gradually moved into the Air Force by competing for and being selected as the Director of Staff for the 11th Wing at Joint Base Anacostia Bolling (JBAB). Being selected as the Senior Civilian of the Command, I had the privilege of leading the 11th WG in reestablishment of the organization on JBAB and navigating the Air Force in the First ever installation lead service change, from Navy to Air Force. Being the first ever Asian American in this role within the 11th WG, I continue to strive to promote the diversity needed in leadership and to ensure that this continues to be important in an ever-changing and diverse American society, the military and government."

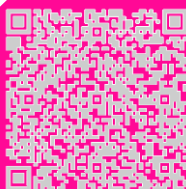


-Mr. John Michael Eichstadt
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.
THAI



AAPI SPOTLIGHT

DUKE KAHANMOKU



5-Time Olympic medalist and Hawaiian role model. Learn Duke's story, his amazing career and his journey of overcoming racism now on [PBS](#).

2022 FEDERAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COUNCIL WINNERS

FAPAC has recently released their recipients for the 2022 FAPAC awards, recognizing civilians and military service members and their contributions to the promotion of AAPI:

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE WINNERS

Lt Col Charlynnne McGinnis (Regular AF)
MSgt Monica Diaz De Lope-Diaz (Regular AF)
Major Sadia Ali Heil (USAF Reserve)

Click on the following link to learn more about the [FAPAC](#) and their initiatives to advance AAPI.



On the Horizon

White House Initiative on AANHPI – 24 May 2022

AAPI Heritage Month – Week 3 Reading List

