MAY 1 ONLINE GALA & AUCTION FOR THE JAPANESE
AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM KICKS OFF ASIAN
AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

LOS ANGELES - May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and the
Japanese American National Museum (JANM) will kick it off with its May 1 virtual Gala and
Auction. A full month of events and activities are also scheduled.

The Gala variety show, which is free to the public, will feature a diverse slate of entertainment
and special guests. Co-hosts for the online show are Derek Mio, Jully Lee and Amy Hill. The
online auction – featuring unique arts and crafts, gourmet meals, sports outings and other
one-of-a-kind items – is also open to the public.

During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, JANM is hosting events including:

- Saturday, May 08, 2021 - Friday, May 21, 2021
  A free play, Question 27, Question 28
  This drama explores the experiences of Japanese American women during the World
  War II concentration camps. This is an abridged version of the original by Chay Yew, and
  it is directed by Jully Lee and shortened and edited for families. Watch on JANM's YouTube Channel starting on May 8th.

- Thursday, May 13, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM PDT
  Nikkei Uncovered: a poetry reading
  Join us for our second annual virtual poetry reading with a powerful poet lineup featured in
  Discover Nikkei’s Nikkei Uncovered: a poetry column, hosted by poet and performer
  traci kato-kiriyama. This year, pairs of poets will be reading works in conversation with each other. kato-kiriyama will also provide writing prompts for audience members to reflect on. Featured poets: are Amy Uyematsu and Miya Iwataki, Curtiss Takada Rooks and Mariko Fujimoto Rooks and Shō Tanaka and Paulette M. Moreno.
  Tickets are a suggested donation of $10.

- Sunday, May 23, 2021, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM PDT
The Eighth Annual Imagine Little Tokyo Short Story Contest Awards Ceremony

Each year, this contest heightens awareness of Little Tokyo by asking writers to pen a story. The ceremony will feature theatre artists, Greg Watanabe, Jully Lee, and Eiji Inoue, will showcase the winning stories with dramatic readings from the three contest categories—Adult, Youth, and Japanese language. The contest is presented by Little Tokyo Historical Society in partnership with JANM’s Discover Nikkei project.

RSVPs for this virtual zoom event are required.

- Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM PDT
  
  Art Break – Interactive sculpture workshop with Ako Castuera
  
  Sculptor Ako Castuera will teach participants how to make and form an easy bakers clay using just flour, salt, and water, inspired by artist Ruth Asawa who also used this simple medium to create sculptures. Castuera is informed by the diverse cultural and environmental features of Southern California, on Tongva Land, where she was born and currently lives.

  RSVPs are required for this virtual zoom event.

For more information or questions, contact publicprograms@janm.org.

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Established in 1985, JANM promotes understanding and appreciation of America’s ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience. Located in the historic Little Tokyo district of downtown Los Angeles, JANM is a hybrid institution that straddles traditional museum categories and strives to provide a voice for Japanese Americans as well as a forum that enables all people to explore their own heritage and culture. Since opening to the public in 1992, JANM has presented over 70 exhibitions onsite while traveling 17 exhibits to venues such as the Smithsonian Institution and the Ellis Island Museum in the United States, and to several leading cultural museums in Japan and South America. For more information, visit janm.org or follow us on social media @jamuseum.

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