



Media contacts:

Jane Steuerwald, Executive Director
Thomas Edison Film Festival
jane@tefilmfest.org
201-856-6565

Karin Krankel
Fair Lawn Senior Center
srcenter@fairlawn.org
(201) 796-1191

For immediate release:

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The Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF) presents an in-person film screening in honor of Veterans' Day, Monday November 7, 2022 at 1:00PM, at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, 11-05 Gardiner Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ.



Photo caption: A still from "Every Day is a Holiday," courtesy of filmmaker Theresa Loong

(Fair Lawn, NJ) Monday afternoon, November 7, 2022, at 1:00PM, the Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF), Fair Lawn Senior Center, Maurice M. Pine Public Library, and the Fair Lawn VFW Post #281, are pleased to announce their collaboration to host an in-person film program featuring the Jury's Stellar Award-winning documentary, "Every Day is a Holiday" by Theresa Loong, NY, NY. TEFF executive director, Jane Steuerwald and Assemblywoman Lisa Swain will be present to lead a discussion after the film.

Growing up in suburban New Jersey, Chinese-American filmmaker Theresa Loong knew little about her father's past. One day, she discovered his secret diary, written when he was a teenager and POW in a Japanese work camp during World War II. In it, he vowed to make 'every day a holiday' if he survived. "Every Day is a Holiday" tells the painful but life-affirming story of her father's unlikely journey, from Chinese Malay teenager and Japanese POW, to merchant seaman, Veterans Affairs doctor and naturalized citizen of the country that liberated him: the United States. Using intimate conversations, rare archival footage and his wartime diary, the film traces how, through sheer strength of will, Paul Loong overcomes the horrors of war and obstacles as an immigrant.

The screening will take place at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, located at 11-05 Gardiner Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ and advance registration is required. The Senior Center offers a noon lunch (\$1.25 suggested donation) before the program and also requires a reservation. Please contact the Senior Center at 201-796-1191 for information.

For 40+ years, the Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF) has been advancing the unique creativity and power of the short form. The festival is an international juried competition open to all genres and filmmakers across the globe. The festival's touring program reaches out to diverse audiences with screenings of cutting-edge, cross-genre films including narrative, experimental, animation, screen dance and documentary. Our films focus on issues and struggles within contemporary society such as the environment, family, social justice, LGBTQ+ issues, and much more.

The Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium is grateful for generous funding and support from:

New Jersey State Council on the Arts; Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University; The Charles Edison Fund – Edison Innovation Foundation; The Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and Tourism; Hoboken Historical Museum; WithumSmith+Brown; Lowenstein Sandler, LLC; The Puffin Foundation; Big Sky Edit; Sonic Union; Syracuse University Department of Film & Media Arts; Fairleigh Dickinson University School of the Arts – Filmmaking; East Brunswick Tech – School of the Arts; corporations and private donors.

To learn more about the Thomas Edison Film Festival visit <http://teffilmfest.org>

To learn more about the Fair Lawn Senior Center visit fairlawn.org/seniorcenter

To learn more about the Maurice M. Pine Public Library visit fairlawlibrary.org

To learn more about the Fair Lawn VFW Post #281 visit vfw.org

