

# The Micronesian Question

Issues of Migration,  
Identity & Belonging on Guam

## FILM & DISCUSSION SERIES



A final component of ***“The Micronesian Question”*** project is the film and discussion series, in which the Council will screen seven films that focus on diverse issues of cultural representation, racism, and education, as well as tell stories that reflect experiences of Micronesian and other Pacific Islander immigrants. Each film presentation will be followed by a facilitated discussion with panelists from local Micronesian communities.

### PARTICIPATING PANELISTS

Betwin Alokia – Program Manager, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, from Kosrae, FSM

Merleen Alokia – Nutrition Assistant, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, Department of Public Health and Social Services, from Pohnpei, FSM

Irma Abwe – Administrative Assistant/Intake Worker, Salvation Army Family Services Center, from Republic of the Marshall Islands

Brandon Iowanes – “The Micronesian Question” youth participant and poet, from Chuuk, FSM

Simion Kihleng – Director, Salvation Army Family Social Services Center, from Pohnpei, FSM

Elfrieda Koshiba – Program Coordinator, Marketing Section, A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam (GIAA), Peleliu Club of Guam, from Palau  
Karma Mori – Social Work student, University of Guam, from Chuuk, FSM

Beth Perez – Principal, Simon Sanchez High School, from Palau

Angken Rapun – Deacon, Chuukese Church of Guam, from Chuuk, FSM

Manny Sikau – A 7th generation pwo traditional master navigator from Polowat Atoll, Chuuk. In 2002, the Council awarded him “Traditional Teacher of the Year.” In 2010, he became the first person to receive “Master Degree” in Micronesian Traditional Knowledge and has taught two courses at the University.

### CREATIVE WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

#### FILM & DISCUSSION

The migration of Micronesians to Guam over the past twenty years has presented a number of perceived challenges to the larger Guam community that have focused on such complex, and oftentimes contested issues as adaptation, discrimination and identity.

Through the multifaceted project, ***“The Micronesian Question”: Issues of Migration, Identity and Belonging on Guam***, the Council examines the many issues surrounding the migration of islanders from other parts of Micronesia to Guam. The lives and experiences of Micronesians in their new island “home” are also explored. The project launched in September 2010 with youth-centered photography and creative writing workshops. The works of 57 youth participants were featured in the exhibit ***In-Sights: Words and Photos by Micronesian Youth***.

The project also included the Council’s Motherhead® family literacy program and most recently, a reading and discussion tour in August with visiting Micronesian scholar and poet, Dr. Teresia Teaiwa.

Dr. Teaiwa is a Senior Lecturer of Pacific Studies at Victoria University of Wellington in Wellington, New Zealand. The reading and discussion series included a presentation and discussion - ***Pacific Islander Migration and Identity*** with readings by Dr. Teaiwa and Emelihter Kihleng.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT:

#### EXHIBIT

#### PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

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**See back for film & discussion schedule>**



# THE FILMS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 6PM  
TAMUNING SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER



## **Papa Mau the Wayfinder**

Directed by Na'alehu Anthony  
2010 Paliku Documentary Films (50min)

*Papa Mau the Wayfinder* recounts the fundamental role that master navigator Mau Piailug played in reawakening Polynesian pride by teaching Hawaiians the dying art of traditional navigation without the aid of instruments. Sail along on this remarkable journey of an iconic

voyaging canoe and of a renewed people, both guided by the wisdom of Papa Mau, the master wayfinder who breathed life back into the sails of Polynesia's voyaging tradition.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 6PM  
LOCATION TBD



## **Laninbwil's Gift**

Directed by Jack Niedenthal and Suzanne Chutaro  
2011 Microwave Films (109min)

This full-length dramatic feature beings with the story of a homeless teenager and incorporates folk stories and elements of magic to discuss issues of morality and goodwill.

Winner "Best of Festival" at the 2011 Guam International Film Festival, Winner Best "Foreign Language Film" Hawaii Ocean Film Festival 2011, and Winner "International Feature" Columbia George Film Festival 2011.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 6PM  
MANGILAO SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER



## **Micronesians Abroad**

2009 Micronesian Seminar (90min)

*Micronesians Abroad* visits the homes and workplaces of Micronesians who have moved away from home. The documentary offers a sunny picture of emigration and glosses over deeper challenges such as economic

problems, community tensions, and ethnic discrimination that Micronesians experience abroad. Join our panelists for a discussion that critiques the way Micronesians are portrayed in such films.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 6PM  
LOCATION TBD



## **Morning Comes So Soon**

Directed by Aaron Condon & Michael Cruz  
2008 Small Island Films (125 min)

*Morning Comes So Soon*, the first feature film from the Marshall Islands, is a love story about a Marshallese boy and a Chinese girl. The film was made by a pair of American volunteer high school teachers at Majuro's Catholic Assumption

High School, working with a local peer education group, with a grant from UNESCO. The directors cast local people in the film about teens grappling with racism and suicide on the small central Pacific atoll.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 6PM  
DEDEDO SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER



## **Race is the Place**

Directed by Raymond Telles and Rick Tejada-Flores  
2005 Paradigm Productions (90min)

*Race is the Place* explores racism and its continued survival in this country, featuring artists and performers who use innovative ways to engage audiences and challenge them to think beyond our traditional conceptions, viewing race through the lens of creativity and performance to stimulate thought and debate.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 6PM  
LOCATION TBD



## **Children of the Migration**

Directed by Lala Rolls  
Island Productions 2004 (78min)

Through candid interviews and rare archival footage *Children of the Migration* tells the stories of the Pacific Island immigrants who came to New Zealand from the 1950s - 1980s and changed the cultural landscape of Aotearoa.



## **O Tamaiti**

Directed by Sima Urale, 1996 Paewai Productions (14:16min)

Sima Urale's debut short film tells the eldest child of a Samoan immigrant family, who is expected to play guardian to his siblings. As his parents struggle in their new country, he is overwhelmed by the responsibility. Inspired by her own

experience as a child growing up surrounded by relatives struggling with Samoan and Western cultures, *O Tamaiti*, is about the unconditional bond among children in Pacific Island families.

Special thanks to:



Tamuning Mayor's Office, Mangilao Mayor's Office, Dededo Mayor's Office, Paliku Documentary Films, and Island Productions