

## *AMERICANese*

SWEEPS AWARDS AT SXSU FESTIVAL WINNING

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR **BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE** AND  
JURY PRIZE FOR **OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE ACTING**

OPENING THE SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN  
FILM FESTIVAL TONIGHT

Writer/Director Eric Byler's romantic drama, *AMERICANese*, swept the Closing Night ceremonies of the 2006 South By Southwest Festival winning 2 Awards – the *Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature* and the *Jury Award for Outstanding Ensemble Acting*. Byler's screen adaptation of Shawn Wong's controversial novel *American Knees*, brings forth in a dramatic and evolving fashion, all of the emotions that ordinary lovers experience in their everyday romances...love and hate, jealousy and betrayal, bliss and scorn, separation and longing, etc. This "everyman" love story uses the Asian American community as the backdrop, portraying the parallel lives of two ex-lovers with all of the intricacies of their diverse ethnic backgrounds and heritages. "The film is an epilogue to a love story," said Byler. "A love story that begins with a goodbye."

The impressive SXSU Award-winning cast for *AMERICANese* includes Academy-Award® Winner, CHRIS TASHIMA (*Visas And Virtue*); JOAN CHEN (*The Last Emperor, Saving Face*); KELLY HU (*X-Men II, The Scorpion King*); ALLISON SIE (*Enemy Of State, Anywhere But Here*); Emmy and Golden Globe nominated BEN SHENKMAN (*Must Love Dogs, Angels In America*); SAB SHIMONO (*Robot Stories, Come See The Paradise*); and MICHAEL PAUL CHAN (*Joy Luck Club, The Insider, Thousand Pieces of Gold*). Producer LISA ONODERA (*Picture Bride*) has championed the project since its inception. On hand in Austin to accept the awards along with Byler were Chris Tashima and Allison Sie.

*AMERICANese* next screens as the Opening Night Feature Film at the 24th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF) on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street, San Francisco.

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