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March 15, 2013, 9:29 AM

## 'Linsanity' Hits the Big Screen



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By Michelle Kung



Getty Images

Jeremy Lin (#7 of the Houston Rockets) shoots on February 22, 2013 in Brooklyn.

"Linsanity," filmmaker Evan Jackson Leong's documentary about NBA basketball player Jeremy Lin, made its Bay Area debut Thursday night as the opening film of the recently renamed CAAMFest film festival.

The film, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival this past January, follows Lin's now famous journey

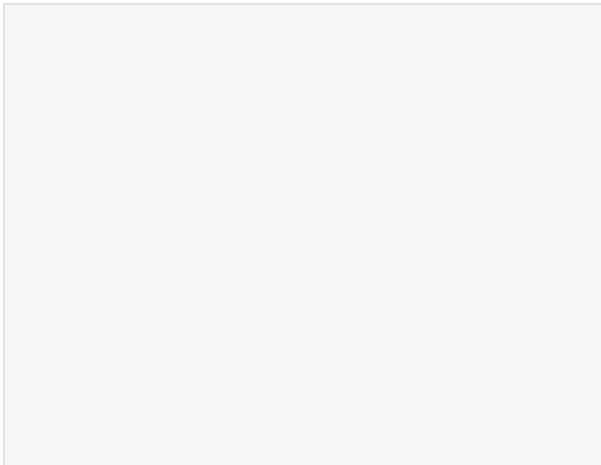
from undrafted Harvard player to NBA phenomenon. Because both Lin and Leong hail from the Bay area, the screening audience was filled with their friends and family, who cheered throughout the screening, as well as the screening's coda: a taped message from Lin, who is currently on the road with the Houston Rockets.

When introducing the film, Leong said he was happy to have worked on a film that brought their community together and contributed to the great sports year San Francisco has been having between the success of the Giants and the 49ers.

The screening was followed by a gala party at the Asian Art Museum, where guests sampled coconut shaved ice with chocolate cream, lamb meatballs, garlic noodles and gourmet chocolates as they mingled among a display of Chinese terracotta warriors.

The "Linsanity" event kicks off 11 days of screenings, panels, readings, and other events for the CAAMFest, previously known as the San Francisco International Film Festival. The name change, CAAAM Executive Director Stephen Gong, said, reflected the fest's shift towards blending the best in Asian and Asian American film with new directions in music and digital arts, and shined a light on the innovation produced by Asian and Asian American artists.

The core of the fest, [writes Gong](#), remains its balance of discovering and presenting new talent, while also honoring the past — a concept that is reflected in



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programming that runs the gamut from a preview screening of "The Reluctant Fundamentalist," director Mira Nair's upcoming drama about a Pakistani man living in post 9/11 New York, to anniversary celebrations of classic Chinese tales "Astro Boy" and "The Money King."

CAAMFest runs through March 24 in San Francisco.

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