|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **Vivian Dames** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| I invite you to tune into Beyond the Fence which airs at noon on the 1st and 3rd Friday on Public Radio Guam-KPRG 89.3 FM (89.1 FM in the CNMI), your source for NPR news and music discovery. This one hour locally produced program features interviews and coverage of public events offering analyses and personal perspectives on the impacts of U.S. militarism in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. We also provide accounts of different forms of resistance, decolonization and sovereignty struggles, and the challenges of building community ‘beyond the fence’ where U.S. military bases and other installations are located.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  **Ep. 264 “Seventh Annual Guam International Film Festival” (hosted by Dr. Vivian Dames and produced by David Lopez) was recorded 9/8, 9/11 and airs 9/15/17.**  The Guam International Film Festival (GIFF) will be returning to the Guam Museum for its seventh annual event from September 27 thru October 1. Over 300 films from 43 different countries were submitted for selection to the 2017 festival. Of these, 46 were selected to showcase, including 10 films related to the Marianas. This episode highlights four films relevant to Beyond the Fence. [For ticket information and other details go to: [www.guamfilmfestival.org](http://www.guamfilmfestival.org) or [#fromGIFFwithLOVE](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/fromgiffwithlove?source=feed_text&story_id=1661457153895491)].  In the first half of this episode, we highlight two WWII documentary films that explore the human toll for individuals on both sides of the conflict and the importance of remembering and re-narrating this past.  GIFF Program Director **Kel Muna** discusses one of the nominees for Best Documentary Feature, “Forgive –Don’t Forget (US, Japan, Director Brad Bennett, 71 mins). During Japan's surrender at the end of WW II, numerous swords were confiscated by American officers. In order to better understand the past and build a bridge between cultures in the present, a filmmaker attempts to return one of these surrendered swords to its original owner.  Award winning producers, writers, directors and educators, Kel, and his brother Don Muna, have become known internationally as ground breaking pioneers of independent film in the Western Pacific.  **Galvin Deleon Guerrero** is director of  “We Drank Our Tears: Francisco Babauta’s Story (Northern Mariana Islands, 11 mins), a GIFF Award Nominee for Best Made in the Marianas. This film is based on one narrative from the book, *We Drank Our Tears: Memories of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian as Told by Our Elders,* edited by Katharyn Tuten-Puckett and published in 2004 by Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the US Marines invasion of the Marianas. In 1944, some of the final battles of WWII were waged on Saipan and Tinian. Nearly 1,000 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch/Carolinian civilians did not survive the battles. This is one of their stories. Deleon Guerrero has spent over two decades in education, serving and leading students from kindergarten through college, and in various capacities including teacher, vice principal, principal, director, board member, and now president of Mt. Carmel School in Saipan. In that time, he has also worked with and mentored students in theatre and film, having produced over 50 stage and film productions. **Kelvin Cepeda,** a senior at Mt. Carmel School, who plays the lead role of Francisco Babauta, also joins us. Cepeda is an aspiring journalist and the son of a US Army service member who served one year in Iraq and nine months in Afghanistan.  In the second half, we highlight two films that explore critical contemporary issues: first, the growing U.S. military enlistment of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) citizens and, second, the beauty and importance of our oceans and current threats.  **Nathan Fitch** is a filmmaker and visual journalist based in Brooklyn whose documentary film “Island Soldier” (U.S, Federated States of Micronesia, 85 minutes) is a GIFF Grand Jury Award Nominee for Best Documentary Feature. This film interweaves the personal stories of Micronesian soldiers serving in the U.S. military, following  their journey from their home islands in ‘free association’  with the United States to the front lines of war in Afghanistan, and back again. This film wasmade possible in part by funding from Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) and a grant from the Guam Humanities Council (GHC) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Fitch served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the FSM doing historic preservation work in Kosrae from 2004-2006, then an additional six months in 2011in Kosrae and Pohnpei. He still has a fondness for breadfruit. [For an earlier interview with Fitch and coverage of a film and discussion event held 8/8/13, sponsored by the Guam Humanities Council, to facilitate discussion of the issues raised in the film, download Ep. 161 (8/13/13) “*Island Soldier -* A Film Documentary”].  Finally, we talk with CHamoru poet-activist **Craig Santos Perez** who provided the text for the hauntingly stunning five minute video poem “Praise Song for Oceania” created by Native Hawaiian filmmaker Justyn Ah Chong. Perez wrote this poem for World Oceans Day, as a tribute to the ocean’s interaction with the human race, at times reverent towards the ocean’s power and diversity and other times condemning the abandon with which humans have exploited the waters of our planet. Perez is an associate professor in the English Department at the University of Hawai’i, Manoa, where he teaches Pacific literature and creative writing. This interview concludes with the audio track of this video-poem.  Suggestions for future topics and guests, or requests to be removed or added to this list, may be sent to [btf.kprg@gmail.com](mailto:btf.kprg@gmail.com) or call [671-734-8930](tel:%28671%29%20734-8930).  KPRG streams live at [www.kprgfm.com](http://www.kprgfm.com/)/ and has released apps for Iphone/Ipad and Android devices. Podcasts of most episodes are available for free and may be downloaded within five days of the broadcast by going to: <http://kprg.podbean.com/>.  Thank you for listening to and supporting Public Radio Guam --- and for promoting Beyond the Fence, locally and abroad. |