FILMS | VIDEOS | ANIMATION | EXHIBITS | PUBLICATIONS | MULTI-MEDIA | ARCHIVES



VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

# PRODUCT CATALOG

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PAGE 10: Roy Nakano; PAGE 43: From HITO HATA: RAISE THE BANNER (1980) by Robert A. Nakamura and Duane Kubo (Visual Communications Photographic Archive)

ALL OTHER IMAGES APPEARING IN THIS CATALOG: Courtesy The Visual Communications Photographic Archive

PRODUCTION CREDITS: Project Producer: Shinae Yoon; Editor: Helen Kim; Copywriter: Jerome Academia, Helen Kim, Jeff Liu, Supachai Surongsain; Design and Layout: Abraham Ferrer; Digital Photo-imaging intern: Allison Nakamura



The visual heritage of Visual Communications can be seen in the more than 100 films, videos, and multimedia productions created since the organization's founding in 1970. Beginning with vanguard works filmed in Super 8mm, Visual Communications productions have been distinguished by their unerring fidelity to the stories and perspectives of Asian America. As evidenced within this catalog, this policy has continued as Visual Communications' productions have transitioned from film and video to digital formats.

As well, the stories being told through our various offerings reflect the ever-changing landscape of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and introduces us to filmmakers and voices who have come of age in the 22 years since the first edition of this catalog. Incisive narrative stories, animated and experimental films, activist cinema, and works of personal cinema have augmented Visual Communications' core filmography of classic documentary and narrative productions, and reveal a cinematic movement that continues to flourish as we head towards our 50th-anniversary in 2020.

Yet even as we make significant inroads into the mainstream entertainment arena, Asian American media arts organizations such as Visual Communications exist to remind us that our visions and voices are a direct reflection of the realities of our communities. Our diverse offerings, in film, video, and digital media continue to inspire, even as our catalog is continually being replenished by newer, more acculturated voices.

We hope that this updated product catalog will bring to audiences a better understanding of how Asian Pacific American films and filmmakers have contributed to expanding our inclusion in mainstream society, and that you will help us in sharing those images and perspectives.

03

# **ABOUT VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS**



# ounded in 1970 by a group of pioneering independent filmmakers, Visual

Communications has evolved from being the first Asian Pacific media arts center dedicated to the honest and accurate portrayals of Asian Americans to a full-service artistic development institute for Asian American media creators in Los Angeles.

VC's mission is to develop the next generation of Asian American film and media professionals through mentorship and leadership opportunities towards sustainable careers in the arts. VC uses the media and arts to transform communities, challenge perspectives, and engage Asian American artists in reshaping the landscape of mainstream visual culture.

As a full-service media arts center, VC provides support to all levels of filmmakers, and assists artists in creating and completing relevant media work. VC also provides equipment and space rentals, fiscal sponsorship support, and offers educational and professional development programs for filmmakers in Los Angeles. These unique programs provide educational training and mentorship opportunities to those looking to further develop the craft of visual storytelling through workshops, networking, and financial support.

### VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

120 Judge John Aiso Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel.: (213) 680-4462

e: archives@vcmedia.org | w: vcmedia.org | @vcmediaorg



### ARMED WITH A CAMERA (AWC) FELLOWSHIP

Through this seven-month program, ten media artists a year are supported in their efforts to creative artistically and culturally significant short-films. The AWC Fellowship offers training, mentorship, and funding to up-and-coming artists to create new work that will screen at the annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival at the prestigious Directors Guild of America. Established in 2002, the AWC Fellowship is

open to promising APA media artists who demonstrate artistic innovation as well as a firm commitment to a career in the media arts. VC provides the resources for ten Fellows to each create a five-minute short film, including a cash stipend, training workshops and mentoring from industry professionals, opportunity to collaborate with other Fellows, and access to equipment rental and editing facilities.



### **C3: CONFERENCE FOR CREATIVE CONTENT**

The C3: Conference is the only event of its kind supporting the Asian American film and television community by offering the opportunity to network and build a vision for the future of Asian Americans in entertainment. C3 brings together the foremost media professionals in film, television, online content and transmedia to create a dialogue on the ever-changing and dynamic media industry. Along with sharing

topical and relevant information to our community, C3 is also a celebration of all the accomplishments of the talented Asian Americans bringing new voices and perspectives to the media landscape.



### PROJECT CATALYST

Project Catalyst presents a unique opportunity for Asian American filmmakers to showcase their project to Financiers, Producers, Production Companies, Agents, and Industry Executives enabling them with the contacts, information and confidence they need to make their film. Ten grantees each year will work in conjunction with Visual Communications to develop professional relationships and future collaborations

throughout the film and television industry. In addition, a Jury of esteemed industry professionals will determine the best project, with the winner receiving a cash award. Project Catalyst was most recently held during the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Fest on May 4 & 5, 2013 at the Directors Guild of America.



#### VC FILM DEVELOPMENT FUND

Visual Communications has recently selected six visionary Asian American filmmakers to take part in the VC Film Development Fund. The Fund will provide filmmakers with up to \$100,000 towards the development and production of an innovative and compelling narrative feature-length film. This one-on-one program works to support established filmmakers in their ability to produce new narrative work through an in-

depth development process. The VC Film Development Fund, sponsored by Comcast, is a tangible inspiration and comprehensive initiative to support viable and innovative projects in the creation of Asian American independent cinema.



**VC ARCHIVES** 

(Please see Page 42).

# PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS



# **CLAIMING A VOICE: THE VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS STORY**

(United States, 1990) Dir.: Arthur Dong

1969: Campus strikes. Anti-war Protests. Civil Rights Demonstrations. American politics and culture in flux. Third World communities sought self-determination and the Asian American movement sprang up from storefront organizations all across the nation. And out of this turmoil came Visual Communications.

CLAIMING A VOICE is a one-hour documentary chronicling the twenty-year history of the first group dedicated to productions by and about Asian Pacific Americans. Combining interviews with clips from over twenty Visual Communications films, this video traces the important role alternative media played in the Asian American movement. CLAIMING A VOICE shows how one grassroots organization survived budget cuts, Hollywood, and the collective process of the sixties to control their own images. The stories of Visual Communications members along with those of jazz fusion band Hiroshima, poet Lawson Inada, and actors Pat Morita and Mako are among the many in this documentary which reflect personal commitments to claiming a voice in media.

**CLAIMING A VOICE** is written and directed by Academy Award-nominated director Arthur Dong (**SEWING WOMAN**, **FORBIDDEN CITY**, **U.S.A.**), and is a Visual Communications production in association with DeepFocus Productions.

**Original format:** Documentary, 3/4" U-matic

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 57 minutes



# STAND UP FOR JUSTICE

(United States, 2004) Dir.: John Esaki

A Production of Visual Communications and Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

STAND UP FOR JUSTICE presents the story of Ralph Lazo, a 17-year-old Mexican American student at Belmont High School in Los Angeles who devises a remarkable plan to support his Japanese American friends confined at Manzanar concentration camp during World War II. After President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive order 9066, Ralph witnesses the pain and humiliation of his Japanese American friends and their families, who are forced to sell their belongings and "evacuate" to a concentration camp in a remote California desert. Against the backdrop of the chaos when armed soldiers ordered tens of thousands of Japanese Americans to board trains and buses to unknown destinations, Ralph's response remains a rare act of friendship, loyalty and strong principles in a time of crisis.

Original format: Narrative, 35mm color

**Available format:** 35mm, DVD **Running Time:** 33 minutes

# PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS



# **GRASSROOTS RISING**

(United States, 2005) Dir.: Robert C. Winn

### "This is an old story, and it is new."

From enslaved garment workers in El Monte, Pilipino homecare workers on 24-hour shifts, and Koreatown restaurant and market workers, unfair labor practices continues to be a part of the Asian American immigrant experience. **GRASSROOTS RISING** shares the stories of Asian immigrant working families as their grassroots efforts build community in Los Angeles and America. Heartrending stories of working life, family, and community organizing are intertwined with evocative murals and rare archival photographs of the Asian immigrant experience and a lyrical narration written and performed by Alison De La Cruz.

**Original format:** Documentary, 3/4" U-matic

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 57 minutes



# **HITO HATA: RAISE THE BANNER**

(United States, 1980) Dirs.: Duane Kubo, Robert A. Nakamura

A landmark project, **HITO HATA: RAISE THE BANNER** is the first feature-length film made by and about Asian Pacific Americans. Capturing the contributions and hardships of Japanese Americans from the turn-of-the-20th century, the film centers on Oda (the late veteran actor/director Mako), a feisty *issei* (first generation Japanese American) and elderly single laborer living in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Through a series of flashbacks, the story traces Oda's life as a laborer on the transcontinental railroad to his struggle to save the home of Little Tokyo's residents when the community is threatened with redevelopment. An epic Japanese American drama, **HITO HATA** draws on the talents and support of Asian American filmmakers, writers, theater professionals and literally hundreds of people from the Asian Pacific American community who served as extras, provided locations, props, and moral as well as financial support. The production represents the full measure of Visual Communications' pioneering work.

Awards: Gold Award, Houston International Festival Second Place, Cultures in Focus.

Original format: Narrative, 16mm color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 90 minutes

# PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS



# **SPEAK OUT FOR JUSTICE:**

**Commission on Wartime Relocation & Internment (L.A. Hearings)** (United States, 1981, re-released 2009)

**Multi-Part Video Series** 

A Production of Visual Communications and Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

In September 1980 Visual Communications documented the historic Los Angeles hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), a nine-member congressional panel tasked with reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066 that authorized the internment of Japanese Americans into inland concentration camps during World War II. An exhaustive 13-volume set of the three-day L.A. hearings, SPEAK OUT FOR JUSTICE gives voice to the many Japanese Americans internees and their children whose lives were forever altered by wartime hysteria and racism.

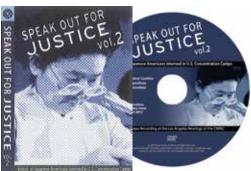
Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic Available format: DVD, VHS

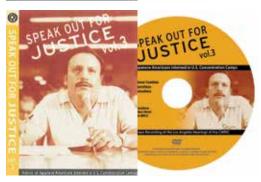
Running Time: Approximately 130 minutes each volume

(\*) Testimony in Japanese with no English translation — Volume 8  $\,$ 

Study guides available for the series











#### **VOLUME ONE**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance):
U.S. Senator S.I. Hayakawa, Hawaii State Rep. Barbara
Marumoto, L.A. County Supervisor Edmund Edelman,
Mayor of Los Angeles Tom Bradley, Gardena (CA) City
Councilman Mas Fukai, Frank Chuman, Enosuke and
Chizu Amemiya, and Katsuichi Fujita

#### **VOLUME TWO**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance): Clarence Nishizu, Veronica K. Ohara, Akiyo DeLoyd, Joyce S. Tamai, Mary S. Oda, Mary F. Kurihara, Mabel T. Ota, Katsuyo Oekawa, Sally Tsuneishi, Henry S. Yamaga, Alfred Nabeta, Robert O'Brien, Harry Kawahara, and Phil Shigekuni

#### **VOLUME THREE**

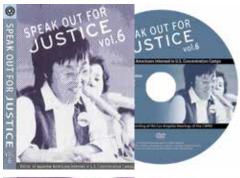
Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance): Hannah Tomiko Holmes, Raymond Wiedman, Roy Nakano, Alan Nishio, Mike Murase, George Takei, William Shigeta, Elizabeth Nishikawa, Irma Brubaker Roth, Ken Hayashi, and Katsumi Yaqura

#### **VOLUME FOUR**

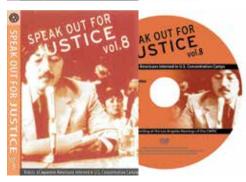
Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance):
Mry Kurihara, Tom Watanabe, Henry Sakai, Joe
Yamamoto, Dillon Myer, L.A. City Councilman Robert
Farrell, Thomas Kinaga, Hiroshi Miyamura, Paul Oda,
Jim Kawaminami, Jun Fukushima, Mitsuo Usui, Paul
Sagawa, Robert Hayamizu, and Tsuye Nozawa

#### **VOLUME FIVE**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance): Reverend Bunyu Fujimura, Jack Fujimoto, Fred Fujikawa, Bill Nakagawa, Sumiko Seki, Arthur Tsuneishi, Mitsuru Sasahara, and Ewan Yoshida











#### **VOLUME SIX**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance): Dave Toru Matsuo, June Kizu, Sue Embrey, and Beth Shironaka.

(Outside the hearings): Masaaki Hironaka, Akira Horiuchi, Harry Kawamoto, Elsie Hashimoto, Harry Hashimoto, Francis L. Honda, and David Imahara

#### **VOLUME SEVEN**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance): Miya Senzaki, George Morimoto, Warren Furutani, Gilbert Sanchez, Elsie Akita Myers, Charles Hamasaki, Ben Hara, Mark Masaoka, Marjorie Matsushita, Alice Tanabe Nehira, and James Goto

#### **VOLUME EIGHT**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance): Kiyoshi Sonoda, Larry Boss, mary Ishizuka, Ann Matsuda, Jim Matsuoka, Noboru Nakamoto, Kathryn Nishimoto Masaoka, Kuniko Okumura Sato, Yayoi Arakawa Ono, Hector Watanabe, Dean C. Allard, Tetsu Saito\*, and Kiyo Yamashita\*

#### **VOLUME NINE**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance):
Saburo Sugita, Mamoru Ogata, Masaharu Tanibata,
Henry Murakami, Stanley Yamashita, Amy Iwasaki
Mass, Paul Chikahisa, Bebe Toshiko Reschke, Morry
Tomach, Edward Terao Himeno, Ford Hajime Kuramoto,
and James T. Fujii

### **VOLUME TEN**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance):
Michiko Machida, Chiyoko Sasaki, Rei Osaki, Peter K.
Ota, John J. Saito, Linda Morimoto, Vernon Yoshioka,
Esther Takei Nishio, Frances C. Kitagawa, Mary
Fusaki Odagiri, Hideko Sasaki, Henry S. Tamaki, Hiro
Uchiyama, L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich,
and Fred Okrand







#### **VOLUME ELEVEN**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance):
Junji Kumamoto, Alan Terakawa, Carole Sei Morit, Rose
matsui Ochi, Gerald M. Sato, H. Read McGrath, George
K. Roth, Reverend Herbert Nicholson, Lucie Cheng
Hirata, and Yuji Ichioka

### **VOLUME TWELVE**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance):
Akemi Kikumura, Sheri Miyashiro, Yoshio Ikemoto,
Mas Inoshita, Hiroshi Kamei, Teru Watanabe, Yoshio
Nakamura, Grace Nakamura, Mas Oda, Jeff Tsuji, Bruce
Kaji, Kazuo Mori, Marian Kadomatsu, Ruby Okubo and
Judy Imai

### **VOLUME THIRTEEN**

Contains Testimonies by (in order of appearance):
Larry Boss, Mary Iwataki, Frank Endo, Martha
Okamoto, Marge Taniwaki, Mo Nishida, Jane Nishio,
Bill Shinkai, Ewan Yoshida, Mary Oda, Linda Morimoto,
Mr. Tsuboi, unidentified

# PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS



# ARMED WITH A CAMERA FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING MEDIA ARTISTS

NOW AVAILABLE! The Complete Fellowship Catalog, in Fifteen Volumes

Since its inception in 2002, Visual Communications' groundbreaking filmmakers' incubator initiative, the **Armed With a Camera Fellowship for Emerging Media Artists** (AWC) has enabled over 100 artists representing a broad range of Asian Pacific American communities and perspectives to advance their careers by creating original cinematic works utilizing cutting-edge yet affordable digital filmmaking technologies. Many of these works have been showcased at various film festivals throughout the world, some even winning awards and special recognitions; and have additionally been presented in numerous classroom presentations and select online initiatives.

Now, for the first time, Visual Communications is pleased to offer all 120 works produced to-date through the AWC Fellowship in fifteen beautifully-packaged volumes, exclusively for the home collector or for institutional use. Order all fifteen volumes, or pick any volume(s) of your choosing — you won't be disappointed. Please call or write to inquire about specific volume highlights.

PLEASE NOTE: For individual titles only, please inquire.

Original format: Digital all formats, please see title listings for genres

Available format: DVD all 15 volumes

Running Times: Approximately 50 minutes each volume

















127 MINUTES Dir.: Tuan Quoc Le

5 mins., color, narrative

A TIME TO BLEED Dir.: Shaun Vivaris

5 mins., color, narrative

THE COGMILL KIDS Dir.: Alice Hsieh

5 mins., color, animation

DISINTEGRATION 93-96 Dir.: Miko Revereza

5 mins., color, experimental documentary, in English and Tagalog w/E.S.

EMMA AND THE BUTT Dir.: Carmen Liang, Steven Liang

3 mins., color, narrative, animation and live-action

**HUM** Dir.: Crystal Jow

2 mins., black & white, experimental animation

**NUWA** Dir.: Josh Lim

5 mins., color, computer-generated animation

SHUT IT ALL DOWN Dir.: Lya Lim

5 mins., color, documentary















# 2016: Volume 14

FAMILY PORTRAIT Dir.: Tulica Singh

5 mins., color, documentary

**HEART OF MIND** Dir.: Sumiko Braun

5 mins., color, narrative

HOME IS WHERE THE SUNSETS Dir.: Kayla Tong

5 mins., color, narrative

HAND FART Dir.: Stanley Wong

5 mins., color, experimental narrative

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLAIRE Dir.: Conrad Lihilihi

5 mins.. color, narrative

NUOC Dir.: Quyen Nguyen-Le

5 mins.. color, experimental

SAMEER AND THE GIANT SAMOSA Dir.: Faroukh Virani

5 mins., color, narrative

































**ALL THE WAY** Dir.: Allison Nakamura 5 mins., color, documentary

OUR PLACE IN THE SKY Dir.: Yoko Okumura

4 mins., color, experimental

FRANK AND KASS Dir.: Norbert Shieh

5 mins., color, narrative

RUBY (Second installment of the "Love Bang!" trilogy) Dir.: Viet Le

5 mins., color, experimental, in English, Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese w/E.S.

TRIAD OF US Dir.: Angela Chen

5 mins., color, documentary

YAKUZA NO. 2 Dir.: Susumu Kimura

5 mins., color, narrative

THE CUT THROUGH Dir.: Weldon Powers

5 mins., color, narrative

# 2014: Volume 12

**GIVE IT UP Dir.: Justin Tan** 5 min., color, narrative

KEN MIURA: UNHEARD OF Dir.: Raymond C. Lai

5 min., color, documentary

SUCCESS Dir.: Charles Son

5 min., color, narrative, in English and Korean w. E.S.

IF YOU LIVED HERE, YOU'D BE HOME ALREADY Dir.: Soo Hyun Chung

5 min., color, narrative

TO SIT WITH HER Dir.: Nicole Miyahara

5 min., color, documentary, in Mandarin w/E.S.

NAMI Dir.: Masami Kawai

5 min., color, narrative

RESIGNATION (Istifa) Dir.: Rahat Mahajan

5 min., color, narrative, in Hindi w. E.S.

**COMFORT GIRLS** Dir.: Eugene Lee Yang

5 min., color, narrative, in Korean w/E.S.

FOR THE LOVE OF UNICORNS Dir.: Genevieve Erin O'Brien

5 min., color, narrative





















MY NAME IS ASIROH Dir.: Asiroh Cham

5 min., color, narrative

IN BETWEEN MY HANDMADE MOMENTS Dir.: Tiger Souvannakoumane

5 min., color, narrative

LAST NIGHT Dir.: Mukesh Vidyasagar

5 min., color, narrative

**KENI** Dir.: Jon Maxwell 5 min., color, documentary

**RED Dir.:** Maritte Go 5 min., color, narrative

KILL OF THE NIGHT Dir.: Aya Tanimura

5 min., color, narrative

**Q & X** Dir.: Zumi Mizokami 5 min., color, narrative

**UNFRIENDED Dir.: Ivan Tsang** 5 min., color, narrative

THE LOVE REMAINS Dir.: Angela Park

5 min., color, narrative

MAKOTO: OR, HONESTY Dir.: Christopher Yogi

5 min., color, documentary





















### 2012: Volume 10

BASKETBALL, MERI JAAN Dir.: Veena Hampapur

5 mins., color, documentary

**CAFÉ ELEVÉ Dir.:** Kelly Li 5 mins., color, narrative

**KEYE LUKE Dir.: Timothy Tau** 5 mins., color, narrative

MAGELLAN DOESN'T LIVE HERE Dir.: Micki Davis

5 mins., color, documentary

MOTHER & CHILD Dir.: Jocelyn Saddi-Lenhardt

5 mins., color, narrative, in English and Tagalog w/E.S.

PRESCRIBED Dir.: JoAnn Do Hockersmith

5 mins., color, narrative

SIX FROM CERTAIN Dirs.: Jonathan Moy, Lawrence Gan

5 mins., color, narrative

**TELLY Dir.: Kevin Lam** 5 mins., color, animation

THAT PARTICULAR TIME Dir.: Jeff Man

5 mins., color, documentary

UNMENTIONABLES Dir.: Michael Shu

5 mins., color, narrative





















**11 24 Dir.: Michelle Gutierrez** 5 mins., color, narrative

ALL AMERICAN Dir.: Everett Lee-Sung

5 mins., color, narrative

AYUMI'S WEDDING RING Dir.: Chingya Wang

5 mins., color, narrative

**DRONE** Dir.: Jefferson Wu 5 mins., color, narrative

L.A. COFFIN SCHOOL Dir.: Erin Li

5 mins., color, narrative

**ODE TO A CHRISTMAS TREE** Dir.: Sarah Kim

5 mins., black & white, narrative

**PLAY TIME Dir.: Roxana Shih** 5 mins., color, narrative

SEARCHING FOR DON "HALF-PINT" SANTOS Dir.: Julius Sambajon, Jnr.

5 mins., color, documentary

STILL LIFE WITH Dir.: Ami Patel

5 mins., color, narrative

**TO LIGHT Dir.:** Sheldon Chau 5 mins., color, documentary



















# 2010: Volume 8

BETTER THAN BLUE Dir.: Lin Qiu

5 mins., color, narrative

BRIDES WANTED Dir.: Michael Wong

5 mins., color, documentary

CLEAN-UP Dir.: Joseph Kamiya

5 mins., color, narrative

**GRANDMA** Dir.: William Kwok

5 mins., color, documentary, in Mandarin w/E.S.

RAISING EYEBROWS Dir.: Preeti Sharma

5 mins., color, documentary

THE SEAMSTRESS Dir.: Ngoc Ho

5 mins., color, narrative, in Vietnamese w/E.S.

SLIP AND SLIDE Dir.: Emily Lu

5 mins., color, narrative

WHITE-ON INFOMERCIAL Dir.: James Yamanoha

5 mins., color, narrative

WIND IN A BOX Dir.: Tani Ikeda

5 mins., color, experimental documentary

















**CELEBRATION** Dir.: Rochelle Lozada 5 mins., color, documentary

**DIM SUM AND THE RACETRACK Dir.: Suilma Rodriguez** 5 mins., color, documentary, in English and Spanish w/E.S.

**HEROES AND VILLAINS** Dir.: Kuang Lee

5 mins., color, narrative

**LEGEND** Dir.: Mark Villegas 5 mins., color, documentary

MEET FRIENDS, SWAP CHILDHOODS Dir.: Tony Hoang

5 mins., color, documentary

NOT IN MY BACKYARD Dir.: Lisa Nguyen

5 mins., color, narrative

PARTY HATS ON, PLEASE Dir.: Jean Ho

5 mins., color, narrative

**WAKING HOUR Dir.:** Brian Wee 5 mins., color, experimental narrative

















# 2007: Volume 6

BEARING DREAMS Dir.: Jin Yoo-Kim

5 mins., color, documentary

THE BEAT OF A DIFFERENT DRUM Dir.: Rey Corpuz

5 mins., color, narrative

BREAK-UP THERAPY Dir.: David Ngo

5 mins., color, documentary

DJ:LA Dir.: Jerry Chan

5 mins., color, experimental narrative

LOST & FOUND Dir.: Tam Tran

5 mins., color, documentary

THE MUSE Dir.: Nadine Truong

5 mins., color, narrative

OH MOMMY! (Me Oi) Dir.: Jenni Trang Le

6 mins., color, animation

PAST THE FOOD Dir.: Mina T. Son



















A DAY BEHIND BARS Dir.: Apollo Victoria

5 mins., color, documentary

THE DEBUTANTES OF ORANGE COUNTY Dir.: Rhianne Paz Bergado

5 mins., color, documentary

FOR TOMORROW MAY RAIN Dir.: Sandra Chheng

5 mins., color, narrative

HANG IN THERE, BABY Dir.: Michael D. Caigoy

5 mins., color, narrative

HONORABLE SON Dir.: Jay Esguerra

5 mins., color, documentary

**HOOPTOWN INTERNATIONAL** Dir.: Gabe Pagtama

5 mins., color, documentary

PANDA MAN Dir.: Rebecca Yee

5 mins., color, narrative

TRANS ART Dir.: Maricar Camaya

5 mins., color, documentary

YIGGER Dirs.: Joseph Phong Dao, Koji Steven Sakai

5 mins., color, narrative



















# 2005: Volume 4

EVERYTHING WAS GOOD WHEN WE WERE YOUNG Dir.: Sasha Hsuczyk

5 mins., color, narrative

FUTURE ROCKSTARS OF AMERICA Dir.: Grace Su

5 mins., color, documentary

HOW TO BE A HONG KONG SUPERSTAR Dir.: Cindy Fang

5 mins., color, narrative

ON YOUR OWN Dir.: Anson Ho

5 mins., color, narrative

PASSAGES Dir.: Ted Chung

5 mins., Black & white, narrative

PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME Dir.: Megumi Nishikura

5 mins., color, documentary

POST NATYAM Dir.: Tina Bhaga

5 mins., color, documentary

SPY MOMS Dir.: William Lu

5 mins., color, narrative

**VOID** Dir.: Patrick Epino

5 mins., color, experimental narrative













AMONG B-BOYS Dir.: Christopher Woon

5 mins., color, documentary

down so bad looking up Dir.: Roldan Lozada

5 mins., color and black & white, experimental narrative

THE INTERVIEW Dir.: Lushun Quon

5 mins., color, narrative

MY FAMILY'S LULLABY Dir.: Mia Villanueva

5 mins., color, documentary

WHAT'S FOR DINNER, DEAR? Dir.: John Nguyen

5 mins., black & white, narrative













### 2003: Volume 2

BEAT THE BUS! Dir.: Kristina Sheryl Wong

6 mins., color, documentary

FIXed Dir.: Timothy Jieh 5 mins., color, narrative

I HATE CHEESE Dir.: Daniel Hsia 5 mins., color, documentary

SUCKERBALL 73 Dir.: Evan Leong 5 mins., color, documentary

UNUSUAL, CONSPICUOUS & OVERWHELMING Dir.: Karin Mak

5 mins., color, documentary















# 2002: Volume 1

**BLEACH** Dir.: Neight Gee Tang

7 mins., color, narrative

**BOY** Dir.: Michelle Yap Dizon 5 mins., color, documentary

THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAY Dir.: Ernesto Foronda

8 mins., color, experimental documentary

MOONLIGHT Dir.: Alice Chen 5 mins., color, narrative

SIERRA HWY. Dir.: Ralph Buado

5 mins., color, narrative

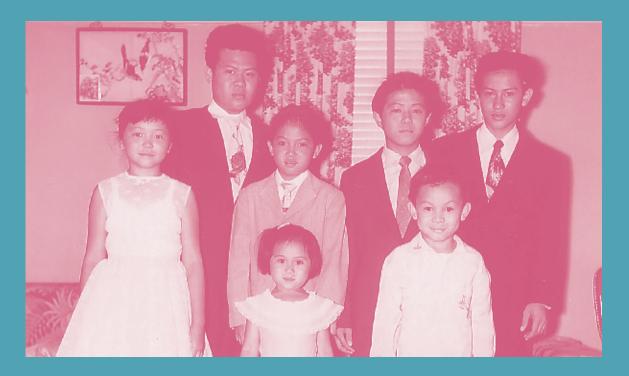
TOMATO & EGGS Dir.: Shawn Chou

7.5 mins., color, narrative

YAH YAH Dir.: Yiuwing Lam

5 mins., color, experimental narrative

# **PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS**



# **DIGITAL HISTORIES: ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN SENIORS' MEDIA**

NOW AVAILABLE! The Complete Digital Histories Catalog, in Thirteen Volumes

Conceived in 2004 as a core component of the DISKovery Center, a technology empowerment initiative of the Little Tokyo Service Center, the **Digital Histories Senior Media Program** has produced over 130 short digital productions articulating a broad range of stories and perspectives by older mediamakers of Asian Pacific descent. Produced by elders whose experience with communications technology such as e-mail, surfing the internet, and desktop editing have been minimal when they first enrolled, many of these works display a level of achievement and passion not expected from seniors. Select Digital Histories productions have been showcased at various film festivals across the nation; and have additionally been presented in numerous classroom and community presentations.

Visual Communications is pleased to offer all 130+ Digital Histories works produced to-date in thirteen beautifully-packaged volumes, exclusively for the home collector or for institutional use. Order all thirteen volumes, or pick any volume(s) of your choosing. Please call or write to inquire about specific volume highlights.

PLEASE NOTE: For individual titles only, please inquire.

Original format: Digital all formats, please see title listings for genres

Available format: DVD all 13 volumes

Running Times: Approximately 50-70 minutes each volume



















**STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES Dir.:** Tracy Quan-Nichols 5 mins., color, documentary

A MATTER OF TRUTH Dir.: Steve Nagano

10 mins., color and black & white, documentary

IN PLAIN SIGHT Dir.: Robert Shoji

7 mins., color and black & white, documentary

RETURNING TO HEART MOUNTAIN Dir.: Fran Ito

5 mins., color, documentary

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS Dir.: Jeannie Wong

5 mins., color, documentary

WASTEFUL Dir.: George Takaki 4 mins., color, narrative

INSIDE NIHON BUYO Dir.: NJ Nakamura

5 mins., color and black & white, documentary

TIFFANY - THE ART OF COMING OUT Dir.: Michi Tanioka

8 mins., color, documentary

MY CHINESE SOUTHERN ROOT - BEFORE LYNWOOD Dir.: Gerald Chow

5 mins., color and black & white, documentary

OUR TORRANCE FARM - LIFE BEFORE LYNWOOD Dir.: Gerald Chow

5 mins., color and black & whi





















### **2016: Volume 12**

71°10'21"N (LAND OF THE NORTH STAR) Dir.: Frances Ito 5 mins., color, documentary

**NOT JUST GARDENING...** Dir.: Cathy Uchida 7 mins.. color, documentary

FANTASY COME TRUE: PETER LAI'S JAPANESE VILLAGE Dir.: David Osako 9 mins., color, documentary

I AM AN AMERICAN Dir.: Robert Shoji

13 mins.. color and black & white, documentary

IT AIN'T HEAVEN, BUT CLOSE 'NUFF Dir.: Michi Tanioka

8 mins., color, documentary

**COOK IT YOURSELF Dir.:** N.J. Nakamura 4 mins., co**lor, documentary** 

A TIME OF WAR: WEST OF JAPAN, EAST OF IRAN Dir.: Glen Kanemoto 7 mins., color, documentary

TORRANCE KENDO DOJO Dir.: George Takaki

5 mins., color, documentary

THE WATTS RIOTS - DAYS OF RAGE, FEAR, AND SURVIVAL Dir.: Gerald Chow 6 mins., color, documentary

WHAT IS LITTLE TOKYO? Dir.: Steve Nagano



























**DIGITAL HISTORIES TRAILER Dir.: Steve Nagano** 30 secs., color, promotional trailer

**HELLO KITTY AND HER FANS Dir.: Frances Ito** 6 mins., color, documentary

AN URBAN DAUGHTER'S STORY Dir.: Gerry Chow 6 mins., color, documentary

GIO: A MAN WONDERFULLY CREATED Dir.: Michi Tanioka

7 mins., color, documentary

**36-14-4** Dir.: Steve Nagano 5 mins., color, documentary

**SONG FOR 100** Dir.: Glen Kanemoto

5 mins., color, documentary

JEANNIE WONG WANTS TO DO EVERYTHING Dir.: Jeff Man

10 mins., color, documentary

**U-SPACE Dir.: Jeannie Wong** 5 mins., color, documentary

A SUITCASE IN ONE HAND - A PAINTBOX IN THE OTHER Dir.: Michi

Tanioka

5 mins., color, documentary

BREAKING HAPPINESS: A JAPANESE AMERICAN FAMILY'S STRUGGLE WITH A MYSTERY DISEASE Dir.: Larry Furukawa

7 mins., color, documentary

OUR NEW HOME! Dir.: Chicky Otani

2 mins., color, documentary

REMEMBERING RAFU MANDOLIN CLUB Dir.: David Osako

8 mins., color, documentary

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MOUNT MANZO NAGANO? Dir.: George

Takaki

5 mins., color, documentary

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE MONUMENT'S MEN OF LITTLE TOKYO?

Dir.: Cathy Uchida











































MOCHI: IT'S NOT JUST RICE CAKES Dir.: George Takaki

7 mins., color, documentary

POPO CRUISING ANTARCTICA Dir.: Frances Ito

5 mins., color, documentary

SOWING SEEDS OF LIFE...OF HOPE Dir.: Michi Tanioka

8 mins., color, documentary

6 WEDDINGS AND A DRESS Dir.: Steven Nagano

8 mins., color, documentary

LIVING TIME CAPSULE: LITTLE TOKYO ARTS & GIFTS Dir.: David Osako

9 mins., color, documentary

A TALE OF TWO CHOWS Dir.: Gerald Chow

7 mins., color, documentary

BO PEEP IN THE CITY Dir.: Cathy Uchida

7 mins., color, documentary

**LEARNING FROM RITO** Dir.: Jeannie Wong

6 mins., color, documentary

**BINGO!** Dir.: Chicky Otani 3 mins., color, documentary

2013: Volume 9

**HOME** Dirs.: Christy Ishimine, Frances Ito, Cathy Uchida, Jeannie Wong 4 mins., color, experimental documentary

4 mins., cotor, experimental documentary

LOOKING FOR HOME Dir.: Gerald Chow

5 mins., color, documentary

WHY PAPER SONS? Dir.: Beverly Shue

3 mins., color, documentary

**OBON JIVERS, UNDER THE WIG** Dir.: Christy Ishimine

5 mins., color, documentary

POPO Dir.: Frances Ito

5 mins., color, documentary

I-KE-BA-NA: LIFE IN FLOWERS Dir.: Cathy Uchida

5 mins., color, documentary

SPEAKING OUT! Dir.: Steve Nagano

7 mins., color, documentary

LET'S CELEBRATE! Dir.: Jeannie Wong

5 mins., color, documentary

THE FUTURE IS NOW! Dirs.: Chicky Otani, Jeannie Wong

2 mins., color, documentary

A FAMILY HULA LEGACY Dir.: Arlene Maala

6 mins., color, documentary

TONY DELIVERS Dir.: David Osako

5 mins., color, documentary

TEGAMI: THE LETTER Dirs.: Christy Ishimine, Arlene Maala, David Osako

6 mins., color, narrative













































**UNPACKING Dir..:** Jean Wong 5 mins., color, documentary

A TURBULENT TRANSITION Dir.: Gerry Chow

8 mins., color, documentary

BEHIND CALENDAR SMILES Dir.: Beverly Shue

6 mins., color, documentary

POPO'S GRANDSON Dir.: Frances Ito

5 mins., color, documentary

MY JOURNEY WITH AYAHUASCA Dir.: Arlene Maala

7 mins., color, documentary

**OBON JIVERS, THIS ONE'S FOR YOU** Dir.: Christy Ishimine

6 mins., color, documentary

**CLASS '58 Dir.: Dan Matsushita** 5 mins., color, documentary

**GOT A JOB! Dir.: Chicky Otani** 2 mins., color, documentary

FINDING TONY Dirs.: Gerry Chow, David Osano, Chicky Otani

2 mins., color, documentary

KATO SEWING MACHINE STORE Dir.: Hideko Ibaraki

5 mins., color, documentary

MORE THAN 1,000 WORDS Dir.: Steve Nagano

9 mins., color, documentary

# 2011: Volume 7

POPO'S GARDEN Dir.: Frances Ito

7 mins., color, documentary

HIDEKO'S ACCIDENT Dir.: Hideko Ibaraki

2 mins., color, documentary

THE PEOPLE WE LOVE Dir.: Lora Nakamura

8 mins., color, documentary

A STORY OF HOPE Dir.: Michi Tanioka

8 mins., color, documentary

**SUMMER CAMP** Dir.: Jeannie Wong

7 mins., color, documentary

WHAT'S UP IN THE FUTURE! Dir.: Chickie Otani

2 mins., color, documentary

FOUNDING A FILIPINO CLUB Dir.: Arlene Maala

7 mins., color, documentary

WHAT TO DO WITH MY KOTO Dir.: Pat Naritomi

6 mins., color, documentary

FAMILY RESTAURANT EXPERIENCES Dir.: Beverly Woo Shue

7 mins., color, documentary

MUDSLIDE Dir.: Jean Tanaka

6 mins., color, documentary

PHOTOS FROM MY DAD'S EARLY YEARS Dir.: Gerry Chow













































MY FIRST CHANGE Dir.: Yoshi Miyake

5 min., color, documentary

LITTLE TOKYO TOWER Dir.: Hideko Ibaraki

3 mins., color, documentary

**THE JARANA Dir.: Sandy Challe** 7 mins., color, documentary

**CHIMA #2 Dir.: Chima** 5 mins., color, documentary

MY CHILD IS GAY Dir.: Harold Kameya

9 mins., color, documentary

THE LAST DANCE Dir.: Michi Tanioka

6 mins., color, documentary

A NEW HAPPINESS Dir.: Sumiko Urquhart

8 mins., color, documentary

TO GET A DATE Dir.: Jeannie Wong

7 mins., color, documentary

FAMILY PIANO Dir.: Arlene Maala

4 mins., color, documentary

**THE KOTO** Dir.: Pat Naritomi 6 mins., color, documentary

8535 MELROSE AVENUE Dir.: Chicky Otani

5 mins., color, documentary

HIROSHIMA ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES Dir.: Bill Kanzaki

7 mins., color, documentary

# 2009: Volume 5

AND GOD LOVES GAYS, TOO! Dir.: Michi Tanioka

9 mins., color, documentary

FINDING A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE Dir.: Chicky Otani

6 mins., color, documentary

ONE THING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE IN MY LIFE Dir.: Jean Wong

4 mins., color, documentary

CHIMA Dir.: Chima Machiko

6 mins., color, documentary

I LOVE SUSHI Dir.: Sadako Matsuura

3 mins., color, documentary

THE UYEDA FAMILY: GROWING UP IN JAPANESE TOWN Dir.: Genevieve Lew

11 mins., color, documentary

MY STEP UP TO THE STREETS Dir.: Brian del Rosario, Lolita del Rosario

5 mins., color, documentary

MARU NI TACHBANA Dir.: Patricia Honda

5 mins., color, documentary

WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER Dir.: Pat Naritomi

6 mins., color, documentary

MY FIRST L.A. MARATHON Dir.: Jim Anzei

















FINDING LOVE Dir.: Jean Wong 8 mins., color, documentary

MY MOTHER'S KIMONO Dir.: Sumiko Urquhart

6 mins., color, documentary

DUSK TO DAWN Dir.: Brenda Higa

2 mins., color, documentary

**CONNECTING WITH AMATEUR RADIO** Dir.: Henry Mar

5 mins., color, documentary

MOVE TO LITTLE TOKYO Dir.: Paul Kawakami

5 mins., color, documentary

FINDING OUR PLACE Dir.: Chicky Otani

6 mins., color, documentary

MY VIDEO Dir.: Brian del Rosario

4 mins., color, documentary

THE RED TENT AND ME Dir.: Michi Tanioka

8 mins., color, documentary

















### 2007: Volume 3

MY FATHER'S WISH Dir.: Winston Goo

4 mins., color, documentary

CITIZENS OF THE EARTH Dir.: Haruko Hosokawa

7 mins., color, documentary

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT Dir.: Nancy Malhotra

5 mins., color, documentary

MY TRIP HOME Dir.: Henry Mar

6 mins., color, documentary

**ENCARNACION** Dir.: Maria Ream

10 mins., color, documentary

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE...FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE Dir.: Michi

Tanioka

7 mins., color, documentary

LOVE OVERCOMES CRISES Dir.: Sumiko Urquhart

7 mins., color, documentary

HOMEMADE CANTONESE ZONGZI Dir.: Jean Wong



















MY UNCLE'S LEGACY: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME Dir.: Robert Anderson 6 mins., color, documentary

THIS IS MY LIFE Dir.: Armen Frundzhyan

5 mins., color, documentary

INTRODUCTION TO KOMAMOTO KENJIN-KAI Dir.: Chie Iseri

5 mins., color, documentary

**SHIKZA!** Dir.: Abijah Martinez 6 mins., color, documentary

AN AMERICAN STORY: "GO FOR BROKE" Dir.: Anna Nagai

8 mins., color, documentary

MY VALENTINE Dir.: Bem Nagase

5 mins., color, documentary

MEMORIES OF TULE LAKE INTERNMENT CAMP Dir.: Mitsuko Nagell

7 mins., color, documentary

**FAMILY TIME Dir.:** Ngoc Nguyen 6 mins., color, documentary

FINDING JEANIE Dir.: Jean Wong

6 mins., color, documentary



















# 2005: Volume 1

MY FAVORITE PLACE IN LITTLE TOKYO Dir.: Chie Iseri

6 mins., color, documentary

**HAPPY DANCING!** Dir.: Harvard Ito

5 mins., color, documentary

A VISIT TO ARVIN, CALIFORNIA Dir.: June Aoki

5 mins., color, documentary

**BLUESMAN FIGHTING** Dir.: Carey Westbrook

6 mins., color, documentary

EVEN FLOWERS FADE AWAY Dir.: Miki Himeno

6 mins., color, documentary

THE UYEDA FAMILY Dir.: Genevieve Lew

9 mins., color, documentary

**BUNKADO** Dir.: Bem Nagase

7 mins., color, documentary

MY FAVORITE PLACE IN LITTLE TOKYO Dir.: Genevieve Lew

9 mins., color, documentary

THE ROLLING STONES & ME Dir.: Nikki Honda

# **VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS CLASSICS**

Among the most popular of Visual Communications' catalog, the Classics series is a quartet of works that represent the filmmaking capabilities of its original founders as they were coming into full bloom. Now available for both home and institutional use.



### **CRUISIN' J-TOWN**

(United States, 1975) Dir.: Duane Kubo

The roots of the popular jazz fusion band Hiroshima are in pre-redevelopment Little Tokyo. Select group members discuss the sociological and cultural pulse of the early 1970s. Dan Kuramoto describes the political movements of the 1960s out of which Asian American music emerged, while June Kuramoto relates being ridiculed in her youth for playing the Japanese *koto*. Percussionist Johnny Mori delves into the influence of African American, Latino, and rock 'n roll music on his art. The film goes beyond a mere profile of a band to investigate the core and influences of Asian American music.

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 24 minutes



### **KITES & OTHER TALES**

(United States, 1975) Dirs.: Alan Ohashi, Alan Takemoto
Modern kite maker Tom Joe seeks to preserve the craft of kite
making as well as the traditional Asian folklore behind it.
Alan Takemoto illustrates Tom Joe's tales of the Polynesian
fish kite made from leaves and branches to fool fish; the
Chinese general whose trapped army fashioned a fighting
kite; and Shirone, the "kite crazy town" in Japan where 20foot fighting kites duel in magnificent matches. Children will
be inspired to try making these kites.

Awards: Special Jury Award,

1988 Chicago International Festival of Children's Films.

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 12 minutes

### PIECES OF A DREAM

(United States, 1974) Dir.: Eddie Wong

Immigrant farm laborers — Chinese, Japanese, and the Filipino manongs — came to America through Angel Island to work the land. At turns lyrical and expressive, PIECES OF A DREAM tells the story of Asian Pacific American life and history on the Sacramento River delta. Their stories are told through a montage of voices from the past, adapted from Victor Nee and Brett de Bary's Longtime Californ'. Delta life is captured in lush, pastel colors and presented with the music of jazz/fusion band Hiroshima. A visit to the Locke Historic District, a town founded by Chinese immigrants shows viewers the sharp realities of the present: The crumbled wooden Chinatown looks like a quaint tourist landmark, but is revealed as low-income housing for the Delta's poor; a Japanese American farmer talks about the pressures of the large agribusiness on small farmers.



**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 30 minutes



### **WATARIDORI: BIRDS OF PASSAGE**

(United States, 1976) Dir.: Robert A. Nakamura

Three issei (first generation Japanese Americans) describe a collective history through personal memories. Miura, a fisherman and wanderer, came to America by ship as an apprentice steward to see the world. The director's father, Harukichi, a gardener, remembers the little boys who taunted him as he bicycled from his job with a lawnmower tied to his back post World War II. Through Mrs. Sumi, we learn how issei farmers developed the prosperous Imperial Valley farmlands despite the Alien Land Law. In a moving scene, several issei talk about the World War II evacuation. And in one pilgrimage, three generations pay tribute to lives spent at Manzanar concentration camp

**Awards:** First Place, Cultures in Focus Bicentennial Celebration Film Showcase

Competition; Award of Merit, Art & Cultural Competition.

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 37 minutes



# HIDDEN TREASURES SERIES

The "Hidden Treasures" series represents Visual Communications' first full-scale educational video productions, and additionally is acknowledged for the organization's continued efforts to broaden the range of stories that illuminate the Asian Pacific American experience.



### MANONG

(United States, 1978) Dir.: Linda Mabalot

The *manong* were the first wave of Filipinos who came to the United States to find work. **MANONG** dramatically portrays their lives as captured in the writings of Carlos Bulosan, unveiling the *manongs'* contribution to America's agricultural and service industries and the struggle to build a Filipino community. **MANONG** tells the stories of their decades in the farmland and canneries on the West Coast and the effects of the bachelor society that lingers today.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color & black-and-white

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 30 minutes



### OMAI FA'ATASI: SAMOA MO SAMOA

(United States, 1979) Dir.: Takashi Fujii

A Samoan community group, Omai Fa'atasi, presents the problems facing youth in the growing Samoan community in Los Angeles. Among the first independent media productions to bring the experiences of Pacific Islanders to light, OMAI FA'ATASI: SAMOA MO SAMOA is supplemented by intricate watercolor paintings by local artist Ron Battle which illustrate the history of Samoa's fractious relationship with the West, and by direct and illuminating interviews with the community group's youth clients.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 30 minutes



### SAMSARA

(United States, 1979) Dir.: Qris Yamashita

Two cousins — a *sansei* (third-generation Japanese American) and a native Japanese co-ed — share differing and at times, heated opinions on identity and community in the wake of their grandmother's funeral in this installment of Visual Communications' groundbreaking "Hidden Treasures" series. Traversing the L.A. landscape at community picnics and establishments, visits with community activists, and a road trip to a Manzanar concentration camp pilgrimage, the two cousins each come to a mutual understanding about their shared heritage.

Original format: Docu-Drama, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 30 minutes

### **TRACKS**

### (United States, 1979) Dir.: Alan Kondo

Talk about pressure: college student Leland causes an uproar in history class over a culturally insensitive lesson that obscures the contributions of Chinese people in America. Disgusted, the instructor issues a public challenge: Leland must give a presentation on the history of Chinese in America — or fail the course. Together with a couple of his buddies, Leland takes the viewer on a tour of L.A.'s Chinatown and its environs. In the process, he uncovers the hidden histories of a community that just might help him win the challenge.

Original format: Docu-Drama, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 30 minutes



### IN MOVEMENT

### (United States, 1981) Dir.: Visual Communications

Composed of highlights from each of the four segments of Visual Communications' "Hidden Treasures" video series (MANONG; OMAI FA'ATASI: SAMOA MO SAMOA; SAMSARA; and TRACKS), IN MOVEMENT provides a visual journey through the Asian Pacific American experience from past to present of struggling and settling in the United States, watching people work, build, laugh, and cry. These images and stories of Asian Americans bring out what is common to each of our histories and share the lessons of the past to create a more equitable, humane society.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 30 minutes



# NON-FICTION: Super 8mm & 16mm

Visual Communications' catalog of documentary, narrative, and animated films are acknowledged for their incisive, timeless stories illustrating the Asian Pacific American experience. Many have won numerous awards, and remain indispensible learning resources for both schools and libraries.



### CHINATOWN 2-STEP

(United States, 1975) Dir.: Eddie Wong

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps is an important fixture of the Chinese American community — not only serving as its representative in parades and events, but also as an activity bringing the young Chinese American middle class together. Capturing the all-American fervor of parade competition, **CHINATOWN 2-STEP** takes the viewer through the group's performances and interviews with the Corps' members and their parents.

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 17 minutes



#### CITY CITY

(United States, 1974) Dirs.: Duane Kubo, Donna Dietch

The vibrancy of the City of Los Angeles is expressed by an intricate interweaving of optical print effects and an eclectic soundtrack. This experimental narrative piece (a collaboration between one of the founders of Visual Communications and a vanguard director who would later direct the landmark DESERT HEARTS) offers an abstract view of a contemporary city and the people who inhabit it.

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 12 minutes

### CRUISIN' J-TOWN

(United States, 1975) Dir.: Duane Kubo See Page 20 for complete product details



### I TOLD YOU SO

(United States, 1974) Dir.: Alan Kondo

This black-and-white documentary weaves scenes of Japanese American poet and professor Lawson Inada's life with his writing. Titled after one of his poems, I TOLD YOU SO follows Inada to Fresno, California for a childhood reunion. Shots of his multicultural childhood neighborhood show downtown graffiti, bars, and the Nisei Barber Shop. Inada runs into his aunt, one of the subjects of his poems where she asks, "All this identity thing. What is it you're looking for?" Inada's answer is in his poem, "Nightsongs in Asian America" that addresses the active residence to World War II incarceration and his relationship with his son.

Original format: Narrative, 16mm, black-and-white

Available format: DVD Running Time: 18 minutes

### **MANZANAR**

(United States, 1971) Dir.: Robert A. Nakamura

Created by Robert Nakamura as an UCLA Ethnocommunications student, MANZANAR was one of the first films distributed by Visual Communications. MANZANAR is a lyrical and pensive documentary centered around the central California Japanese American internment camp of the same name. In it, a nisei (second-generation Japanese American) recollects his childhood experiences in the camp as he comes to terms with how internment has affected his adult life.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color & black-and-white

Available format: DVD Running Time: 16 minutes



(United States, 1974) Dir.: Eddie Wong See Page 21 for complete product details

### TO BE ME, TONY QUON

(United States, 1974) Dirs.: Pat Lau, Don Miller

Tony Quon is an active, 10 year-old Chinese immigrant who learns to adjust to an American school. Tony describes his first impressions of his strange classrooms and new life while we follow him through Los Angeles. Set in L.A.'s Chinatown neighborhood, **TO BE ME, TONY QUON** offers a vivid depiction of Tony's world, culminating with the food, firecrackers and lion dances of Chinese New Year.

Award: First Prize, Chicago International Festival of Children's Films

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 10 minutes

### WATARIDORI: BIRDS OF PASSAGE

(United States, 1976) Dir.: Robert A. Nakamura See Page 21 for complete product details

### **WONG SINSAANG**

(United States, 1971) Dir.: Eddie Wong

On of the first films to be distributed by Visual Communications, **WONG SINSAANG** is a lyrical portrait of the filmmaker's father, a proprietor of a dry cleaning business in Los Angeles' Silver Lake neighborhood. The filmmaker's attempt to understand his father's life and those who immigrated to America in search of a better life are contrasted with a study of the grinding lifestyle of the dry cleaner's everyday life.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, black-and-white

Available format: DVD Running Time: 12 minutes







# NON-FICTION: Super 8mm & 16mm



### YUKI SHIMODA: ASIAN AMERICAN ACTOR

(United States, 1985) Dir.: John Esaki

The thirty-year acting career of the late Yuki Shimoda reflects the achievement and career disappointments that faced the minority actor. Only offered limited roles by the Hollywood establishment during certain points of his career, Shimoda persevered on for challenging dramatic roles, such as in the television movie, FAREWELL TO MANZANAR. Shimoda's journey from Sacramento's "J-Town," to his imprisonment in an American concentration camp, and his experiences on Broadway and Hollywood are insightfully explored through interviews and selected clips from his film and television work. Among those interviewed include directors Harold Prince and John Korty; actors Mako, Beulah Quo, Nobu McCarthy, Soon Tek Oh; and agent Guy Lee.

Award: Honorable Mention, Big Muddy Film Festival, 1987

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, color

Available format: DVD Length: 30 minutes

# NARRATIVE: Super 8mm & 16mm

### HITO HATA: RAISE THE BANNER

(United States, 1980) Dirs.: Duane Kubo, Robert A. Nakamura See Page 9 for complete product details



### **PAK BUENG ON FIRE**

(United States, 1987) Dir.: Supachai Surongsain

Written, directed, and edited by Bangkok-born Supachai Surongsain, PAK BUENG ON FIRE presents a fresh look into the struggle of Thai immigrants in Los Angeles. Ron, who is on a student visa, finds himself short of money to pay for his tuition, while his friend, Charlie, an illegal immigrant, makes his living at a small grocery store in a precarious neighborhood. Charlie attempts to help his friend through a "sure" bet on a football game, but Ron is forced to take on a full-time job — a step forbidden for foreign students. PAK BUENG ON FIRE highlights contemporary issues of newer Asian Pacific communities forced to live "in the shadows" due to restrictive immigration policies.

Award: Best Dramatic Film, Atlanta Video and Film Festival 1988

Original format: Narrative, 16mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 25 minutes

### STAND UP FOR JUSTICE

(United States, 2004) Dir.: John Esaki See Page 7 for complete product details

### **VAITAFE: RUNNING WATER**

(United States, 1981) Dirs.: Foe Alo, Jr., Takashi Fujii

Vaitafe is a gifted Samoan student who comes to Southern California to pursue his goal of higher education, but encounters numerous obstacles standing in the way of academic success. Through Samoan traditions of fa'alavelaves (family concerns), the bonding of family, church and community in the Fa'a Samoa spirit of mutual support unite to come to Vaitafe's aid. A fictional follow-up to Visual Communications' landmark documentary production OMAI F'ATASI: SAMOA MO SAMOA, VAITAFE is an inspiring story about community support and self-determination.



Original format: Narrative, 16mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 30 minutes

# GRAPHIC FILM | ANIMATION: Super 8mm & 16mm

### THE JOURNEY

(United States, 1972) Dir.: Glen Akira Iwasaki & Pat Lau

Dr. Neon W. Tungsten, a scientist at Kilowattage Fluorodynamis, has isolated himself from the real world in his cluttered laboratory. Although he has the ability to work with high-tech devices and gadgets, Dr. Tungsten relies on his robot to help with such mundane tasks as tying his shoelaces. "Oh me, oh my, what to do?" he constantly cries. On one day, "Doc" ventures out of his lab into the colorful, wondrous outside world in search of a strange light in the distance.

Original format: Animation, 16mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 7 minutes

### **KITES & OTHER TALES**

(United States, 1975) Dirs.: Alan Ohashi, Alan Takemoto See Page 20 for complete product details

# **VIDEO**

Visual Communications' broad range of educational video productions illuminate not only our community histories and struggles, but also the pioneers and unsung heroes of our communities.



### **APSU: EDUCATION IS A RIGHT**

(United States, 1988) Dirs.: Stann Nakazono, Linda Mabalot The focus of this collaboration between activists/filmmakers Linda Mabalot (MANONG) and Stann Nakazono (E-Z ROCK: ASIAN AMERICAN BREAKDANCER) is the rise of a new generation of Asian Pacific American student activists in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1978 Bakke Decision. Interviews with founders and activists involved with the statewide Asian Pacific Student Union (APSU), former student activists, educators, and local and national politicians paint the portrait of the next generation of Asian Pacific American activists and how grassroots activists began the long process towards empowerment and full participation in America's social, cultural, and political processes.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 22 minutes



# BEHIND THE CURTAIN: ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTS

(United States, 1995) Dir.: John Esaki
BEHIND THE CURTAIN takes a look at two Los Angelesbased performing arts organizations that work to bring fuller dimension to the Asian Pacific American experience. Broadway and Hollywood dancer and actress Nobuko Miyamoto founded Great Leap, Inc. to create a more comprehensive portrait of Asian Pacific Americans to the stage through artistic expression. The sociopolitical and cultural concerns that drive Miyamoto's work are also found in the men and women who run East West Players, the nation's oldest Asian American theater company. Starting as a storefront playhouse in L.A.'s Silver Lake district, longtime Artistic Director Mako championed the development of an all-encompassing Asian Pacific American creative policy that goes beyond the stage; it continues under the stewardship of current Artistic Director Timothy Dang.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

**Available format:** Call to Inquire **Running Time:** 56 minutes



### **BEYOND ENDURANCE**

(United States, 1994) Dir.: Kaz Takeuchi A moving tribute to three Gold medal-winning Asian American Olympians, **BEYOND ENDURANCE** profiles weightlifter Tommy Kono and divers Sammy Lee and Vicky Manalo Draves. Director Kaz Takeuchi (SHIMON) weaves still photographic and newsreel footage of the trio's exploits during the Olympics of the Fabulous '50s, including Sammy Lee's historic championship performances at the 1948 and 1952 Games; Vicky Manalo Draves' groundbreaking performance as the first U.S. woman diver to capture Olympic Gold in both the springboard and platform competition in the same Games; and Tommy Kono's inspirational road to the Gold in the Melbourne Games of 1956. Offering a glimpse into how sports opened new doors of opportunity for these golden luminaries, BEYOND ENDURANCE provides an intimate look into the hearts of these special champions.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 46 minutes



### **CHARLIE'S ADVENTURE**

(United States, 1999) Dir.: Raynaud Moreno Charlie the Pooch messes with the wrong crowd.

Original format: Animation, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 2 minutes



# FRAMED OUT: THE CHALLENGE OF ASIAN AMERICAN ACTORS

(United States, 1983) Dir.: John Esaki

Based around an interview conducted with pioneering actor Yuki Shimoda (at the time battling cancer), FRAMED OUT, a pre-cursor of sorts to the director's later YUKI SHIMODA: ASIAN AMERICAN ACTOR, offers a sobering case-study of the absence of Asian Pacific Americans and other peoples of color in all forms of onscreen entertainment.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

**Available format:** Call to Inquire **Running Time:** 28 minutes



### HIROSHIMA...TWENTY YEAR LATER

(United States, 1996) Dir.: Linda Mabalot
Produced in collaboration with The International
Channel, HIROSHIMA...TWENTY YEARS LATER brings
audiences up to date with the three principal members
of the jazz fusion band Hiroshima in the years since
they were profiled in Duane Kubo's classic 1975
documentary CRUISIN'J-TOWN. Saxophonist Dan
Kuramoto, koto player June Okida Kuramoto, and
percussionist Johnny Mori recount their individual and
group careers during the previous two decades and also
discuss their impact on newer generations of musical
artists and community activists.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 23 minutes



### IN MEMORY: PHILIP VERA CRUZ

(United States, 1994) Dir.: Jerome Academia, Gene Cajayon/ Visual Communications

Farmworker, union organizer, activist, writer and poet—all are apt descriptions for the late Filipino American labor activist Philip Vera Cruz (1904-1994). Known as the highest-ranking Filipino union official of the United Farmworkers Union (UFW), manong Philip's legacy lives on in the words and deeds of next-generation Filipino American activists and organizers

## **VIDEO**

whose lives he touched. This tribute video, prepared especially for his 1994 memorial service in Los Angeles, weaves historic photos, testimonials, and exclusive interviews conducted by Visual Communications staff to the tune of Vera Cruz's classic composition, "Profits Enslave the World," performed by Chris Bautista and Juliette Masculino.

Original format: Documentary/Music Video, 3/4" U-matic, color
Available format: DVD

Running Time: 4 minutes



### IN NO ONE'S SHADOW

(United States, 1988) Dir.: Naomi and Antonio De Castro What do Sakadas, Manongs, Pinoys, and Pinays have in common? All are Filipino Americans, comprising one of the largest segments of the Asian American population, some living in America for centuries. The earliest Filipino arrivals founded settlements in pre-Revolutionary Louisiana territory while later migrants moved to Hawaii and the West Coast in the late 1900s to join the agricultural work force. IN NO ONE'S SHADOW paints an overview of Filipino American history, tracing rich and varied accomplishments and contributions to the United States.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 30 minutes



### IT'S UP TO YOU

(United States, 1992) Dir.: Janice D. Tanaka

This lively music video was developed from their point of view as Asian Pacific youth confronting issues such as drug abuse, gangs and peer pressure. Incorporating Super 8mm film footage, paint-on-film animation and high tech audio-video effects, **IT'S UP TO YOU** enlightens and entertains viewers with its meaningful anti-drug message and sense of humor.

Original format: Music Video, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 5 minutes



### **NISEI WEEK: A CELEBRATION OF SPIRIT**

(United States, 1987) Dir.: John Esaki
NISEI WEEK: A CELEBRATION OF SPIRIT takes viewers
on an intimate walking tour of Los Angeles' Little
Tokyo with 1987 Nisei Week Queen Leann Sera. NISEI
WEEK includes interviews with local heroes and
movers-and-shakers. This informative documentary
offers a glimpse into one of Los Angeles' oldest ethnic
communities spotlighting the people — both young
and old — that make Little Tokyo a special place.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

**Available format:** Call to Inquire **Running Time:** 30 minutes



### SHIMON

(United States, 1998) Dir.: Kaz Takeuchi SHIMON (Fingerprint) offers an in-depth and at times, shocking study of the discrimination faced by minorities in Japan. Reputed to be among the most democratic of Asian countries, the Japan depicted in SHIMON has a long history of civil and social oppression of its minority populace, exercising an institutionalized system of racism that prevents nativeborn Japanese of Korean ancestry and other minorities from obtaining citizenship and other fundamental rights. The fingerprint law, better known as the Alien Registration Law, has become the unifying issue for Koreans and Japanese who actively seek reform of Japan's discriminatory policies. Working with select human rights groups in Japan and armed with only a Super 8mm camera to avoid drawing attention, Visual Communications staffer Kaz Takeuchi spent over two years documenting the people and events profiled in SHIMON. The award-winning film further affirms Visual Communications' advocacy of small-format filmmaking, and has screened at numerous festivals and human rights events around the world.

Award: Silver Award, New York Festival of Film and Video; Jury Award, Chicago International Film & Video Festival Original format: Documentary, ¾' U-matic, color

(originated on Super 8mm)

Available format: DVD

Length: 27 minutes



### TAIKO!

(United States, 1986) Dir.: John Esaki

Commissioned by the Los Angeles Children's Museum, TAIKO! is a colorful, kinetic kaleidoscope of Japanese American arts and culture as seen through the eyes of young people. A taiko performance by Kinnara Taiko's Johnny Mori and Qris Yamashita opens the door to a diverse picture of the Japanese American experience and offers the idea of cross-cultural exchange and understanding through both traditional and contemporary customs.

Original format: Performance Documentary,

3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: Call to Inquire Running Time: 10 minutes



### **UGAT PILIPINO: FILIPINO ROOTS**

(United States, 1994) Dir.: Jerome Academia and Martie Quan Produced by Visual Communications and the International Channel, UGAT PILIPINO takes the viewer on a tour showcasing the broad range of Filipino American culture as expressed through music, dance, film and the visual arts. UGAT PILIPINO spotlights performing arts groups BIBAK Dance Ensemble, World Kulintang Institute, Fil-Am Family Cultural Group, and Kayamanan ng Lahi; rapper Reggie Nuesca; painter Papo de Asis; and filmmaker Dan Tirtiwinata. While

## **VIDEO**

these artists work in distinct disciplines, they share the common goal of reclaiming Filipino culture and sharing it with the next generations of Filipino Americans.

UGAT PILIPINO is an insightful overview of the rich variety and scope of contemporary Filipino American culture.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 30 minutes



### WHEN YOU'RE SMILING: The Deadly Legacy of Internment

(United States, 1999) Dir.: Janice D. Tanaka Released from the concentration camps after World War II, most Japanese Americans returned to poor neighborhoods like South Central Los Angeles to rebuild their shattered lives. Growing up in the 1950s and coming of age in the tumultuous '60s, children paid the steepest price for their parents' silent assimilation. Many turned to gangs, drugs and ultimately, suicide. WHEN YOU'RE SMILING is the first comprehensive account of the resettlement of the Japanese American community post-internment told through the filmmaker's family's struggle during the harsh postcamp years. The community seemed to adjust back to normal life, but in reality, issues of class, race, religion, stereotyping, lack of ethnic values, and emotional and familial distance caused a serious identity crisis. WHEN YOU'RE SMILING shatters the model minority myth surrounding Japanese Americans, exposing the deadly legacy of internment through the rite of passage of a generation who walked an emotional tightrope to discover their heritage.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 60 minutes



### YOU CAN STILL HEAR ME SINGING

(United States/Philippines, 1987)
Dirs.: Antonio De Castro, Linda Mabalot

Produced as a companion piece to the Philippine Hunger Project, a multi-disciplinary investigative project funded in part with a UNICEF grant, YOU CAN STILL HEAR ME SINGING examines the devastating effects of the root causes of hunger in Negros Occidental, Philippines caused by the monopolization of the island's sole source of economic support — its sugar industry. Interviews with local politicians and academics are contrasted with images of the decimation of local staple industries that provide a crucial and, in many cases, sole source of income for families living at or near the poverty line.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 10 minutes

# FILMMAKERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, 1984-1989

(All works Super 8mm; 16mm, transferred to video)

## 1984-85 Cycle



E-Z ROCK: ASIAN AMERICAN BREAK-DANCER

(United States, 1985)
Dir.: Stann Nakazono
With the music of the early 1980s interlacing

the soundtrack, this energetic documentary profiles a young Asian American break-dancer. Developing friendships and his identity through breakdancing, the boy clashes with his father's traditional ways.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 10 minutes



### JOSE: THE ARTIST

(United States, 1985)
Dir.: Evangeline Galicia
JOSE: THE ARTIST is a
documentary on the late
Jose de Vega, a celebrated
Filipino American dancer

and actor who made his acting debut in WEST SIDE STORY playing "Chino" opposite Natalie Wood. He subsequently appeared in numerous stage and film productions and served as the artistic director of Great Leap Productions for many years. The film reveals his dedication to his community and his art.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 7 minutes



### LITTLE ONE INCH

(United States, 1985)
Dir.: Kelly Takemura
The traditional Japanese legend of a boy, only one inch tall, is warmly retold in this animated short.

Simple but effective animation techniques enliven the boy's adventures and battles.

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 3 minutes



### **MOCHI MONSTER**

(United States, 1985)
Dir.: Troi Pang
Troi Pang, who was only
13 years old when he
animated this film, adds
a natural energy into his

humorous story of a radioactive monster that grows out of a pile of mochi (steamed rice cake). The monster terrorizes the community until it is finally subdued in a garbage can, temporarily...

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, black-and-white

Available format: DVD Running Time: 2 minutes

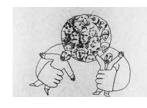


### **OVER THE EDGE**

(United States, 1985)
Dir.: Yachiyo Mattox
Set at an upscale party,
OVER THE EDGE is an
unblinking examination of
peer pressure and losing

control. This animated short portrays claustrophobia and paranoia with shots of long hallways, closed doors, and a telescoped point-of-view.

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, black-and-white Available format: DVD Running Time: 2 minutes



# REPTILIAN BRAIN FUNCTION

(United States, 1985)
Dir.: Stuart Iwasaki
Greed, jealousy, ambition
and hatred are presented
as two men struggle for

possession of the world. Complemented with sound affects, the film's line drawings (pen and ink on paper) effectively illustrate its compelling message.

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, color Available format: DVD Running Time: 1 minute

#### SEEDS

(United States, 1985)
Dir.: Kent Hirohama
A montage of black-andwhite photos that portray
three generations of the

# FILMMAKERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, 1984-1989

(All works Super 8mm; 16mm, transferred to video)

filmmaker's family create an important statement of the pride of the *issei* (first generation Japanese American).

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 2 minutes



#### **TOUGH TALK**

(United States, 1985)

Dir.: Abraham Ferrer

Set in a fictitious student rally, TOUGH TALK seeks to reaffirm the need for aggressive student activism

as well as identifying who the target of social reform is in the first place.

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, black-and-white

Available format: DVD Running Time: 3 minutes

# 1986 Cycle



### **DRIBBLE**

(United States, 1986)
Dir.: Allison Kuruma
The impact of girls' Asian
American basketball
leagues is seen through
one family's devotion to

the sport. In addition to developing athletic prowess, the girls gain confidence and closer ties to their ethnic heritage. Director Allison Kuruma presents an insightful documentary with her personal knowledge of these leagues.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 10 minutes



### **NO VACANCY**

(United States, 1986)
Dir.: Naomi Hirahara
Two Asian American
middle-aged men, faced
with the depletion of lowcost housing, find ways

to survive in downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and Chinatown. This documentary is a poignant view of a segment of Asian American underclass rarely talked about. Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 10 minutes



### **CHISAI SAMURAI**

(United States, 1986)
Dir.: Chris Tashima
Benji, a lonely little
boy, dreams of being a
brave warrior in medieval
Japan. In his dream, he

saves the lives of a princess and her escort from three treacherous bandits and is rewarded with a valuable necklace. Later, Benji's reality seems stranger than his dream as he rescues an old woman from a mugger. Director Chris Tashima uses his theatrical experience to create a lively adventure.

Original format: Narrative, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 11 minutes



#### HARUSAME: SPRING RAIN

(United States, 1986)
Dir.: Jose de Vega
A young Japanese American
dancer, embittered by
being sent to a World War
II concentration camp,

is confronted by a child with dreams of becoming a dancer herself. This dramatic story follows the dancer as she overcomes her anger and frustrations to help the child attain her dreams. The late director, Jose de Vega infused the film with his love for dance, a symbol of liberation.

Original format: Narrative, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD
Running Time: 12 minutes



# **KUSEI: ENDANGERED SPECIES**

(United States, 1986)
Dirs.: Karen Mayeda,
Denise Okimoto
Directors Mayeda and
Okimoto use regional

humor to create this futuristic spoof of various modernday Japanese American habits and traditions. In the film, a *sansei* (third generation Japanese American) beauty queen is knocked unconscious and awakens 250 years later to find herself the subject of a grand experiment to repopulate a new world of *kusei* — ninth generation Japanese Americans.

Original format: Narrative, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 10 minutes



RENEWAL (United States, 1986) Dir.: Kaz Takeuchi A gardener, called the "Professor" by his nephew, fails his driver's license examination because he

is too nearsighted to read the test. He falls into deep despair before devising innovative ways to keep up with his work. Director Kaz Takeuchi paints a sensitive portrait of a middle-aged single man.

Original format: Narrative, Super 8mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 10 minutes



**DON GIOVANNI** 

(United States, 1986)
Dir.: Merilynn Yamada
Animator Merilynn
Yamada's dazzling, detailed
color drawings give new
slant on the escapades of

the Italian lover from Mozart's opera. This animated short has a free, energetic quality that nicely complements the classic "Don Giovanni."

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 5 minutes



### **KABUKI SUITE**

(United States, 1986)
Dir.: Laureen Berger
Brilliant clay and cell
animation, pencil drawings,
cut-outs and puppet
animation illuminate the

artistry of the Japanese kabuki. Scenes from various kabuki plays give the viewer a flavor of its power and beautiful costumes.

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 5 minutes



URUSAI

(United States, 1986)
Dir.: Shane Sato
An older brother gets his due when his sibling's toys suddenly come alive and attack him in this

live action short featuring pixilation, frame by frame puppet animation.

Original format: Animation, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 4 minutes

## 1988-1989 Cycle



### **NA PUA O LAKA**

(United States, 1989)
Dir.: Rick Chun
This film is about the perpetuation of the Hawaiian culture in Southern California. Sissy

Ka'io is a *kumu Hula*, or teacher of Hula, who both explains and demonstrates how to teach the Hula. The focus is on her male students, which harks back to the origins of the dance and breaks the stereotype of the hulas as mere exotic entertainment.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 15 minutes



### **TEACH THEM WELL**

(United States, 1989)
Dir.: Diana Yamashiro
This intimate self-portrait reveals the teaching philosophy of Diana
Yamashiro, an instructor

of immigrant students at an inner city junior high school. Through innovative instructional techniques, she inspires these students not only to learn English but also to understand subtle nuances of their newly adopted American culture.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

Available format: DVD Running Time: 15 minutes

## FILMMAKERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, 1984-1989

(All works Super 8mm; 16mm, transferred to video)



### YAMAGUCHI-SENSEI

(United States, 1989)
Dir.: Roland Hazama
Director Roland Hazama
takes a personal look
back at his former
Japanese language school

days, centering on his now-retired teacher whose commitment to teaching and the Christian faith is strongly relayed in this film.

Original format: Documentary, Super 8mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 10 minutes



### **HONORABLE MENTION**

(United States, 1989)
Dir.: Soji Kashiwagi
HONORABLE MENTION
investigates the classic
sibling rivalry between
two brothers. The younger

brother, Eugene, can't seem to please his parents, while overachieving Stanford-bound Davey is the focus of the family's attention. Eugene faces an intense challenge when he must help Davey through an extreme personal crisis.

Original format: Narrative, Super 8mm, color

Available format: Please Inquire Running Time: 15 minutes



### UPON THIS BANK AND SHOAL OF TIME

(United States, 1989)
Dir.: Darrell Kunitomi
While cleaning out the garage of his recently deceased aunt, Barry, a

young *sansei* (third generation Japanese American) discovers a crate containing personal letters and an old handmade fishing rod from the 1940s. While reading his aunt's letters, he realizes the unfinished fishing rod belonged to an uncle who was killed while serving in the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II.

Original format: Narrative, Super 8mm, color

**Available format:** DVD **Running Time:** 16 minutes

## FILMS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS



### CHINAMAN'S CHOICE (United States, 1987) Dir.: Lori Tsang **CHINAMAN'S CHOICE** combines narrative and documentary techniques to evoke the feelings

Chinese American in his later years reminiscing about his decision to stay in the United States. Memories of his childhood in China and the trauma of his wartime experience during World War II interfere with his efforts to justify his commitment to the U.S. Based on the experiences of the filmmaker's father, Alfred Tsang, the film features an original jazz score and poetry.

Original format: Documentary, 16mm, black & white

**Available format:** DVD Running Time: 25 minutes



### **NVM GONZALEZ: A** STORY YET TO BE TOLD

(United States, 1998) Dirs.: Jerome Academia, Russell C. Leong A unique collaboration between members of Visual Communications

and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, NVM **GONZALEZ** goes beyond the man and his accolades to offer a glimpse into the people and inspirations that fuel the writing philosophies of one of the Philippines' leading literary titans. Following the writer to his hometown, the film's striking vistas and unencumbered visuals bring life to Gonzalez' writings, and serve to validate his motto for creative inspiration: "We should be taught early on that we are a creative people and that we can only flourish through creativity rather than through expediency." Academia and Leong's production, completed not long before the writer's death in 1999, is also noteworthy as Visual Communications' first-ever production to be photographed using digital filmmaking technology.

Original format: Documentary, S-VHS, color **Available format:** DVD

Running Time: 27 minutes



### **OLD MAN RIVER** (United States, 1998) Dir.: Allan Holzman This unusual portrait of a daughter trying to know her stoic father years after his death, OLD MAN **RIVER** combines writer/

performer Cynthia Gates Fujikawa's acclaimed multimedia one-woman stage performance with a stirring collage of moving and still images that mesh to reveal a kaleidoscopic portrait of Hollywood character actor Jerry Fujikawa (CHINATOWN, M\*A\*S\*H, TAXI). Jerry's career playing every imaginable Asian stereotype seemed anything but glamorous and always predictable to his daughter. But when Ms. Fujikawa stumbles upon a mysterious secret her father would take to the grave, she embarks upon a journey that brings her face-toface with American racism, specifically the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and eventually leads her to a sister she never knew existed. OLD MAN RIVER brings to life an astoundingly tragic and complex American family history, while connecting this personal story to larger political and social issues.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" u-matic, color

Available format: DVD; VHS **Running Time:** 73 minutes



### WHY IS PREPARING FISH A POLITICAL ACT?

(United States, 1991) Dir.: Russell C. Leong WHY IS PREPARING FISH A POLITICAL

**ACT?** by writer/cultural critic Russell C. Leong

provides an intimate portrait of Janice Mirikitani, a sansei (third-generation Japanese American) poet/ writer/activist who lives and works in San Francisco, California. Spanning three generations of women, from grandmother to daughter, this video affords the viewer a look into Mirikitani's life and work — influences which serve to transform her personal history and political commitment into strikingly original poetry.

Original format: Documentary, 3/4" U-matic, color

Available format: Call to Inquire **Running Time:** 17 minutes

# MULTI-MEDIA | PHOTOGRAPHIC | PRINTED MATTER

### **FILMSTRIPS**



### THE ASIAN AMERICAN ABC'S

A filmstrip aimed at encouraging a sense of self-identity and culture among young Asian Americans. The filmstrip is a presentation of the alphabet using Asian cultural objects and Asian American children drawn from five Asian cultures (Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Samoan). Color filmstrip for pre-school and primary use.

Original format: 35mm filmstrip with accompanying audio cassette Length: 15 minutes
Not Available



### MR. TANI

A filmstrip portraying a Japanese immigrant's life in America as interpreted by children and the man himself. Beginning with his childhood in Japan, the filmstrip follows Mr. Tani as a tune fisherman in California, a World War II relocation internee, and finally ends with his life today. Color filmstrip with cassette for elementary level use.

Original format: 35mm filmstrip with accompanying audio cassette Length: 9 minutes Not Available

### **FDUCATIONAL TOOLS**



# **ETHNIC UNDERSTANDING SERIES:** Asian American People and Places

An attractively packaged set of nine human interest stories on personalities, events and places in Asian American communities which provides a basic introduction to contemporary Asian American lifestyles. Nine stories for grades 3 through 6.

Sale: \$20.00



### **EAST/WEST ACTIVITIES KIT**

This kit consists of four sheets of arts and crafts, games and lessons. Each activity is designed in an attractive, engaging manner to encourage active participation as a means of developing awareness, familiarity and understanding of Asian Americans and Asian cultural roots. Twelve activities for grades 3 through 6.

Sale: \$15.00

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS





### AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The very first production to carry the Visual Communications production credit, AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS — popularly referred to as the "cubes" exhibit — is a mobile, traveling exhibit that brings to life the realities of the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Informed with striking black-and-white images culled from government archives, family collections, wartime vernacular publications and images culled from UCLA's Japanese American Relocation Project collection, AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS serves as a sobering wake-up call to the harsh realities of racism and wartime hysteria visited on an American community and brings a heightened understanding of internment and relocation to the uninformed.

**Format:** Approx. 30 wood cubes, 10.5" x 10.5" x 10.5" square; with photos front and back; base not included

Rental: Call to Inquire

### ASIAN WOMEN IN THE U.S.

A pictorial exhibition of the past to the present of Asian American women from all walks of life — from housewife, farmworker, laborer, sewing woman, nurse to political activist. Comprised of more than thirty black-and-white photographs mounted on eight large-scale panels, the pictures illustrate the role of Asian American women who struggle alongside their men to settle in the United States. Despite the joint struggle, these women also fight to earn recognition from their men.

Format: Eight 24" x 32" framed panels, ready for hanging

Approx. 50 black-and-white photographs

Rental: Call to Inquire

### IN MOVEMENT

A visual companion piece to Visual Communications' landmark pictorial publication, **IN MOVEMENT** journeys through the Asian American experience from past to present, watching people work, build, laugh, and cry; the struggling and settling in the United States. The images and stories of Asian Americans bring out what is common to each of our histories and share the lessons of the past to create a more equitable, humane society.

Format: Eight 24" x 32" framed panels, ready for hanging

Approx. 50 black-and-white photographs

Rental: Call to Inquire

# MULTI-MEDIA | PHOTOGRAPHIC | PRINTED MATTER

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS





### PLANTING ROOTS: A HISTORY OF FILIPINOS IN CALIFORNIA

A large-scale photographic exhibit documenting the sixty-year history of Filipinos in California, **PLANTING ROOTS** depicts the immigration of Filipinos, their contribution to California labor history, and the settlement of their communities from the 1920s through the 1960s. Informative text condensed from oral histories and academic research accompanies the photographs which are attractively mounted on free-standing display panels. The first pictorial display of its kind, **PLANTING ROOTS** eloquently captures the beginnings of Filipino American heritage for all ages.

**Format:** Six free-standing panels, approx. 8' x 4' wide, each bracketed by 4' x 8' tall support panels Approx. 100 black-and-white photographs

Rental: Call to Inquire

# HEADING EAST: CALIFORNIA'S ASIAN PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

Commissioned in 1998 as part of the California State sesquicentennial celebration in 1999, **HEADING EAST** is comprised of 150 photographs arranged on panels and cubes, and invites the viewer to wander and interact with the various displays. Organized around six major themes — Following the Dream, Ties of Gold, Enterprise, Shaping California, Heart to Heart, and Transformation — the cubes are sheathed with photographs and oral testimonies by Asian and Pacific Islanders with the top of each cube listing a chronology of major events applicable to



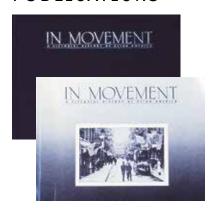
the theme. Flanking the cubes are towering eight-foot high panels that captivate the viewer's eyes with bold colors, words, and photographs that bring the exhibit themes to life. In an effort to represent the more than fifty Asian and Pacific Island American groups in California, the pictures and words that diagonally span the screens are written in various languages. **HEADING EAST** provides an engaging historical overview of Asian Pacific American history and contributions that have shaped and will continue to shape the golden state. — Judith Liu, University of San Diego

Format: Twelve 32" x 32" cubes, with six 4' x 8' tall hinged panels

Approx. 150 photographs, plus pop-up environmental display

**Rental:** Call to Inquire

### **PUBLICATIONS**



### IN MOVEMENT: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICA

The first publication by Visual Communications, **IN MOVEMENT** is a visual journey through the extension of the Asian American experience from past to present, watching people work, build, laugh and cry; struggling and settling in the United States. The pictures and stories of Asian Americans bring out what is common to each of our histories and shares the lessons of the past to create a more equitable, humane society.

Author: Franklin S. Odo Designer: Alan Ohashi

160 pages, nearly 200 photographs

Currently out of print



### LITTLE TOKYO: ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN PICTURES

Funded by the Little Tokyo Centennial Committee, LITTLE TOKYO: ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN PICTURES provides a visual biography of one of Los Angeles' most vital communities. A medley of words and images offer a montage of experiences of Japanese people in America.

Author: Michael Murase
Designer: Mike Nakayama
160 pages, over 200 photographs

Sale: \$20.00



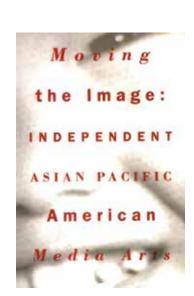
Edited by Russell C. Leong

MOVING THE IMAGE is the first volume to document the remarkable body of film, video, and radio produced by Asian and pacific Americans from the 1960s to the 1990s. Fifty award-winning filmmakers, media artists, and writers speak firsthand to issues of generation and gender, ethnicity and nationality, which shape their imagery and identities. Three introductory essays provide an overview to the subject: Stephen Gong, of the Pacific Film Archives in Berkeley, surveys the role of Asian American media arts organizations in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Boston, and San Francisco; Renee Tajima, Oscar-nominated filmmaker, charts twenty years of Asian American filmmaking; and Russel Leong, editor of UCLA's Amerasia Journal brings forth key issues on media culture and the Asian American experience.

Editor: Russell C. Leong; Co-Publisher: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

**Designer:** Qris Yamashita 288 pages, over 50 photographs

Hardcover: \$50.00 Softcover: \$20.00



# MULTI-MEDIA | PHOTOGRAPHIC | PRINTED MATTER

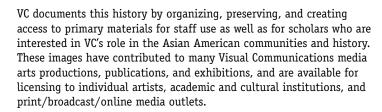
### RESOURCES

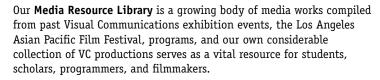




The Visual Communications Archives holds still and moving image materials about Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and histories and are an indispensible component of our vision and mission. VC aims to share the heritage and ongoing achievements of Asian Pacific Americans that reflect the vast spectrum of the Asian Pacific American experience.

VC's past work in media, narrative films, documentaries and educational projects are intertwined with the Asian Pacific movement of the 1970s, making VC's holdings a rich resource for artists and researchers. Materials include over 300,000 photographic images, 100 films and videos, 1000 hours of oral histories and interviews, and 1500 titles in the Media Resource Library.





Access to the VC Archives is available by appointment and provides an invaluable resource to researchers, historians, journalists, filmmakers, and the community at-large. For more information, please contact us at: (213) 680-4462.





# **VC CATALOG PRICE SCHEDULE**

Title	Format	Length	Inst'l Sale	(Inst'l Rent)	Home Sale	(Member 15%)
Chinaman's Choice	16mm	25	150	25	25	21.25
Chinatown 2-Step	DVD	17	100	20	20	17
City City	DVD	12	125	15	15	12.75
Cruisin' J-Town	DVD	24	175	25	25	21.25
Hito-Hata: Raise the Banner	DVD	90	250	35	35	29.75
I Told You So	DVD	18	150	20	20	17
Journey, The	DVD	7	95	15	15	12.75
Kites & Other Tales	DVD	12	125	15	15	12.75
Manzanar	DVD	16	100	20	20	17
Pak Bueng on Fire	DVD	25	125	25	25	21.25
Pieces of a Dream	DVD	30	150	25	25	21.25
Stand Up for Justice	DVD *	33	175	25	25	21.25
To Be Me: Tony Quon	DVD	10	75	15	15	12.75
Vaitafe: Running Water	DVD	30	150	25	25	21.25
Wataridori: Bird of Passage	DVD	37	150	25	25	21.25
Wong Sinsaang	DVD	12	125	15	15	12.75
Yuki Shimoda: Asian American Actor	DVD	30	150	25	25	21.25
Chisai Samurai	DVD	11	75	15	15	12.75
Don Giovanni	DVD	5	75	15	15	12.75
Dribble	DVD	10	100	15	15	12.75
E-Z Rock	DVD	10	100	15	15	12.75
Harusame: Spring Rain	DVD	12	100	15	15	12.75
Honorable Mention	DVD	15	100	15	15	12.75
Jose: The Artist	DVD	7	75	15	15	12.75
Kabuki Suite	DVD	5	75	15	15	12.75
Kusei: Endangered Species	DVD	10	100	15	15	12.75
Little One Inch	DVD	3	75	15	15	12.75
Mochi Monster	DVD	2	75	15	15	12.75
Na Pua O Laka	DVD	16	100	20	20	17
No Vacancy	DVD	10	100	15	15	12.75
Over the Edge	DVD	2	75	15	15	12.75
Renewal	DVD	10	100	15	15	12.75
Reptilian Brain Function	DVD	1	75	15	15	12.75
Seeds	DVD	2	75	15	15	12.75
Teach Them Well	DVD	15	100	15	15	12.75
Tough Talk	DVD	3	75	15	15	12.75
Upon This Bank and Shoal of Time	DVD	16	100	20	20	17
Urusai	DVD	4	75	15	15	12.75
Yamaguchi-Sensei	DVD	10	100	15	15	12.75

Title	Format	Length	Inst'l Sale	(Inst'l Rent)	Home Sale	(Member 15%)
APSU: Education is a Right	DVD	22	XXX	25	25	21.25
Behind the Curtain	DVD	56	XXX	35	35	29.75
Beyond Endurance	DVD	46	XXX	30	30	25.50
Charlie's Adventure	DVD	2	XX	15	15	12.75
Claiming a Voice	DVD	57	195	35	35	29.75
Framed Out: The Challenge of Asian American Actors	Inquire	28	150	25	25	21.25
Grassroots Rising	DVD	57	175	35	35	29.75
HiroshimaTwenty Years Later	DVD	23	xxx	25	25	21.25
In Memory: Philip Vera Cruz	DVD	4	150	15	15	12.75
In Movement	DVD	30	150	25	25	21.25
In No One's Shadow	DVD	30	125	25	25	21.25
It's Up To You	DVD	5	xx	15	15	12.75
Manong	DVD	30	150	25	25	21.25
NVM Gonzales: A Story Yet to Be Told	DVD **	27	XXX	25	25	21.25
Nisei Week: A Celebration of Spirit	Inquire					
Old Man River	DVD **	73	175	30	30	25.50
Omai Fa'atasi	DVD	30	150	25	25	21.25
Samasara	DVD	30	XXX	25	25	21.25
Shimon	DVD	27	125	25	25	21.25
Taiko!	Inquire					
Tracks	DVD	30	XXX	25	25	21.25
Ugat Pilipino: Pilipino Roots	DVD	30	175	25	25	21.25
When You're Smiling	DVD	60	XXX	30	30	25.50
Why Is Preparing Fish a Political Act?	DVD	17	100	20	20	17
You Can Still Hear Me Singing	DVD	12	75	15	15	12.75
Asian American ABC's	Filmstrip	15	NA	NA	NA	
East/West Activities Kit	Paper		15			
Ethnic Understanding Series	Paper		20			
Mr. Tani	Filmstrip	9	NA	NA	NA	
America's Concentration Camps	Exhibit		Call to Ing	uiro		
Asian Women in the U.S	Exhibit		Call to Inquire Call to Inquire			
Heading East	Exhibit		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
In Movement	Exhibit		Call to Inquire Call to Inquire			
Planting Roots	Exhibit		Call to Inquire			
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In Movement	Book	160 pps	NA			
Little Tokyo: One Hundred Years	Book	160 pps	20 soft		20 soft	
Moving the Image	Book	288 pps	50 hard; 20 soft		50 hard; 20 soft	

<sup>\*</sup> Available for rent in 35mm print film; please inquire

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Title	Format	Length	Inst'l Sale	(Inst'l Rent)	Home Sale	e (Member 15%)
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Armed With a Camera Vols. 1-15 (Single Volume Price)	DVD	~ 50	75 ‡	40	25	21.25
Digital Histories Vols. 1-13 (Single Volume Price)	DVD	~ 50 - 70	0 75 #	40	25	21.25

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<sup>\*</sup> Available for rent in 35mm print film; please inquire

<sup>\*\*</sup> Also Available in VHS format

<sup>†</sup> Pricing for all 13 volumes of SPEAK OUT FOR JUSTICE: **\$500** 

<sup>‡</sup> Pricing for all 15 AWC volumes: **\$500** # Pricing for all 13 DH volumes: **\$500** 

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