

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

BOSTON ASIAN AMERICAN

FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL APRIL 5-14, 2001



Asian
American
Resource
Workshop

This six-program festival features comedies, dramatic films, and documentaries that focus on Asian American identity, experience and political history. It is presented with the assistance of Asian Cinevision (ACV), New York and co-sponsored by the Asian American Resource Workshop.



Life Tastes Good

Life Tastes Good

Thurs., April 5, at 8 pm

Life Tastes Good by Philip Gotanda (1999, 90 min.). A romance, comedy, and film-noir detective mystery that tells the tale of a mobster who finds love in the darkest days of his life. A failing liver forces this mob courier to face his estranged children and the memories of his young wife's tragic death. Can the love of a mysterious woman restore his taste for life? "Haunting images, moving relationships, and wildly funny situations are expertly blended into a delectable cinematic experience" (Trevor Groth, *American Spectrum*).
Preceded by a free reception with refreshments in the MFA Courtyard Cafe, 7-8 pm.

Short Films

Fri., April 6, at 8 pm

Turbans by Erika Surat Andersen (1999, 30 min.). Based on the memoirs of the filmmaker's grandmother, this film explores the struggles of an Indian immigrant family to gain acceptance while maintaining its culture in Oregon circa 1918. *The Shangri-La Café* by Lily Mariye (1999, 19 min.) Las Vegas, Nevada, 1959. Blacks are not allowed to eat in "Whites Only" restaurants. Emiko and Tad Takashi own the restaurant where the Reverend Charles Osteen would like to have his family dine with the white customers. *Not Black or White* by Anna Kang (1999, 19 min.). This documentary is an irreverent look at the traditional ways Asian women are portrayed in the media and how three women are working to defy the stereotypes. *The Uncertainty Principle* by Ted Kim (2000, 15 min.). A dark comedy featuring checabana shirts, two lovers looking for a sign, one dying man seeking redemption, and Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. Co-sponsored by Asian Sisters in Action (ASIA).



Not Black or White



Turbans

Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story

Sat., April 7, at 1:45 pm

Of Civil Wrongs and Rights by Eric Paul Fournier (1999, 55 min.).

The untold story of an American civil rights hero. Fred Korematsu's bold decision to resist the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II illustrates the power of ordinary citizens to fight injustice. His arrest and convictions for defying military orders, the constitutional issues raised by his Supreme Court case, and his ultimate vindication 39 years later stand as civil rights landmarks. *Fred Korematsu and director Eric Paul Fournier will be present. Opening performance by Odaiko New England. Reception to follow.* Co-sponsored by Boston College Asian American Studies, Tufts Asian American Center, Japanese American Citizens League of New England, New England Keijinkai, Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, and the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund.



Fred Korematsu with Rosa Parks

TICKETS

\$7 for members, students and seniors
\$8 for general admission
\$5 each for groups of 25 or more.

CALL 617-369-3770 TO ORDER

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON
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c o n t i n u e d

Bugaboo and Uljhan

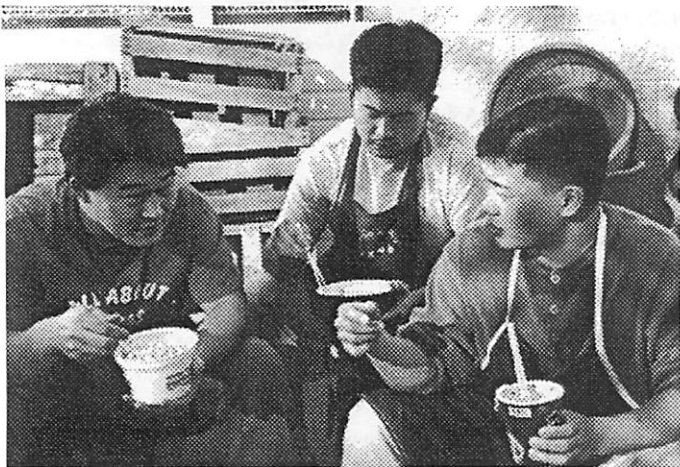
Thur., April 12, 8 pm

Bugaboo by Sujit Saraf (1999, 82 min.) preceded by *Uljhan* by Tanuj Chopra (1999, 10 min.). *Bugaboo* is "[a]n assured first feature by Sujit Saraf, a former research scientist for NASA...[who] provides an unusual, low-key comic look at life in geekland—Silicon Valley—within the subculture of Indian émigré engineers. The director himself plays Bapu, a formerly buttoned-up guy whose mind is starting to stray beyond the confines of his office cubicle. Surveying the joyless, clueless lives of his workmates—one spending his honeymoon watching TV, the other running scared from his mother—he turns to an unorthodox advisor to daringly introduce 'random disturbances' into their ordered lives" (Barbara Scharres, The Film Center, Chicago). *Uljhan* is a short film about three friends who encounter a twisted problem where no solution presents itself.

True and Lady Jane

Fri., April 13, 6 pm

True by Jay Koh (1999, 90 min.). *True* is a romantic comedy about the lives of three Asian Americans and their search for identity. Bobby, an aspiring Asian actor raised in the Midwest by a Caucasian family, runs into image problems at auditions where he is told to learn to be Asian. Amy, whose secret passion is to become a writer, is torn between her daughterly duties to her traditional parents and her own need for independence. Jamie, who sacrificed his own hoop dreams to fulfill the dreams of his immigrant family, feels trapped by the false boundaries of race. The three discover both the complexities and simple truths



True

about identity and belonging. *Lady Jane* by Ruby Flores (1999, 3 min.). An Asian woman joins an African American man and an Asian man in a quiet study hall. Things are not quite as they appear. *Director Jay Koh will be present. Post-screening event with Koh at Stars Restaurant, 393 Huntington Ave.* Program co-sponsored by the National Association of Asian American Professionals, Boston (NAAAP).



When You're Smiling

Comrades and When You're Smiling

Sat., April 14, 3:45 pm

Comrades by Edward Wong (1999, 27 min.). A personal documentary about two men who took part in the violent socialist struggles of the mid-20th century. Yook Wong joined the Communist Revolution that swept through China in 1949. A generation later, Alex Hing founded a group in San Francisco called the Red Guard, modeled after the communist youth group in China. In the end, the revolution didn't turn out the way anyone expected. *When You're Smiling* by Janice Tanaka (1999, 60 min.). Gangs. Drug addiction. Suicides. This autobiographical film tells the tragic story of the children of Japanese American internees who silently assimilated into white America after WWII. It explores the post-war, post-camp resettlement of Japanese Americans in Los Angeles. Co-sponsored by www.aamovement.net



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
 Avenue of the Arts
 465 Huntington Avenue
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www.mfa.org/calendar

TICKETS

\$7 for members, students and seniors
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 \$5 each for groups of 25 or more.

CALL 617-369-3770 TO ORDER TICKETS

The Asian American Resource Workshop
and
the Museum of Fine Arts Film Department
present the

1998 Boston Asian-American Film Festival
March 13-21
at the Museum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium
465 Huntington Avenue

Today, Asian Pacific American filmmakers are boldly exploring issues of community, artistic expression, identity, and daily life through a broad range of creative filmmaking. This year's Boston Asian American Film Festival features narrative films and documentaries that demonstrate both the diversity and commonalities of the Asian-American experience. Included are films about the difficulties of being "out" as a gay or lesbian Asian Pacific American, women's struggles, the challenges of growing up and finding a sense of identity in modern "America", and our connections to ancient and contemporary Asia. Some of the filmmakers will be present as will local Asian Pacific American artists, community agency staff, and authors to discuss their work and community issues.

This festival is part of the national tour of the 20th Asian American International Film Festival, organized and programmed by Asian CineVision, a not-for-profit media arts center based in New York City. Also included are films produced and distributed by the National Asian American Telecommunications Association and the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center in San Francisco.

Single tickets: \$6, \$7*

Double feature (March 21): \$9.50, \$10.50*

7-program festival: \$24, \$30*

For more information please call the Asian American Resource Workshop at 617-426-5313 or the Museum of Fine Arts Film Department at 617-369-3305.

"Yellow"

Fri., Mar. 13, at 7:45 pm

"Yellow" by Chris Chan Lee (1996, 90 min.),
preceded by *"Better Late"*
by Jessica Yu (1996, 8 min.).



"Yellow" is a feature length comedy-drama vibrantly captures today's conflicts between first generation parents and their teenage children. Eight Asian American high-school kids roam Los Angeles on their last night before graduation. One of the teens tells his friends that he lost \$1,500 of his dad's money when he was held up at gun-point in his father's Korean grocery. Due to his already strained relationship with his father, he fears that when the money is discovered missing, he will be forced to work at the grocery instead of going off to college. Thus sets in motion a frenzied scavenger hunt among the friends to cover the loss. The program opens with *"Better Late,"* the audience-pleasing short by Jessica Yu, the Oscar-winning director of *"Breathing Lessons."*

"My America - or Honk Jf You Love Buddha"

Sat., Mar. 14, at 3:15 pm

"My America - or Honk Jf You Love Buddha"
by Renee Tajima Pena and Guynh Thai (1997, 87 min.).



Directors Renee Tajima Pena and Guynh Thai cross America in to take stock of the changing and growing Asian presence in this country. Included in the many stops are interviews with San Franciscan Victor Wong, a photographer who captured the civil rights movement on film after traveling with Jack Kerouac, and later appeared in such films as *Dim Sum* and *The Last Emperor*; a pair of Filipina sisters living in New Orleans who recall growing up as "honorary whites" during the Jim Crow years; a pair of Korean-American rappers in Seattle (the Seoul Brothers); and activist Yuri Kochiyama, who recalls her years of incarceration at a World War II internment camp for Japanese Americans. *"My America is a rollicking ride across [a] new terrain as the battles over immigration, race, and multiculturalism rage on, and a new American identity carves itself out of the wreckage"* (Asian American International Film Festival Catalogue).

“There is No Name for This” and “Coming Out, Coming Home”

Wed., Mar. 18, at 8:00 pm

“There Is No Name for This” by Ming-Yuen S. Ma and Cianna (1997, 63 min.) and *“Coming Out, Coming Home”* by Hima B. (1997, 44 min.).

“There Is No Name for This” looks at the difficulties of being simultaneously Chinese or Chinese American and gay, lesbian, or bisexual in the United States. Since the Chinese language lacks words to describe this state of being, Chinese American gays and lesbians struggle to find ways to name themselves, talk with their families, and shape their identities in a bi-cultural, bi-lingual context. *“Coming Out, Coming Home”* profiles five proud and confident Asian Pacific Islander families as they speak out about their children’s sexual orientation.

Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project, staff members of MAAPP will be present to answer questions and facilitate a discussion following the film.

Women’s Short Films

Thurs., Mar. 19, at 6 pm

Short films by and about Asian women include *“One Hundred Eggs a Minute”* (1997, 23 min.) and *“Mommy, What’s Wrong?”* (1997, 14 min.), both by Anita Chang; *“Cowgirl”* by Sunny Lee (1996, 17 min.); and *“Beyond Asiaphilia”* by Valerie So (1997, 8 min.).



In *“One Hundred Eggs a Minute,”* a young woman recalls the time she spent in her childhood working at her parent’s fortune-cookie factory. *“Mommy, What’s Wrong?”* is a personal essay about the distance between mothers and daughters, and the filmmaker’s own search for strength from her immigrant mother. In *“Cowgirl,”* a young Asian woman wants to be a buckaroo while her friend wonders if her motive is really to snare the perfect cowboy. *“Beyond Asiaphilia”* explores the filmmaker’s fascination with Hong Kong action heroes Jet Li and Chow Yun Fat.

Director Anita Chang will be present as will Sonia Shah of South End Press with several authors of the new anthology *“Dragon Ladies: Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire”* to discuss the films and Asian American women’s issues.

"Strawberry Fields"

Fri., Mar. 20, at 8:20 pm

"Strawberry Fields" by Rea Tajiri (1997, 87 min.).

Experimental film artist Rea Tajiri makes her feature debut with this striking personal film about Japanese-American teenagers. In a household that never discusses her parents' internment the war, she is drawn toward destructive behavior, especially pyromania. Her rebellious fury sends her on a soul-searching journey with her boyfriend, guided by the ghost of a sister whose recent death is another source of stress in their family.

"Jsamu Noguchi: Stones and Paper"

and *"Visas and Virtues"*

Sat., Mar. 21, at 2:15 pm

"Jsamu Noguchi: Stones and Paper" by Hiro Narita (1997, 60 min.), preceded by *"Visas and Virtues"* by Chris Tashima (1997, 26 min.).



"Jsamu Noguchi" surveys the distinguished career of one of the world's great sculptors. Noguchi, who died in 1988 at the age of 84, was born to a Japanese father and an American mother, spent much of his childhood in both the US and Japan, and considered himself in later years a true citizen of the world. The film explores Noguchi's art and its cultural influences. Based on a true story, the Oscar nominated *"Visas and Virtues"* explores the moral and professional dilemmas of a Japanese diplomat stationed in Lithuania during World War II as he sees what is happening to hundreds of Jewish refugees outside his consulate.

"When East Meets East"

Sat., Mar. 21, at 4:00 pm

"When East Meets East" by Kalli Paakspuu (1997, 53 min.), preceded by a performance by Odaiko New England and followed by a panel discussion about the role of art in community development with Anita Change, Elaine Fong, Arawana Hayashi, and Wen-ti Tsen.

In *"When East Meets East"* a Canadian filmmaker and a student activist from China interview a series of international filmmakers, all of whom identify themselves as Chinese. Their discussion focuses on the portrayal of identity in their films and questions about assumed understandings about identity within ethnic communities.

Boston Asian American Film & Video Festival (continued)

Women Between Worlds

Thurs., April 18, at 6 pm

Being Native/Alien by Anula Shetty (1999, 9 min., video). This short explores the sense of displacement within the filmmaker's "homeland" of India and within the U.S. as an immigrant.



Being Native/Alien

She Wants to Talk to You

by Anita Chang (2001, 29 min.). In 1999 in Kathmandu, Nepal, three 13-year-old Nepalese girls befriend an Asian American filmmaker and bravely share their thoughts. The recordings provide a framework for three Nepalese women living in the U.S. who reflect on their own struggles. **Between the Lines: Asian American Women's Poetry** by Yunah Hong (2001, 60 min., video). A record of leading Asian American women poets and their works, this documentary examines how shifts in the poets' linguistic and cultural backgrounds are reflected in their use of English and identification with other cultures.

Directors Anita Chang and Yunah Hong will be present. Cosponsored by Asian Sisters in Action (ASIA).

Love and Marriage

Fri., April 19, at 8 pm

Monkey, Frog and Goldfish by Francisco Aliwalas (2000, 5 min, video.). Sparks fly between a quirky city dweller living in a five-floor walk-up and a good-natured deli delivery guy who aims to please.



Monkey, Frog and Goldfish

Yolk by Augustine Ma (1999, 20 min.). A comedy about dating, self-discovery, and a pair of magical boxer shorts. **Seven Hours to Burn** by Shanti Thakur (2000, 9 min.). After the death of her grandmother, an Indian/Danish woman reflects on the challenges of her parents' interracial marriage and its effect on her own self-image. **Love Match** by Anita Chabria (2000, 25 min., video). Taking a sardonic look at arranged marriages in India, filmmaker Anita Chabria utilizes her journalism background to understand definitions of love and matrimony by interviewing family members, including a cousin who defied 700 years of tradition to follow her heart.

New Kids on the Block

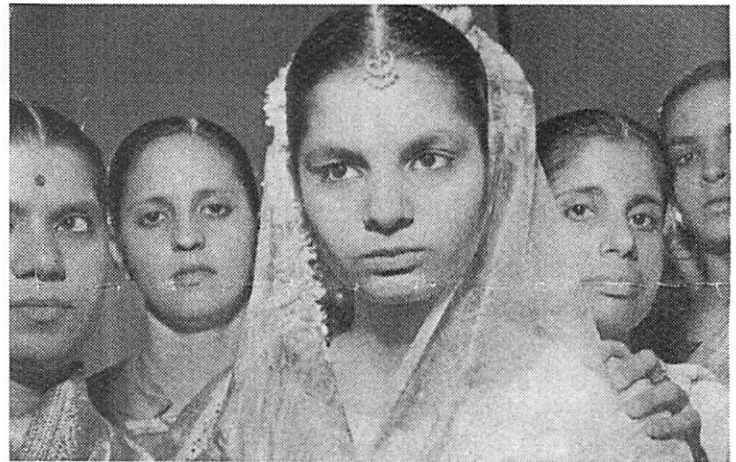
Sat., April 20, at 1:30 pm

The Prescription by Ham Tran (1999, 12 min.). A Chinese boy must confront his stern father when he loses the contents of a package of herbal prescription. In Cantonese with English subtitles. **Do Wok A Do** by Michelle Wong (2000, 15 min., video). As Joanne's mother finds her escape from the small-town atmosphere of St. Paul, Joanne herself seeks refuge in outerspace. **Nupur** by Aparna Malladi (2001, 9 min.) An Indian girl visiting her ancestral house for the first time gets lost and has some curious experiences. **Soshin: In Your Dreams** by Melissa Kyu-Jung Lee (Australia, 2000, 27 min.). This touching, comical documentary explores the idea that parental expectations are based on their own unrealized dreams.

Cosponsored by Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY).



Soshin: In Your Dreams



Love Match

Visit www.mfa.org/film for updates and additional information about films and videos at the MFA.



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
465 Huntington Avenue
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Tickets

\$7, MFA and AARW members, students, and seniors;
\$8, general admission.

CALL 617-369-3770 TO ORDER TICKETS



Slaying the Dragon

When the Coolie Becomes Cool

Thurs., April 11, at 8 pm

Slaying the Dragon by Deborah Gee (1988, 60 min., video). A comprehensive look at media stereotypes of Asian and Asian American women since the silent era, this fascinating documentary shows how stereotypes of exoticism and docility have affected the perception of Asian American women. Produced by Asian Women United. **Yellow Apparel: When the Coolie Becomes Cool** by Anmol Chaddha, Naomi Iwasaki, Sonya Mehta, Muang Saechao, and Sheng Wang (2000, 30 min., video). Examining the recent "trendiness" of Asian cultural elements, such as bindis and Chinese character tattoos, *Yellow Apparel* explores the commodification and appropriation of Asian culture and its effects on Asian Americans.

A panel discussion will follow the screening. Cosponsored by the Asian American Journalists Association, New England chapter (AAJA).

The Boston Asian American Film & Video Festival is presented with the assistance of Asian Cinevision (ACV), New York, and co-sponsored by the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW).



Abraham Lim with *Roads and Bridges*

Fri., April 12, at 8 pm

Roads and Bridges by Abraham Lim (2000, 103 min.). A missive meditation on race in

middle America set in director Lim's native Kansas, this film examines the smoldering racial tensions that lie within a rural road crew. Lyndon Johnson Lee, the only Asian American in the crew, meets Daryl, the lone African American, and together they struggle to come to terms with racism in very different ways. The metaphor of roads and bridges as places of change plays out as both men struggle to find new directions in their troubled lives.



Roads and Bridges

In the Eye of the Beholder

Sat., April 13, at 4 pm

Western Eyes by Ann Shin (Canada, 2000, 40 min., video). This film critically examines the search for beauty and racial identity through the eyes of two young women contemplating cosmetic surgery.

Wide-Eyed by Jane Kim (Canada, 2000, 8 min.). A 16-year-old girl attempts to fit the Western standard of beauty by obsessing about her eyelids, while taunting her tomboyish sister.



Wide-Eyed

Followed by a performance of *Bobby Pins Up Your Nose*. Performers Christina R. Chan and Judy Tso tell stories about noses, flatness, shortness, and other body image adventures.

Cosponsored by Asian Sisters in Action (ASIA).



BOSTON ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL



Disoriented

Disoriented

Thurs., Mar. 25, at 6 pm (D4)

Disoriented by Francisco Aliwalas (1997, 90 min.). Every Filipino immigrant mother has hopes for her son to become a doctor, lawyer, or engineer. *Disoriented* portrays the challenges and frustrations West Cordova faces during the last year of his pre-med studies. He is surrounded by a domineering mother who wants her son's life to be as perfectly molded as the *lumpia* (spring roll) she prepares, a jock brother who has just traded his high tops for high heels, a Japanese girlfriend who wants to trade her almond eyes for those resembling Bette Davis', and a wise friend who helps him find the answers.

Short Films II

Fri., Mar. 26, at 6 pm (D5)

Blue Funnel by Paul Mayeda-Berges (U.K., 1998, 14 min.). Set in the Chinese community of Liverpool, England, *Blue Funnel* follows Daniel, the son of a Chinese sailor and a local English girl. Duty-bound to return his father's ashes to his ancestral village, Daniel realizes the difficulty of his task as he struggles to learn where "home" really is. *Sunrise Over Tiananmen Square* by Shui-Bo Wang (Canada, 1998, 28 mins), nominated for an Academy Award this year, is a stunning visual autobiography of an artist growing up in the political upheaval of the '60's, '70's and '80's. Employing a collage of original artwork and archival photographs, Wang gives a personal look at the Cultural Revolution and the events that led into Tiananmen Square and the "New China." *Paddana: Song of the Ancestors* by Anula Shetty (1998, 41 min.) is made in the spirit of Satyajit Ray and focuses on the lives of three generations' of women living in a contemporary Indian village. The director will be present.

Rabbit on the Moon

Sat., Mar. 27, at 2 pm (D6)

Rabbit on the Moon by Emiko Omori (1999, 87 min.). Winner of the 1999 Cinematography award at Sundance, this is a strikingly beautiful personal and political account of the Japanese internment during World War II. Most narratives about the internment of Japanese Americans focus on the internees' silence and patriotism, as proven by their service in such segregated military units as the 442nd Battalion. This film offers an extraordinary alternative perspective that portrays second-generation Japanese-American (or *Nisei*), camp survivors not as passive victims or model citizens, but as angry, active, and critical individuals. Impressively archived, *Rabbit on the Moon* is a historically important documentary with a poetic voice reflecting a culturally ingrained restraint. The Director will be present.



Rabbit on the Moon



Dancing through Death

Dancing through Death: The Monkey, Magic, and Madness

Fri. March 27, at 5:45 pm (D7)

Dancing through Death: the Monkey, Magic, and Madness by Janet Gardner (1998, 56 min.). *Dancing through Death* is a documentary going back to the years 1975-79, when 90 percent of the dancers in a Cambodian dance group were executed or died of starvation or disease. Bringing us to the present day, a Cambodian Dance troupe from Lowell, Massachusetts, explores the need for cultural survival and the transmission of culture from country to country. As the group expresses, "We will mourn for what was lost and celebrate what has survived in the midst of lawlessness, flagrant abuses of human rights, and corruption—through the dedication of teachers, here in the US and Cambodia." The Director will be present. Cambodian dance performance follow screening.

FOR Tickets: 369-3770 (MFA Box Office)

1999

BOSTON ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

March 18-27

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave

Organized with support from National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) and cosponsored by the Asian American Resource Workshop, this festival combines narrative and documentary films to demonstrate both the diversity and commonality of the Asian American experience.

Single tickets: \$6, \$7*

7-program series: \$24, 30*

Note: Another Asian-American film, *Gaijin—Roads to Freedom*, will be screened on Friday, March 19, at 8pm, as part of "40 Years of Brazilian Cinema".

*Shopping for Fangs***Shopping for Fangs**

Thurs., Mar. 18, at 7:45 pm (D1)

Shopping for Fangs by Quentin Lee and Justin Lin (1996, 90 min.) preceded by *Crickets* by Jane Eun-Hee Kim (1998, 12 min.). This creative comedy is told through the lives of two young people crashing through a sunny Los Angeles landscape of motels, diners, condominiums, psychotherapists' offices, and mini-malls. Phil, a motivation-impaired accounting clerk, and Katherine, a sexy, depressed housewife, stumble into some dark, peculiar territories of '90's American metropolis. Obsessed with their own destinies and the decaying worlds around them, Phil and Katherine crisscross paths throughout this slick, well-crafted feature that marks the arrival of two highly talented directors.

*Olivia's Story***Short Films I**

Fri., Mar. 19, at 6 pm (D2)

Perry Lin's *17 Years to Earth* (1997, 23 min.), a humorous and engaging look at issues of race, gender, and romantic love, follows a young writer's stories of her life. In *The Last Seven Days of Annie Ong* (1995, 24 min.) Jeannete Loakman, a Chinese adoptee of British parents, goes to Singapore to search for her birth mother. Greg Pak in his student Oscar-winning film *Fighting Grandpa* (1998, 21 min.) speaks with members of his extended family in a search for evidence of love between his immigrant Korean grandparents. *Olivia's Story* (1999, 14 min.), directed by Charles Burnett and produced by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson, tells the story of a young Korean-American who is unexpectedly lured into her widowed grandmother's memories of war-torn Korea in the 1950s. Producer Dai Sil Kim-Gibson will be present.

Silence Broken

Sat., Mar. 20, at 1:30 pm (D3)

Silence Broken by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson (1999, 84 min.). *Silence Broken* shatters a half-century of silence by Korean women forced into sexual servitude by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. The women tell their painful stories to the world, demanding justice for the crimes against humanity committed against them. The stories, combined with powerful dramatic sequences, recount their struggle to survive both the Japanese military and their equally harsh lives after the war. These women continue an uphill battle for an admission of legal guilt, accompanied by compensation due them by the Japanese government. The director and a featured subject, Grandma Chung Seo Woong, will be present. This program has been made possible with support from the Korea Society.

*Silence Broken*

*The first price is for MFA members, students, and seniors; the second is general admission.