

# MEDIA KIT



## MEDIA CONTACT

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# FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

Documentary Feature Film  
Run time: 77 minutes | Language: English

## LOGLINE

A Chinese American family's search for their roots leads them to the Mississippi Delta, where they discover surprising family revelations and uncover the racially complex history of Chinese immigrants in the segregated South.

## SYNOPSIS (Short)

When Charles Chiu, travels from California to Mississippi to visit the grave of his father who abandoned him as a baby, he and his family stumble upon surprising revelations. With the help of local residents and historians, the family learns about the racially complex history of Chinese immigrants in the segregated South during the Chinese Exclusion era. Their emotional journey leads them to discover how deep their roots run in America.

## SYNOPSIS (Long)

FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH follows Charles Chiu and his family as they travel from California to Mississippi to find the grave of Charles' father, K.C. Lou. Their search leads to stunning revelations about their family and they get a crash course on the history of Chinese immigrants in the segregated South. Through encounters with local residents and historians, this Chinese American family not only discovers their family's important role in the Mississippi Delta but they also learn about the symbiotic relationship between the Black and Chinese American communities during the Jim Crow era.

The film provides a window into the struggles of Chinese immigrants in the American South during the late 1800s to mid-1900s and the discrimination they faced. The Chiu family's history demonstrates how exclusionary immigration laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 separated their family for generations. This deeply moving and unforgettable story offers a poignant and important perspective on race relations, immigration and American identity.

## DISCLAIMER

Far East Deep South is mostly a family friendly film, but please be aware there are a few racial slurs used in historical context as a few of our interviewees give first-hand accounts of being subject to derogatory comments.





# FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up in California, I wanted to be blond and blue-eyed and I struggled with my identity as the daughter of Chinese immigrants. I always felt I wasn't American enough yet I also wasn't Chinese enough. However, it wasn't until after learning about Baldwin Chiu's family in Mississippi, that I learned more about the important contributions of Chinese Americans in the Deep South. I became a filmmaker so I could educate audiences about the role of the early Asians in American history seldom discussed in classrooms and media. I hope this film will create better cross-cultural understanding and help heal racial divides. So often we keep our stories to ourselves out of fear or shame in rehashing the past. Yet, it's our stories that make us human and should unite us all as immigrants or descendants of immigrants. I hope to inspire others to share their family stories and document their roots. With an increase in anti-Asian racism and so many misconceptions about immigrants, I hope this film will broaden people's view of what it means to be American. The long-term goal is that this film will help broaden how U.S. history is taught in schools so that it is more accurate by being more inclusive of Asian Americans and other groups traditionally omitted from textbooks.

- LARISSA LAM

## AWARDS & FESTIVALS



2022 Telly Award Winner - Television: History category



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# FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

## FILM HIGHLIGHTS

FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH made its broadcast premiere in the U.S. on the World Channel (PBS) series, "**America ReFramed**" in May 2021. It is currently streaming on-demand on Tubi, Xfinity, and PBS Passport.

FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH is being distributed for the education market through **New Day Films**. It is also available to stream through **Kanopy**.

FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH was named on the **Best Documentaries of 2021** Lists by **Video Librarian** and **World Channel**.

The film's composer, **Nathan Wang**, has won two Emmy Awards. He has worked on many major films such as *Kung Fu Panda 3* and the hit *Detective Chinatown* series.

The film's director, **Larissa Lam**, won the **Mary Pickford Award** for Outstanding Achievement in Filmmaking at the 2021 Coronado Island Film Festival.

The film features notable community leaders and historians such as:

- U.S. Congressmember **Judy Chu**
- **Darryl Johnson**, former mayor of Mound Bayou, MS
- **Gordon Chang** (Stanford Department of History)
- **Tyree Boyd-Pates** (contributor, New York Times, Forbes)
- **Jane Hong** (author, *Opening the Gates to Asia*)
- **Carolyn Chan**, Past National President - Chinese Americans Citizens Alliance
- **Stan Lou**, Past National VP - OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates

## PRESS

*"Its intimate, as-it-happened cinéma-vérité style draws you in, and soon this family trip takes the twists and turns of a compelling detective story. A surprising, sobering history lesson, it is painfully relevant at a time when anti-Asian hate is on the rise."*

- Peter Keogh, **The Boston Globe**

*"(The film) is a reminder that underneath all the sturm und drang over immigration are decent, hard-working people who mostly just want to survive hard times and create better lives for their children."*

- Glenn Garvin, **Reason**

*"It's pretty clear that FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH started as a passion project for one family, but Lam and Chiu used their storytelling skills to show how this story is also a universal one..."*

- Patranya Bhoolsuwan, **International Examiner**

Director Larissa Lam wrote [this Op-Ed for the LA Times](#) about the Chinese American and Black communities living together in Mississippi.

For more press coverage, [click here](#).

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# FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

## PRODUCTION BIOS

### DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER



**LARISSA LAM** is the director, writer and producer of *Far East Deep South*. She is a native of Diamond Bar, CA and a proud UCLA Bruin. *Far East Deep South* made its broadcast debut on the World Channel (PBS) series, "America ReFramed" and has won numerous accolades such as a 2022 Telly Award. Her work has been featured in various media outlets such as NBC News, USA Today and the L.A. Times.

Prior to entering the film world, Lam carved out a distinguished career in music. Lam began her career as the Chief Financial Officer of NSOUL Records and went on to release four solo albums as an artist. Her song, "I Feel Alive," previously won the Hollywood Music in Media Award for Best Dance Song. She has written music for films, video games and TV, most notably for *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

Additionally, Lam has been a TV/radio host and keynote speaker at TEDx, Leadercast and major conferences. She co-hosts the podcast, "Love, Discovery and Dim Sum" with her husband, Baldwin Chiu, discussing history and current events through an Asian American lens.

### PRODUCER



**BALDWIN CHIU** aka Only Won is the producer of *Far East Deep South*. He and his family are the subjects of the film and he teamed up with his wife, Larissa Lam, to produce *Far East Deep South*. His family story has been featured on CBS News, PBS and NPR. He previously produced the award-winning documentary short, *Finding Cleveland* and is a graduate of the ACT One film producing program. Chiu is a frequent keynote speaker on race, bridging cultures and the Asian American experience at numerous Fortune 500 companies and universities.

Chiu is also a professionally licensed engineer and rapper known by his MC name, Only Won. He gained recognition for his viral videos like "Cantonese Boy" and "I Wanna Be an Engineer." He previously served as a spokesperson for Intel/White House "Stay With It" engineering campaign under the Obama Administration. Baldwin's songs were featured in the video game "Sleeping Dogs" and the film, *Dead Man Down*. As an actor, he has appeared in films such as *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *The Hulk* and *The Matrix*.

# FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

## PRODUCTION BIOS

### EDITOR



**DWIGHT BUHLER** has been working as a video editor for 20 years. He has worked on projects for cable networks such as HGTV and Bravo. He edited the concert film *Wisenheimer* for veteran stand-up comedian, Robert G. Lee. He serves as the director and editor for the cooking series, *Tiny Kitchen*, *Big Taste* and children's network, Yippee TV. Additionally, he has worked on the nationally syndicated comedy game show, *Funny You Should Ask*, produced by Byron Allen.

He has worked on award-winning short films including the documentary, *Finding Cleveland* and the comedy, *Sunday School*. He also contributed to the music documentary, *Brothers Broken: The Story That Stopped The Music* featuring Rick Springfield and Marilyn Manson.

### COMPOSER



**NATHAN WANG** is an Emmy-award winning composer. A prolific and versatile composer, Wang has scored nearly 300 films and television shows [spanning 4 of the 6 habitable continents], including projects in the U.S. for Steven Spielberg, Disney, Dreamworks, and Sony Pictures, and for Jackie Chan, PolyBona, Perfect World, China Film Group, EMP, Wanda, and Huayi Brothers in Asia. His compositions have been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Shanghai Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera, and Chicago Symphony. He has also collaborated with legendary composers John Williams and Hans Zimmer.

Wang is the recipient of two Emmy Awards (*Reefer Madness*, Showtime 2005; *Pancho Barnes*, PBS 2011) and numerous other accolades. His long list of credits include *Kung Fu Panda 3*, *The Game Plan* starring Dwayne Johnson, the successful *Detective Chinatown* series and the comedy hit, *Playing With Fire* starring John Cena.

A musical prodigy from an early age, Wang started classical piano lessons at age three and at only nine years old, he performed Haydn's Keyboard Concerto in D with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Wang earned his first college degree before completing middle school. Then, he was accepted to the University of Southern California where he studied composition with famed choral composer Morten Lauridsen, graduating with a Bachelor of Music Degree at age 13. After high school, he studied at Pomona College in California, double-majoring in Music and Biology. Wang was then admitted to Harvard Medical School but instead chose to accept a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the University of Oxford in England, where he earned an MST. in Music.

# FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

## FULL CAST & CREW

### Featured

Baldwin Chiu  
Edwin Chiu  
Charles Chiu  
Rebecca Chiu  
Caliya Chiu  
Emily Jones  
Woods Eastland  
John Bassie  
Gabriella Sang  
Harold Lum  
Jeannie Dunn  
Jimmy Dunn  
Emerald Dunn  
David Dunn  
Joan Rogers Walton  
Dr. Gordon Chang  
Dr. Jane Hong  
Tom Box  
A.V. Henry  
John White Valentine  
Rachel Tate  
Gilroy Chow  
Happy Imm  
Mayor Levon Jackson  
Mayor Darryl Johnson  
Dr. John Jung  
Cheyenne Woodruff  
Willie Jackson  
Carolyn Chan  
Lavern Woodruff  
Mayor Robert Leflore Sr.  
Tyree Boyd-Pates  
Frieda Quon  
Eddie Gong  
Luck Wing  
Martha Howe Wing  
Stan Lou  
Arthur Holmes  
Cathy Tom Wong  
Sharon Neff  
Congresswoman Judy Chu  
Tane Chan

### Directed and Written by

Larissa Lam

### Produced by

Baldwin Chiu, p.g.a.  
Larissa Lam, p.g.a.

### Executive Producers

Jonathan Tanaka  
Brandon Saito

### Edited by

Dwight Buhler

### Music by

Nathan Wang

### Motion Graphics & Titles

Jared Isham

### Camera

Coop Cooper  
Jason Poon  
Jason Rochelle  
Patrick Wilkerson  
Paul Jew  
Christian Oh  
San Thach  
Christian Soriano  
Baldwin Chiu  
Edwin Chiu  
Larissa Lam

### Drone

Coop Cooper  
San Thach

### Production Assistants

Emerald Dunn  
Jocelyn Leung  
Brian Tien

# FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH

## FULL CAST & CREW *(continued)*

### **Associate Producers**

Gregg & Lori Ireland  
Janet Koike  
Mitchell & Priscilla Lou  
Conroy & Aurora Shum  
Joel Tan

### **Transcription**

Jocelyn Leung

### **Additional Music**

Epson Wu

### **Score Mixer**

Josh Lewis

### **Scoring Assistant**

Aggretyssoar Tai

### **Scoring Technician**

Monique Shang

### **Audio Post-Production by**

Kappa Studios, INC.

### **Supervising Sound Editor**

Humberto Zamores

### **Dialogue Editor**

Grant Cornish

### **Sound Effects Editor**

Jason Walker

### **Foley Artist**

Max Sierra  
Lucas Nelson

### **Re-recording Mixer**

Humberto Zamores

### **Additional Voiceover**

Stephen Chun

### **Additional Editing**

Jared Isham

### **Post Production Services by**

Kappa Studios, INC.

### **Online Editor**

Taylor D Conroy

### **Assistant Online Editor**

Justin Lay

### **Digital Colorist**

Donald Freeman, CSI

### **Post Production Supervisor**

Patrick F. X. Murphy

### **Post Producer**

Paul Long

### **Additional Consultants**

Chris Cibelli  
Tatia Cibelli  
Ted Gong  
Jahmal Holland  
Dr. John Liu  
Paula Madison  
Steve Williams  
Clara Williams