

For Immediate Release:

AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY “FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH” TO HAVE ENCORE BROADCAST ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 ON WORLD CHANNEL SERIES “AMERICA REFRAMED”

Autobiographical Film Follows a Chinese-American Family’s Search for Roots in the Mississippi Delta, Where They Uncover the Complex History of Chinese Immigrants in the Segregated South



LOS ANGELES, CA (August 29, 2021) — In a nation that is in need of stories of hope, [*Far East Deep South*](#) is a deeply moving documentary that offers a poignant perspective on race relations, immigration and the deep roots of Chinese Americans in our national identity. The award-winning documentary follows Charles Chiu and his family (including his son, producer Baldwin Chiu, and daughter-in-law, director Larissa Lam) as they travel from California to Mississippi to find answers about Charles’ father, K.C. Lou. A retired Air Force reservist, Charles was left behind in China as a baby and is reluctant to discuss his family’s complicated past with his sons, Baldwin and Edwin. The family’s emotional journey to a place they’ve never seen leads to stunning revelations and a crash course on the surprising history of Chinese immigrants in the segregated South. Through encounters with local residents who remember K.C., as well as interviews with historians, the family’s trip becomes a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for discovery and healing. Directed by Larissa Lam and produced by Baldwin Chiu, *Far East Deep South* broadcasts on the WORLD Channel documentary series America ReFramed on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021, 8:00 p.m. EDT ([check local listings](#)). It will also be available to stream on [WORLDchannel.org](#), [PBS.org](#) and the [PBS Video app](#) beginning at time of broadcast on September 14 through October 14.

As more schools recognize the need for greater inclusion of Asian American history, *Far East Deep South* provides a window into a community few even know exists — Chinese immigrants in the Deep South — and reveals the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 impacted the Chiu family for generations. The family also learns about the symbiotic relationship between the Southern Black and Chinese communities during the Jim Crow era.

“Growing up in California, I learned very little about Asian American history,” said filmmaker Lam. “I made this film so that my daughter and future generations would learn more about the

vast struggles and contributions of Asians in America. I hope that we can broaden the way American history is taught and discussed so that it includes the Asian American experience, especially as it pertains to learning about the American South.”

Producer Baldwin Chiu adds, “Through our film’s journey we learn that my family’s presence in America stretches six generations. Hearing more about the deep roots of many Asians in America can help dispel the perception that we are ‘perpetual foreigners’ in the U.S.”

Far East Deep South has screened at film festivals across the country and won multiple awards, including at Cinequest, CAAMFest, the Oxford (Mississippi) Film Festival, and the Seattle Asian American Film Festival. For more information about the film, Chinese American history, and how to trace your own family’s history, visit FarEastDeepSouth.com.

About the Filmmakers

LARISSA LAM (Director, Writer, Producer) produced the film alongside her husband, Baldwin Chiu, and makes her feature documentary directorial debut with this film. She is a native of Diamond Bar, California, and a proud UCLA Bruin. She previously directed the acclaimed short documentary *Finding Cleveland*, which is the basis for *Far East Deep South*. For shining a light on little-known history, Lam was selected to be part of the Smithsonian's History Film Forum Emerging Filmmakers Lab.

Before entering the film world, Lam carved out a distinguished career in music releasing four critically acclaimed solo albums. Her song, “I Feel Alive” won the Hollywood Music in Media Award for “Best Dance Song” and was the theme song for a national suicide prevention campaign. As a composer, she has written music for film and TV projects such as *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. A dynamic speaker, she has spoken on issues of diversity, inclusion and the Asian American experience at TEDx, Leadercast. She has also been a contributing author to the [Los Angeles Times](http://LosAngelesTimes.com) and the Asian American anthology series, “A Melting Pot of Thoughts.” For nine years, Larissa hosted a nationally televised weekly talk show and currently, she hosts the [Love, Discovery and Dim Sum](http://Love,DiscoveryandDimSum.com) podcast alongside Only Won aka Baldwin Chiu.

BALDWIN CHIU (Producer) teamed up with his wife, Larissa Lam, to produce *Far East Deep South*, and is also one of the film’s subjects along with his family. Chiu is a graduate of the Act One film producing program. He was born in San Francisco and raised in Sacramento, where he later graduated from California State University, Sacramento, with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Chiu is also a rapper known by his MC name, Only Won, and is a professionally licensed engineer who gained recognition for his viral videos, “Cantonese Boy,” “12 Days of Dim Sum” 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, promoting careers in science. Baldwin’s songs were featured in the video game “Sleeping Dogs” and the film, *Dead Man Down*. Additionally, Chiu has been a speaker on numerous panels addressing race, diversity and inclusion. He and Larissa are currently based in Los Angeles.

About America ReFramed

America ReFramed is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc. The series curates a diverse selection of independent documentaries that brings to national audiences compelling stories which illuminate the changing contours of our ever-evolving

country. Viewers will be immersed in stories that span the spectrum of American life, from the streets of towns big and small to its exurbs and country roads. The documentary series presents an array of personal voices and experiences through which we learn from our past, understand our present and are challenged to seek new frameworks for America's future. America ReFramed is the recipient of a Peabody Award and an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for broadcast journalism. The series has earned several Christopher, GRACIE, Telly and Cine Golden Eagle Awards, as well as multiple nominations for Emmy, Independent Documentary Association and Imagen Awards.

About WORLD Channel

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 176 member stations in markets representing over 70% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.

About American Documentary, Inc.

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

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More information and downloadable photos available at [Far East Deep South PressRoom](#)