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ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES MAY FILM PROGRAMMING

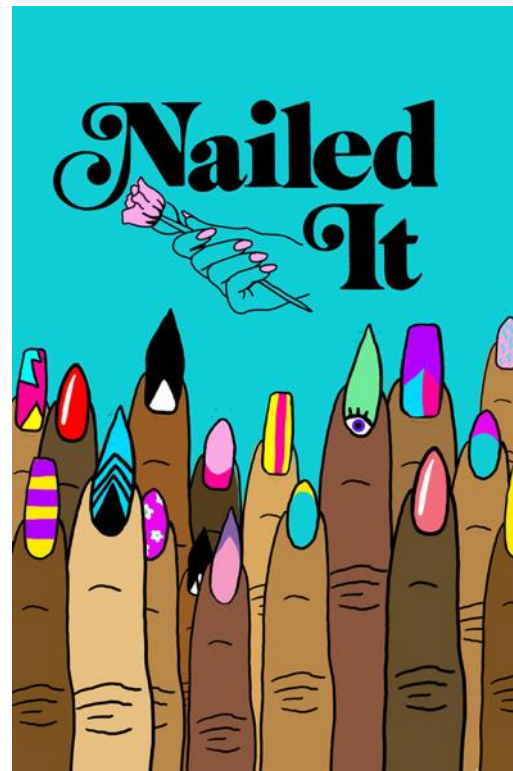
**PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:
MAY FILMS FOR PROJECTING CONNECTIONS: CHINESE AMERICAN
EXPERIENCES AND THE SHARED STORIES FILM SERIES
PLUS MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT IN
CONVERSATION WITH ARTISTS AND WITH ONE ANOTHER**

[Boston, MA – Friday, April 23, 2021] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary stage and screen artistry from around the world and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, is excited to announce film programming for May 2021.

ArtsEmerson adds to its spring programming schedule the latest offering in the **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences** film series; three shorts which include **A Chinese American Giant: The Y.C. Hong Story**, **Vanishing Chinatown: The World of the May’s Photo Studio**, and **Meditations on the Power of Community** from May 06-10. May will also include the latest offering in the **Shared Stories** film series, **Nailed It** May 19-23.



A Chinese American Giant: The Y.C. Hong Story (Film Still)
Photo: Rick Quan



Nailed It
Poster Art courtesy of Adele Pham

ArtsEmerson film events are Pick Your Price, with free or low-cost options available. Tickets may be reserved 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org) or by calling the ArtsEmerson Box Office at 617-824-8400 (open Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The physical Box Office remains closed at this time.

For production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#).
Additional materials to be added to the media kit soon.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Thursday, May 06 - Monday, May 10, 2021

Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences

COMMUNITY STORIES

Co-presented by Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF)

70 minutes (combined Shorts Program running time)

ArtsEmerson presents [Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences](#). Using film as a lens to reflect on the vast lived experiences of the Chinese in the Greater Boston Area, this special series will feature monthly films and post-show curated discussions designed to build and foster meaningful community conversation.

A Chinese American Giant: The Y.C. Hong Story

29 minutes

On-demand: May 06 @ 7:00PM ET – May 10 @ 10:00PM ET

Director: Rick Quan

Synopsis: He stood just four feet five and a half inches, but Y.C. Hong was a giant in the Chinese American community. As the first Chinese American immigration attorney in California and civil rights activist, Hong played an important role in fighting racist laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

About the Director: Rick Quan is an award winning journalist and documentarian. He is currently the 10 pm news anchor for KITV4, the ABC affiliate in Honolulu, Hawaii. Rick is the first Chinese American TV sports anchor in the country and the first Asian American male to be a full time anchor in San Francisco. He has also received numerous awards for his documentaries on pioneering Asian Americans. His most recent film was a half hour documentary about Y.C. Hong, the first Chinese American immigration lawyer in the country.

Vanishing Chinatown: The World of the May's Photo Studio

28 minutes

On-demand: May 06 @ 7:00PM ET – May 10 @ 10:00PM ET

Director: Emiko Omori

Synopsis: **Vanishing Chinatown: The World of The May's Photo Studio** brings families together: in the past by splicing together family portraits in spite of family separations due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, and in the present by reconnecting May's granddaughter with her family's legacy. These stunning photographs show San Francisco Chinatown in the early to mid-20th century, a vanishing "old Chinatown" vibrant with culture; an immigrant community becoming Americanized.

About the Director: Emiko Omori is an award winning documentary filmmaker and pioneer Asian American camera woman in San Francisco. She has produced, directed, shot, and edited a multitude of films including *Rabbit in the Moon*, for which she received a National Emmy award for Outstanding Historical Program. *Rabbit in the Moon* premiered at Sundance Film Festival, and was broadcast on public television's POV. Her works have been presented at film festivals internationally.

Meditations on the Power of Community

15 minutes

On-demand: May 06 @ 7:00PM ET – May 10 @ 10:00PM ET

Director: Weiyang Olivia Huang

Synopsis: **Meditations on the Power of Community** is a short film commissioned by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, featuring choreography by Pao Arts Center 2021 Artist-in-Residence Lenora Lee Dance, with additional support by ArtsEmerson. The film features interviews with members of Boston's Chinatown community, in response to the Museum's exhibition *Shen Wei: Painting in Motion*.

About the Artists: Lenora Lee is a dancer, choreographer, and artistic director of Lenora Lee Dance. She pushes the envelope of large-scale multimedia dance performance crafted for the proscenium, underwater, or in the air, and at times is site-responsive, immersive and interactive. Lenora's work integrates contemporary dance, film, music, and research related to immigration, global conflict, and human rights.

<http://www.lenoraleedance.com>

About the Director: Weiyang Olivia Huang is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. Her documentary 'City as Canvas' won the Best Human Interest Documentary at the World Premiere Film Awards in 2020. The film, funded by a grant from the Cambridge Arts Council, was also nominated for 'Best New England Film' at the Massachusetts Independent Film Festival. <https://oliviahuang.yolasite.com>

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<http://www.lenoraleedance.com>

Tickets available [here](#).

Wednesday, May 19 - Sunday, May 23, 2021

Shared Stories: Nailed It

59 minutes

On-demand: May 19 - 23

Opening Night: May 19 - Stream @ 7:00PM ET and then join a live conversation with filmmaker and community advocates

Director, **Nailed It** – Adele Pham

ArtsEmerson presents **Shared Stories**, a monthly film series in collaboration with the Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF), Boston Latino International Film Festival (BLIFF), and the Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm) seeking to build community, shared conversation, and experiences through cinema. This pilot series aspires to create a shared space to find commonality across experiences, and encourage the exchange of stories and ideas.

Nailed It - Nailed It chronicles the genesis and legacy of the 40 year Vietnamese nail salon and its influence on an \$8 billion-dollar American industry. For mixed-race Vietnamese filmmaker Adele Pham it's personal, as she confronts her cultural conflicts and discovers her place within the community, by peeling back the layers of this niche trade seen by everyone but known to few.

Vietamese subtitles available as well as captioning for Q&A

About the Director:

Adele Pham is a documentary Director/Producer who also shoots fiction narratives. In May '18 Nailed It, my feature documentary about the genesis and culture of the Vietnamese nail salon, premiered at CAAMFest in San Francisco. My vision for Nailed It changed over the course of production. What I didn't expect was the effect exploring the history of the Vietnamese salon would have on me. As a mixed race, second generation Vietnamese-American woman, there was always a disconnect from my culture, which I inadvertently found a place within by documenting the definitive history of the Vietnamese nail salon.

Tickets available soon at artsemerson.org.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson's mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and digital performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Boston Asian American Film Festival

The Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) empowers Asian Americans through film by showcasing Asian American experiences and serving as a resource to filmmakers and the Greater Boston Community. BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop. www.BAAFF.org

Boston Latino International Film Festival

Since its inception in 2001, the Boston Latino International Film Festival has been committed to using the power of film to break stereotypes, bring cultures and communities together and reveal the complex issues that affect the Latinx community in the United States, Latin America and Spain. www.bliff.org

Roxbury International Film Festival

The Roxbury International Film Festival is the largest festival in New England that celebrates people of color. Our mission is to support diverse filmmakers by providing an opportunity for audiences to view their works and experience the stories often overlooked in mainstream media. RoxFilm continues to showcase and honor the works of emerging filmmakers of color as well as established filmmakers, and has become the largest festival in New England dedicated to this genre. www.roxfilmfest.com

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

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