

press release

THIRTEEN'S ANNUAL *DUE EAST* FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH THROUGHOUT MAY

Documentaries About A Japanese "Schindler" And Shakespeare In Hanoi Are Among The
Program Highlights

A profile of a Japanese diplomat who helped thousands of Jews escape the Nazis; a documentary about Vietnamese and American artists who join forces to stage Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Hanoi; and director Ang Lee's charming 1994 film, *EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN*, about the lives and loves of a Taipei master chef and his three daughters, are just a few of the offerings from Thirteen during *DUE EAST*, the public television station's annual celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May. *DUE EAST*, now in its 16th year, runs from Thursday, May 5 through Monday, May 30, 2005 on Thirteen.

"At Thirteen, we highlight diversity all year long to reflect the needs and interests of the many communities we serve," said Ana Ramos, senior producer and programmer. "Special heritage celebrations like *DUE EAST* give us an opportunity to focus on a particular group of people and show how their important contributions to our nation's shared history and culture benefit us all. The stories of Asians and Pacific Islanders as part of the fabric of American life as well as stories from the various homelands can teach us all something about America as a nation of immigrants and the pursuit of the American dream."

A highlight of this year's *DUE EAST* line-up is the premiere of the documentary *SUGIHARA: CONSPIRACY OF KINDNESS*, which kicks off the festival on Thursday, May 5 at 10 p.m. It tells the courageous and inspirational story of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who used his authority to rescue thousands of Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

A DREAM IN HANOI, premiering Monday, May 16 at 10 p.m., follows the creative and personal adventures of a group of Vietnamese and American artists as they join forces to stage Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Hanoi. This spirited film documents the entire process, following the hopeful thespians on their journey toward opening night and going behind the scenes as they wrestle with the obstacles of language, culture and ideology.

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN, premiering on *CINEMA THIRTEEN* on Saturday, May 21 at 9 p.m., is director Ang Lee's delightful, Oscar-nominated 1994 film about love, family and tradition. It is the touching, humorous story about a widowed master chef in Taipei who has lost his taste buds but continues to prepare delicious meals for his three daughters, even as his generation and expectations clash with theirs.

In *WET SAND: VOICES FROM L.A.*, premiering Monday, May 9 at 10 p.m., filmmaker Dai Sil Kim-Gibson returns to Los Angeles to explore the aftermath of the 1992 riots 10 years later through the stories of victims and eyewitnesses from the Korean-American community as well as other communities.

Detailed descriptions and air dates and times of *DUE EAST* programs are below.

THIRTEEN'S *DUE EAST* SCHEDULE

Please Note: The broadcast day runs for 24 hours, from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. (FB indicates future broadcast during the *DUE EAST* festival)

Thursday, May 5

10-11:30 p.m.: SUGIHARA: CONSPIRACY OF KINDNESS – In the face of the Nazi onslaught during World War II, a Japanese diplomat named Chiune Sugihara saved thousands of lives, using his authority to rescue fleeing Jewish refugees. This remarkable documentary chronicles the life of Sugihara and the little-known relationship between the Japanese and Jews in the 1930s and '40s. (Premiere)

Saturday, May 7

3-4 p.m.: A MOST UNLIKELY HERO – When Bruce Yamashita arrived at Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA, in 1989, he had no way of knowing that he would be fighting a very different kind of battle – a lonely and courageous one against racism and discrimination in the Corps. His inspiring story, told in this new documentary, and the evidence he uncovered became intergral to a 60 Minutes investivation and prompted outrage from Congress and the White House. (Premiere)

4-5 p.m.: GLOBE TREKKER: Beijing City Guide – The popular travel series visits the famous Forbidden City, a Tibetan lama monastery, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, Marco Polo’s Bridge, among other fascinating sites. (Encore)

Sunday, May 8

12:30-2 p.m.: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: Daughter From Danang – This documentary captures the emotional journey of an Amerasian woman who travels from the United States to Vietnam to reunite with her birth mother. But the reunion that raised so many hopes and expectations for both of them quickly becomes rife with tension and misunderstanding as the cultural gulf between them grows larger and larger. (Encore)

Monday, May 9

10-11 p.m.: WET SAND: VOICES FROM L.A.– Ten years after making a documentary that told the anguished story of Korean Americans during the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Dai Sil Kim-Gibson returns to find that racism and poverty still plague the inner city. While relations between the Korean-Americans and African-American communities in Los Angeles are improving, unrest continues there among several different ethnic groups - Korean American and Latinos, for example. This insightful film shows that even in the face of evolving racial and economic conflicts, these resilient communities struggle to realize the American Dream. (Premiere)

Tuesday, May 10

10-11:30 p.m.: INDEPENDENT LENS: Imelda – How has the former First Lady of the Philippines managed to court, coddle, use, and abuse power for nearly four decades? News clips, propaganda films, home movies, vérité footage, and interviews with Imelda Marcos, her friends and her enemies tell her story and reveal her methods. (Premiere) FB: Wednesday, May 11 at 12:30 a.m.)

Wednesday, May 11

12:30-2 a.m.: INDEPENDENT LENS: Imelda – See Tuesday, May 10 at 10 p.m.

Saturday, May 14

3-4 p.m.: DESI: SOUTH ASIANS IN NEW YORK – This documentary features dozens of first- and second-generation South Asian New Yorkers who share their insights and experiences, illustrating the wide spectrum of South Asian culture that has become an integral part of the city. “Desi” means “countryman,” and the common use of the term highlights the growing unity among South Asians – Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Nepalese – in the multicultural society of New York. (Encore)

4-5 p.m.: DANCES OF LIFE – Through traditional “dance stories,” this performance documentary reveals the cultural history and diversity of the Pacific Islands – a vibrant and complex region encompassing 25,000 islands spread over 10 million square miles of ocean in which 30 million people speak hundreds of different languages and dialects. The program views dance through the eyes of the people who practice it as an art form and as a way of life. (Premiere)

Monday, May 16

9-10 p.m.: TIME OF FEAR – During World War II, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and relocate to military camps. This documentary tells the story of the 16,000 men, women and children who were sent to two camps in southeast Arkansas, one of the poorest and most racially segregated places in America. The film – a tale of suspicion and fear, of inspiring resilience and the deep scars of racism – features interviews with Japanese Americans and Arkansans who lived through the events. (Premiere)

10-11 p.m.: A DREAM IN HANOI – What happens when Vietnamese and American artists join forces to stage Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in Hanoi? This spirited film documents the entire process, following the hopeful thespians on their journey toward opening night and going behind the scenes as they wrestle with the obstacles of language, culture and ideology. (Premiere) (FB: Friday, May 20 at 1 a.m.)

Tuesday, May 17

10-11 p.m.: INDEPENDENT LENS: VIETNAM: The Next Generation – Eight young Vietnamese, some born in the final days of the Vietnam War, others in the war’s tragic aftermath, are entrepreneurs and street kids, farmers and students, artists and engineers. Together they embody the hopes, dreams and frustrations of a new Vietnam. Through their stories, this groundbreaking program takes an in-depth look at modern-day Vietnam, where communism and capitalism are going head-to-head. (Premiere)

12:30-2 a.m.: BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE: Gold Mountain Dreams – Part one of this three-part series, which explores the Chinese experience in America over two centuries, begins in the homeland. As civil war and famine ravaged southern China in the mid-19th century, word of the California Gold Rush reached the port of Canton. The program shows how the first immigrants – young Chinese men hoping to make a better life for themselves and their families in America – fell victim to violence, terror and discrimination, culminating in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. (Encore) FB: Saturday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 18

12:30-2 a.m.: BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE: Between Two Worlds– Part two of this three-part series, which explores the Chinese experience in America over two centuries, continues with a look at the hostile years when Chinese Americans were denied the rights of their new country and no longer felt at home in their former one. As the turmoil and violence escalated, Chinatowns developed. But with immigration restricted, the number of Chinese declined dramatically almost to the point of vanishing from American life. (Encore) FB: Saturday, May 21 at 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

12:30-2 a.m.: BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE: No Turning Back – The final part of this three-part series, which explores the Chinese experience in America over two centuries, picks up the story during World War II. America is at war with Japan and China becomes an American ally. Suddenly, Chinese Americans find themselves embraced by America's political establishment. New opportunities open up to them, including jobs at the factories from which they were previously barred, and they enter the American mainstream. Later, as civil rights laws and the 1965 Immigration Reform Act take effect, Chinese Americans begin their rise to the pinnacle of American life. Personal stories of success are told in the film. (Encore) FB: Saturday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 20

1-2 a.m.: A DREAM IN HANOI – See Monday, May 16 at 10 p.m.

Saturday, May 21

2-3:40p.m.: BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE: Gold Mountain Dreams – See Tuesday, May 17 (late night) 12:30 a.m. (Encore)

3:40-5:20 p.m.: BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE: Between Two Worlds – See Wednesday, May 18 (late night) 12:30 a.m. (Encore)

5:20-7 p.m.: BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE: No Turning Back – See Thursday, May 19 (late night) 12:30 a.m. (Encore)

9-11:10 p.m.: CINEMA THIRTEEN: EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN – This Oscar-nominated 1994 film directed by Ang Lee is a delightful, humorous tale about love, family and tradition. It tells the story of a widowed master chef in Taipei who has lost his taste buds but continues to prepare elaborate feasts for his three unmarried daughters, even as his generation and expectations clash with theirs. (Premiere)

Tuesday, May 24 at 8 p.m.

9-10 p.m.: NOVA: Lost Treasures of Tibet – Intricate medieval wall paintings that decorate an ancient monastery in the kingdom of Mustang have been severely damaged by a leaking roof and other problems. Conservators want to save these unique examples of Tibetan Buddhist art but many locals want the images to be completely repainted in order to restore their spiritual power. The clash between the values of Western conservation and the beliefs of the devout informs this dramatic and complex story. (Encore)

Saturday, May 28

3:30-4:30 p.m.: ZUBIN MEHTA: A WORLD FULL OF MUSIC – The conductor tells his life story and looks back on his career in this colorful, music-filled program. Archival material includes unforgettable footage from Christopher Nupen's film *The Trout*, with Mehta playing alongside Daniel Barenboim, Pinchas Zuckerman, Itzhak Perlman, and Jacqueline du Pre. (Encore)

Sunday, May 29

9:30-10 p.m.: BECOMING AMERICAN: PERSONAL JOURNEYS: Artist/Architect Maya Lin – Bill Moyers interviews Maya Lin – a sculptor, architect, designer, and craftswoman. She was catapulted into the public eye when, as a senior at Yale University, she was the controversial choice to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be built in Washington, D.C. Born in Athens, Ohio, to academic parents, Lin also designed Penn Station’s 38-foot clock, among other projects. (Encore)

Monday, May 30

10-11 p.m.: AN UNTOLD TRIUMPH – Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2002 Hawaii International Film Festival, this film documents and honors the 7,000 men of the 1st and 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments of the U.S. Army who fought in World War II. Despite the fact that they were forced to endure a racist pre-war climate and weren’t even considered U.S. citizens, Filipinos in America rallied to join the American war effort after the fateful bombing of Pearl Harbor. Narrated by Lou Diamond Phillips, the film tells their story through personal accounts of the contributions and sacrifices they made. (Premiere)

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Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Charlie Rose*, *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, *Wide Angle*, *Secrets of the Dead*, and *Cyberchase* - as well as the work of Bill Moyers - to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as The Ethnic Heritage Specials, The Thirteen *Walking Tours*, *New York Voices*, and *Reel New York*. With educational and community outreach projects that extend the impact of its television productions, Thirteen takes television “out of the box.” And as broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen is blazing trails in the creation of Web sites, enhanced television, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, educational software, and other cutting-edge media products. More information about Thirteen can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

American Public Television

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