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HOLLYWOOD CHINESE: The Chinese in American Feature Films
New Book by Arthur Dong, Book Launch With The Center for Asian American Media

Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films, a new book by Arthur Dong, provides a spectacular view of the Chinese American impact on the movies, from some of the earliest films set in America's renowned Chinatowns to contemporary hits and artists that are remaking the face of Hollywood.

The Center for Asian American Media is thrilled to host the San Francisco Bay Area launch of Academy Award®-nominated filmmaker Arthur Dong's new book *Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films*. Join CAAM, San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), and Angel City Press on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at the SF Library Main Branch's Koret Auditorium. The program will include a visual tour of book highlights guided by Arthur with a Q&A afterwards. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing following the talk. This program is free, though we request that all guests RSVP by Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Filled with page-after-page of stunning vintage images, this lavish coffee-table book is not only an opulent and entertaining look at some of the movie world's most fascinating characters, it also illustrates the myths, misconceptions, and memorable moments of the Chinese and Chinese Americans in films made in the United States. *Hollywood Chinese* brings to life the history of these films as only Arthur Dong, an award-winning filmmaker and writer, can—vividly, with an eye for detail that captures the drama inherent in how Asian cultures have been portrayed by Hollywood studios.

Exploring the ways the American film industry has celebrated Chinese and Chinese American culture, Dong also examines how that industry subtly — and not so subtly — projected stereotypes into its movies. His book *Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films* explores the power of these images and their lasting impact.

Hollywood Chinese spotlights archival material selected from more than 2,000 pieces of movie memorabilia the author has collected since his youth, including ephemera from Chinese theaters when he was growing up in San Francisco Chinatown, and during his ten years of research for his documentary of the same name — the genesis of his new book. Featuring Dong's trove of cinematic artifacts—photographs, posters, lobby cards, stills, press kits, and other ephemera — *Hollywood Chinese* visually explains many of the social and cultural attitudes on race over the past century, to

show how those attitudes have played out in Hollywood films. Although *Hollywood Chinese* centers on the Chinese, its analysis will resonate with other ethnic and marginalized groups as well, challenging prejudiced assumptions about minorities in America, biases that were especially pervasive in early Hollywood films.

As a counterpoint to Hollywood's yellowface and whitewashed caricatures, Arthur Dong includes his personal interviews with Chinese and Chinese American artists who have produced, directed, written, and starred in Hollywood films. These chronicles of resistance will empower readers with inspiring alternative narratives. Ang Lee, Nancy Kwan, Justin Lin, James Hong, Joan Chen, Wayne Wang, David Henry Hwang, B.D. Wong and Amy Tan provide insights, while Dong's impeccable research traces the uphill battle fought by pioneers. Special to the Bay Area are the little-known stories of trailblazing filmmakers from Oakland and San Francisco who made their own films in the region starting from the silent era and into the 1940s. *Hollywood Chinese* features a Foreword by Randy Haberkamp, Managing Director of Preservation and Foundation Programs at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and an Afterword by award-winning producer Janet Yang (*Joy Luck Club*, 1993).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A San Francisco Chinatown native, **Arthur Dong** is an Oscar-nominee, a Peabody and Sundance award-winning filmmaker, author, and curator whose work centers on Asian American, and LGBTQ stories. Dong's films about Asian American history and culture include *The Killing Fields of Dr. Haing S. Ngor* (2015), *Hollywood Chinese* (2007), *Forbidden City, U.S.A.* (1989), and *Sewing Woman* (1987). Among his films on LGBTQ issues are *Coming Out Under Fire* (1994) and *Licensed to Kill* (1997). Dong has curated exhibitions showcasing his extensive archive of cultural ephemera, including *Chop Suey on Wax: The Flower Drum Song Album*, *Forbidden City, USA*, and his most recent, *Hollywood Chinese*, on display at the iconic Formosa Café in West Hollywood. *Hollywood Chinese* is the second book highlighting Chinese American culture by Dong. His first book, *Forbidden City, USA: Chinatown Nightclubs 1936–1970*, received an American Book Award in 2015 and the Art Deco Society Historic Preservation Award

ABOUT CAAM

The Center for Asian American Media is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible. We do this by funding, producing, distributing and exhibiting works in film, television and digital media. For 39 years, CAAM has exposed audiences to new voices and communities, advancing our collective understanding of the American experience through programs specifically designed to engage the Asian American community and the public at large.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

San Francisco Public Library is dedicated to free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning and the joys of reading for our diverse community. The library system is made up of 27 neighborhood branches, the San Francisco Main Library at Civic Center and four bookmobiles.