



## **Right to Resist: From 9066 to 2021**

September 13 - December 13 | 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays

Shiley Special Events Suite

Curated by Brian Hu, Artistic Director of San Diego Asian Film Festival

There were resisters. 79 years after Executive Order 9066, which called upon the military to administer concentration camps for Japanese Americans, it is critical to remember that there were those who refused to show up for mass incarceration, there were those who spoke out against the conditions of their detention, there were those who demanded redress, and there were those who furiously said “never again.”

In 2021, “never again” is not just a slogan for future generations, but a warning for the current one. Today, it is insufficient to just note the uncanny parallels between the past and present. History must not only remind us of atrocity, but also remind us that there are precedents for defying hysteria, misdirection, and the belief that certain ethnic groups can and should have their legal rights stripped from them in the name of national defense.

In that spirit, we present “Right to Resist: From 9066 to 2021,” a film series that chronicle resistance, from Fred Korematsu’s acts of disobedience to contemporary outrage against post-9/11 internment and racism targeting Muslim Americans and those of South Asian and Middle Eastern descent. Collectively, these works take the Japanese American incarceration and the recent racially-tinged paranoia not as discrete eras, but as a continuum of hate, heartbreak, and distress that has mired our nation from its founding, but that has also inspired its victims to consider more purposefully and imaginatively the paths of resistance that are just as foundational to the nation’s ideals of liberty.

The series begins with resistance of a different kind with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary screening of *Picture Bride* by Kayo Hatta, the first dramatic feature film written, produced, and directed by Asian American women.

### **[Picture Bride](#)**

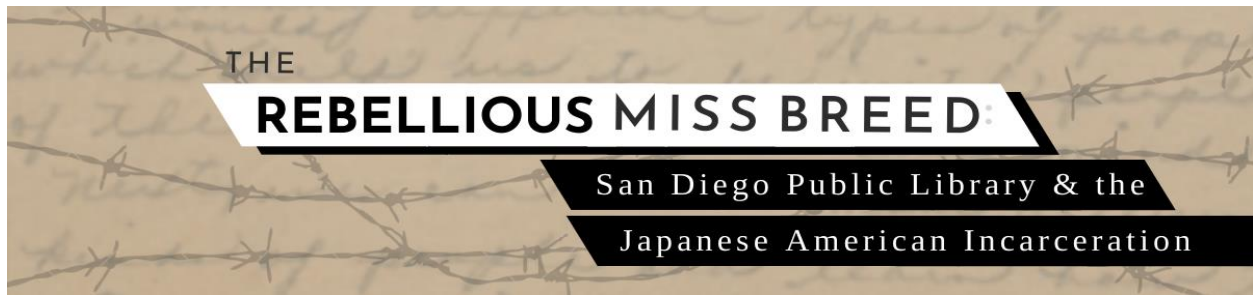
*Directed by Kayo Hatta / 1995 / 95 mins*

Monday, September 13, 2021 @ 6:30

### **[Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story](#)**

*Directed by Eric Paul Fournier / 2000 / 60 mins*

Monday, September 27, 2021 @ 6:30



Preceded by:

- **Letters from Camp**  
*Directed by Frank Chin / 2016 / 3 mins*  
Muslim American youth read letters written by Japanese Americans in the incarceration camps.

### [Resistance at Tule Lake](#)

*Directed by Konrad Aderer / 2017 / 79 mins*

Monday, October 11, 2021 @ 6:30

### [Yuri Kochiyama: Passion for Justice](#)

*Directed by Pat Saunders and Rea Tajiri / 1994 / 57 mins*

Monday, October 25, 2021 @ 6:30

Preceded by:

- **Speaking Out!**  
*Directed by Steve Nagano / 2013 / 6 mins*  
In this incredible footage from 1981 government hearings, Japanese American incarceratedees refuse to be silenced.

### [Manzanar / Pilgrimage](#)

*Directed by Robert Nakamura / Manzanar / 1971 / 16 mins*

*Directed by Tadashi Nakamura / Pilgrimage / 2003 / 23 mins*

Monday, November 8, 2021 @ 6:30

### [Enemy Alien](#)

*Directed by Konrad Aderer / 2011 / 82 mins*

Monday, November 22, 2021 @ 6:30

### [The Cats of Mirikitani](#)

*Directed by Linda Hattendorf / 2006 / 74 mins*

Monday, December 13, 2021 @ 6:30

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The two films below will screen at the San Diego Asian Film Festival (October 28 – November 6) at UltraStar Cinemas Mission Valley. Dates to be determined.

**Manzanar Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust**

*60 mins., directed by Ann Kaneko, 2021*

Monday, November 1, 2021

This film depicts a fresh interpretation of the Japanese American concentration camp by examining the political history and environmental justice issues behind it — the takeover of Native lands by white settlers and the struggle for water and power. It expands the story of Manzanar to reveal how water is at the heart of the experiences of Japanese Americans, Native Americans, farmers and ranchers, who confronted the U.S. Army and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for control of the land.

**Who Killed Vincent Chin?**

*87 mins., directed by Christine Choy and Renee Tajima-Peña, 1987*

Wednesday, November 4, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

On a hot summer night in Detroit in 1982, Vincent Chin, an automotive engineer mistaken as Japanese was slain by an assembly line worker who blamed him for the competition by the Japanese auto makers that were threatening his job. The murderer never spent a day in jail. This gripping Oscar-nominated film relentlessly probes the implications of the murder for the families of those involved and for the American justice system. This film ignited a push for Asian American rights and changed the course of American legal history. Director **Renee Tajima-Peña** will be in attendance and lead a Q&A and panel discussion after the film.