



Right to Resist: From 9066 to 2021

September 13 - December 13 | 2nd and 4th Mondays

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 25th anniversary screening of *Picture Bride*, 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

Shiley Special Events Suite

Between 1907 and 1924, more than 20,000 young women made the journey from Japan to Hawaii, promised to husbands they knew only through photographs. ***Picture Bride*** tells the story of one of them, Riyo, forced to leave Yokohama, Japan under a cloud. She has learned a little English and hopes to make the best of the “paradise” her future husband has described in



letters, but when she sees him she can't believe her eyes. This landmark Asian American film is the first dramatic feature film written, produced and directed by Asian American women.

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

Directed by Eric Paul Fournier / 2000 / 60 mins

Monday, September 27, 2021 @ 6:30

Shiley Special Events Suite

In 1942, Fred Korematsu refused to show up to the incarceration camps. Over the next 40 years, he took his case to the highest courts in the land, seeking an acknowledgment from the government of what he and thousands of other Japanese Americans knew: that their constitutional rights were violated the moment they were rounded up. 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

Shiley Special Events Suite

Tule Lake is where the troublemakers were held. These were the incarcerated who spat at the government's loyalty questionnaires, who sought a collective voice against injustice, and who questioned the flag that cast a torturous shadow over their families. This is the untold story of courage, controversy, and anger in a "jail within a jail." Unheard of voices marginalized for over 70 years challenge the dominant nationalist narrative of one-sided wartime "loyalty."

[Yuri Kochiyama: Passion for Justice](#)

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

Monday, October 25, 2021 @ 6:30

Shiley Special Events Suite

Yuri Kochiyama lived in Harlem for more than 40 years and had a long history of militant activism. As a young woman, she was imprisoned at the Jerome, Arkansas incarceration camp. This film chronicles her remarkable contribution to social change through the Black Liberation movement, the struggle for Puerto Rican independence, and the Japanese American Redress movement. In an era of divided communities and racial conflict, her life offers an outstanding example of an equitable and compassionate multi-culturalist vision. 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

Shiley Special Events Suite

Two great films on the incarceration experience by two groundbreaking filmmakers from different generations, Bob and Tadashi Nakamura. *Manzanar* captures pioneering director Bob Nakamura's emotions upon visiting the Manzanar incarceration camp where he spent his childhood. Tadashi Nakamura's *Pilgrimage* tells the inspiring story of how an abandoned Manzanar was rediscovered by young Japanese Americans and transformed into a symbol of retrospection and solidarity for people and nationalities in our post 9/11 world. Bob Nakamura's film was the first documentary film on the concentration camps by a Japanese American filmmaker. He's often referred to as "the Godfather of Asian American media".

[Enemy Alien](#)

Directed by Konrad Aderer / 2011 / 82 mins

Monday, November 22, 2021 @ 6:30

Shiley Special Events Suite

A Japanese American filmmaker finds echoes of his own family's World War II incarceration in post-9/11 arrests of Muslim immigrants and joins the struggle to free Farouk Abdel-Muhti, a Palestinian-born human rights activist. Unwilling to accept that he was a suspect because of his beliefs, Farouk organized a hunger strike and became a symbol of resistance against Homeland Security's racialized dragnet targeting brown-skinned Americans.

[The Cats of Mirikitani](#)

Directed by Linda Hattendorf / 2006 / 74 mins

Monday, December 13, 2021 @ 6:30

Shiley Special Events Suite

Artist Jimmy Mirikitani spent WWII at Tule Lake concentration camp, an indeterminate number of years on the streets of New York City, and the post-9/11 months finding renewed purpose and opportunity. That's when he befriended filmmaker Linda Hattendorf, who asked questions about Jimmy's art, his family, and his relationship to a country that turned its back on him. (preceded by *Why is Preparing Fish a Political Act?* Poetry of Janice Mirikitani)



The film below will screen at the San Diego Asian Film Festival (October 28 – November 6) at UltraStar Cinemas Mission Valley.

Manzanar Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust

60 mins., directed by Ann Kaneko, 2021

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 @ 5:45 pm

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.

Followed by special panel discussion between director Ann Kaneko and Environmental and Indigenous Studies Scholar Heather Daly, moderated by UCSD Muir College Provost K. Wayne Yang.