



# ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

PROGRAM GUIDE 2023

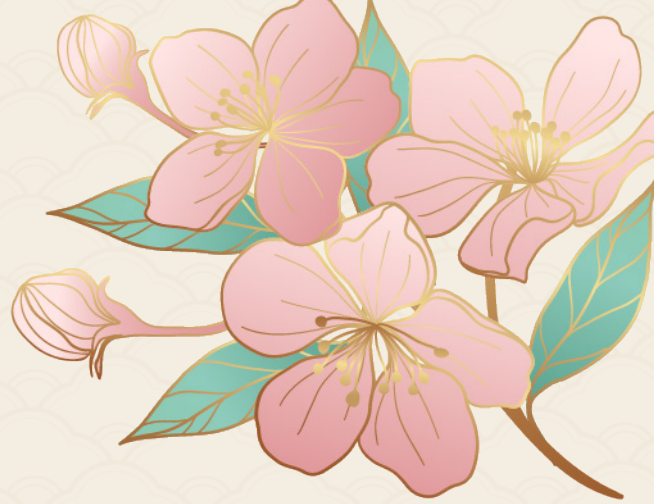
**WETA**



WETA celebrates the contributions, history,  
and culture of Asian Americans and  
Pacific Islanders with special programming  
across WETA channels.

Many of the programs can be streamed on the  
PBS App. In addition, find more than 90 Heritage  
Month programs on WETA World this month.

Visit [weta.org/asian-pacific](http://weta.org/asian-pacific) for complete  
Heritage Month offerings.



26.1 via antenna  
Comcast 26, 219, 800, 1026  
Cox 26, 1003, 1026  
DirecTV 26, 26-1, Stream  
Dish 8076  
Fios 26, 526  
RCN 26, 613



26.5 via antenna  
[weta.org/livestream](http://weta.org/livestream)  
YouTube TV  
Fios 470  
RCN 599  
PBS App



26.4 via antenna  
Comcast 270, 1148  
Cox 802  
Fios 475  
RCN 37

### WETA ONLINE

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## 1 Tuesday – May 2

**10 PM WETA PBS & WETA Metro**  
**RIISING AGAINST ASIAN HATE: ONE DAY IN MARCH —**  
 This film chronicles how the Asian American community came together to fight back against hate following the aftermath of the March 2021 mass shootings at three spas in Atlanta.

## 2 Thursday – May 4

**8 PM WETA Metro**  
**THE STORY OF CHINA —** This series explores the history of China from the ancient past to present day. *Episode 1. Ancestors.* Historian Michael Wood examines ancient myths, archaeological sites, and records of Chinese writing.

**10 PM WETA Metro**  
**CHINA: FRAME BY FRAME —** When Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Bill Einreinhofer arrived in China more than 30 years ago, he had no idea that it would be the first of many visits that would generate dozens of nonfiction stories in and about China. *China: Frame by Frame* explores what he discovered and the dramatic changes he witnessed.

## 3 Saturday – May 6

**8 PM WETA World**  
**INDEPENDENT LENS: TRY HARDER! —** The documentary offers an up-close look at the competitive college admissions process for a group of San Francisco high schoolers, primarily Asian Americans.

**9 PM WETA Metro**  
**MR. TORNADO: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE —** Meet Ted Fujita, a pioneering meteorologist who transformed our understanding of tornadoes. His technological advancements saved lives and helped Americans prepare for and respond to dangerous weather phenomena.

## 4 Sunday – May 7

**10 PM WETA World**  
**P.O.V.: WUHAN WUHAN —** Through the stories of frontline medical workers, patients, and ordinary citizens, the film provides a human face to the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in the city where the mysterious virus was first discovered.

## 5 Monday – May 8

**8 PM WETA World**  
**PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: HIGH TIDE, DON'T HIDE —**  
 Teenagers discover that activism, authority and awareness make for a steep learning curve.

## 6 Thursday – May 11

**7 PM WETA World**  
**SHINMACHI: STRONGER THAN A TSUNAMI —** On the morning of April 1, 1946, a deadly tsunami reduced Shinmachi to rubble. Discover the resilience of a unique Japanese community in Hilo, Hawaii.

**8 PM WETA Metro**  
**THE STORY OF CHINA — Episode 2. Silk Roads and China Ships.** Historian Michael Wood explores China's first international age, the Tang Dynasty, uncovering the arrival of Christianity and tracking the spread of Chinese culture across East Asia.

**8 PM WETA World**  
**AMERICA REFRAMED: BLURRING THE COLOR LINE —** The film follows director Crystal Kwok as she unpacks the history behind her grandmother's family, neighborhood grocery store owners in the Black community of Augusta, Georgia during the Jim Crow era.

**9 PM WETA World**  
**REEL SOUTH: SEADRIFT —** In 1979, a fatal shooting ignites a maelstrom of hostilities against Vietnamese refugee fishermen along the Gulf Coast. Set during the early days of Vietnamese refugee arrivals in the U.S., *Seadrift* examines this turbulent chapter of American history, and explores its consequences.





## 6 Thursday – May 11

10 PM **WETA Metro**  
**ITO SISTERS: AN AMERICAN STORY** — Three Japanese American sisters share the experiences of their immigrant parents struggling to make a life in America at the beginning of the 20th century.

## 7 Friday – May 12

7 PM **WETA World**  
**TYRUS WONG: AMERICAN MASTERS** — A look into the life of renowned Chinese American painter Tyrus Wong and his impact on American art and popular culture. The Disney legend was the inspirational painter behind *Bambi*, *April in Paris*, and *Sands of Iwo Jima*, to name a few.

## 8 Saturday – May 13

8 PM **WETA PBS**  
**ASIAN AMERICANS** — In this WETA co-production with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), explore the impact of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in the United States. *Episode 1. Breaking Ground.* See how new immigrants from China, India, Japan, the Philippines, and beyond — despite anti-Asian laws — still managed to build railroads, dazzle on the silver screen, and take their fight for equality to the U.S. Supreme Court.

8:30 PM **WETA Metro**  
**FREE CHOL SOO LEE** — This film captures the unbelievable life story of Chol Soo Lee, a Korean immigrant wrongfully convicted of a murder in San Francisco.

9 PM **WETA PBS**  
**ASIAN AMERICANS** — *Episode 2. A Question of Loyalty.* Meet an American-born generation tied both to the U.S. and to their parents' homelands in Asia. Loyalties are tested during World War II, when families are imprisoned in detention camps and brothers find themselves on opposite sides of battle lines.

## 9 Sunday – May 14

10 PM **WETA World**  
**DOC WORLD: GANDEN: A JOYFUL LAND** — A look at the lives and remembrances of the remaining generation of monks to have studied at the monastery in Tibet where the Dalai Lama's lineage began.

## 10 Monday – May 15

8 PM **WETA World**  
**LOCAL, USA: A TALE OF THREE CHINATOWNS** — This documentary explores the survival of three Chinatowns in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Boston.

## 11 Tuesday – May 16

8 PM **WETA World**  
**FIRST PEOPLES: ASIA** — Discover the ancient humans living across Asia when Homo sapiens arrived.

9 PM **WETA PBS & WETA Metro**  
**NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS THE OLDEST TV: AMERICAN MASTERS** — See the world through the eyes of Nam June Paik, the father of video art and coiner of the term "electronic superhighway."  
*Repeats Fri 5/19, 8 p.m. on WETA World*

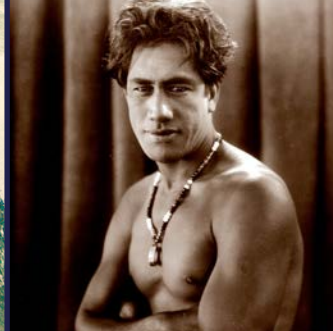
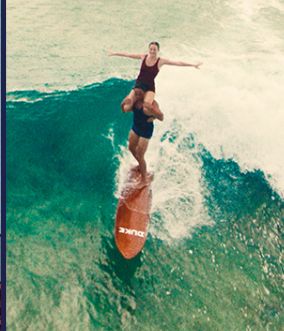
## 12 Thursday – May 18

8 PM **WETA Metro**  
**THE STORY OF CHINA** — *Episode 3.* Learn about China's Renaissance under the Song Dynasty. In Kaifeng, historian Michael Wood hears the story of the boys who became emperors, tries a thousand-year-old recipe, works a giant astronomical clock, and dances with the locals by Hangzhou's West Lake.

8 PM **WETA World**  
**AMERICAN REFRAMED: FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH** — Charles Chiu and his family attempt to trace their ancestral roots. As they journey throughout the Mississippi Delta, they uncover stories and learn about the racially complex history of Chinese immigrants in the segregated South.







## 13 Saturday – May 20

8 PM **WETA PBS**

**ASIAN AMERICANS** — *Episode 3. Good Americans.* During the Cold War years, Asian Americans are simultaneously heralded as a model minority and targeted as the perpetual foreigner. The period is also a time of bold ambition, as Asian Americans aspire to national political office.

9 PM **WETA PBS**

**ASIAN AMERICANS** — *Episode 4. Generation Rising.* The aftermath of the Vietnam War brings new immigrants and refugees who fight for equality in the fields, on campuses, and in the culture, claiming a new identity.

9:30 PM **WETA Metro**

**INDEPENDENT LENS: HIDDEN LETTERS** — For centuries in China, the once-secret written language of Nüshu was calligraphed on folded fans and handkerchiefs as hidden letters so women could share stories and express solidarity in a repressive era when many women were denied literacy.

## 14 Sunday – May 21

6:30 PM **WETA World**

**P.O.V.: ABOUT LOVE** — In Mumbai, three generations of the Phadke family are interviewed by the family's youngest daughter.

## 15 Monday – May 22

9 PM **WETA World**

**LOCAL, USA: ASIAN AMERICAN STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND BEYOND** — *Episode 2.* Queer filmmaker Quyen Nguyen-Le articulates the legacy of their mother's nail salon for their refugee family. Filipino American filmmaker Frances Rubio captures the experience of being distanced from her sick father during the pandemic.

## 15 Monday – May 22

10 PM **WETA PBS**

**FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK** — The film chronicles the life and revival of this groundbreaking all-female rock group in 1970s America, revealing the fascinating untold story of a phenomenal band that was dubbed the "female Beatles."

## 16 Thursday – May 25

8 PM **WETA Metro**

**WATERMAN-DUKE: THE SPIRIT OF ALOHA: AMERICAN MASTERS** — Discover the inspiring story and considerable impact of five-time Olympic medalist Duke Kahanamoku. He shattered swimming records and globalized surfing while overcoming racism in a lifetime of personal challenges.

10 PM **WETA Metro**

**UNSETTLED HISTORY: AMERICA, CHINA AND THE DOOLITTLE TOKYO RAID** — Examine a key moment in American-Chinese history from the perspectives of the children of both the "Doolittle Raiders" and the Chinese villagers who aided in their rescue.

## 17 Friday – May 26

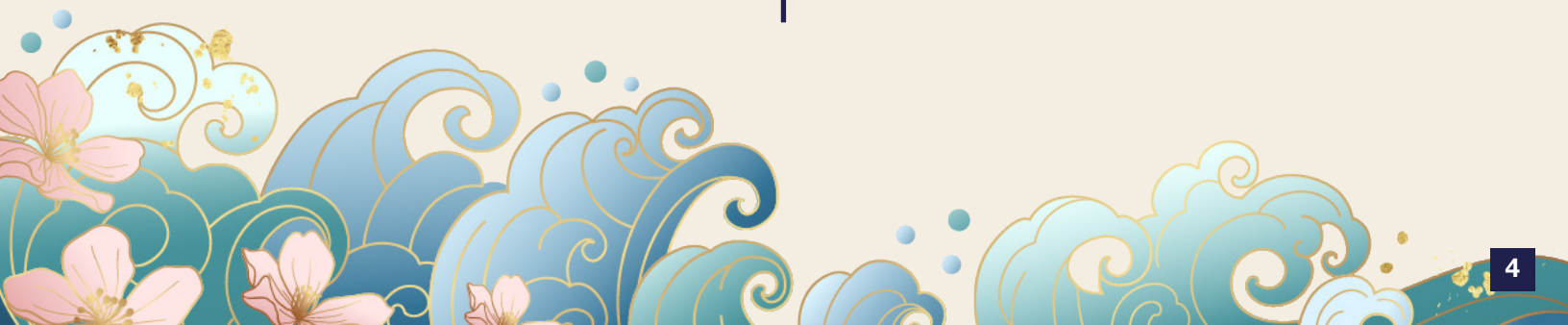
7 PM **WETA World**

**PLAGUE AT THE GOLDEN GATE: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE** — The film presents a complex and dramatic narrative about the desperate race to save San Francisco and the nation from an outbreak of bubonic plague in the city's Chinatown.

## 18 Saturday – May 27

8 PM **WETA PBS**

**ASIAN AMERICANS** — *Episode 5. Breaking Through.* Revisit the turn of the millennium when Asian Americans are empowered by growing numbers and rising influence but face a reckoning of what it means to be an American in an increasingly polarized society.





## 18 Saturday – May 27

9 PM **WETA PBS**

**AMY TAN: UNINTENDED MEMOIR: AMERICAN MASTERS** — This documentary explores the life and career of the groundbreaking author of “The Joy Luck Club” through home movies, personal photographs, and original interviews.

9:30 PM **WETA Metro**

**P.O.V.: AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS** — Filmed over the course of 12 years, the documentary probes and illustrates the factors that motivated Grace Lee Boggs, a Chinese American woman born to a middle-class family, to become a Marxist philosopher and social activist.

## 19 Monday – May 29

7 PM **WETA World**

**PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: TOKYO HULA** — Examine how tourism, economics, and a love for all things Hawaiian have influenced the rise of hula dancing in Japan.

8 PM **WETA World**

**PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: AMERICAN ALOHA: HULA BEYOND HAWAII** — Three master hula teachers continue to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture through the teaching of music, language, and dance in California.

9 PM **WETA World**

**LOCAL, USA: ASIAN AMERICAN STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND BEYOND** — *Episode 2.* Filipinx filmmaker Bree Nieves and her cousin grapple with what remains of their dreams, after losing one of their fathers during the pandemic. Chanthon Bun, who lost his legal protection to live in the U.S. after conviction, must tread carefully after being released.

## 20 Wednesday – May 31

7:30 PM **WETA World**

**INDEPENDENT LENS: THE DONUT KING** — The film follows the journey of Cambodian refugee Ted Ngoy, who arrived in California in the 1970s and, through a mixture of diligence and luck, built a multimillion-dollar donut empire on the West Coast.

### PHOTO CREDITS

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**Page 3:** BLURRING THE COLOR LINE, Courtesy GBH/World Channel; BLURRING THE COLOR LINE, Courtesy GBH/World Channel; NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS THE OLDEST TV: AMERICAN MASTERS, Courtesy (c) Elliott Erwitt/Magnum Photos; LOCAL, USA: A TALE OF THREE CHINATOWNS, Courtesy of GBH/World Channel.

**Page 4:** FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK, Courtesy Adobe Productions International; WATERMAN-DUKE: THE SPIRIT OF ALOHA: AMERICAN MASTERS, Courtesy Paragon Agency; PLAGUE AT THE GOLDEN GATE: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, Zuma Press/Alamy.

**Page 5:** AMY TAN: UNINTENDED MEMOIR: AMERICAN MASTERS, Courtesy Julian Johnson; PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: TOKYO HULA, Courtesy American Public Television; LOCAL, USA: ASIAN AMERICAN STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND BEYOND, Courtesy GBH/World Channel.

