



*ASIAN  
AMERICAN  
& PACIFIC  
ISLANDER  
HERITAGE  
MONTH*

PROGRAM GUIDE 2024

**WETA**

WETA proudly celebrates the achievements, contributions, history, and culture of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across WETA Channels with special programming on WETA PBS, WETA Metro and WETA World.

Visit [weta.org/asian-pacific](http://weta.org/asian-pacific) for complete Heritage Month offerings. Many of the programs can be streamed online on the free PBS App.



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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  
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RCN 37

## WETA ONLINE

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## ● WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

### 2:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: THE HEALER STONES OF KAPAEMAHU

Four boulders in Waikiki pay tribute to healers who brought their arts from Tahiti to Hawai'i hundreds of years ago. A plaque commemorates the healers' contributions but fails to mention that they were mahu – people of dual male and female spirit. The film tells the story of these healers and explores what happened to mahu as colonialism swept across the Pacific.

### 3:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: FOR MY FATHER'S KINGDOM

The film offers a rich view of how contemporary secular families deal with the rigors of devout Christian tithing and a unique insight into traditional Tongan culture.

### 4:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: OLA HOU: JOURNEY TO NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

Follow fashion designer Sharayah Chun-Lai and her family as they put it all on the line to bring Ola Hou Designs to the New York runway.

## ● THURSDAY, MAY 2

### 8:00 PM WETA METRO

#### ASIAN AMERICANS – Episode 1. Breaking Ground.

In this WETA co-production the impact of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in the United States, is explored. 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.

Repeats Sat 5/4, 8 p.m. WETA PBS & WETA World

### 8:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### AMERICA REFRAMED: CHINATOWN RISING

Chinatown activists of the 1960s in San Francisco reflect on their years as young residents waging battles for bilingual education, tenants' rights, and ethnic studies curriculum that would shape their community and nation.

### 9:00 PM WETA METRO

#### ASIAN AMERICANS – Episode 2. A Question of Loyalty.

Meet an American-born generation tied to the U.S. and 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.

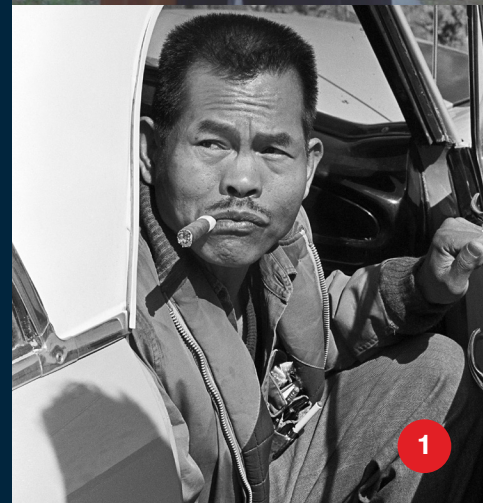
Repeats Sat 5/4, 9 p.m. WETA PBS & WETA World

### 10:00 PM WETA METRO

#### DORA FUGH LEE: A LIFE IN ART

At four years old, Doro Fugh Lee was encouraged to become an artist and calligrapher. Her grandfather singled her out to become an artist of her era, and she learned from him and renowned masters.

Repeats Sun 5/5 & 5/12, 5:30 p.m. WETA PBS



## • THURSDAY, MAY 2

### 10:30 PM WETA METRO

#### A HOUSE IN THE GARDEN: SHOFUSO AND MODERNISM

The environmentally and culturally sensitive design philosophies of Antonin and Noemi Raymond, George Nakashima, and Junzo Yoshimura continue to influence architecture and design today. The film offers viewers a stunning visual exploration of three architecturally significant sites in the Philadelphia region that highlight the influence of traditional Japanese architecture on four masters of modernist architecture and design. **Repeats Sat 5/4, 11:30 p.m. WETA PBS**

## • SATURDAY, MAY 4

### 10:00 PM WETA PBS

#### AMERICAN MASTERS: TYRUS WONG

Discover 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*.

## • MONDAY, MAY 6

### 2:00 PM WETA WORLD

**GANDHI'S AWAKENING & GANDHI'S GIFT – Part 1.** Learn about Gandhi's early transformative years in South Africa. It is here that the young, naive lawyer experiences harsh prejudice and hatred firsthand, comes face-to-face with the brutality of war, and undergoes a spiritual epiphany that sets a course for the rest of his life.

### 8:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### LOCAL, USA: THE TALE OF THREE CHINATOWNS

An exploration of the survival of urban ethnic neighborhoods in three American cities: Washington, DC, Chicago, and Boston. Through the voices of residents, community activists, developers, and government officials, the film looks at the forces altering each community and the challenges that go with them, including urban development and gentrification.

## • TUESDAY, MAY 7

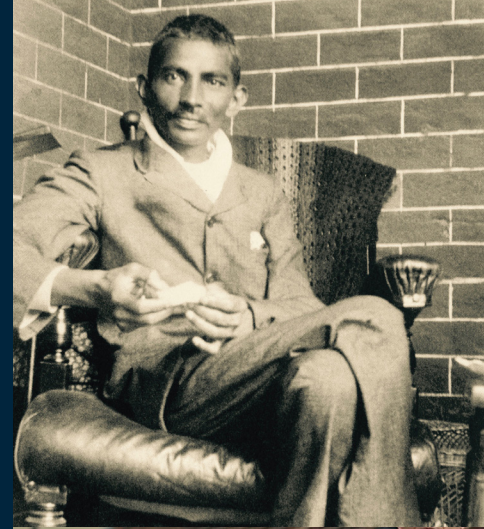
### 2:00 PM WETA WORLD

**GANDHI'S AWAKENING & GANDHI'S GIFT – Part 2.** The film documents Gandhi's final days through the eyes of historians and witnesses who grew up in his presence, including Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi, a historian, and Gandhi's grandson, Indian scholar Dr. Vandana Shiva, and author James W. Douglass.

### 3:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS

An examination into the life of Grace Lee Boggs, a Chinese American philosopher, writer and activist.



## ● THURSDAY, MAY 9

### 2:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### AMERICAN MASTERS: NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS THE OLDEST TV

See the world through the eyes of Nam June Paik, the father of video art and coiner of the term “electronic superhighway.” Born in Japan-occupied Korea, Paik went on to become a pillar of the American avant-garde and transformed modern image-making with his sculptures, films, and performances.

### 8:00 PM WETA METRO

#### 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 was also a time of bold ambition, as Asian Americans aspired to national political office.

Repeats Sat 5/11, 8 p.m. WETA PBS & WETA World

### 8:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### AMERICA REFRAMED: IN SEARCH OF BENGALI HARLEM

As a teen, Alaudin Ullah was swept up by the energy of hop-hop and rebelled against his Bangladeshi roots. Now a playwright contending with post-9/11 Hollywood’s Islamophobia, he sets out to tell his parents’ stories. The film tracks his quest from mid-20th-century Harlem to Bangladesh, unveiling intertwined histories of South Asian Muslims, African Americans, and Puerto Ricans.

### 9:00 PM WETA METRO

#### 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.

Repeats Sat 5/11, 9 p.m. WETA PBS & WETA World

### 10:00 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.

Repeats Thur 5/16, 7 p.m. WETA World

## ● FRIDAY, MAY 10

### 8:00 PM WETA WORLD

#### HIDDEN LETTERS

This film is a fascinating look at Nushu, a 400-year-old written language invented to allow Chinese women to communicate with each other without men understanding. It spans past and present, as two young women try to continue the tradition while fiercely protecting it.

## ● SATURDAY, MAY 11

### 10:00 PM WETA PBS

#### AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: PLAGUE AT THE GOLDEN GATE

Before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world and set off a wave of fear and anti-Asian sentiment, an outbreak of bubonic plague in San Francisco’s Chinatown in 1900 unleashed a similar furor. It was the first time in history that the infamous Black Death made it to North America. The film presents a complex and dramatic narrative of the desperate race to save San Francisco and the nation from the outbreak.



● *SUNDAY, MAY 12*

**7:00 PM WETA WORLD**

**BEFORE THEY TAKE US AWAY**

This film chronicles the previously untold stories of Japanese Americans who self-evacuated from the West Coast in the wake of forced incarcerations during World War II.

● *MONDAY, MAY 13*

**3:30 PM WETA WORLD**

**FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK**

The award-winning film chronicles the life and revival of Fanny, a groundbreaking 1970s rock band co-founded by Filipina American sisters and other teenage girls. The legendary rock group is the first all-women band to release an album with a major record label.

**7:30 PM WETA WORLD**

**INDEPENDENT LENS: THE DONUT KING**

Follow the journey of Cambodian refugee Ted Ngoy, who arrived in California in the 1970s and built a multimillion-dollar donut empire on the West Coast through a mixture of diligence and luck.

**9:00 PM WETA WORLD**

**LOCAL, USA: CHINA AUXILLARY**

For decades, a group of Chinese residents, now grandpas and grandmas, have patrolled the streets of Manhattan's Chinatown as NYPD volunteer police while fighting to find belonging in a country that felt foreign and unwelcoming to them. From the savage tribulation in the '70s to "Asian Hate" during the COVID-19 pandemic, these stories remind us of the hope the U.S. represented to the tired, the poor, and the huddled masses yearning to belong.

**9:30 PM WETA PBS**

**WETA ARTS**

Diplomats, curators, and law enforcement share the dramatic story of 79 trafficked and repatriated Yemeni antiquities at the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art. A student of the classical Indian dance style Bharathanatyam performs her debut. *WETA Arts* host Felicia Curry sits down with the director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum to chat about the building's renovations.

**10:00 PM WETA PBS & WETA METRO**

**PHOTOGRAPHIC JUSTICE: THE CORKY LEE STORY**

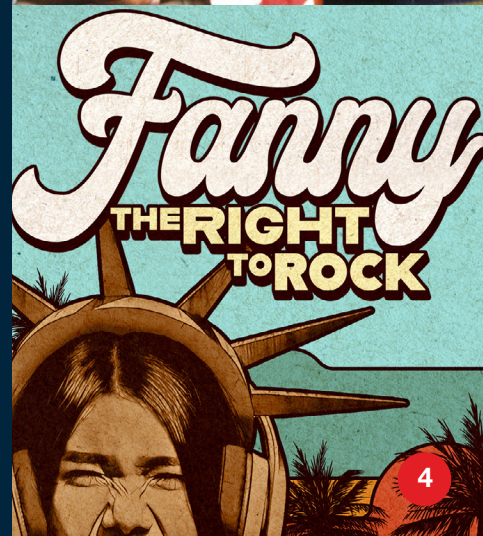
An intimate portrait of award-winning photographer Corky Lee's quest to document Asian American history, culture, and activism.

● *THURSDAY, MAY 16*

**8:00 PM WETA WORLD**

**AMERICA REFRAMED: FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH**

Charles Chiu and his family's attempt to trace their ancestral roots leads them to the Mississippi Delta, where they uncover stories and learn about the racially complex history of Chinese in the segregated South.



● *THURSDAY, MAY 16*

**8:00 PM WETA METRO**

**ASIAN AMERICANS – Episode 5. Breaking Through.**

Revisit the turn of the millennium when their growing numbers and rising influence empower Asian Americans. But in an increasingly polarized society, they face a reckoning of what it means to be an American.

Repeats Sat 5/18, 8 p.m. WETA PBS & WETA World

**9:00 PM WETA METRO**

**AMERICAN MASTERS: AMY TAN: UNINTENDED MEMOIR**

This documentary explores the life and career of the groundbreaking author of *The Joy Luck Club* through home movies, personal photographs, and original interviews. Repeats Sat 5/18, 9 p.m. & Sun 5/19, 11 p.m. WETA PBS

● *FRIDAY, MAY 17*

**8:00 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.

**9:00 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.

● *SATURDAY, MAY 18*

**9:00 PM WETA METRO**

**INDEPENDENT LENS: 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.

● *THURSDAY, MAY 23*

**7:00 PM WETA WORLD**

**SHINMACHI: STRONGER THAN A TSUNAMI**

The hour-long documentary shares the resilience of a unique Japanese community in Hilo, Hawaii. Their stories bring to life the once-thriving small business district founded by Japanese immigrant plantation laborers who made the bold decision to establish their economic independence from the sugar industry.

**8:00 PM WETA WORLD**

**AMERICA REFRAMED: BLURRING THE COLOR LINE**

Follow director Crystal Kwok as she unpacks the history behind her grandmother's family, who were neighborhood grocery store owners in the Black community of Augusta, Georgia during the Jim Crow era. By centering on women's experiences, Kwok poses critical questions around the intersections of anti-Black racism, white power, and Chinese patriarchy in the American South.



● *FRIDAY, MAY 24*

**7:00 PM WETA WORLD**

**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.

● *SATURDAY, MAY 25*

**7:00 PM WETA WORLD**

**FINAL LANDING ON IWO JIMA**

A “then and now” look at the Japanese island at the heart of a brutal World War II battle, the film follows two men as they visit the historic war site. Narrated by sportscaster Jim Nantz, the film details events leading up to, though, and after the Battle of Iwo Jima via veteran interviews, archival material, and recreations.

**9:30 PM WETA METRO**

**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.

● *MONDAY, MAY 27*

**7:30 PM WETA WORLD**

**AMERICAN MASTERS: WATERMAN-DUKE: AMBASSADOR OF ALOHA**

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.

● *TUESDAY, MAY 28*

**10:00 PM WETA METRO**

**FRONTLINE: SOUTH KOREA'S ADOPTION RECKONING**

Learn about the fraud and abuse surrounding South Korea's foreign adoption boom. The investigative documentary sheds light on the complexities and challenges faced by those affected by the country's adoption system, revealing the human stories behind the statistics and legal proceedings.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Page 1: PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: THE HEALER STONES OF KAPAEMAHU, Courtesy American Public Television; PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: FOR MY FATHER'S KINGDOM, Courtesy American Public Television; AMERICA REFRAMED: BLURRING THE COLOR LINE, Courtesy GBH/World Channel; ASIAN AMERICANS, Courtesy Corkey Lee. Page 2: AMERICAN MASTERS: NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IN THE OLDEST TV, Courtesy © Elliott Erwitt/Magnum Photos; GANDHI'S AWAKENING & GANDHI'S GIFT, Courtesy Heaven on Earth Creations; LOCAL, USA: THE TALE OF THREE CHINATOWNS, Courtesy GBH/World Channel; GANDHI'S AWAKENING & GANDHI'S GIFT, Courtesy HEAVEN ON EARTH CREATIONS. Page 3: ASIAN AMERICANS, Courtesy Asian Americans; AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: PLAGUE AT THE GOLDEN GATE, Courtesy Zuma Press/Alamy; PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: AMERICAN ALOHA: HULA BEYOND HAWAII, Courtesy American Public Television; ASIAN AMERICANS, Courtesy Asian Americans. Page 4: FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK, Courtesy Bobbi Jo Hart; INDEPENDENT LENS: THE DONUT KING, Courtesy Logan Industry; ASIAN AMERICANS, Courtesy Asian Americans; FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK, Courtesy Adobe Productions International. Page 5: AMERICAN MASTERS: AMY TAN: UNINTENDED MEMOIR, Courtesy Julian Johnson; PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: AMERICAN ALOHA: HULA BEYOND HAWAII, Courtesy American Public Television; AMERICA REFRAMED: BLURRING THE COLOR LINE, GBH/World Channel; RISING AGAINST ASIAN HATE: ONE DAY IN MARCH, Courtesy Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March. Page 6: TRY HARDER, Courtesy Lou Nakasako; AMERICAN MASTERS: WATERMAN-DUKE: THE AMBASSADOR OF ALOHA, Courtesy The Paragon Agency; AMERICA REFRAMED: BLURRING THE COLOR LINE, Courtesy GBH/World Channel; PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: TOKYO HULA, Courtesy American Public Television.

