

AUDRY FUNK

A film by Yiwei Chen

2018 Press Notes



PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Audry Funk

Country: USA

Language: English, Spanish

Year: 2018

Running time: 33 minutes

Trailer: [here](#)

Promo Images: [here](#)

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Audry Funk, a feminist rapper and social activist from Mexico came to the U.S. to gain a better career and to continue spreading her voice for social justice. Although she has an influential career in Central America, in New York City she has to rap on the subway and work in a restaurant to make a living. Audry is strong as an activist; but she is also vulnerable and nostalgic for what she has left behind. The film shows how she rebuilds her life, her ego and her pride as a woman, an immigrant and an artist.

LONG SYNOPSIS

This film follows Audry, a feminist rapper who has recently moved to New York from Puebla, Mexico. Married to her American-Mexican husband, Altoveli and living in the Bronx, she anxiously awaits her green card which prevents her from working legally in the U.S. Despite having an influential career in Central America, Audry is forced to pursue her music career and earn cash by rapping on the subway and joining hoards of other undocumented workers in the food service industry.

The close relationship between director and subject allows the viewer to stand by Audry's side during her challenging first year in America. By spending time with her, the two sides of Audry are revealed, the shy and quiet girl with poor English, overwhelmed by life in New York City, and the fierce and fearless Audry Funk. The film takes its name from Audry's stage name, and the film weaves Audry's aspirations and convictions as an artist and the realities of her daily life. One of the reasons Audry has left Mexico is because of the threat to politically oriented artists and musicians.

Audry's music is motivated by social injustices prevalent in Mexico, including the murders and disappearances of her peers. The film shows her trying to continue this advocacy and activism from the relative safety of the United States. Despite feeling more secure in her new home, Audry is nostalgic for what she has left behind, especially her aging parents. While she waits for her papers to come through she is unable to return home to visit them, and she laments that the news she is reporting back to her family is not an accurate portrayal of the struggles she is facing in New York City.

The story of Audry gaining her green card plays an important role in the film, and we watch her nervously preparing and practicing for her interview with the government. In an affectionate and funny scene with friends who have already gone through the process, we come to understand the hostility and suspicion placed on non-citizens marrying Americans by border control. At the end of the film Audry acquires her green card and puts on a large concert at Harvard University, and the film charts her emotional growth from someone who regrets the move she has made to New York to an individual with a bright and hopeful future.



DIRECTOR BIO

Director, Cinematographer and Editor Yiwei Chen is a filmmaker based in New York. She specializes in documentary and commercial films. After working for a few years as a visual journalist in China, she came to the U.S. to earn her master's degree in Social Documentary Films from School of Visual Arts. Key focuses in her work are women, youth culture, and creatives. Past clients include InStyle, Estée Lauder, Vision and others.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Audry Funk was inspired very directly from my own experience of being a newcomer in the U.S. from a very different cultural background. After living in China for most of my life, I came to New York to pursue my career as a filmmaker. In the first year I came here I met Audry who had only been in New York for one year just like I did. Although we came from very different culture backgrounds, we had already gained many commonalities as new arrivals and shared same values in creative passion, civic duty and women's rights.

My work takes a critical view of social and cultural issues. Having engaged subjects as diverse as the immigrant rights movement, Asian-American hip-hop music and contemporary women's voice, my work reproduces familiar visual and aural signs, arranging them into new conceptually cinematic journeys. My films use realistic settings with a large scope to open the imagination and ignite the curiosity of an audience. Although there may not always be material similarities between the different projects they are linked by recurring formal concerns and through the subject matter. The effect of this allows viewers to 'escape' and let their guard down, which in turn allows me to open them to ideas and emotions.



CREDITS

Director: Yiwei Chen

Producer: Yiwei Chen

Editor: Yiwei Chen