

# FINDING DOHI

*Documentary Film • 30 min • 2020*

## *SYNOPSIS*



FINDING DOHI is an intimate portrait of a woman separated by culture, language, and thousands of miles from a family she has never met. Daphne, a *sansei* (3rd generation) Japanese-American, holds on to letters sent to her mother long ago. The contents of the letters are a mystery to her, as they are written in Japanese - and she cannot read or understand the language. Thus begins her decades-long pursuit to fill in the scant details she knows about her Grandfather Dohi, who immigrated to Hawai'i from a rural Japanese village in 1891.

Documented by her daughter, their journey from Hawai'i to Japan explores the themes of identity, language, loss of culture, honoring ancestors, and reconnection, and reminds us that some family bonds cannot be broken no matter the time or distance.

## *DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT*

FINDING DOHI is a story that has been slowly unfolding since my great-grandfather Eitaro first stepped onto that ship at the age of 15. When we booked our flights to Japan, our goals were to figure out whatever we could about this Matsumoto family, and to visit Eitaro's village for the first time. We had no expectation of what or who we would find along the way, we simply aimed to capture all that would unfold. We are honored to share this journey of discovery, and hope to inspire others to honor their ancestors by learning about the past and the connections that live on today.

\*Currently in post-production, estimated completion date January 2020

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