

# LENORA LEE DANCE



## ***And The Community Will Rise (ACWR) Press Kit***

***And The Community Will Rise*** (2023), 63 minutes

a film by Lenora Lee Dance

in collaboration with Chinatown Community Development Center

in association with Lenora Lee Productions & Asian Improv aRts

powered by Asian Improv Nation

### **TRAILERS**

[ACWR trailer without subtitles](#)

[ACWR trailer with Traditional Chinese and English subtitles](#)

[ACWR trailer with Simplified Chinese and English subtitles](#)

### **SCREENERS**

[ACWR screener without subtitles](#)

[ACWR screener with Traditional Chinese and English subtitles](#)

[ACWR screener with Simplified Chinese and English subtitles](#)

### **PROFILE**

[ACWR FilmFreeway Profile](#)

### **PHOTOS**

Please include the photographer's and dancer's names when using these images.

Director / Producer Lenora Lee with photo credits:

- [Headshot](#)

- [Dance Image #1](#)

- [Dance Image #2](#)

[ACWR images with photos credits](#)

### **SYNOPSIS**

*And the Community Will Rise* embodies the significant role that residents and advocates for public housing play in ensuring the social, political, and cultural integrity of San Francisco in the face of the current housing crisis, gentrification and displacement threatening the city. Chinatown's Ping Yuen buildings were the first high-rise public housing in the U.S. built in 1952, and provide crucial affordable housing for the community.

## **SYNOPSIS (continued)**

Chinatown Community Development Center, as well as other service and advocacy organizations, have provided the organizing base for Chinatown's role as fertile ground for movements across issues such as affordable housing, exclusionary immigration policies, low wage workers' rights, bilingual education, environmental justice, and the survival of community-based economies. Timing is crucial as San Francisco is witnessing growing evictions of low-income residents, and as neighborhoods inhabited for decades by generations of communities of color face displacement.

## **BACKGROUND**

Ping Yuen, the first U.S. high-rise public housing, was built in 1952 as part of an affordable housing movement that prioritized the needs of veterans. By the late 1970s it had become a community struggling with underfunded repair and management, crime, violence, and a disconnection to city services and support. In 2014 San Francisco opted to use federal funds from Housing and Urban Development's Rental Assistance Demonstration program as an opportunity to transfer public housing to developers and managers with community ties. Having decades-long work with Ping Yuen residents to protest poor conditions, Chinatown Community Development Center was selected to rehabilitate, transform, own and operate the Ping Yuen buildings long-term.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

This film was created during the heart of the pandemic, March 2020 to January 2023, on Ramaytush-Ohlone land. We had many starts and stops, postponements and saw the original project shift from an immersive, multimedia dance performance in the Central Ping Yuen housing complex to the dance film you see here. Amongst shifting health mandates and collective uncertainties, we prioritized the safety of the residents, staff, and dancers over adherence to the original project design.

Many of us experienced our most trying times. We lost family members, colleagues, and friends. We also witnessed and became part of a racial reckoning, the Black Lives Matter movement, Stop Asian Hate, amongst the increase in anti-Asian violence. The racial and economic injustices of this country magnified and amplified.

As we continue to fight against the legacies of settler colonialism and racial capitalism, the residents of Ping Yuen are reminders to the power of community. A reminder that amidst the narratives that seek to divide us, there is so much more that unites us if we take the time to listen and understand each other, that so much more is possible when we come together. Because against all odds, the community will always rise.

- Lenora Lee

## BIOGRAPHIES

### LENORA LEE DANCE (company & director)

**Lenora Lee Dance** (LLD) integrates contemporary dance, film, music, and research and has gained increasing attention for its sustained pursuit of issues related to immigration, incarceration, global conflict, and its impacts, particularly on women and families. The company creates works that are both set in public and private spaces, intimate and at the same time large-scale, inspired by individual stories as well as community strength, at times crafted for the proscenium, or underwater, or in the air, and at times are site-responsive, immersive and interactive. For the last 15 years LLD has been pushing the envelope of large-scale multimedia, and immersive dance performance that connects various styles of movement and music to culture, history and human rights issues. Its work has grown to encompass the creation, presentation and screening of films, museum and gallery installations, civic engagement and educational programming.

The company is directed by San Francisco native **Lenora Lee**, who has been a dancer, choreographer and artistic director for the past 25 years in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. She has been an Artist Fellow at the de Young Museum, a Djerassi Resident Artist, a Visiting Scholar at New York University 2012-2016, an Artist in Residence at Dance Mission Theater, a 2019 United States Artists Fellow, artist in residence at Pao Arts Center and ArtsEmerson, and is the recipient of a New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project grant award. She is also Project Manager at Asian Improv aRts. [www.LenoraLeeDance.com](http://www.LenoraLeeDance.com)

### CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Mission of the **Chinatown Community Development Center** (CCDC) is to build community and enhance the quality of life for San Francisco residents. We are a place-based community development organization serving primarily the Chinatown neighborhood, and also serve other areas including North Beach and the Tenderloin. We are a community development organization with many roles - as neighborhood advocates, organizers and planners, and as developers and managers of affordable housing. We believe in a comprehensive vision of community, a quality environment, a healthy neighborhood economy, and active voluntary associations. We are committed to the empowerment of low-income residents, diversity and coalition building, and social and economic justice.

[www.chinatowncdc.org](http://www.chinatowncdc.org)

### ASIAN IMPROV ARTS

Since 1987, **Asian Improv aRts** (AIR) builds a national cross-cultural community rooted in social justice and equity, advancing artists who create innovative artistic works representing the Asian American experience. Over its 35 years, AIR has produced more than 100 recordings of Asian American artists, chronicling a legacy of Asian artistic excellence in the U.S. It has mentored many artists in their early stages, some of whom are now luminaries in their field, such as Vijay Iyer and Jen Shyu. AIR is recognized and sustained for its vital contribution to the national conversation on race and social justice through the arts. [www.asianimprov.org](http://www.asianimprov.org)

## **CREDITS**

### **CONCEIVED, PRODUCED & DIRECTED**

by Lenora Lee

### **CINEMATOGRAPHY**

by Sherman Ayala, Paul Dier, Clarissa Dyas, Aaron Gold, Edward Kaikea Goo, Jacinta Wu Goo, YiTing Hsu, Lynn Huang, Hien Huynh, Amber Julian, SanSan Kwan, Lenora Lee, Megan Lowe, Ting Luo (Chloe), Johnny Huy Nguyen, Eric Perez, Shannon Preto, Queenie Quan, Lucy Tafler

### **EDITING**

by Lenora Lee, Joel Wanek

### **COLOR & SOUND CORRECTION, DIGITAL CONSULTANT**

Joel Wanek

### **CHOREOGRAPHY**

directed by Lenora Lee

### **CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CAST**

Gabriel Christian, Clarissa Dyas, Anna Greenberg Gold, YiTing Hsu, Lynn Huang, Hien Huynh, Amber Julian, SanSan Kwan, Megan Lowe, Ting Luo (Chloe), Johnny Huy Nguyen, Melissa Lewis Wong

### **INTERVIEWEES & VOICEOVER** (in order of those speaking)

May Chung, Bessie Louie, Benson Toy, Nancy Lim-Yee, Bob Chan, David Dea, Julia LaChica, Norman Fong, Chang Jok Lee, Ed Lee, Gordon Chin, Patricia Thomas, Yin Ying Zhuan Guan, Janice Marie Brown, Sophia, Myrisha Mixon

### **MUSIC**

by Francis Wong and Tatsu Aoki, with Kioto Aoki, Deszon X. Claiborne, Karl Evangelista, Michael Jamanis, Jamie Kempkers, Helen Palma, Melody Takata, Edward Wilkerson Jr., courtesy of Asian Improv Records.

AK Black, Megan Lowe

### **SPOKEN WORD / RAP**

“Ping Yuen Project”, “Still I Rise”, and “The Times” by AK Black

### **VOCALS**

Helen Palma, Ting Luo (Chloe), and “Hope Carrier” by Megan Lowe

### **MARTIAL ARTS CONSULTANT**

Corey Chan

### **FAMILY & HISTORIC PHOTOS**

(in order of appearance)

courtesy of Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, May Chung, Bessie Louie, Benson Toy, Nancy Lim-Yee, Bob Chan, Julia LaChica, David Dea. Photos by Chris Fujimoto & Fred Mar provided by Manilatown Heritage Foundation, Deirdre Hussey courtesy of San Francisco Chronicle, courtesy of Asian Americans Advancing Justice

**PAINTING ARTWORK**

“The Ping” by Julia LaChica

“Know Justice, Know Peace” by Joseph Colmenares

**SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY**

Sherman Ayala, AK Black, Demetria Chi, Jennifer Chung, Joseph Colmenares, Karl Evangelista, Edward, Elsie, Ethan & Jacinta Wu Goo, Benjamin & Catherine Kwan, Lenora Lee, Christopher & Elijah Luo, Bo Speirs, Melody Takata, Michelle Ureta, Francis Wong

**LENORA LEE DANCE (LLD) PROJECT CONSULTANT**

Lucy Tafler

**LLD DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT & ASIAN IMPROV ARTS CO-FOUNDER**

Francis Wong

**ASIAN IMPROV ARTS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR**

Vinay Patel

**ASIAN IMPROV ARTS PROGRAM MANAGER**

Johnny Huy Nguyen

**CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CCDC) PROJECT FACILITATORS**

Roy Chan, Erika Gee

**CHINESE TRANSLATION**

Yvonne Kong, Jacinta Wu Goo

**SUBTITLES**

Kenneth Eng

**DANCE PHOTOGRAPHY**

Robbie Sweeny

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE**

Sherman Ayala, Paul Dier, Aaron Gold, Edward Kaikea Goo, Jacinta Wu Goo, Shannon Preto, Queenie Quan, Lucy Tafler

**COSTUMES**

Lenora Lee in collaboration with the cast

**SPECIAL THANKS**

to Jamie Allison, Faiza Bukhari, Sondra Carter, Jennifer Chan, Roy Chan, Rosa Chen, Dominique Commer, Danishia Davis, Maggie Dong, Norman Fong, Erika Gee, Adriana Grino, Caitlyn He, Lynn Huang, SanSan Kwan, Tatjana Loh, Pamela Mattera, Rod Mitchell, Matthias Mormino, Johnny Huy Nguyen, David Ortega, Diana Pang, Frances Phillips, Ted Russell, Shelley Trott, Marquita Williams, Yin Yin Zhu, Chinese Culture Center, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, Physique Magnifique

**AND THE COMMUNITY WILL RISE IS MADE POSSIBLE**

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