

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

1763 – First recorded settlement of Filipinos in America.

1842 – China is defeated by the British in the first Opium War and is forced to cede Hong Kong.

1848 – Strike of gold at Sutter's Mill, California, draws Chinese immigrants to west coast to mine gold.

1854 – Law forbids Chinese from testifying in court against Whites.

1859 – Exclusion of Chinese from public schools in San Francisco.

1907 – President Theodore Roosevelt enters into "Gentlemen's Agreement" with Japan.

1915 – The Cheat, Cecil B. DeMille's film, features Japanese actor Sessue Hayakawa as the villain.

1919 – Broken Blossoms, directed by D.W. Griffith, stars Richard Barthelmess as, "The Chink."

1922 – Shadows, stars Lon Chaney as Yen Sin, a Chinese laundryman.

1924 – The Thief of Baghdad features Anna May Wong as a villainous slave girl in her first major role.

1931 – Charlie Chan Carries On stars Warner Oland in the first of many Charlie Chan films

1932 – The Mask of Fu Manchu stars Boris Karloff as the first of many Fu Manchus. Shanghai Express features Anna May Wong co-starring with Marlene Dietrich.

1937 – The Good Earth is the adaptation of Pearl Buck's novel about life in China, featuring white actors in all key roles.

1938 – Mr. Wong, Detective stars Boris Karloff as Mr. Wong.

1939 – Daughter of the Tong, a Chinese dragon lady rules a group of smugglers.

1941 – Phantom of Chinatown stars authentic Asian American Keye Luke as Mr. Wong, an ace detective. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the United States enters WWII. Japanese invades the Philippines. One third of the Filipino men in the United States sign up to fight.

1942 – Executive Order 9066 puts 110,000 Japanese, many of whom were second and third generation American citizens, in 10 internment camps in the United States. Ironically, hundreds of Japanese American enlist in the armed forces, and the 442nd

infantry battalion, comprised solely of Japanese American soldiers, becomes the most decorated unit in American history.

1943 – Magnuson Act finally repeals the Chinese Exclusion act of 1882.

1944 – Dragon Seed Katherine Hepburn leads in a case of white stars in Yellowface.

1945 – August 6 – atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. August 14 – Japan surrenders. Congress passes War Brides Act, forbidding immigration of unmarried Japanese women. All American intern camps are closed.

1946 – Philippines becomes independent and U.S. citizens is offered to all Filipinos living in the U.S.

1947 – Black Widow uses the metaphor “spider woman” instead of dragon lady.

1948 – Congress passes Displaced Persons Act, giving permanent resident status to Chinese caught here because of the Chinese civil war. California repeals law banning interracial marriage. Evaluation Claims Act authorizes payment of settlements to people of Japanese ancestry who suffered economic losses from internment: 10 cents is returned for every \$1 lost.

1949 – U.S. breaks off diplomatic ties with newly formed People’s Republic of China.

1950 – Korean war begins.

1951 – Go For Broke, a film about the 442nd regiment of Japanese American soldiers, is released.

1954 – The Bridges at Toko-Ri is a Korean War epic with William Holden.

1956 – Teahouse of the August Moon co-stars Marlon Brando as an Okinawan interpreter; The King and I features Yul Brynner as the King of Siam in a classic musical.

1957 – The Bridge Over the River Kwai – Sessue Hayakawa is the first Asian actor to be nominated for an Oscar. Sayonara, a romantic film featuring Marlon Brando and Miiko Taka, is released.

1959 – The Crimson Kimono, Sam Fuller’s film set in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, stars James Shigeta.

1959 – Bonanza, with frequent appearances by Victor Yen Seng as Hop Sing as a manservant.

1960 – The World of Suzie Wong, co-stars Nancy Kwan in the title role; The Flower Drum Song, Rodgers & Hammerstein’s musical, features an all-Asian American cast.

1962 – In My Geisha, Shirley McClaine’s character must impersonate a Geisha girl. Dr.

No, a James Bond film, features a yellowface Dr. No, and femme fatale Sister Lily.

1964 – Goldfinger, another Bond adventure with Harold Sakata as hat-throwing henchman, Oddjob.

1965 – Vietnam war begins. March 1968: My Lai massacre. April 1968: Tet Offensive.

1966 – Futuristic space travel television series Star Trek features a multi-ethnic cast including George Takei as Mr. Sulu.

1967 – The Green Hornet features Bruce Lee as the Green Hornet's sidekick, Kato.

1968 – Hawaii Five-O, set in Hawaii, featured Asian Americans, though the leads were white.

1972 – For the series Kung Fu, David Carradine is chosen over Bruce Lee for the starring role.

1972 – The M*A*S*H television series, based on the movie, is set in a medical unit during the Korean war.

1973 – Enter the Dragon, the film that popularized Bruce Lee and the martial arts movie, is released world-wide. On July 20th, the same year the film is released, Bruce Lee dies at the age of 32.

1975 – The Yakuza, Sidney Pollack's thriller, stars Robert Mitchum, Ken Tanaka and James Shigeta.

1975 – Barney Miller sitcom co-stars Jack Soo as Sergeant Nick Yemana.

1980 – Shogun, a five-part, 12-hour television mini-series based on the novel by James Clavell stars Richard Chamberlain in the lead role.

1980 – Magnum P.I., like Hawaii Five-O, lacks Asian American leads, despite its setting in Hawaii.

1982 – Chan is Missing is the first feature film by prolific director Wayne Wang. Set in San Francisco's Chinatown, it features two Asian American male lead characters. The same year, Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American is murdered by two automakers in Detroit who blame him for the failing auto industry. His killers are acquitted, never serving prison time for their crime.

1984 – The Killing Fields dramatizes the escape of Dith Pran from the Cambodian holocaust. The Karate Kid stars Pat Morita as Mr. Miyagi in the popular movie that inspired 3 sequels. Filipino war veterans are denied U.S. citizens, and over 1,000 veterans face deportation.

1985 – Year of the Dragon, a film by Michael Cimino depicting gang wars in New York's

Chinatown, sparks controversy and protests by Asian Americans. In response, the studio later agrees to add a disclaimer to the film, stating that the film's depiction of Chinese American gangsters does not reflect the majority of Chinese Americans.

1986 – Gung Ho, Ron Howard's comedy deals with American and Japanese auto workers.

1987 – The Immigration Reform & Control act of 1985 becomes law. It raises the Hong Kong quota and allows certain aliens to apply for temporary status and eventually come citizens. Formal signing of the Proclamation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week.

1988 – Who Killed Vincent Chin? a documentary by Christine Choy and Renee Tajima, The Color of Honor, Loni Ding's documentary about Japanese American internment and Slaying the Dragon, Deborah Gee's documentary dissecting Asian female stereotypes, are released. The Civil Liberty act of 1988 apologizes and offers redress and reparations to Japanese Americans who were denied their civil and constitutional rights during World War II.

1988 – China Beach, a TV series set in an American military hospital in Vietnam, begins its 4 year run.

1989 – Forbidden City, U.S.A. Arthur Dong's documentary about Chinese American entertainers is released. Widely televised demonstrations for democratic reform held in Tiananmen Square, in Beijing, China. Demonstrators were massacred by Chinese government forces on June 4th.

1990 – Come See the Paradise, Alan Parker's film, stars Dennis Quaid and Tamlyn Tomita, is set during the Japanese American internment.

1990 – In Living Color comedy series features Steve Park, who does a series of parodies about Asians including Connie Chung.

1992 – Wayne's World features Tia Carrera. Korean businesses are looted and burned as a result of riots in Los Angeles due to outrage over the Rodney King verdict.

1993 – The Joy Luck Club, Wayne Wang's feature film, based on May Tan's best selling novel, is released to theaters nationwide. M. Butterfly, based on the Tony-Award winning play by David Henry Hwang and starring John Lone, Ang Lee's film The Wedding Banquet, involving a gay Asian American man's relationship with his parents, and Hard Target, Hong Kong director John Woo's debut in the U.S., also hit the theaters. Jason Scott Lee played martial artist and actor Bruce Lee in Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story.

1994 – Vanishing Son, a syndicated TV drama, stars Russell Wong. All American Girl is the first sitcom to feature an all Asian-American cast led by Margaret Cho. Some Asian Americans publicly criticize the show for casting Japanese and Chinese actors as Koreans. ABC quickly pulls the plug after just one season.

1995 – In Double Happiness, Sandra Oh stars as a Chinese-Canadian woman who tries

to appease her traditional father. *Picture Bride*, directed by Kayo Hatta, stars Yuki Kudo, Akira Takayama and Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa and Tamlyn Tomita. a.k.a. *Don Bonus*, a personal diary documentary, is produced by Spencer Nakasako.

1996 – *Rumble in the Bronx* - Hong Kong's Jackie Chan finally breaks into the U.S. mainstream after an earlier failed attempts. Over a dozen Hollywood-produced films quickly follow, including *Rush Hour*.

1997 – Britain returns Hong Kong to Chinese rule. Upon graduating from film school, independent filmmakers Quentin Lee and Justin Lin produce their first feature, *Shopping for Fangs*, about an Asian male gradual transformation into a Werewolf. Both go on to produce feature films starring Asian American lead characters.

1998 – *The Replacement Killers* features Hong Kong's Chow Yun-fat in his first American feature. Chow leads the Hong Kong implosion into Hollywood, which brings actors such as Jet-Li, who stars as the villain in *Lethal Weapon IV*, and Sammo Hung, in the prime time TV series *Martial Law*. The year marks the release of Renee Tajima's *My America: or Honk if You Love Buddah* and Disney's *The Legend of Mulan*, an animated feature based on a Chinese folktale, with Ming-Na as the lead character's voice.

2001 – *The Debut* by Gene Cajayon and *American Adobo* by Laurice Guillen, bring the Filipino-American experience to the big screen.

2002 – Justin Lin's independent feature about over-achieving Asian American high school seniors, *Better Luck Tomorrow*, is picked up by MTV, who distributes the film throughout the country. The film reveals the talent of Asian male leads John Cho, Parry Shen, Sung Kang and Roger Fan, and leads to more directing jobs for Lin, including *Annapolis*, *The Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift* and *Oldboy*. Hollywood begins remaking Japanese horror films, including *The Ring*, *The Ring II*, *The Grudge* and *Dark Water*.

2004 – Newline Cinema releases *Harold & Kumar Go to Whitecastle*, starring Kal Penn and John Cho as two stoners in search of a good hamburger. The film, penned by John Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg, is the first major Hollywood film to feature two Asian American men in lead roles. The sequel, *Harold & Kumar Go to Amsterdam*, which is planned for release in 2006, will be a major test of the audience drawing power of Asian American audiences. Quentin Lee releases *Ethan Mao*, a film about a young Asian male who is kicked out of his house for being gay and holds his family hostage on Thanksgiving day.

2006 – Eric Byler's third feature, *Americanese*, based on the best-selling novel by Shawn Wong, features an Asian American male actor in a leading romantic role, is ready for nationwide release.