

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

BLUE GARDEN

A FILM BY NATALIE MURAO

CONTACT

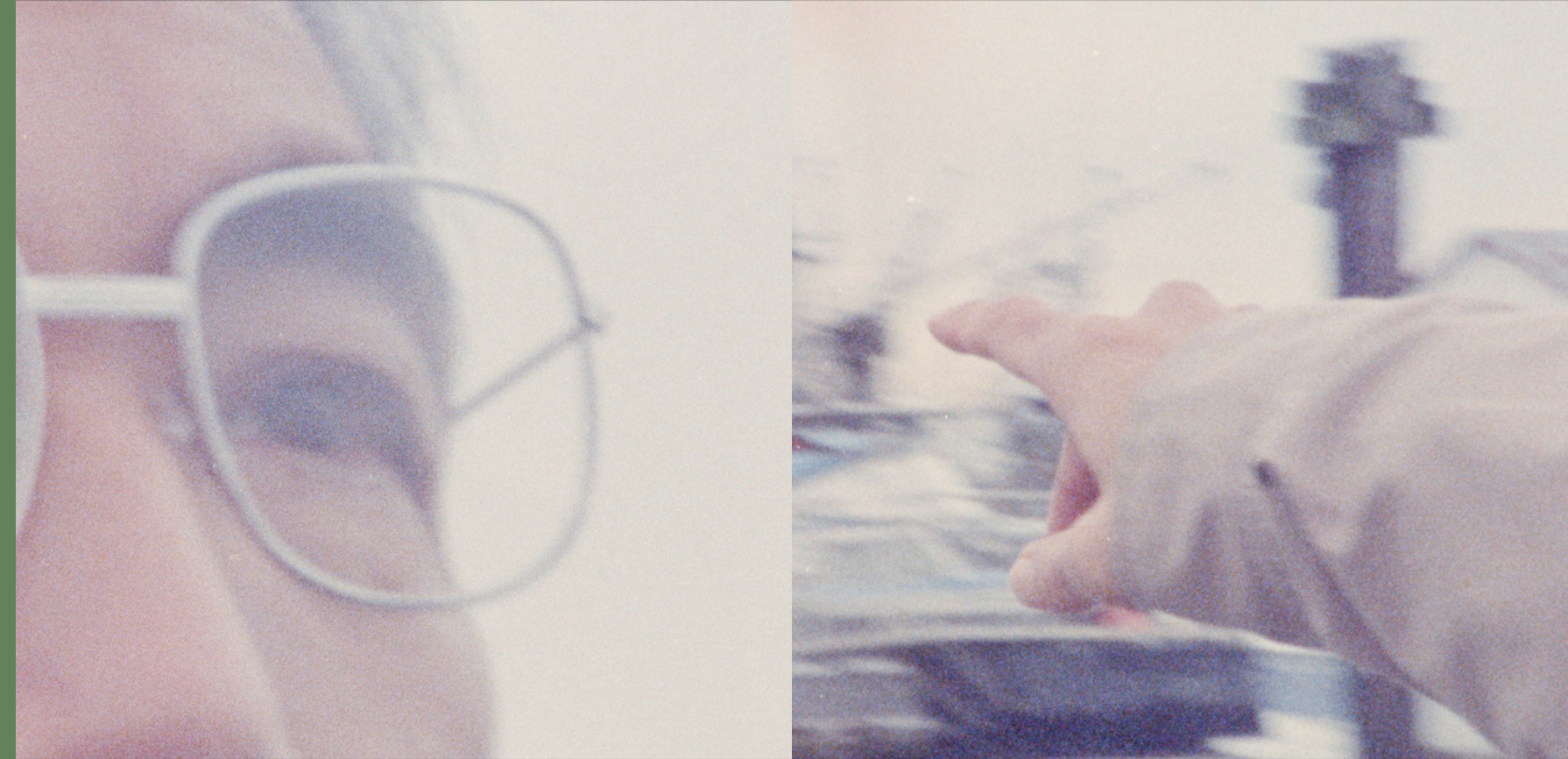
NATALIE MURAO
NATALIE.MURAO[AT]GMAIL.COM
WWW.NATALIEMURAO.COM
IG: @ NATMURAO

2022
5 MIN. 25 SEC.
CANADA
ENGLISH & JAPANESE
SUPER 8 TO DIGITAL
STEREO



LOGLINE

A filmmaker asks her mother,
"Why have I never liked tomatoes?"



SYNOPSIS

Blue Garden is a hybrid-doc-animation that retells the history of a Japanese Canadian fisherman during the WW2 internment. The film explores how trauma can fester and family stories can remain unspoken for generations. However, through the participatory nature of filmmaking, the younger generation is able to reconcile their grief and feel empowered to tell their family history.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Growing up as a child, my mother would often remind me of the hardships that my grandparents faced because of the internment. She would say, "Ojiichan had to pack only one suitcase, what would you bring?" I almost didn't believe my mother. How could Ojiichan, a gentle and quiet man, experience such a dark and traumatic life? But there was so much I didn't know about him or what he had been through. The internment was something that the younger generation like myself knew to never bring up to our grandparents.

The internment is a difficult subject that many Japanese Canadians still struggle to come to terms with and there are an array of experiences that have derived from it. I hope that BLUE GARDEN adds to the canon of Japanese Canadian stories, particularly in film. As well, I hope to destigmatize the topic of internment and be able to discuss it more openly with the community.

I have dedicated my filmmaking practice to sharing stories surrounding the Asian Canadian and diasporic experience. My previous work has leaned more towards narrative filmmaking, but I am currently trying to pursue other styles such as documentary and animation. For me, the process of filmmaking can be an environment for personal growth and introspection. By engaging with the film's stories and themes, I believe that BLUE GARDEN will help myself and others be better equipped to address the hardships that the Japanese Canadian and Asian Canadian community face today.



CREATIVE TEAM



NATALIE MURAO
Writer, Director, Editor

Natalie Murao is a yonsei (fourth generation Japanese Canadian) filmmaker from "Vancouver". She aims to expand the notion of Asian diasporic cinema by creating an in-betweenness of styles that embody the diaspora itself. Her films have played at Sundance, TIFF Next Wave, and Palm Springs ShortFest. Natalie is a Sundance Ignite x Adobe Fellow and Programming Coordinator at the Vancouver Asian Film Festival.



THEA LOO REYES
Producer

Thea Loo Reyes is a producer and director from Vancouver, BC. In 2020 she produced her first short film "No More Parties", directed by Natalie Murao, which played at the Sundance Film Festival in 2022. Her latest directorial work is "Nanay", a 5 minute documentary about Filipino mental health and labour migration that is now under development with the Knowledge Network to become a 1 hour TV documentary.. Thea is co-writing a TV series project called "Soule", a dramedy series about Filipino-Canadian sneakerheads and hypebeasts.



KEVIN FENG
Animator & Camera

Kevin Feng, born in Taiwan. An artist, filmmaker and writer. A BFA graduate of OCAD University. His work focuses on the four ceremonial rites of his culture and how he and his family celebrate these four events. By telling these stories, Feng longs to document the entire scope of a lifespan of his family. Feng plans to publish novels and make them into movies.



JEREMIAH REYES
Re-Recording Mixer & Composer

Jeremiah Reyes is a Filipino-born, Vancouver based artist and film enthusiast. He has experience in photography, music, and colour grading. He has an ever-growing interest in creating art that compel people to ponder, question, connect and understand his evocative work. His style of work is constantly evolving with inspiration drawn from cinema.

CREDITS

WRITER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR ----- NATALIE MURAO

PRODUCERS ----- THEA LOO
NATALIE MURAO

ANIMATORS & CAMERA ----- KEVIN FENG
NATALIE MURAO

RE-RECORDING MIXER & COMPOSER ----- JEREMIAH REYES

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR ----- TABITHA NAKAJIMA

OJIICHAN ----- HIRO KANAGAWA

NATALIE ----- AS HERSELF

NATALIE'S MOM ----- AS HERSELF

EQUIPMENT RENTAL ----- CINEWORKS
THE CINEMATHEQUE

FILM PROCESSING & SCANNING ----- NIAGARA CUSTOM LAB

ARCHIVAL PHOTOS OF SOLSQUA ----- NIKKEI NATIONAL MUSEUM

SPECIAL THANKS ----- ART WITH IMPACT
CARY MCQUEEN
AMY WONG
WENDY MURAO
DANI NGO
ELAINE NGO
JASON CHAN
AKEMI GALLAGHER
SUNDANCE IGNITE FELLOWS
ANDREW AHN
LANDSCAPES OF INJUSTICE
MICHAEL ABE
LINDA KAWAMOTO REID
NANA FUJINO
VERMONTE WONG

PRODUCED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE UNION OF BC PERFORMERS



THIS FILM WAS SUPPORTED BY THE SUNDANCE IGNITE PROGRAM
OF SUNDANCE INSTITUTE



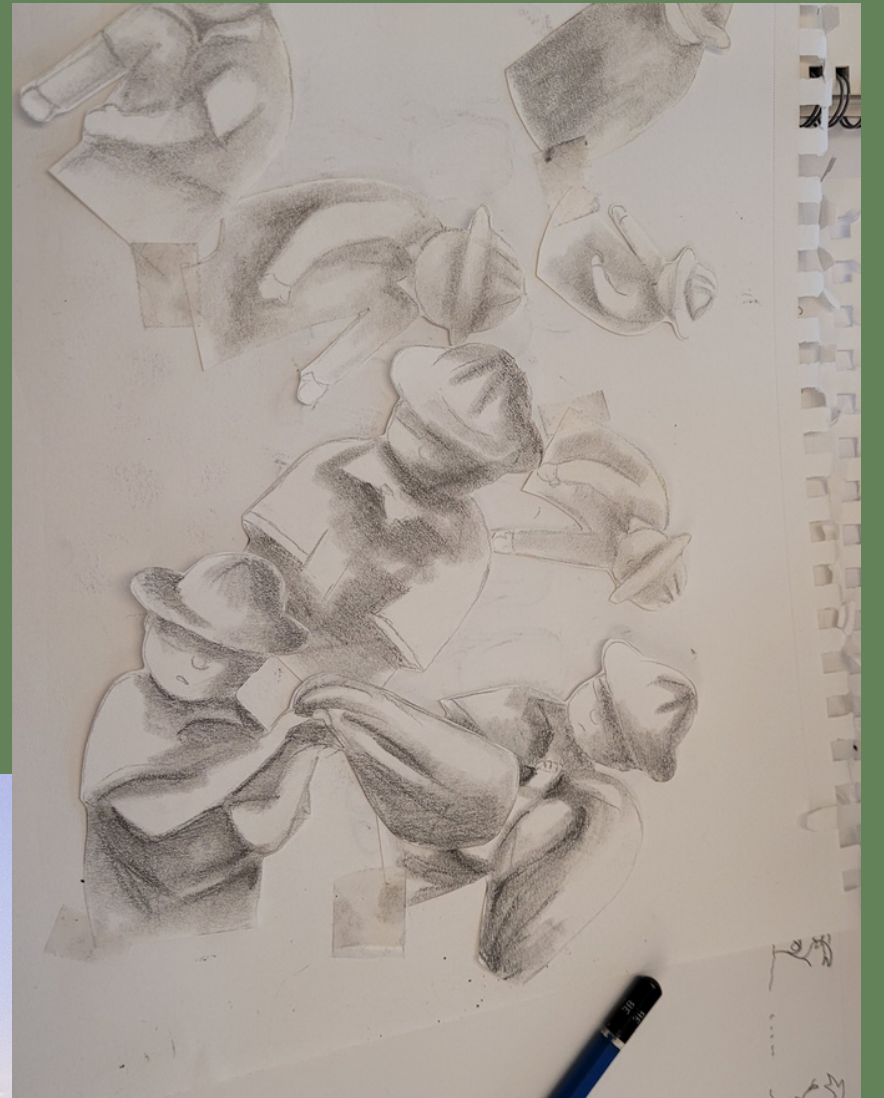
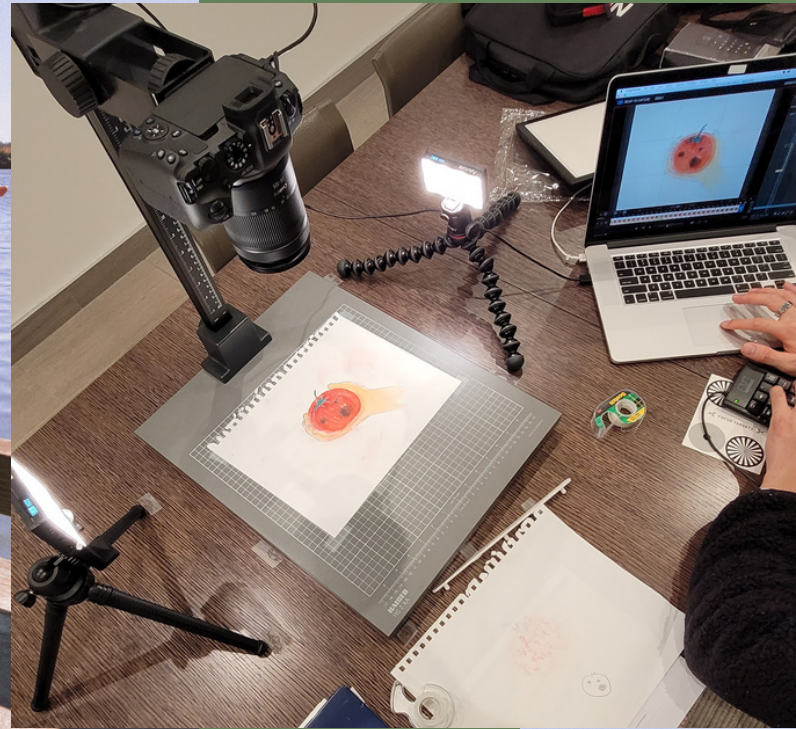
FILMED ON THE UNCEDED LANDS OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLE, INCLUDING
THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE ɣᵐᵐᵃᵀᵀᵀᵐ (MUSQUEAM),
SKWXWÚ7MESH (SQUAMISH), AND SƏ́LÍLWƏTƏʔŁ (TSLEIL-WAUTUTH) FIRST NATIONS

NO MORE PRODUCTIONS

© 2022 NO MORE PRODUCTIONS, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

[CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)





BEHIND THE SCENES

