

Here to Stay by ManSee Kong



Third World Newsreel
545 8th Ave., 10th Fl, New York, NY 10018
(212) 947-9277 ext. 17, distribution@twm.org, www.twm.org



Here to Stay

ManSee Kong, 2008, 7 minutes, Cantonese with English subtitles, United States

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Illustrates the effects of gentrification in Manhattan's Chinatown as an elderly man and fellow tenants in endangered single-room occupancy building await the results of an anti-eviction lawsuit. A TWN Workshop production and part of the Call for Change Series.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Despite a shaky U.S. economy, gentrification pressures are on the rise throughout New York City and in areas across the country. Many believe that Manhattan's Chinatown is insular and "safe" from gentrification but a local tenant organizing group, Chinatown Tenants Union, knows that this is far from the truth. Uncle Wong, an 80 year-old tenant muses over the effects of gentrification as a long-term tenant living in one Chinatown's few remaining single-room occupancy (SRO) buildings, and explains why no one is willing to leave despite a pending anti-eviction lawsuit against their landlord.

FILMMAKER'S BIO

A TWN Workshop alumna, ManSee Kong hopes to create films that expose the struggles and beauty of underrepresented communities as well as the inspirational commitment of organizers fighting for justice.

SCREENINGS

Maysles Cinema, New York, 2008

Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2009

Asian American International Film Festival, New York, 2009

Third World Newsreel
545 8th Ave., 10th Fl, New York, NY 10018
(212) 947-9277 ext. 17, distribution@twon.org, www.twon.org



CREDITS

Director/Camera/Editor/Music:
ManSee Kong

This production was made possible with the support of:

The National Endowment of the Arts
The New York State Council on the Arts
Manhattan Neighborhood Network
The North Star Fund
The Funding Exchange

Heartfelt thanks to:

Herman Lew
JT Takagi
Dorothy Thigpen
Wong Pui Tak

81 Bowery Tenants
Chinatown Tenants Union
and Chinatown Justice Project
of CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
Hyun Lee
Helena Wong
Amy Leung
Sam Chen
Carlos Guzman (DJ Halo Halo)
Jef Castro
2005 TWN Workshop
TWN Staff
My parents

Third World Newsreel
545 8th Ave., 10th Fl, New York, NY 10018
(212) 947-9277 ext. 17, distribution@twm.org, www.twm.org