“WHAT DOES ASIAN CANADIAN QUEER IDENTITY LOOK LIKE TODAY?”

NIKO BELL, DAILY XTRA
RE:ORIENTATIONS
A FILM BY RICHARD FUNG

A fascinating look into the lives and thoughts of seven Queer Pan-Asian Canadians as they look back on ORIENTATIONS, a 1984 documentary in which they featured. How have they changed? And how has the world around them evolved and changed?

In 1984, Richard Fung released his seminal first documentary ORIENTATIONS: LESBIAN AND GAY ASIANS. Featuring 14 women and men in Toronto of South, East and Southeast Asian backgrounds, ORIENTATIONS was the first documentary to explore the experiences and perspectives of Queer Asians in North America. Capturing pivotal moments in Toronto's history, it presents an intimate portrait of the texture of gay live and politics at that time. RE:ORIENTATIONS revisits seven of the original participants as they see anew the footage of their younger selves, and reflect on their lives and all that has changed over the intervening three decades. Their interviews are deepened and contextualized by conversations with six younger Queer and Trans activists, scholars and artists. (2016, 62 min, Canada, English, French subtitled version available, HD, 16:9, stereo/5:1)

Featuring ORIENTATIONS participants: Sylvia Alfonso, Paul Cheung, Gary Joong, Prabha Khosla, Alan Li, Mary Woo-Sims and Tony Souza; as well as RE:ORIENTATIONS conversation with Ponni Arasu, Robert Diaz, Judy Han, Nathan Hoo, El-Farouk Khaki and Gein Wong. Performance by ILL NANA Diversity Dance Company: Jelani Ade-Lam, Sze-Yang Ade-Lam, Kumari Giles

Richard Fung was born in Trinidad and lives in Toronto. His award-winning documentaries and experimental videos have been widely screened and collected internationally, and his essays have been published in numerous journals and anthologies. Among other honors Richard is the recipient of the Bell Canada Award for outstanding achievement in video art, the Toronto Arts Award for Media Art, and the City University of New York's 2015 Kessler Award for significant influence on the field of LGBTQ studies. He is a Professor in the Faculty of Art at OCAD University.

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Editor: Dennis Day
Original Score Orientations: Glenn Schellenberg
Original score & sound design RE:ORIENTATIONS: Phil Strong & Thomas Hoy
Adaptation of Orientations score: Phil Strong and Thomas Hoy
Sound recording: Chandra Bulocon, Huan Nguyen
Additional camera: Richard Fung, Nathan Hoo, Kim McNaughton
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“A necessary document.”
GLENN SUMI, NOW MAGAZINE

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