

MediaRites presents...

***Mei Mei, A Daughter's Song*- the film**

<http://meimeiproject.com>

For more info contact: MediaRites@aol.com

“A cross-cultural tale of a mother and daughter separated by language and culture, yet bound together for life.”

Directed by Dmae Roberts, with Editor: T. Howard, Videographer: Grant Abbett, Illustrator: Willow Zheng, 3-D Photo Editor: Sarah Mora. Compositing on Western Lettering: S.W. Conser. Actors: Wynnee Hu, Elaine Low, Chisao Hata, Samson Syharath and Samantha Choy.

Funded by the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Ronni Lacroute of Willakenzie Estate and Indiegogo supporters.

Synopsis: With the 1989 Peabody-winning audio documentary as the soundtrack, Dmae Roberts has created a half-hour film documentary of “Mei Mei, A Daughter's Song,” the first Taiwanese-American radio documentary on public radio. Mixing live action, animation effects and archival footage, "Mei Mei" tells the story of Dmae and her mother as they travel to Taiwan together after a long absence.

As Chu-Yin Roberts’ story unfolds she reveals the abuse she experienced when she was sold into servitude at the age of two and her hardship growing up during World War Two. She also talks about the female Buddha who saved her life. It soon becomes clear the tensions they experienced with each other had to do with not only the always-complicated mother/daughter relationship, but also the fact they were of different cultures yet intrinsically tied together because they were family.

This is the 25th anniversary of the radio documentary that originally aired on NPR, BBC, CBC and ABC.

Recent reviews of “Mei Mei, A Daughter’s Song”

“This piece leaves standard storytelling practices in the dust. Dmae’s production values are topnotch” -- Salt Institute

“This is possibly the best audio work that has ever been recorded.” -- Public Radio Exchange

Short Synopsis: With the 1989 Peabody-winning audio documentary as the soundtrack, Dmae Roberts has created a half-hour film of "Mei Mei, A Daughter's Song." Mixing live action, animation effects and archival footage, "Mei Mei" tells the story of Dmae and her mother, Chu-Yin Roberts, as they travel to Taiwan together.

As Chu-Yin's story unfolds, she reveals the abuse she experienced when she was sold into servitude at age two and her hardship growing up during WWII. She also talks about the female Buddha who saved her life. It soon becomes clear the tensions they experienced with each other had not only to do with the always-complicated mother/daughter relationship, but also the fact they were of different cultures yet intrinsically tied together because they were family.

Comments from first public screening at Clinton Street Theater. (We will be tweaking some edit transitions and credits.)

Delighted to watch the premiere film screening of Dmae Roberts' "Mei Mei" tonight! An insightful mother/daughter/cultural/history story told and beautifully translated to film! Congratulations to my friend and colleague Dmae, and all involved...may this short be SEEN at film festivals worldwide. – Nicole Lane, Artists Repertory Theater

Dmae Roberts touched my heart with her beautiful film tribute to her mother. What a splendid and original piece of documentary art! It was so beautiful and touching. The entire program was wonderful--art, music, food, films, friendships, families! It was an honor to be present at the screening tonight. –Ronni Lacroute

Truly a beautiful and heartfelt film. It is inspiring to witness's such creativity inspired by love, passion, and resilience! Beauty!—Luisa Sermol

Thank you for your wonderful film Dmae. I also loved the great short by T. Howard. I remember your play at Portland Rep many years ago. Great to see several friends and support these women and honor their mothers. If you are someone seeing this, go out of your way to see Dmae's film when you hear about the next screening. – Barry Hunt

Dmae's film moves in luscious waves, and T. Howard's is quite moving, with some gripping historical footage. Congrats to all.—Bob Hicks, ArtsWatch

Thank you, Dmae, for the enriching cultural experience on Friday evening. I had such a good sense of your mother - her struggles, her achievements. What a complex women! Your film had a lovely expressionistic style to it - very evocative.—Devon Allen, PSU Theatre Dept.

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