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秋瑾
Autumn Gem



AUTUMN GEM Explores Inspiring Story of Modern China's First Feminist

**“With all my heart I beseech and beg my two hundred million female compatriots to assume their responsibility as citizens. Arise! Arise! Chinese women, arise!”
- Qiu Jin**

Meet the “Chinese Joan of Arc” Qiu Jin (1875-1907), a radical women’s rights activist who defied tradition to become the leader of a revolutionary army. Qiu Jin spoke out against footbinding and other oppressive practices and demanded equal opportunities for women. She attempted an armed uprising against the corrupt Qing Dynasty, for which she was arrested and executed. She became the first female martyr for China’s 1911 Revolution and is celebrated as a national heroine today.

While Qiu Jin is a familiar figure in China, she is largely unknown outside of the country. *AUTUMN GEM* is the first documentary feature on Qiu Jin in the U.S. Using scholar interviews, archival materials, and dramatic recreation scenes based on her original writings, *AUTUMN GEM* brings the story of Qiu Jin to life. The hour-long film was produced and directed by two San Francisco Bay Area Chinese American filmmakers, Rae Chang and Adam Tow. The project’s partners include the San Francisco Chinese Culture Center, San Diego Chinese Historical Society, and Official Qiu Jin Museum in Shaoxing, China.

AUTUMN GEM has screened at over 100 venues worldwide, including Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, Princeton, Brown, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts Boston, University of British Columbia, and Australian National University.

As this year marks the centenary of the 1911 Revolution that ended imperial rule in China, it is especially crucial to acknowledge the role of women during the country’s transition to a modern nation. *AUTUMN GEM* sheds light on a seminal figure who continues to serve as an inspiration to Chinese women today.

REVIEWS FOR *AUTUMN GEM*:

"*AUTUMN GEM* adroitly incorporates different kinds of material, including Qiu Jin's poetry and other writings, in order to present a textured and nuanced portrait of a complex person."

- Shana Brown

Professor, History

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

"The film is beautiful and quite an eye opener as we didn't realize China had any feminists as early as the beginning of the twentieth century or any time for that matter."

- Margaret Benson

American Association of University Women

"The script is clean and crisp and the presentation is simple and elegant with no wasted footage."

- Paula Chow

Director, Davis International Center

Princeton University

"You have done a wonderful job in recreating Qiu Jin's life on the screen. The interviews with scholars have given it intellectual depth. I admire your artistic vision, energy and dedication."

- Ling A. Shiao

Assistant Professor, History

Southern Methodist University

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Rae Chang is an artist and graphic designer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has worked in a variety of mediums including drawing, sculpture, performance, and video. Her work has been presented at the Pacific Film Archive, Kearny Street Workshop's APAture, the San Francisco Chinese Culture Center, SOMArts Cultural Center, Varnish Fine Art Gallery, and Tribeca Film Center in New York. Trained in Chinese martial arts (wushu), she performs with the dance company Facing East Dance and Music, focused on exploring the Asian female experience through modern dance.

Rae graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1994 with degrees in Art and Anthropology. Prior to filmmaking, she worked as a graphic designer at various Internet and advertising companies in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Design Reactor, a.k.a. Euro RSCG, and Quinstreet.

Adam Tow is a digital media producer and web consultant. An accomplished photographer, his work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Stanford Magazine*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. His subjects include weddings, corporate events, musicians, artists, politicians, and business professionals. He was the official photographer for the singer Vienna Teng's 2003 Tour and for U.S. Congressman Jared Polis' 2008 campaign.

Adam graduated from Stanford University in 1997 with a degree in Symbolic Systems. He runs his own technology consulting business. His corporate clients have included *The Wall Street Journal*, AllThingsD.com, Stanford University and various startups in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information and upcoming screening schedule, visit

<http://autumn-gem.com>