

RELOCATION, ARKANSAS: AFTERMATH OF I

United States, 2016
D-Cinema, 79 minutes
Color, Documentary

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
4:00 PM
Tateuchi
Democracy
Forum @ JANM

SATURDAY, MAY 6
11:30 AM
CGV Cinemas
Buena Park

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
East West Players
Nikkei for Civil Rights
and Redress (NCCR)

FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER VIVIENNE SCHIFFER'S RELOCATION, ARKANSAS uniquely focuses on the multigenerational impact of Japanese Americans incarcerated in the racially segregated South during WWII. A native of Rohwer, Arkansas, Schiffer presents a moving ensemble of internees and their families as they share the many layers of trauma: broken spirits and haunting deliriums of the first-generation *issei*, the quiet disposal of all-things-Japanese by the *nisei* in effort to be "good Americans," and the treacherous silence and gap in history that trouble the *sansei*. As RELOCATION, ARKANSAS highlights, families who stayed in the South had to navigate this while also figuring out their place amid black/white racial tensions. After being released from the Rohwer and Jerome camps, Richard Yada's family along with the Shingus and Futamachis remained in rural Arkansas to carve out new lives and work in farming. Through stirring archival footage and interviews, the film shows how one of the families lived in old slave quarters while the children

PRODUCER
Vivienne Schiffer
DIRECTOR
Vivienne Schiffer
CO-DIRECTOR
Johanna Demetrakas

CINEMATOGRAPHER
Pablo Bryant
John Carrithers
SOUND
Matt Crawford
Dwight Chalmers
Amy Sandefur
Adriano Bravo
Jeremy Zunk

attended 'whites only' schools. The film links these various racialized experiences. Schiffer looks also to the Takemotos who alternatively resettled in Maryland. Growing up isolated from other JAs, third-generation Paul Takemoto struggled with his identity. His mother Alice, a teenager while in camp, kept their family history hidden. Her internalized suffering can be felt in the poignant piano pieces she plays, her primary passion withheld from her while incarcerated. The film additionally spotlights Rosalie Gould, former mayor of McGehee, Arkansas, who advocated to preserve the sites, monuments, and artwork of incarceration.

RELOCATION, ARKANSAS is timely as 2017 marks the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. Post-war resettlement in regions outside the West Coast is a rarely shared perspective that adds to the complex narrative in understanding the Japanese American experience. Ultimately, the film stresses the importance to preserve this history and to prevent similar atrocities from happening again.

— SUMIKO BRAUN

MUSIC
Amman Abbasi
EDITOR
Linda Hattendorf
FEATURING
Paul Takemoto
Richard Yada
Rosalie Santine Gould

