

Forever, Chinatown
 32 Min, Documentary Short, 2016
 Transcript

| TIME | VIDEO | AUDIO |
|-------|--|---|
| 00:02 | ITVS Logo (animated) | |
| 00:05 | CAAM Logo (animated) | |
| 00:12 | San Francisco cityscape with Good Medicine Picture Company Presents | (birds, ambient sound) |
| 00:18 | Chinatown buildings and street with A James Q. Chan Film | (street ambience) |
| 00:22 | Chinatown building with FOREVER, CHINATOWN title | (street ambience) |
| 00:27 | Woman sweeping sidewalk | (broom, street ambience) |
| 00:32 | pan across storefronts | (ambient sound: music from clothing store, fruit vendors, salon hairdryer, Chinatown merchants) |
| 00:55 | Construction bulldozer breaking up street, Crane on rooftop lifting up wall panel, | |
| 01:06 | Laundry clothesline flapping on rooftop | FRANK WONG: In the last year, or year and a half, I have trouble remembering things. |
| 01:10 | Frank Wong on rooftop looks at city below him | I'm getting very forgetful at times, you know. So, that's what my problem is. |
| 01:20 | Frank seated indoor | I want to capture my memories. And the only way for me to capture my memories is to make them, in three dimensions. |
| 01:28 | Opening montage of miniatures | Music (Peggy Lee): Someday we'll build a home On a hilltop high, you and I, Shiny and new, a cottage that two can fill. And we'll be pleased to be called "The folks who live on the hill." |

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| 02:21 | San Francisco cityscape at night, full moon | FRANK: You know it's a shame, there's no record of the old Chinatown. |
| 02:27 | | Things change you know. Things change. |
| 02:31 | | That's what started me on the miniatures. |
| 02:35 | Close-up of small woks | This one's hard to see. |
| 02:37 | Close-up of Frank Wong | It's either that or I'm getting old. |
| 02:51 | Close-up Frank with small wok | This wok is metal. It's something I found at a hardware store. Then I spray-painted it. I have to season these woks because they don't look like woks that are being used. |
| 03:03 | Wok demonstration | I got to take this and make it look like this so... |
| 03:09 | | first I paint on the matt black and this is not smooth, it's kind of lumpy. You have to lumpy it up. |
| 03:19 | Frank laughter | That describes me at my age: <i>lumpy it up!</i> |
| 03:38 | | I'm going to make a dish. |
| 03:51 | | Now, some seasoning. |
| 03:55 | Close-up of finger on wok cooking | A little bit of white pepper. And some salt. |
| 04:00 | | When I put it all together with the sauce, it's going to come out looking like that dish. |
| 04:07 | | It has to look like the real thing. |
| 04:11 | | You got to have the patience of Job. |
| 04:20 | Frank folding take out box | Now, I think I'll make a food to go. |

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 Transcript

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| 04:32 | | FRANK: People have always asked me, “how do you make it look so real”? |
| 04:36 | Take out food in palm | Because it is real, in my mind. |
| 04:50 | Shoe Shine Stand, Old Chinatown Sequence | FRANK: Present Chinatown doesn’t exist like it use to. |
| 05:15 | | Growing up in Chinatown in the (1940s) and (1950s), there was nothing like it. |
| 05:21 | | I was just a kid. I was having a wonderful time and I thought the whole world was like this. |
| 05:26 | | It really was a city within a city. |
| 05:52 | Jeremy and Frank walking in Chinatown | Things are so different nowadays than when I grew up. |
| 05:57 | | My Godson Jeremy lives in an entirely different world. |
| 06:01 | | Jeremy helps me remember things and what it was like to be a kid. |
| 06:07 | | And he keeps me alive. |
| 07:00 | Christmas Living Room Miniature sequence | FRANK: Memories get fuzzy and get more beautiful as years go by. |
| 07:11 | | And our memories sometimes are prettier than what they really are. |
| 07:28 | | All my miniatures are composites. It’s half wishing and half memory. |
| 07:35 | | That’s like the movies. |
| 07:44 | archival footage “Flower Drum Song” | Archival footage (Nancy Kwan singing): “Grant Avenue, San Francisco, California, USA. Looks down from Chinatown, over a foggy bay.” |

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Transcript

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| 07:55 | | FRANK: Flower Drum Song was my life in San Francisco. |
| 08:00 | | I mean anybody I know was in the movies. |
| 08:02 | archival photos of old Hollywood | My Dad was in the movies. My uncles were in the movies. |
| 08:05 | | It really wasn't real. |
| 08:11 | Archival footage of young Frank in "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo" | Even I was an extra in a movie. |
| 08:16 | Archival footage of Gregory Peck in "The Keys of the Kingdom" | GREGORY PECK: Tell me, which would you rather do? Learn your catechism or eat honey? Boy: Eat honey. |
| 08:22 | archival footage "Flower Drum Song" | Archival footage (Nancy Kwan singing): "You can't have a new way of living. Till you're living all the way On Grant Avenue. --Where is that?-- San Francisco, That's where's that! California U.S.A." |
| 08:46 | archival old photos of hollywood | FRANK: Eventually, I moved to Los Angeles. I found work as a Prop Master, working in the studios. |
| 08:59 | | I had to kiss a lot of ass, work twice as hard as the next guy. |
| 09:06 | | And you know why. |
| 09:17 | | How would you like to go answer your door and they think you're a houseboy? |
| 09:22 | archival footage "Aunty Mame" | HOUSEBOY: You come in. You wait. I fetch. |

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 Transcript

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| 09:24 | Frank interview | FRANK: How would you like to be invited to a party and somebody asks me to get them a drink. |
| 09:33 | | After a while, you feel the hurt. |
| 09:37 | archival racist Chinese animation | (cartoon speaking in gibberish) |
| 09:40 | Frank interview | FRANK: The only way you can deal with that is to be angry. |
| 09:45 | | I don't want to go there, okay. I don't want to go there. |
| 09:51 | archival footage "Hawaiian Eye" | ANNOUNCER: Hawaiian Eye. Musicians: Hawaiian Eye! |
| 09:58 | Honolulu landscape | FRANK: My work took me to Hawaii. And I lived in Hawaii about twenty, twenty-five, thirty years. |
| 10:05 | | It was like an oasis. And I loved it. |
| 10:11 | Frank in Car, driving through neighborhood | I don't recognize any of this. |
| 10:16 | | None, what so ever. |
| 10:19 | | I don't remember it looking so nice. |
| 10:25 | | Are we sure we're on the right street? |
| 10:28 | Frank points | Oh, way up there. Here it is right here! |
| 10:34 | | Right here! The house that I lived in. That's the only thing I cared about and I found it. |
| 10:37 | Frank entering his first cottage in Honolulu for the first time since leaving | Can I get out? |
| 10:42 | | (laughter) The same garbage cans! |
| 10:53 | | And I lived in the second bungalow and if it's open I can take you in there. |
| | | This is it. This is it. |

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 32 Min, Documentary Short, 2016
 Transcript

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| 10:57 | | FRANK: It didn't have air conditioning. |
| 11:00 | | And they used to be green. The color was green. The roof was green. And with the shrubbery, it was invisible. |
| 11:09 | | Now isn't this old Hawaii? Yeah. |
| 11:28 | Frank, turns to leave | Come on, let's go. |
| 11:34 | | Let's go. |
| 11:39 | | I had enough for one day. |
| 11:54 | Ocean waves | FRANK: I was an idiot to leave paradise. |
| 11:59 | Frank at seashore | But I have a wandering way, you know. |
| 12:34 | Frank at Chinese Historical Society Museum | FRANK: Have you met Mr. Yamamoto, Peter? PAM: No. I haven't. FRANK: Peter, this is Pam. Peter Yamamoto he's with the Japanese Historical Society. |
| 12:48 | Frank points, Close-up of Single Room Occupancy miniature | And that single room used to be his room. |
| 12:53 | Peter Yamamoto looking at SRO miniature | PETER: I relate to that carton of milk on the windowsill because that's really part of a lot of apartments in Chinatown. |
| 13:01 | SRO Sequence | PETER: This is a composite of my room plus many of the other rooms Frank visited but it's pretty true to form for what all the places are. |
| 13:09 | | PETER: You have everything crammed into a very small space so you make very economical use of space. |
| 13:14 | | And you have everything in there because this is your entire life. |
| 13:17 | | And that means you can't get too much or you won't be able to move. |
| 13:21 | | And you can't have too little or won't be able to live. |
| 13:23 | | But you have enough in there so it's very |

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 32 Min, Documentary Short, 2016
 Transcript

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| 13:27 | | full. |
| 13:35 | Frank and Peter at the museum | PETER: The problem I have in my personal living space is that I could use a lot more bookshelves because I have a lot of books. |
| 13:39 | Close-up of book and SRO miniatures | FRANK: I did put one book because I know you love books so much on the bed. |
| 13:44 | | And the cover is an ancient Chinese poem. The beginning of the poem says, "What I can see from my bed. I can see the world, and I can just be anything and do anything I want, from my bed." |
| 14:16 | Frank looking at miniatures in museum | PETER: The Frank Wong that I know is this incredibly sensitive and nice guy with a good sense of humor who really loves Chinatown. |
| 14:26 | | I think of a Chinese Frank Sinatra or a Chinese Fred Astaire or somebody like that. |
| 14:31 | | Somebody who really embodies the wit and wisdom of Chinatown. |
| 14:42 | Present day Chinatown sequence, construction | PETER: Chinatown was a unit for many years because Chinatown was forced by racism to stay in one place not to move out. And they solidified that place very much. |
| 14:54 | | PETER: That changes as Chinese are able to move to other places in the city like they can now. |
| 15:00 | | Chinatown becomes expendable as a Chinese enclave. |
| 15:04 | | With that development will come eventually that changes a lot of the physical Chinatown. |
| 15:09 | | The old hotels will gradually be torn down. |
| 15:14 | | Land values will continue to go up. And the housing rental prices will go up. |

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 32 Min, Documentary Short, 2016
 Transcript

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| 15:20 | | PETER: At that time, Chinatown will change a lot. |
| 15:52 | Frank in God of Longevity costume, Chinese New Year through Herb Store | FRANK (in Cantonese): Happy New Year! Long life and Prosperity! Happy New Year! |
| 16:10 | Herb Store Miniature sequence | |
| 17:02 | FRANK (in God of Longevity costume): | FRANK: I'm tired. (laughter) I couldn't resist that. I'm sorry. I'm laughing and my mustache is popping off. Wait. Let me stop laughing. Stop! |
| 17:21 | | I'm the God of Longevity. |
| 17:36 | Frank (in costume) walks up hill, Chinatown at night | Touch my staff and you'll live forever. |
| 18:49 | Frank and Jeremy in Chinatown, funeral procession down Grant Avenue | FRANK: Jeremy, he seeing a funeral for the first time in Chinatown and he says to me, "what's that, is it a parade?" and I had to stop for a second to explain to him that someday I'm going to go to heaven was the hardest thing for me. |
| 19:59 | Dining Room sequence | FRANK: In my culture, when someone dies, we burn offerings for them. |
| 20:04 | | So they can receive them in the next life. |
| 20:08 | | We should have the things that we enjoy in this life in the afterlife. |
| 20:15 | | When I die, I want my miniatures to be burnt with me. So I can live in them forever. |
| 20:45 | Frank and Jeremy making miniature bolts of fabric | FRANK: Would you believe there's about two hundred bolts of fabric? |
| 20:49 | | Now we can have a real fabric story, Jeremy. You'd like to work in a fabric store? |
| 20:54 | Close up Jeremy | JEREMY: I'd like to but not full time. |

Forever, Chinatown
 32 Min, Documentary Short, 2016
 Transcript

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| 20:57 | Close up Frank making bolts of fabric | FRANK: It's your store, you do whatever you want. I'm just a worker you know. |
| 21:02 | Jeremy and Frank at their craft/dining room table | JEREMY: Don't you mean an employee. FRANK: Employee. (laughter) Oh, I'm not a worker? JEREMY: Yes you are. FRANK: Do I get a raise? JEREMY: (laughter) We have no business. FRANK: Oh okay. |
| 21:16 | | FRANK: Let me see if I can glue these together and then put them on there how's that. |
| 21:23 | Frank observing bolts of fabric, Jeremy rolling | FRANK: I really, really love this. This is so nice. You did a good job with this stuff by the way Jeremy Zhu. |
| 21:30 | | It's looking good, looking good. |
| 22:43 | Frank and entourage arrive at Awards Gala | ANNOUNCER: Tonight our first honoree, Frank Wong. |
| 22:59 | Frank at podium | FRANK: Thank you. |
| 23:35 | Frank greeting museum visitors | FRANK: Hello. Hi! How are you, sir? You're not going to get by without a hug. |
| 23:50 | Museum visitors looking at miniatures | FEMALE VISITOR 1 (Melanie): For me, it's a connection to a time as well as a place. |
| 23:55 | Female Visitor 1 (Melanie) | People shape places and places shape people. And whether you are part of the community or if you have a Chinatown in your city the Chinatown changes the overall culture just like any neighborhood that gets put together to create a place. |
| 24:12 | Male Visitor 1 (Terry) | MALE VISITOR 1 (Terry): |

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 32 Min, Documentary Short, 2016
 Transcript

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| | | Wow. Brings back old memories. |
| 24:17 | | MALE VISITOR 1 (Terry): Some pleasant. Some unpleasant. |
| 24:20 | | I don't see any cockroaches. We had plenty of cockroaches in our place. |
| 24:26 | Female Visitor 2 (Sue) | FEMALE VISITOR 2(Sue): My living room was never this fancy. It's amazing. |
| 24:36 | | It's like a department store depiction of what a Chinese living room at Christmas would be. |
| 24:38 | Female Visitor 3 (Lonnie) | FEMALE VISITOR 3 (Lonnie): This room reminds me so much of my Mom's. And that table looks exactly like how my Mom did it. |
| 24:46 | Female Visitor 4 (Helen) | FEMALE VISITOR 4 (Helen): This is much more (elegant) than what I grew up with. |
| 24:50 | | And this! |
| 24:53 | Male Visitors (Mo, Andrew) | MALE VISITORS (Mo, Andrew): What's that there? |
| 24:58 | | That looks like a rice cooker. |
| 25:03 | Female Visitor 5 (Patricia) | FEMALE VISITOR 5 (Patricia): I really like the glass cabinets. Mooncakes, oh!, yeah! |
| 25:09 | Female Visitors (Alta, Susan) | FEMALE VISITORS (Alta, Susan): Gosh, this is beautiful the way it's done. |
| 25:17 | Frank with Grandma's Kitchen miniature | FRANK: It's Grandma's kitchen. I talk to her all the time. |
| 25:20 | | And she talks to me in many ways. |
| 25:22 | | That's why it's so wonderful to have this stuff in here. |
| 25:26 | | When somebody walks in here and take a look at the kitchen and say, "Look at |
| 25:32 | | |

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 32 Min, Documentary Short, 2016
 Transcript

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| | | that kitchen, it's his Grandmother's kitchen." Boom! My Grandmother's kitchen comes to life and my Grandmother's cooking in it. |
| 26:21 | | Now isn't that better than burning them. |
| 26:28 | | Anytime, somebody looks at one of my miniatures and see 'oh, it's Grandma's Kitchen', that means more people will remember my Grandmother. |
| 26:42 | Frank close-up | I can even start smelling the food now almost. |
| 26:50 | Grandmother's Kitchen c/u | Music (Peggy Lee): Someday we'll build a home On a hilltop high, you and I, Shiny and new, a cottage that two can fill. |
| 27:04 | Dining Room Miniature | And we'll be pleased to be called The folks who live on the hill. |
| 27:15 | SRO miniature, SRO present | Someday we may be adding A thing or two, a wing or two. |
| 27:34 | Tailor Shop Miniature | We will make changes, as any family will. But we will always be called The folks who live on the hill. |
| 27:50 | Community portraits, Shoe Shine Stand | Our veranda will command a view of meadows green, The sort of view that seems to want to be seen. |
| 28:25 | Living Room Miniature | And when the kids grow up and leave us, We'll sit and look at the same old view, just we two. Baby and Joe who, used to be Jack and Jill, |
| 28:41 | Kids at playground, elder woman walking past mural | The folks like to be called What they have always been called, The folks who live on the hill. |
| 29:13 | Herb Store miniature, Herb Store present | |
| 29:51 | Credits begin | |
| 31:34 | Credits end | |