

# Salt City Screenings

Local film festival kicks off this April with more than 90 films from across the globe  
By Stephanie Cheng



There's Tribeca, Sundance, Toronto, Cannes – and then there's Syracuse. On April 24, the Syracuse International Film Festival will kick off its sixth year at the Palace Theatre on James Street. Out of 480 submissions, the festival features 95 films from Syracuse born-and-raised talent and those abroad like: Macedonia, China, Austria, Korea, Taiwan, Iran and India.

“Each film is a totally different slice of culture,” says Deborah Borenstein, the festival’s manager. “They transcend ages and backgrounds, and it creates a buzz.”

And people have definitely been talking. Five years ago, the festival ran for only three days with a handful of films. This year’s 10-day event will start with a jazz performance of J.C. Sanford’s score from the 1925 version of Ben Hur before screening the selected films at LeMoyne College, the Landmark Theatre, the Everson Museum and the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology.

Buy tickets, grab popcorn, and get ready for some artistic and cultural flavor in the Salt City – you won’t want to miss these films!

## “Old Partner” (2009)

South Korea’s Chung Ryoul Lee directs this documentary about life in rural Korea. The starring couple, a feeble old farmer and his aging ox, brought audiences to tears in Korea and got rave reviews at its 2009 Sundance debut. As the couple, along with the nagging farmer’s wife, approaches the end of their lives and 40 years of loyal companionship, a hilarious yet sad story unfolds about love and loss after a lifetime together.

## “Mozart in China” (2008)

East meets West in this fairy tale of music and friendship by Austrian director Bernd Neuberger. Young Danny, the son of Austrian puppeteers, travels to China to spend the summer with his friend Li Wei, and with his help, the family restores an old shadow theatre, an ancient form of storytelling in China. When the boys learn they’re in danger of losing it to a greedy hotel chain, Danny’s marionette Mozart, magically comes to life at night to woo the theatre’s shadow princess, a delicate paper puppet, putting on a heartwarming show.

## “Fashion” (2008)

The devil truly wears Prada when Indian filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar captures the fashion industry’s unique mix of hell and haute couture in all of its sequined glory. Former Miss World Priyanka Chopra plays small town girl Meghna Mathur, an aspiring model, in this romantic drama about glitz and glamour on the ruthless runways of Mumbai. Following her idol, supermodel Shonali Gujral (played by Kangana Ranaut), Mathur struts her way to the top, entangling herself in sex, drugs and the biz. But, as Heidi Klum says, “One day you’re in – the next day, you’re out.”

## “Famous in 31 Days” (2008)

John Gerard, a local reporter from Syracuse, becomes a one-man show – shooting, directing, producing – in this film that follows his cross-country path of destruction to achieving 15 minutes of fame. From giving his business card to Matt Lauer to running after the “Governator” in California, Gerard had one goal in mind: get on Jay Leno’s “The Tonight Show.” When his film debuts at the film festival, he might get more than his 15 minutes in Syracuse. “It’s actually about rejection, and I haven’t wanted to show it,” says Gerard, recalling rebuffs from celebrities, Toronto and Cannes. “I’ve been waiting until I have an audience, and now I will.”

illustration by Jaclyn Reyes

# Syracuse Fashion Hot Spots

By Maria-Nicole Marino

S.U. students reveal their go-to shops around campus

**Q:** Where do students shop for those fashion must-haves that keep the campus trendy?

**A:** “I shop at Carousel Mall, Shirt World, and I window shop at J-Michael’s. Down Under Leather also has really cool shirts. I like to go to Carousel because there is much more of a variety in some of the stores, compared to the stores in New York City, where I’m from. Marshall Street stores are usually more expensive than the stores from back home, but there is a great selection of Syracuse apparel.”

Stanley Lin

**Jennifer Kong** “Around campus, I shop at Rhodadendron. I don’t usually buy clothes, but I like the jewelry. At the Carousel Mall I just stick to H&M and Forever 21.”

“I try not to shop anywhere in Syracuse because I like shopping back in Soho. When I do shop around here for something quick, I go to the Carousel Mall for Forever 21, H&M and Macy’s. I also really like the jewelry at Lord and Taylor. Rhodadendron and J-Michael’s have really cute stuff too.”

Sarah Kim

**Kevin Oh** “On Marshall Street, I go to Shirt World to shop because they have the best deals. I buy Champs sweatshirts and shirts there.”

“J-Michael’s – they have variety and a large selection of fashionable items. I try to maintain a comfortable look, and brands like North Face and UGG help me do that.”

Sheron Kim

Susan Lee

“I love Rhodadendron because it’s very fashionable and affordable. Everything is really cute and the store’s aura is very welcoming, unique and funky. It’s different from all the other stores around campus.”



# THEN & NOW

By Bernette Pearson

Until the late 1970s, SU Asian students felt overlooked. With no organization to fight their battles, Asian students on campus felt voiceless. This changed in 1979 when SU started its ASIA chapter. Since then, the organization has changed in subtle yet meaningful ways. For starters, the group organized a month-long celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. ASIA continues to build a campus presence by organizing shows and forums, bringing speakers to campus, and leading a committee to create an Asian-American studies minor.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of ASIA. Former President Amnat Hong-Chittaphong and Jennifer Zhao, current president, share their insights on ASIA's three decade-long presence.

## Jennifer Zhao '09

Mechanical engineering and policy studies major  
Term: 2008-2009

### What is your fondest memory of ASIA?

I met one of my closest friends. I've met a lot of my peers and (those) that I really look up to.

### What does the 30th year of ASIA mean to you?

It means several things: we have traditions we established and we will like to keep up with them (our forums and events). We have a history on campus. And because of those two, we're working toward expanding and learning and being more inclusive to the general body at SU – not just Asian interests. Of course, it's a celebration. We're getting old but our mission is still alive.

### How do you think activism for Asian students has changed between your presidency and now?

It has grown immensely. My freshman year I remember there were only five e-board members. (Now) we're up to 13, plus co-positions.

### How do you carry ideals you learned from ASIA into your daily life?

I think they resonate straight through (with) four angles: political awareness, cultural awareness, education and community service. And, (with) each of those four facets I've done a lot, whether in ASIA or on my own.

## Amnat Hong-Chittaphong '99

Director of Office of Multicultural Affairs at Siena College  
Term: 1997-1999

### What is your fondest memory of ASIA?

When I got involved, our membership wasn't that high. It was primarily a Chinese-American group. We tried to get a lot more people from different ethnic groups.

### What does the 30th year of ASIA mean to you?

Just knowing that I was a part of it – there's a lot of pride in knowing that I was a part of something big ... something that continues to grow.

### How do you think activism for Asian students has changed between your presidency and now?

I think, naturally, we see different waves of activism. Sometimes it is more issues-based or interests-based. We became a reactive organization based on things that happened. We came into activism by a really horrific incident, the Denny's incident (see sidebar). Sometimes it takes something like that to wake students up. We need a big dose of awareness first before groups become active.

### How do you carry ideals you learned from ASIA into your daily life?

I think, for me, ASIA has always represented an organization that was both unifying and empowering for people who are marginalized, underrepresented and misrepresented. I'd like to believe that I go to work everyday and use those ideals from ASIA.

## Top 5 ASIA events over the years

### 1 Autumn Moon Festival

Chinese celebration of the autumn and spring equinoxes. Moon cakes for everyone!

### 2 Lunar New Year

Now called the Spring Festival, this event celebrates the start of the Chinese New Year.

### 3 Elements of Hip-Hop

A celebration of Asian Americans breaking into hip-hop and popular culture (think break dancing and DJing).

### 4 ASIA Night

In its 12th year, this is the longest standing event by ASIA. The night celebrates the end of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

### 5 Denny's Incident Remembrance

On April 11, 1997, seven students, mostly Asian-American, were refused service at a local Denny's, then physically assaulted in the parking lot. Under then-president Hong-Chittaphong's leadership, the incident received national attention. In 2007, current president Zhao, then-education chair of the Denny's 10-Year Remembrance Committee, helped plan the three-day commemorative event.

## Presidential Perspective

ASIA's head departs with her closing thoughts and advice



It seems like yesterday I was in SummerStart, meeting with friends and working diligently on homework. Some things may have changed, but most have stayed the same. I still keep in contact with the friends I met on the first day, and all the friends I've made since who have helped Syracuse University feel like home. I've grown a lot since I first stepped on campus – learning about Asian-American issues and the social constraints that society places on my friends, myself and the minority community at SU. I want to say thank you to the seniors that I grew up with, the freshmen that offered a new perspective, and the administrators, mentors and faculty who helped me develop my thoughts and ideas into successful academic, professional and cultural events.

During the course of my presidency, I hoped to strengthen the Asian-American community through developing committees and celebrations, and providing career advice and mentorship. Some examples include the 10-Year Remembrance of the Denny's Incident, the development of Transnational Asian Studies Program committee, celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and general interest meetings on how to find mentors, build resumes and interview effectively. ASIA has changed dramatically since my start. As few as five e-board members grew to 13 and the general body membership increased from 30 students to more than 80. I'm proud of the growing

strength in the executive board and the growing efforts to build a stronger Asian-American community at SU.

My advice to those who want to be a part of the executive board, or just learn more about yourself, is the following: in all your future endeavors stay culturally aware, politically savvy and intellectually creative. And, always remember to give back to the community through service activities. Learning about the 1987 Vincent Chin Case and the 1997 Denny's Incident is how I stayed culturally aware. Voting in the past election and learning about the world economy, political history and civil rights issues has helped me become politically savvy. Holding workshops and networking with the community has kept me intellectually creative. I hope that I've helped you build a foundation whether it be talking with you, letting you know about an event, or introducing you to intelligent and inspirational people. Now is the time for change and development – there is no better place than on a college campus. Continue to use any resources that enable you to succeed, including ASIA's resource guide, alumni and network of friends.

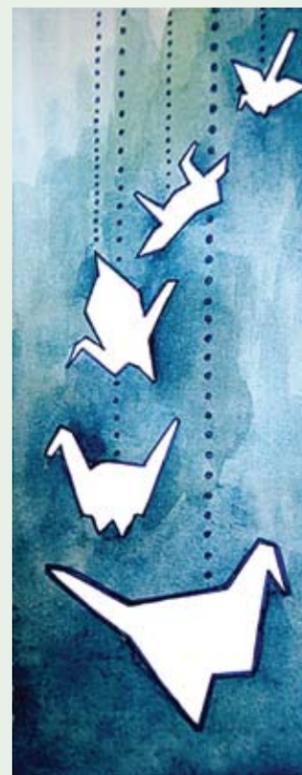
One final thought: Think about the future and imagine where you want to be in a semester, a year or even five years down the line. Then, experience as much as you can – volunteer, try new things! Most of all, take risks!

Keep the love strong,  
Jennifer Zhao

Mechanical engineering and policy studies  
ASIA President 2008-2009

## PAPER FOR PEACE

Project of folding origami intends to help grant a wish for an ailing child  
By Kasey Panetta



A Thousand Cranes have found their way all the way from Japan to Syracuse University, flying on the dream of a little girl.

The campaign, a fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, was based on the story of Sadako Sasaki, a toddler living in Hiroshima during World War II.

Sadako developed leukemia from the radiation caused by the atomic bomb dropped on her village. While lying in the hospital bed, a friend told her it was said that whoever folded a thousand cranes would be granted one wish. Sadako, determined to be healthy again, began the task of folding 1,000 cranes, called senbazuru in Japanese. As the story goes, Sadako died before she was able to complete the 1,000 cranes. But her cranes and her story were left behind as a symbol of hope and peace.

Christopher Miyabe, co-founder of Club Japan, was inspired by Sadako's story to design a fundraiser that would both acknowledge the importance of the

cranes and raise funds for the foundation.

In the spirit of Sadako's story, students will donate \$1 to fold an origami crane and write their name on it. The cranes and a list of donors will be displayed at the "Wishing the Night Away" dance, benefiting the Make-a-Wish Foundation, to be held at the end of the nine-day long campaign. SU's Residence Hall Association and Club Japan plan to raise \$3,000 to grant the "last wish" of a sick child in Syracuse.

Miyabe said the fundraiser is about raising money and cultural awareness using a famous Japanese story and cultural symbol. The origami will be done in all the residence halls, and students working at tables will share and explain the historical significance of Sadako's story and the 1,000 cranes.

"One Thousand Cranes is a Japanese story, that one thousand cranes can live beyond 1,000 years," Miyabe said. "It's a symbol for peace."