

One Man's Dream

What we learned through making the film "Sight" that may be beneficial to Chinese Americans who also want to share their stories.

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How a national "Telling Our Stories" movement, unprecedented in U.S. history, was created in 2023-2024 involving 50,000 Chinese Americans, 500 free Sight film shows (FREE link: sight.drmingwang.com) and across 40 states in North America, resulting in the FIRST first-generation Chinese American immigrant story film that gained wide North America release (in 2,118 theaters, with U.S. domestic box office of \$7.2 million), and what have we learned in this historical movement about how we can inspire more Chinese Americans to stand up, speak out and tell our stories in the future.

WHY I made the film Sight – to inspire all Chinese Americans to tell our stories

I was born in Hangzhou, China in 1960, and suffered through the Cultural Revolution. However, I was eventually fortunate to be accepted into the University of Science and Technology of China in 1978 and in 1982, I came to America with only \$50 to my name.

I obtained a PhD in laser physics from the University of Maryland and an MD (magna cum laude) from a joint program through Harvard Medical School and MIT. The film "God's Not Dead" featured my journey of becoming a Christian. In 1997, I was recruited as the director of Vanderbilt University Laser Sight Center and in 2002, I established Wang Vision Institute. The following year, Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration was created to help blind orphan children and other charity patients from around the world. I have published 10 textbooks on various laser eye surgeries, and I have performed over 55,000 procedures (including on over 4,000 doctors). The amniotic membrane contact lens, which I invented and later donated its patents to the world, has become a \$5 billion per year technology that has transformed the world, with millions of patients being helped.

I had a dream that Chinese Americans will be able to improve our social statues and respect in America by being more willing to stand up, speak out and tell our stories, about the contribution that we have made to America. So, I have decided to tell my stories first, so I can encourage all other Chinese



Telling Our Stories National Tour
365 days Chinese in America

Americans to tell their stories, so we all tell our stories. Though there are many Chinese Americans who have done far better job than me, but we are all too quiet. In 2015 I wrote my autobiography "From Darkness to Sight" about my journey as a Chinese American immigrant, which was later made into the film "Sight" by Open River Studios, produced by David Fischer and Darren Moorman, and written and directed by Andrew Hyatt.

"Chinese American films must have "gong-fu" and ancient dynasties; otherwise, no one will want to see them."

After nearly 10 years it took to make the film (2014-2024), "Sight" was rejected by all of the top 10 Hollywood film distributors, both digital (such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon) and theatrical (such as Sony, etc.), with the explanation that "for a Chinese American film to be successful in America, it has to have gongfu and/or an ancient dynasty."

So similar to other failed attempts in the past by first-generation Chinese Americans who told their stories without succumbing to the Hollywood stereotype of their culture, "Sight" may very well fail as well, and unfortunately be buried with them.

"Chinese Americans will not amount to anything, since in the history of American cinema, unlike African Americans and Latino Americans, Chinese Americans have never had the track record of proactively supporting their own films," the Hollywood studios concluded.



华人故事得奖大片 "Sight" (www.drmingwang.com) 在美国历史上史无前例的全美义演

Watch "Sight" for FREE at sight.drmingwang.com

"Will Chinese Americans support their own stories in films?"

We as Chinese Americans work hard in this country and have made significant contributions to America; however, we are too silent. Although we are good problem-solvers and stay in the trenches diligently working and contributing, in Western societies, if we don't tell people what these contributions to America are, people won't know. Hence, we need to not only do what we say, but we must also say what we do!

I have a dream that one day all races and ethnicities--particularly Asian Americans and Chinese Americans--will enjoy true respect and equal status as full-fledged Americans

without prejudice and stereotype in social, political and media capacities. We are Americans, after all; we are Americans with Chinese heritage, so this is as much our country as anyone else's!

Can my Chinese American dream ever come true? Will we as Chinese Americans, for the first time in the U.S., stand up and tell our stories and also proactively support films that tell our stories?