



VOICES OF DEOLI

a film by Lulu Men

RABBIT SQUARED MEDIA presents Director/Producer/Editor LULU MEN Executive Producers JOY MA MICHAEL CHENG NEELA D'SOUZA
Cinematographer OXANA ONIPKO Illustration Artist MASAMI KIYONO Consulting Editor HEMAL TRIVEDI Consulting Producer FARIHAH ZAMAN
Associate Producer HSI CHENG Field Producer YIQIAN ZHANG Post Supervisor YUNCHANG ZHANG Colorist JIASHUN LEE Sound Design/Mixer RUIDA HAN
Fiscally Sponsored by CENTER OF INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY Music By KONSONANT MUSIC



Sixty years ago, about 3000 Chinese-Indians were forced into an internment camp in a town called Deoli in Rajasthan, India. Some of these Chinese-Indians of Chinese ancestry who had been living in India for generations were detained for **nearly five years**, and all those interned experienced horrific conditions. Many of those who know of the border war between China and India in 1962 are unaware of this hidden piece of history, and the Indian government has yet to acknowledge let alone apologize for their **incarceration of innocent civilians**.

VOICES OF DEOLI tells the survivors' stories; bearing witness to their memories of the camp, following their journey as immigrants, and showing their new lives in North America as they continue to seek justice.



TECHNICAL INFO

Title: *Voices of Deoli*

Genre: *Documentary Feature*

Tags: *Animation, Documentary, Family, History, Human Rights, International, Romance, Social Issues, Women*

Released year: *2025*

Country of origin: *USA*

Countries of production: *Canada, USA*

Languages: *English, Hakka, Hindi, Mandarin*

Run time: *85 mins*

Screen ratio: *DCP Flat 1.85:1*

Sound format: *Stereo*

CHARACTER – JOY MA

(Deoli Camp Survivor/
Executive Producer/Archival Consultant)

Joy Ma was one of a handful of children born in the Deoli internment camp in Rajasthan. Eventually her family was released and Joy lived in Kolkata and New Delhi, where she attended Lady Shri Ram College.

Joy continues to strive for justice, healing and awareness of this painful chapter of history, driven by a commitment to her family and her community.

She received her Master's Degree at the New School, and recently published the book **The Deoliwallahs: The True Story of the 1962 Chinese-Indian Incarceration.**



CHARACTER – MICHAEL CHENG

(Deoli Camp Survivor/ Executive Producer)

Michael is a survivor of the Deoli internment camp of 1962 and a dedicated board member of AIDCI (Association of Indian Deoli Camp Internees 1962).

As an entrepreneur and a passionate advocate, he has been a significant voice in raising awareness about the lasting impact of the internment experience on the Chinese Indian community.



印华集中营难友 ASSOCIATION OF INDIA DEOLI CAMP 1962 (AIDCI)

AIDCI – ASSOCIATION OF INDIA DEOLI CAMP INTERNEES 1962

is a not-for-profit corporation registered in Canada in accordance with the Ontario Corporations Act. As a global alliance of the Deoli Internment Camp survivors and their families, the mission of AIDCI is to raise public awareness of their historical plight by developing a network of survivor contacts and by ensuring that those who tragically lost their lives at the camp are not forgotten.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

As a woman filmmaker and immigrant from China, VOICES OF DEOLI is a deeply personal project for me and my team. While I am not a Deoli survivor or descendant, so much of their stories resonate with my own, particularly the complex experiences of displacement, identity, and the ongoing journey of healing through resilience and community.

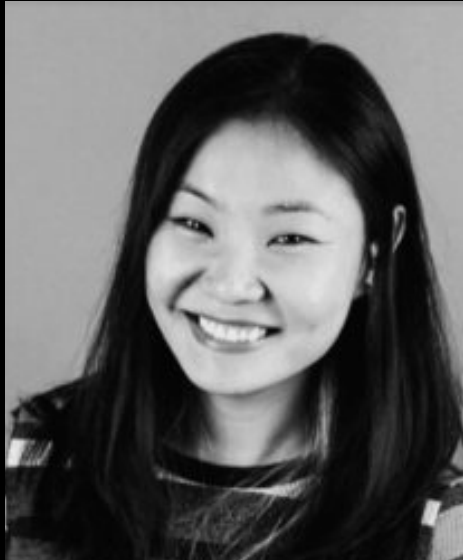
It was partly through these shared experiences that the community entrusted me with telling their stories, lives that continue to unfold today.

While the internment camp experience left a deep impact, it does not define them. This film seeks to honor their strength and resilience, and to celebrate the richness of their lives beyond that painful chapter.

VOICES OF DEOLI speaks to the broader prejudice and injustice faced by minorities and immigrants, a reality that is unfortunately still very much alive today. All over the world, we are witnessing the rights of immigrants being trampled by oppressive government regimes. Even those not facing the most extreme measures, such as internment, detention, or wrongful deportation, still experience discrimination, often judged by their appearance rather than the complexity of their identities and lived experiences.

The internment at Deoli left lasting emotional and psychological scars on survivors, along with generational trauma that continues to shape their families today. By bearing witness to their stories and amplifying their voices, I hope to honor their resilience, create space for healing, and reflect a deeper truth about the immigrant experience.





Lulu Men

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR

is a New York-based artist and filmmaker, originally from China and Singapore. With a foundation in fine arts, she holds an MFA in Film from the School of Visual Arts and an MA in Media Management from The New School. Her debut feature documentary, VOICES OF DEOLI, was selected for Docs for Sale at IDFA 2024. She also contributed as a producer on the Academy Award-winning AMERICAN FACTORY. Her work has been showcased at international film festivals and educational institutions. A proud member of BGDM, A-Doc, and Film Fatales, she is deeply committed to storytelling that drives change.



Hemal Trivedi

CONSULTING EDITOR

is an award-winning filmmaker and editor with over 18 years of experience. Her work has earned an Oscar, three Emmys, a Peabody, and over 30 major awards and honors. Her films have screened at top festivals like Sundance, Tribeca, and IDFA, and aired on platforms including Netflix, HBO, and PBS. Her acclaimed feature Among the Believers premiered at Tribeca and received an Emmy nomination. Hemal has edited for Oscar-winning directors and previously produced over 50 shorts at Odyssey Networks. She holds an MBA in Marketing and a Master's in Journalism from the University of Florida.



Farihah Zaman

CONSULTING PRODUCER

is a queer Bangladeshi-American filmmaker, critic, educator, and curator whose award-winning work has screened at Sundance, TIFF, NYFF, Tribeca, MoMA's Doc Fortnight, SXSW, and more. Her first feature, Remote Area Medical, was followed by This Time Next Year, then doc-fiction hybrid Feast of the Epiphany, and several shorts (Kombit, Nobody Loves Me, American Carnage, To Be Queen, of the Emmy Nominated NYT Op-Doc series From Here to Home, and Jericho Walk). She produced the Sundance Award-winning Netflix Original Ghosts of Sugar Land, which was shortlisted for an Academy Award.



Oxana Onipko

CINEMATOGRAPHER

is a documentary cinematographer based in New York City. She is originally from Ukraine. Her latest project "Kostya" screened at the 2019 DOC NYC film festival where it received an award of excellence from Kanopy. Oxana comes from a strong journalism and documentary photography background. She has a wide variety of experience working with immigrants and war zone stories.



Masami Kiyono

ILLUSTRATION ARTIST

is a storyteller and illustrator originally from the California Bay Area. She received her MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City where she was the recipient of the SVA Alumni Sequential Art Award in 2016. As a biracial Japanese artist, Masami is inspired by cultural folk tales and what it means to retain an Asian identity after four generations in the United States.



Hsi Cheng

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

is an award-winning filmmaker in both fiction and nonfiction, she's originally from Taiwan and based in New York City. Her work often delves into themes of identity, community, and resilience, reflecting her commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices. Her short documentary FIND ME won the 2024 DOC NYC U competition and was selected for multiple film festivals.

a piece of history lost in the sands of time

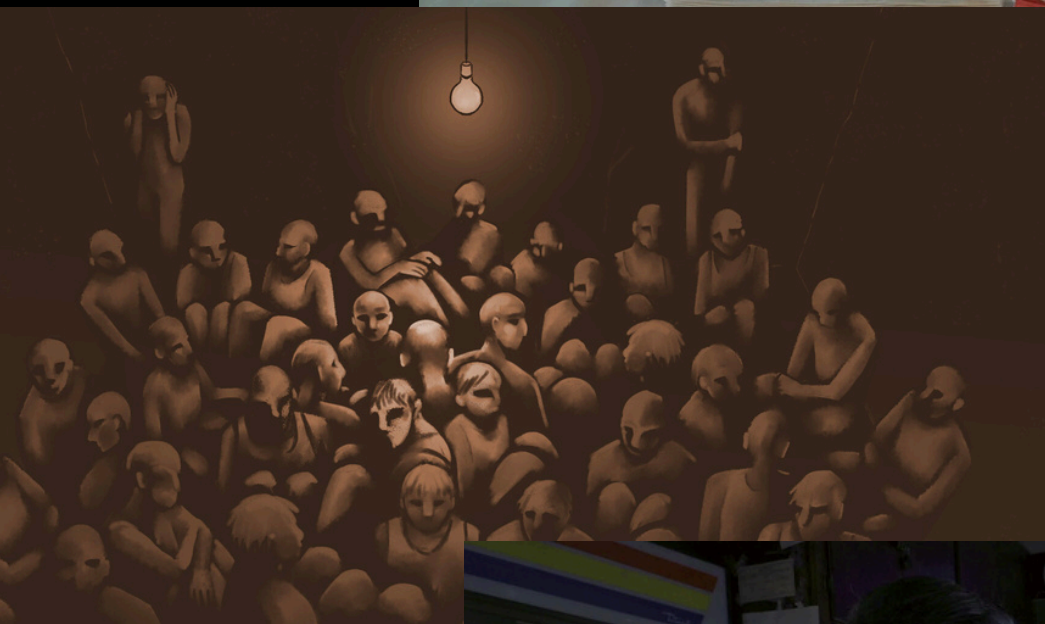
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RABBIT SQUARED MEDIA PRESENTS DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR LULU MEN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOY MA MICHAEL CHENG NEELA D'SOUZA
CINEMATOGRAPHER OXANA ONIPKO ILLUSTRATOR MASAMI KIYONO FISCALLY SPONSORED BY CENTER OF INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY







CAST

Andy Hsieh, Bobby Wong, Chai Yuen Li (Mrs. Lee), David Cheng, Dilip D'Souza, Effa Ma, Jenny Hsieh, Joy Ma, Meijiao Chou, Michael Cheng, Moses Cheng, Patsy Cheng, Peter Cheng, Sheng Lin, Steven Lee, William Ma, Yeeva Cheng, Yin Marsh

CREW

RABBIT SQUARED MEDIA Presents Director/Producer/Editor LULU MEN
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