Hello Friends -

My new film, Mahjong & Chicken Feet, is playing at the Vancouver International Jewish Film Festival on Friday, April 4th at 12:30 (one screening only for this festival's films) at the Oakridge Cinema (the Empire group of cineplexes at the Oakridge Mall).

For more information see: http://www.vijff.com/

Here's a description:

A group of men in a variety store in Harbin, China candidly discuss a foreigner with a camera amongst them, assuming she doesn't understand Chinese and forgetting her camera is recording. Later in Kaifeng, miles to the south, the woman noses her camera into people's homes, searching for traces of the city's 1000-year-old Jewish settlement while her guide attempts to render her questions polite in translation.

The woman is Jacqueline Levitin, filmmaker and professor in Film and Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. Her parents and grandparents emigrated to America from Harbin, Manchuria, and she returned to China to seek out traces of her family's past. Out of reach of the Tsar's pogroms, the vibrant Russian Jewish community they were a part of thrived in Manchuria. A cultured, European-leaning community, these 20th century Jews were unaware of another Chinese Jewish community that long preceded them – the 1,000-year-old community of Kaifeng in the heart of ancient imperial China.

"The spontaneity of Levitin’s camerawork draws the viewer headlong into the world of the film, revealing the mindset of a people normally inscrutable to westerners. Mahjong & Chicken Feet weaves memories of lives then and now, leaving viewers feeling that they have really been somewhere, seeing and hearing remarkable human stories." (Caroline Leaf, Academy Award nominated filmmaker)

Jacqueline Levitin

Soleil Films, Inc.