

H.L.T. QUAN & C.A. GRIFFITH's BIOS – SPRING 2012

H. L. T. Quan – Arizona State University – Justice and Social Inquiry

H. L. T. Quan (Ph.D. University of California-Santa Barbara) is an Assistant Professor in Justice and Social Inquiry and an Affiliate Faculty in African/African American Studies, Asian Pacific American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies. She is a political theorist and an award-winning documentary filmmaker. Her research centers on race, gender and radical thought. Professor Quan's monograph, *Growth Against Democracy: Savage Developmentalism in the Modern World* (Lexington Press, forthcoming) is a critique of modern development thinking and programs, including neoliberalism and corporate globalization. She is also conducting research on the historical and political development of Black capitalism in the United States, with Darryl T. Thomas (Penn State University). Her writings can be found in *Social Identities*, *Race & Class*, *Meridians*, *Signs*, and the edited volumes, *Race & Human Rights*, and *Global Africa*. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on social/cultural theories; theoretical perspectives on justice; justice and utopias, community research; race, gender and consciousness; wealth and poverty; social protests; and, Black movements in America.

As a documentary filmmaker, Professor Quan is a co-founder and member of QUAD Productions, a not for profit production company that produces media for progressive community organizations and activists. Through QUAD and in collaboration with C. A. Griffith (Associate Professor, School of Theatre & Film), she has co-directed, co-produced, and co-edited more than a dozen short and feature length socially relevant documentaries. They recently completed *AMERICA'S HOME (2011: 67 min)*, a visually stunning and haunting film about gentrification, displacement and popular resistance in San Juan, Puerto Rico. *MOUNTAINS THAT TAKE WING-ANGELA DAVIS & YURI KOCHIYAMA: A CONVERSATION ON LIFE, STRUGGLES & LIBERATION (2009: 97 min, Women Make Movies)* is an award winning film features conversations, spanning over 13 years, between Angela Davis, an internationally acclaimed activist and philosopher and Yuri Kochiyama, an 86 year old community activist and a former confidant of Malcolm X. The film showcases two extraordinary women who found themselves in the midst of some of the most important social movements of the 20th century. Professor Quan also has worked on community radio and access television public affairs programs for more than 15 years.

Please visit Professor Quan's production website for more information about her and her media related work: <http://www.quadproductions.org/> You may also see excerpts from her most recent film work on immigration and Arizona here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJik3l2vb1g> and here <http://vimeo.com/12070620>. The film, *ARIZONA WOMEN & CHILDREN RISE: RESISTING SB 1070* was a collaboration with and edited by Third World Newsreel in New York.

C.A. Griffith – Arizona State University – School of Theatre and Film

C.A. Griffith is an Associate Professor of film production as well as an award-winning writer and filmmaker. She began her career in New York's independent film community and in 1991, she became the first Black woman to gain membership as a First Assistant Cameraperson in IATSE, the International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees Cameraman's union. Griffith's early film credits include music videos from Tracy Chapman to Depeche Mode, and Public Enemy to The Rolling Stones; documentaries such as *EYES ON THE PRIZE*, *MAKING 'DO THE RIGHT THING'*, and *A LITANY FOR SURVIVAL: THE LIFE AND WORK OF AUDRE LORDE*; "indie" feature films from *JUICE* to her dramatic feature directorial debut, *DEL OTRO LADO (THE OTHER SIDE). BORDER. LINE...FAMILY PICTURES* was adapted from her published short story and became an award-winning short film. Her feature documentary *MOUNTAINS THAT TAKE WING-ANGELA DAVIS & YURI KOCHIYAMA* has won three "best of" awards thus far at film festivals in San Francisco, Toronto and Bologna as well as a nomination for the 2011 American Library Association Notable Video Award for Adults. Co-directed with H.L.T. Quan, it was completed during the summer of 2009 through a prestigious "Art & Tech" Post-Production Residency Award from the Wexner Center for the Arts.

C.A. Griffith's short screenplay, "Blues for the Sea" won the Martha Muñoz Award of the Latino Screenplay Competition. The Muñoz is a "special award honoring a unique portrayal of the Latino struggle." An early draft of the adapted feature script made her a finalist for the 2010 Sundance Screenwriter's Lab. Her publications appear in *Filming Difference: Actors, Directors, Producers and Writers on Gender, Race and Sexuality in Film*, *Black Feminist Cultural Criticism: KeyWorks in Cultural Studies*, *The Wild Good: Lesbian Photographs and Writings on Love* as well as the journals, *Meridians*, *SIGNS* and *CALYX*. C. A. Griffith currently teaches at Arizona State University in the School of Theatre & Film.

In summer 2011, she and H. L. T. Quan completed a second feature-length documentary at the Wexner Center for the Arts. *AMÉRICA'S HOME* is the story of América Sorrentini-Blaut, a feisty Puerto Rican woman in her 70's and her fight against developers intent on bulldozing her community and the cultural center that began as her family's historic home. Her story is one of many tales of resistance against rampant greed, gentrification and displacement taking place all across the American Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and on the mainland. Filmed over four years in over a dozen communities in Puerto Rico and Chicago, *AMÉRICA'S HOME* is as much about displacement and empire as it is about the transformative power of the cultural arts, community and belonging. The film is just beginning the film festival/distribution circuit.

MOUNTAINS THAT TAKE WING AWARDS, HONORS & NOMINATIONS:

- WINNER of a WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS “Art & Tech” Post-Production Residency Award, The Ohio State University, 2009
- Official selection at over a dozen national and international film festivals including Frameline – San Francisco, the Pan African Film Festival – Los Angeles, This Human World Human Rights Film Festival – Vienna, Anthology Film Archives – New Filmmakers New York (2010-2011)
- Selected by curators to present and screen at The Seattle Asian Art Museum and the Japanese American National Museum (2012)
- WINNER of the ST. CLAIR BOURNE AWARD for Best Feature Documentary at the San Francisco Black Film Festival. Also the World Premiere & Opening Night Film (2010)
- WINNER of the MADA AWARD (Make A Difference Award) at the COMMFEST Global Community Film Festival – Toronto, Canada (2010)
- WINNER of the AUDIENCE AWARD for Best Feature Film at the Some Prefer Cake Lesbian Film Festival – Bologna, Italy (2010)
- FINALIST for Best Feature Documentary at the Mid Atlantic Black Film Festival – Norfolk, Virginia (2010)
- NOMINATED for an American Library Association Notable Video Award for Adults (2011)