



City of Edmonds Media Release

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Second Season of Diversity Film Series Starts This Month

October Kick-Off Features Japanese Internment-Era Sagas with Local Connection

(Edmonds, WA) - After a successful inaugural season, running from last October through April of this year, the Edmonds Diversity Film Series begins its second season this month, with the first screenings on Saturday, October 20th at Noon at the Edmonds Theater. Screenings will be offered free to the public and are scheduled for third Saturdays of the month October through April (except December). Each screening presents a film related to different topics or groups derived from diverse populations and experiences. After each screening there is a brief opportunity for comment and dialog.

On October 20th the season kicks off session with a special screening of two particularly poignant and relatable short films featuring the incredible, moving experiences of two Japanese-American men who, in their own separate ways, rose above xenophobia, prejudice and discrimination to serve our country loyally in its fight against foreign aggression.

Honor & Sacrifice tells the complex story of a Japanese immigrant family ripped apart by WWII. Of the Matsumoto family's five sons, two fought for the Americans, and three fought for the Japanese. The eldest son, Hiroshi (Roy), became a hero, fighting against the Japanese in Burma, while his parents and sisters were living in the ancestral home, Hiroshima. The story is told by Roy's daughter Karen as she discovers her father's work in military intelligence, kept secret for 50 years. (28 minutes)

Proof of Loyalty: Kazuo Yamane and the Nisei Soldiers of Hawaii, tells the compelling story of a Japanese American who played a strategic role in World War II. He and his fellow Nisei from Hawaii combatted prejudice and discrimination to loyally serve their country. Their extraordinary service, mostly untold, ultimately changed the course of US history. (54 minutes)

Making this opening session particularly special will be the attendance not only of the films' Seattle-area husband-and-wife filmmaking partners Don Sellers and Lucy Ostrander, but also the daughters of both films' protagonists: Karen Matsumoto of Bainbridge Island, and Joyce Yamane of Edmonds.

Commenting about the film, Ostrander noted: "When *Proof of Loyalty: Kazuo Yamane and the Nisei Soldiers of Hawaii* premiered in New York at the 2017 Asian American International Film Festival where it won the Audience Choice Award, Documentary, the Festival organizers said 'This film may be about men from decades past, but it couldn't be more relevant.' These two films are particularly timely as the two main themes are the importance of diversity and the importance of the language of immigrants."

"We are thrilled to kick off our 2018-2019 season showcasing these two important films, with the added bonus of having both the filmmakers and the two protagonists' daughters present at the screening," remarked Edmonds Diversity Commission Chair Diana White. "It's particularly significant that Kazuo Yamane's daughter, Joyce, is an Edmonds resident, which brings home to our community the complex scenario that played out for Japanese Americans during WWII."

November's screening will feature *The Only Good Indian*, a poignant and insightful film about a young Native-American boy sent to a distant Indian "training school" and his attempts to escape and seek freedom, while being pursued by Indian agents.

With a break for the holidays in December, the Series picks up again in the new year with the following line-up:

- January – *Bully*
- February – *Old Goats*
- March – *Just Charlie*
- April – *Paper Tigers*

More detailed information about the films, including full synopses and movie trailers, is available at www.diversity.edmondswa.gov All movies are free to the public and are screened at Noon at the Edmonds Theater, 415 Main Street, an ADA-accessible facility.

The Edmonds Diversity Film Series is sponsored by the Edmonds Diversity Commission, Rick Steves' Europe, the Edmonds Centers for the Arts, and the Edmonds Theater.

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