

## Document Citation

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## CHAN IS MISSING

SUN 3.10 300PM PFACHA10      USA 1981  
80mins  
16mm B&W

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR: Wayne Wang WRITERS: Wang, Isaac Cronin, Terri Seltzer CINEMATOGRAPHER: Michael Chin SOUND: Curtis Choy MUSIC: Robert Kikuchi, Sam Hui CAST: Wood Moy, Marc Hayashi, Laureen Chew, Peter Wang, Judi Nihei

Twenty years after its inception, SFIAAFF revisits its beginnings with a special presentation of Wayne Wang's landmark feature CHAN IS MISSING, beautifully restored by the Pacific Film Archive in a new print shown for the first time in the Bay Area. The screening also commemorates the historical role of the PFA, the place where the first SFIAAFF took place, where CHAN made its Bay Area premiere in 1981 and where Wang himself had spent some of his formative years absorbing cinema.

In San Francisco's Chinatown two taxi drivers search for the mysterious Chan, their business partner who has vanished with all their money. As they look for Chan's whereabouts, their encounters with his family, friends and acquaintances reveal no lucid answers but, rather, a complex portrait not only of the man but also of the community itself. With many members of the Chinatown community playing themselves, Wang merges conventional narrative and documentary filmmaking, challenging viewers to question their relationship to the images.

While CHAN certainly set a benchmark for Asian American film, and serves as a metaphor for the elusive pursuit of Asian American identity, it also pioneered a new era of American independent cinema, taking a budget of less than \$20,000 and forging a work at once hip, intelligent and relevant. To this day, it remains one of the finest examples of narrative innovation in cinema. — *Taro Goto*