

## Document Citation

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## a.k.a. Don Bonus

USA 1995, 55 min.

DIR/ED Sokly "Don Bonus" Ny  
and Spencer Nakasako

CAM Bonus  
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**DOCUMENTARY**

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**GGA** Bay Area Documentary. a.k.a. **Don Bonus** is the compelling video diary of Sokly Ny (a.k.a. Don Bonus)—an 18-year-old Cambodian refugee living with his fragmented family in San Francisco. Assisted by San Francisco filmmaker Spencer Nakasako, Bonus records his own struggle to get through his senior year at Galileo High despite family crises, peer pressures and increasingly dangerous environments. Constantly failed by the system—his school is ill equipped to understand his home life, phone calls to police after a burglary are effectively ignored—Bonus's camera becomes a means for understanding his frustrations. As the family moves from the Sunnydale Housing Projects to the Tenderloin and finally to the Sunset District, a.k.a. **Don Bonus** explores the realities of daily life in America for many refugee and Amerasian children. Bonus frankly embraces the awkwardness of self-portrait filmmaking and the challenge of reconciling deeply personal and family issues in a medium that is ultimately public. *Preceded by Spreading Beauty Wherever I Go* (**GGA** Bay Area Documentary, Rick Tejada-Flores, USA 1994, 20 min., Tom Snyder Productions), a celebration of low-rider car artistry in northern New Mexico and its relationship to the community.

*Lisanne Skyler*