

## Document Citation

Title	<b>YouTube premiere for Wayne Wang's 'The Princess of Nebraska' - October 17, 2008</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Larsen Associates</i>
Date	2008 Sep 15
Type	press release
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	
Film Subjects	The Princess of Nebraska, Wang, Wayne, 2007



September 15, 2008

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **YOUTUBE™ PREMIERE FOR WAYNE WANG'S "THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA" - October 17, 2008**

Acclaimed San Francisco filmmaker Wayne Wang's new film THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA makes its world premiere on YouTube™ on Friday, October 17, 2008. The free release will appear on YouTube's recently launched YouTube Screening Room (<http://www.youtube.com/ytscreeningroom>), a channel dedicated to premium film content. Wang's companion film, A THOUSAND YEARS OF GOOD PRAYERS, opens theatrically on Sept. 26 at the Clay Theater in San Francisco as part of a larger distribution plan. Cinetic Rights Management and YouTube worked together to plan the parallel distribution strategy.

In THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA, Sasha (Ling Li) is a foreign exchange student who finds herself pregnant. She's the new generation of China, unmoored to traditions and history. As she says, "In America I learned a new phrase, 'moving on.' Tomorrow I can start a new page." She travels from Nebraska to San Francisco to get an abortion, but in her exploration of the city in the next 24 hours she learns that turning a new page doesn't necessarily mean turning your back on the past.

According to distributor Magnolia Pictures' Ray Price, "The internet's ability to provide free streaming video is going to radically redefine independent film's access and availability to its audience. It provides a new platform, which can free us from the 'Top Ten' mentality in the same way that FM radio did for the music business."

Wayne Wang is equally enthusiastic about the release strategy: "THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA is about a young woman from China who tries to locate her identity through diverse varieties of contemporary media. The piece was shot with this kind of mentality with various kinds of easily accessible digital sources. I am very excited that the distribution will be consistent with the way the piece was conceived and produced!"

Wang's groundbreaking decision to release a major new work for free online is a harbinger of a new and emerging distribution strategy. "For years, filmmakers have asked me when a veteran icon would release a new work for free, online," said Matt Dentler of Cinetic Rights Management. "That time is now, and we're thrilled to be part of this exciting distribution strategy."

THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA and A THOUSAND YEARS OF GOOD PRAYERS are both adapted from a collection of short stories by Granta prize winning author Yiyun Li. They mark the seventh and eighth of Wang's Asian-themed films that explore the bonds of family and Chinese identity in the modern world, making up one of the largest bodies of introspective work in independent film over the last 25 years.

For more information, visit [www.magpictures.com](http://www.magpictures.com)

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press release

## The Princess of Nebraska

Premieres October 17  
on YouTube



The Bay Area's own Wayne Wang returns to his indie-filmmaking roots with the family drama **THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA**, premieres October 17 on YouTube. **The PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA, a Magnolia Pictures release, runs 77 minutes, is in Mandarin and English with English subtitles, and is not rated by the MPAA.**

It's been 15 years since Wayne Wang's adaptation of Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* (1993). For his "return" to Asian American storytelling, Wang chooses another literary source about immigrant families: Bay Area author and Chinese émigré Yiyun Li, who won the Hemingway Foundation/Pen Award for her volume *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*. Li's intimate portraits of cross-generational, Chinese immigrants ring familiar with Wang's early films, especially *Dim Sum* (1985) and *Eat a Bowl of Tea* (1989). After reading the stories, Wang was struck by the title story's similarity to the quality Ozu films he admired when he was a film student.

In **THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA**, Sasha (Ling Li) is a foreign exchange student who finds herself pregnant. She's the new generation of China, unmoored to traditions and history. As she says, "In America I learned a new phrase, 'moving on.' Tomorrow I can start a new page." She travels from Nebraska to San Francisco to get an abortion, but in her exploration of the city in the next 24 hours she learns that turning a new page doesn't necessarily mean turning your back on the past.

Wayne Wang's filmmaking career spans 30 years. Since he made his first feature in 1975 while a student at the California College of Arts and Crafts (now CCA), Wang's career has been a saga encompassing the American filmmaking experience: immigrant beginnings, rapid education and acculturation, immersion in ethnic politics, pioneering of the low-budget DIY ethic, Hollywood success and now a renewed return to roots. Wang is a key figure in the development of independent filmmaking, alternating major Hollywood studio films such as *THE JOY LUCK CLUB* with smaller, independent work like *SMOKE*. Continuing to work in the two different worlds, Wang directed an independent digital film, *THE CENTER OF THE WORLD*, with Molly Parker and Peter Sarsgaard, followed by Sony/Revolution's hit comedy *MAID IN MANHATTAN* with Jennifer Lopez. His latest Hollywood film was *LAST HOLIDAY* with Queen Latifah and Gerald Depardieu.

**THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA** played at the 2008 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival.