



Asian American Arts Centre

**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Asian American Arts Centre  
In collaboration with  
University Settlement at the Houston Street Center  
*is proud to present*

***KIM LOO SISTERS: Portrait in Four-Part Harmony***

East Coast premiere screening of an hour-long film-in-progress



PHOTO BY JAMES KRIEGSMANN

Join author and first-time filmmaker Leslie Li for a screening of her hour-long film-in-progress -- ***KIM LOO SISTERS: Portrait in Four-Part Harmony*** -- a documentary about four sisters -- daughters of a Chinese 'paper son' and a Polish refugee -- who overcame poverty and prejudice to become a popular American jazz vocal quartet in the 1930s and 40s.

Spanning nearly a century, the Kim Loo sisters' recollections include the Jazz Age, when they cut their theatrical teeth in kiddie revues in their hometown of Minneapolis; the Great Depression, which they spent crisscrossing the country following the various vaudeville circuits; and the Second World War, years spent in Broadway musicals and Hollywood movies as a trio when one Kimmie left the act to marry the son of the vice president of China and witnessed the Chinese Revolution first-hand -- but not before her sisters joined the USO to entertain American troops stationed in Europe during the "good war." Their remarkable story -- both on stage and off as well as their lives pre- and post-Kim Loo Sisters -- makes an important

contribution to America's multicultural heritage and a persuasive argument for the power of sisterhood.

**This project is made possible in part with public funds from the Manhattan Community Arts Funds, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.**

Date: Tuesday, **May 31, 2011**

Location: **University Settlement, 273 Bowery @ Houston Street, New York City**

Time: **2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Contact: **Alison Smith, tel. (212) 475-5008**

A discussion/q&a of the film will follow the screening. Light refresh-ments will be served. Seating is limited, so please RSVP to 212-475-5008. **This event is free to the public.**

Please join us from 2 pm – 3:30pm on Tuesday May 31 at 273 Bowery, Houston Street Center (next door to Whole Foods). AAAC is most grateful to the University Settlement's Houston Street Center for making this event possible.

University Settlement is one of New York's most dynamic social service institutions with deep roots on the Lower East Side. Now at 21 sites across Manhattan and Brooklyn, University Settlement's diverse programs help over 25,000 low-income and at-risk people build better lives for themselves and their families each year. With an impressive legacy as the first settlement house in the United States, University Settlement has been an incubator for progressive ideas for 125 years, offering pioneering programs in mental health, early childhood education, literacy, and adolescent development that set the standard. One of University Settlement's most innovative endeavors is the Houston Street Center, a 44,000-square-foot community building co-owned and co-operated with the Chinatown YMCA. Celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the Houston Street Center is a unique resource for the entire community, providing state-of-the-art recreational and educational facilities, and plenty of flexible rental space. To learn more about University Settlement, visit [www.universitysettlement.org](http://www.universitysettlement.org).

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Asian American Arts Centre is located at 111 Norfolk St New York City on the ground floor, zip code is 10002. Subway trains F, J, M, Z stop at Delancey & Essex Sts, as do buses M09 & M14. The M15 to Allen St & Delancey, the M103 to the Bowery Phone is 212 233 2154.

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