



## "From a Silk Cocoon" Press Release

From a Silk Cocoon delves into the experience of a young Kibei couple, Shizuko and Itaru Ina, that responded to the loss of their civil liberties by renouncing their American citizenship during their 4½ -year internment, and committed their hope for their children for a better life in Japan. It is based on personal documents recently discovered by Dr. Satsuki Ina, the film producer and daughter of Shizuko and Itaru, that detail a daily accounting of life and private emotional upheaval during incarceration, separation, and reunification.

After three years of research and translation of letters, poetry, and diaries, along with graphic government documentation of her father's imprisonment in Department of Justice camps and interviews with other Japanese speaking former internees, the puzzle pieces formed a disturbing disclosure of the unjustified treatment and suffering of her family and others who ultimately sought refuge from their imprisonment by declaring their loyalty to Japan.

In contrast to retrospective oral histories and second person historical accountings, this documentary provides a rare, first person narrative of events as they unfold, and presents the backdrop, emotions, and reasoning for the decisions made by this young couple. It is a story of shattered dreams, forsaken loyalties, and the precarious balance between democracy and national security.

According to Ina, "The story reveals the insidious trauma of war and the threat to individuals, citizens or immigrants, who have links to a country that is suddenly identified as the enemy. Imbued with traditional Japanese values, yet betrayed by the country of their birth, thousands of Kibeis were forced to struggle with an excruciating loyalty bind that cast upon them a life-long stigma of disloyalty and cowardice. Only now is the story of their dissidence and resistance made more clear."

Ina adds, "From A Silk Cocoon tells the story of the frightening and tragic outcome resulting from the wartime hysteria and racial profiling that occurred in the name of 'military necessity.' Chilling similarities in government decision-making, euphemistic language, and suspension of constitutional and human rights in the name of national security are echoed in today's post 9/11 America. This film puts a human face and heart to a historical incident that should never be forgotten, lest it be repeated again."

"It is our hope that by sharing this story we will not only educate, but inspire and strengthen community commitment to live by our cherished democratic principles, especially in time of great social anxiety."

From a Silk Cocoon was produced by:

- Satsuki Ina, Ph.D., Executive Producer/Co-Director
- Stephen Holsapple, Co-Director/Editor and Northern California Emmy Award winner
- Emery Clay, Director of Photography/Co-Director and Northern California Emmy Award winner
- Kimberly Ina, Associate Producer/Outreach Coordinator

The cast includes Lawson Inada as the narrator, Lane Nishikawa as the voice of Itaru Ina, and Megumi as the voice of Shizuko Ina.

Partial funding for From a Silk Cocoon was provided by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP). The From a Silk Cocoon Web site will launch the second week of January. The television broadcast and distribution/video cassette release will take place later in 2005 or 2006.

For more information about the February 19th event, contact Kim Ina, Outreach Coordinator, at [kimina@fromasilkcocoon.com](mailto:kimina@fromasilkcocoon.com). For more information on corporate sponsorship of the Feb. 19th Special Community Screening event, or corporate sponsorship of the television broadcast of From a Silk Cocoon, contact Satsuki Ina at (916) 452-3008 or at [Satsukina@aol.com](mailto:Satsukina@aol.com).