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‘American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs’ Rediscovered a Singular Woman and a Critical Slice of American History, Monday, June 30, 2014 on PBS’s POV

Story of How a Chinese American Woman Became a Civil Rights Activist and Black Power Militant Reveals a Turbulent Era and Its Unfinished Struggles

A Co-presentation With the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM)

“Lively and intelligent. . . . Detroit fixture Grace Lee Boggs doesn’t just explode docile-Asian-female stereotypes. . . . she makes an inspiring case for self-determination and intellectual fortitude regardless of background.”—Justin Chang, *Variety*

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Dates: Grace Lee’s **American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs** has its national broadcast premiere on **Monday, June 30, 2014** at 10 p.m. (check local listings) on the award-winning PBS series **POV (Point of View)**. The film will stream on POV’s website, www.pbs.org/pov/americanrevolutionary/ July 1 – July 30, 2014.

The Film: Grace Lee Boggs, 98, is a Chinese American philosopher, writer, and activist in Detroit with a thick FBI file and a surprising vision of what an American revolution can be. Rooted for 75 years in the labor, civil rights and Black Power movements, she challenges a new generation to throw off old assumptions, think creatively and redefine revolution for our times.

American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs, winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature from the 2013 Los Angeles Film Festival, is a production of LeeLee Films, Inc.

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at www.pbs.org/pressroom.

Online: POV’s website for **American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs** – <http://www.pbs.org/pov/americanrevolutionary/> – offers a broad range of exclusive online content to enhance the PBS broadcast. Watch the full film online for free for a limited time following the broadcast (July 1 – July 30, 2014), watch an extended interview with filmmaker Grace Lee, learn more about the life and work of Grace Lee Boggs, download a discussion guide and other viewing resources and more.

Filmmaker’s

Statement: “From the moment I met Grace Lee Boggs in 2000, I knew I would have to make a longer film just about her,” says director Grace Lee. “Over the years, I would return to Detroit, hang out and watch her hold everyone from journalists to renowned activists to high school students in her thrall. I recognized myself in all of them—eager to connect with someone who seemed to embody history itself.

“This is not an issue film, nor is it about a celebrity or an urgent injustice that rallies you to take action,” she continues. “It’s about an elderly woman who spends most of her days sitting in her living room thinking and hatching ideas about the next American revolution. But if you catch wind of some of those ideas, they just might change the world.”

Filmmaker Bio: [Grace Lee \(Director/Producer\)](#)

Grace Lee’s most recent feature film, *Janeane From Des Moines*, set during the 2012 presidential campaign, premiered at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. Prior to that, Lee wrote and directed *American Zombie*, which premiered at Slamdance and SXSW before being released by Cinema Libre. She produced and directed *The Grace Lee Project*, a feature documentary that was broadcast on the Sundance Channel in 2005 and is distributed by Women Make Movies.

She is the recipient of the Henry Hampton Award for Excellence in Film and Digital Media and a Rockefeller Media Arts grant, as well as funding from the Ford Foundation, Center for Asian American Media, Chicken & Egg Pictures and Film Independent. Lee received her master of fine arts degree in directing from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

Based in Los Angeles, Lee, who is Korean American, is currently producing and directing an episode for the PBS *MAKERS* series on women and politics, as well as *Off the Menu*, a film about Asian American food culture, also for PBS.

Grace Lee

Boggs:

Grace Lee Boggs, a daughter of Chinese immigrants, was born on June 27, 1915 in Providence, R.I. and grew up in New York City. She received her bachelor’s degree from Barnard College (1935) and her Ph.D. in philosophy from Bryn Mawr College (1940). She developed a 20-year political relationship with black historian/essayist C.L.R. James, followed by extensive civil rights and Black Power Movement activism in Detroit in partnership with her husband, black autoworker James Boggs (1919-1993).

Her published writings include *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Action for the Twenty-First Century* (with Scott Kurashige, University of California Press, 2011), *Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century* (with James Boggs, Monthly Review Press, 1974; reissued in 2008); *Living for Change: An Autobiography* (University of Minnesota, 1998); and *Conversations in Maine: Exploring Our Nation’s Future* (with James Boggs, Freddy Paine and Lyman Paine; South End Press, 1978).

Related Stories: “Detroit escalates its war on blight,” by Louis Aguilar, *The Detroit News*, April 10, 2014.

<http://bit.ly/1gWnU4A>

“Michigan women who championed civil rights featured in new exhibit,” by Cassandra Spratling, *Detroit Free Press*, March 9, 2014. <http://on.freep.com/1mUUF7l>

“Business and government: The partnership that is renewing Detroit,” *Chicago Tribune*, Jan. 17, 2014. <http://bit.ly/QXTxWk>

“Filmmaker Grace Lee and Activist Grace Lee Boggs on ‘American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs’,” by Sarah Salovaara, *Filmmaker Magazine*, Nov. 19, 2013. <http://bit.ly/1kStXPV>

“Boggs: People want revolution, but don’t know what it is,” *Melissa Harris-Perry*, MSNBC, Nov. 16, 2013. <http://on.msnbc.com/1t0Qhba>

Outreach: POV works with educators, public television stations and national and community groups to present more than 650 free screenings nationwide. In addition, POV and nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow develop discussion guides and standards-aligned lesson plans for each of our films. The **American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs** discussion guide includes background information on Grace Lee Boggs and Jimmy Boggs, major civil rights movements throughout U.S. history and information about Detroit, as well as prompts for dialogue and a list of further educational resources. Join POV's [Community Network](#) to borrow the film for free in order to host your own screening. Download the [American Revolutionary Partner Toolkit](#) for all the resources you need to get involved, from spreading the word to hosting a screening and discussion. For a list of upcoming screening events, visit www.pbs.org/pov/outreach.

Credits:

Director:	Grace Lee
Producers:	Grace Lee, Caroline Libresco, Austin Wilkin
Executive Producer:	Joan Huang
Editor:	Kim Roberts
Original Music:	Vivek Maddala
Running time:	86:46

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer:	Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer:	Cynthia López
Vice President, Programming and Production:	Chris White
Associate Producer:	Nicole Tsien
Production Coordinator:	Nikki Heyman

Visit <http://www.americanrevolutionaryfilm.com/> for a complete list of screenings and events.

Pressroom: Visit POV's pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 27th season on PBS, POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 365 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide. Its films have won 32 Emmys, 17 George Foster Peabody Awards, 12 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards® and the Prix Italia. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

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