

KAYLA TONG | Filmmaker, Documentary Director & Cinematographer

info@kaylatong.com | www.kaylatong.com | New York & Hong Kong
Fluent in English, Cantonese & Mandarin; Intermediate in German

DIRECTING — IN PROGRESS

Cinematographer on all directed work below, including Home/Land.

Home/Land (2027) — Feature Documentary

Home/Land is a feature documentary on two generations of Hong Kong migration, filmed over five years across Hong Kong, the US and the UK.

Development & Labs

2025 – A-Doc Allies of Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc)
2024 – DOK Leipzig's DOK Preview International Showcase
2023 – Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) Cut to the Chase Market
2023 – EURODOC International Lab for Creative Documentary Production (Germany, France, Poland)
2022 – Docs by the Sea International Documentary Lab and Forum (Indonesia)
2021 – Eye Catcher Incubation Film Development Fellowship, Renaissance Foundation (Hong Kong)

Archival Partnerships

2026 – Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University (Hong Kong Memory Collection)
2026 – Hoover Institution Library & Archives, Stanford University (Hong Kong Memory Collection)

Mississippi Chinese Grocer (2027) — Short Documentary

Mississippi Chinese Grocer tells the story of a Chinese immigrant who ran a grocery in Mississippi from 1930 to 1967 and became a trusted figure in town through the Depression and Jim Crow.

DIRECTING — SELECTED WORK

2020 - “**Hong Kong Art & Democracy**” documentary short series

A series directed for a political campaign for the Arts, Culture and Publication seat in Hong Kong's legislature.

2018 - “**Story of: Cabinet of Curiosity**” fine jewelry brand documentary short

A portrait of a bespoke jeweler who builds each piece by hand in her studio, setting rare gemstones into bands shaped to echo their raw, natural edges — an intimate maker-portraiture.

2016 - “**Home is Where the Sunsets**” narrative short

My autobiographical debut and first film in Cantonese, about about a young woman whose sense of who she is unravels when her Hong Kong family visits her in L.A. for the first time. Made through the Armed With a Camera Fellowship, it launched my career across 20+ Asian and Asian American festivals — LAAPFF, Toronto Reel Asian, Vancouver Asian, Seattle, Philadelphia, and Kerry (Ireland) among them — winning Best Director at the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival.

CINEMATOGRAPHY — SELECTED WORK

2025 - “**Oscar's Return**” documentary short, dir. Steven Raven Liang

SFFILM · San Quentin FF

2023 - “**Sweet Lime**” narrative short, dir. Fatema Abdoolcarim

ZINEBI Bilbao · Osaka Asian FF (Housen Special Mention) · Female Filmmakers Festival Berlin (Special Mention) · HK Asian FF · San Diego Asian FF · North East Intl. FF (UK)

2022 - **“Queerfully Departed”** comedy short, dir. Trent Nakamura

Honolulu Rainbow FF (Best Overall Short) · LA Asian Pacific FF · Slovak Queer FF (Bratislava) · Media FF

2022 - **“Hei, I’m Home”** narrative short, dir. Lam Lo

Asian American Intl. FF (NYC)

2021 - **“Ateh”** narrative short, dir. Kristie Ko

ViuTV HK · HK Fresh Wave (Audience Award & Special Mention) · Taiwan Golden Harvest · Kaohsiung · Reykjavík

2021 - **“Twin Cities”** interactive film, British Council

Hong Kong Ballet · Wind & Foster · Unsensible

2021 - **“#WorkingMomsHK”** dir. Kristie Ko

PathFinders Hong Kong · Three-part campaign honoring migrant domestic worker mothers

2020 - **“Herselves”** documentary hybrid short, dir. Kristy Choi

The New Yorker Documentary Series · LA Asian Pacific FF · Seattle Asian American FF

2020 - **“Baldwin Beauty”** (B Camera) narrative short, dir. Thembi Banks

Sundance · NAACP Image Award nominee (Outstanding Short Form) · Powderkeg (Exec. Prod. Paul Feig)

2019 - **“Morning Passing on El Cajón Boulevard”** segment of 4-part documentary feature, dir. Quynh Nguyen-Le

KPBS · SBS Australia · OVID · New Orleans FF · Opening Film, San Diego Asian FF · Seattle Asian American FF

2019 - **“The Shabbos Goy”** (B Camera) comedy short, dir. Talia Osteen

Florida FF (Best Short, Audience Award) · SF Jewish FF (Film Movement Award) · HollyShorts · Austin FF · Just For Laughs

2017 - **“Wash”** narrative short, dir. Zhichun Huang

LA Shorts Fest · BLOW-UP Intl. Arthouse FF Chicago · LA New Wave Intl. FF

2014 - **“The Return”** narrative short, dir. Jingliang Tan

Asian Film Academy · Busan Intl. FF

LABS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2017 - Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for Studies in Cinematography | European Commission

2017 - Best Director Award (Narrative) for “Home is where the Sunsets” | Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival

2016 - Directing Fellow, Armed With a Camera Fellowship | L.A. Asian Pacific Film Festival (Los Angeles, California)

2014 - Cinematography Fellow, Asian Film Academy | Busan International Film Festival (Busan, South Korea)

EDUCATION

2026 - New York University, ITP Camp — Creative Technology & Interactive Media (New York City)

2020 - C.G. Jung Institute of Los Angeles, Certificate in Analytical Psychology (Los Angeles, California)

2016 - Universidade Lusófona, Kinoeyes Master Courses in Cinematography (Lisbon, Portugal)

2015 - B.A. USC School of Cinematic Arts, Cinema Studies (Los Angeles, California)

2012 - University of Hong Kong, Summer Institute in Asian Studies, Social Science & Politics (HK, Seoul, Beijing)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Since 2025 - Documentary Cinematographers Alliance

Since 2024 - Portrait Creative Network

Since 2023 - Video Consortium

Since 2020 - Brown Girls Doc Mafia

Since 2019 - Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc)