

Seven Doves

Young People in China and America
Create Images, Music and Words of Peace



A Documentary Film

produced by the Zhou Enlai Peace Institute
treatment by Michael North

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Seven Doves

Synopsis:

The story of seven days in the life of seven pairs of young artists from America and China.

The film opens with the release of seven doves into the sky, by a group of peacemakers from America and China. The students meet through a live video window that connects two art studios: one in Honolulu, one in Tianjin.

Working with teachers and prominent artists, the students discover the personal meaning of peace, and express their feelings in paintings, video, music and poetry. They create some projects together, and make their own individual pieces. Step by step we follow the evolution of their feelings and understanding, of each other, and of peace. They laugh, question, criticize and praise each other's work.

Personal interviews, in homes and school and around town, follow the young people (age 13-15), delivering an entertaining and moving insight into their energy and spirit.

Their interactions with each other, their friendships and opinions, deliver an immediate, dramatic sense of how different Chinese and Americans are -- and how alike. The unspoken question: can we find our way to peace together?

The best pieces they create in the seven days are publicly shown, performed and recognized at awards ceremonies, held in Beijing and in Washington, DC.

The style is similar to the recent HBO special featuring Ann Deavere Smith: A YoungArts Masterclass, with the addition of international content, location material and a dramatic opening and closing.



Treatment: Scene Descriptions

Opening Scene

A group of peacemakers (including prominent diplomatic and business leaders) from America and China gather in Los Angeles, to discuss the nature of peace and how to build an enduring foundation -- and to start the film, Seven Doves. Crystal Dove awards are presented to two international peacemakers, one from China, one from America. The celebrity host introduces the meaning and purpose of the film, tells what will be happening.

Two of the seven students who will star in the film, from Honolulu and Tianjin, are on hand. Together with the peacemakers, they release seven doves into the air, and meet with the director and the celebrity host.

The opening event takes place at the Beverly Hilton, August 17, 2014. Details of participants are at <http://www.chinapeaceproject.org>

Scene Two:

In Los Angeles, the two selected students meet each other -- talk, get to know each other a little, and share art they've created with each other. They talk with the celebrities, peacemakers, the director and host, sharing ideas and images of peace.

Scene Three:

The two arts teachers meet each other by live video, from Honolulu and Tianjin, and agree on how they will encourage their students to think creatively about peace.

Scene Four:

Studio, Day One: the students meet, introduce themselves, learn a little English and Chinese, show off work they've done before.

Scene Five:

Studio, Day Two: The teachers work with the students one-on-one, as they begin to develop projects. Individual interviews, at home and around town, with two students.

Scene Six:

Studio, Day Three: All the girls get together and talk, learn about each others, show their beginning work, talk about their feelings on peace. Individual interviews with two girls, at home and around town.

Scene Seven:

Studio, Day Four: All the boys gather and exchange their ideas, learn about what's important to each other, share their ideas about peace. Individual interviews with two boys, at home and around town.

Scene Eight:

Studio, Day Five: Some guest artists come to the classroom to show their techniques, sing music, talk stories; they add more creative energy. Two more in-depth student interviews, in studio and on location about town.

Scene Nine:

Studio, Day Six: A selected pair of students, one in America and one in China, work on their projects together, helping and criticizing. All the young people meet, on both sides, and talk about which pieces they like best and why.

Scene Ten:

Studio, Day Seven

All the work is presented and performed: 14 finished pieces by talented young people from America and China, on the subject of peace.

Scene Eleven:

The students at each studio gather and vote for the best pieces; the teachers have a vote, too; the selected artists participate in the selection as well. The winners are decided.

Scene Twelve:

The winners from both countries meet for the first time, face to face, in Beijing; they tour Beijing, meet celebrities, visit galleries, see artists and performers.

Scene Thirteen:

The awards ceremony highlights, from Beijing; attended by all the Chinese students, celebrities and leaders.

Scene Fourteen:

The winning artists travel to Washington DC, travel the sights of the town, visit galleries, hear and meet key artists. Possible visit to the White House.

Scene Fifteen:

Highlights of the awards ceremony from Washington DC; the host and director meet the students. The celebrity host tells the story, why it is important, recalls key scenes. Goodbyes and farewell statements from all 14 students.



Production Details

Talent: The producers seek to attach an award-winning director and an award-winning host to this project, in order to appropriately spotlight this important story. Two talented professional documentary directors ([Michael Bailey](#) and [Edgy Lee](#)), who have produced projects for the producers in the past, are available as segment and second-unit producers. Both have experience shooting in Honolulu and in China. Since most of the film is spontaneous live action, a written script will be needed only for an intro and summary segment with the host, and for voiceovers in transitions between scenes.

Total time approx. 90 minutes, not including titles and credits.

Format: High-definition video, delivered on 35 mm. film, HDTV and standard video (PAL and NTSC). Designed to be re-cut into separate scenes, each no longer than six minutes, for effective web delivery.

Locations: opening scene in Los Angeles; most interaction scenes in small studios in Tianjin and Honolulu on seven consecutive days. Closing scenes in Washington, DC and Beijing.

Production Schedule: Opening scene, August 17, 2014 in Los Angeles.

Interaction scenes, November 10 - 17 in Hawaii and China

Closing scenes in Beijing, January 10, 2015 and in Washington, January 30, 2015.

Post-Production and website development, February 1 to April 30, 2015.

Release Schedule: Co-ordinated premieres in Los Angeles and Beijing, May 15, 2015. Available air dates beginning May 15. Release on the internet and DVD, July 15, 2015.

Market: Youth 13-35, interested in international style, music, performance; Adults 30-50, interested in young people, the youth market in the US and China, international perception and business; educators at all levels, teaching international affairs

Distribution: Theatrical distribution through the premier art/documentary/international division of a major studio. Primary broadcast distribution through premium cable in the U.S. (HBO, Showtime) and through CCTV-9 (English) in China. First availability for film festival showings, May 15, 2015. Secondary broadcast distribution and syndication through cultural cable such as A&E, National Geographic.

Crew: Two studio production units, four people, for seven days, one in Tianjin, one in Honolulu. One field unit, four people, half day, in Los Angeles. Two field production units for one day, for the final tour and awards scenes, one in Beijing, one in Washington DC. Second-unit footage crews in Beijing and Washington, 1/2 day each.

Locations: [Jarrett Middle School](#), 1903 Palolo Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816. [Nankai Middle School](#), Nankai 2nd Latitude Rd, Nankai, Tianjin, China. Setup will be in a room at the school, specifically set aside for the project for 8 days, and pre-set for light, sound and high-speed internet. Setup will include computer and large flat screen, to establish life-like, full-size images between the studios. Two cameras to record the live action, a computer at each end to record the digital video. Audio mixer, mikes, including lavaliers, wireless and boom, to capture sound performances. Location shoots and interviews with kids to feature a two-person ENG crew.

Production budget: \$200,000. Post-production budget: \$50,000. Finance provided by the producers and their supporters. Marketing, distribution budget to be provided by distributors.



A dove flies over the rooftops of the Forbidden City, Beijing; July 4, 2011



[Nankai Middle School; Tianjin, China](#)



[Jarrett Middle School, Honolulu, Hawaii](#)

The Message:

This film makes an important statement, but the statement will not be made directly in words.

The message will be felt by the audience through the shared action, the energy, the creativity and charm of seven young people from America, and seven young people from China.

Art is a universal language; it speaks beyond words to everyone, regardless of culture, language or nationality-- especially to young people.

To explore peace -- a common but complex idea -- through unspoken language will reveal fundamental common feelings. From these common feelings will grow common perceptions, words and actions.

Seven Doves will support a fundamental culture of peace between America and China. The film will create vivid images and sounds of what this means, and will leave a lasting, thoughtful impression on audiences.

This is vital to the future of both nations, and of the world.



The opening scenes of the film take place at the event described in the following pages --



35 Years of Building Peace

The Growth of US-China Diplomatic and Trade Relations



A Celebration Forum in Los Angeles
August 16 and 17, 2014

In 1979, formal diplomatic and trade relations were re-established between the United States and China, after a gap of nearly 30 years. In 2014, we celebrate the 35th anniversary of that milestone of peace and business with a high-level forum in Los Angeles.

This event has three central purposes: to look back, understanding and honoring the achievements of the past; to focus on today, grasping the issues and opportunities of this moment in history; and to look forward, establishing principles on which future generations of Chinese and Americans will build on this foundation.

The forum will be attended by high-level diplomatic, academic and business leaders from the U.S. and China. It will feature a series of presentations, discussions, cultural and musical events, film showings and a celebration banquet.

The keynote speaker will be Chinese Consul-General in Los Angeles, Ambassador Liu Jian. Other invited guests include members of the Central Committee of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the Governor of the State of California and the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, the U.S. State Department, key members of the U.S. Congress, officials from the State of Hawaii including the former Governor, and former Mayor of Honolulu; the U.S. Institute for Peace, the United Nations Millennium University, University of Hawaii and Nankai University. Business leaders from both nations, including Mary Buffett and Arthur Lipper from the field of finance, and others from high technology, energy, law and entertainment will participate.

Invited speakers include Zhou Bingde, the niece of former Premier Zhou Enlai; Tricia Nixon Cox, the daughter of former President Richard Nixon.

There will be a special focus on the work of Zhou Enlai, who as Premier and Foreign Minister laid the cornerstone of peace, and whose influence in China continues to grow today. Forum sponsors are the Chinese American Federation and the Zhou Enlai Peace Institute.



<http://www.chinese-usa.org>



<http://www.zhouenlaipeaceinstitute.org>