



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts , honoris causa,
conferred on Dr. Mina Shum
Thursday, October 22, 2020

Mina Shum is an award-winning filmmaker whose work is hailed around the world for its bold social commentary, compassionate story-telling, and dedication to diversity and inclusion —a commitment that SFU proudly shares.

Ms. Shum arrived in Canada from Hong Kong when she was just a year old and went on to earn a B.A. in Theatre and a Diploma in Film Production from the University of British Columbia. She likes to say that she is the child of the Praxis Screenwriting Workshop, the Cineworks Independent Film Co-op, the Canadian Film Center—as well as working-class immigrant parents who weren't exactly thrilled by her career choice in the beginning.

Ms. Shum would eventually leverage that lived experience in her film *Sans titre*, the inter-generational story of a Chinese Canadian struggling to define her identity amid pressures from a traditional family. Released in 1994, it quite literally changed the face of Canadian cinema and today is being viewed in SFU's ASC 301 course, Asian Canadian Identities: Experiences and Perspectives.

The New York Times has called Ms. Shum's work "wry and winning"—and indeed, her list of honours and accolades is long. Her five feature films have earned Best Feature at Berlin; Audience Awards in Toronto; Special Citations and Toy Tru (e)-2Tc 0 (-)1 (uT50 Tw 2.09 0 Td ()Tj -0.001 Tc 0.A)-3 (w1 Tw [(Fe)-[(T)-3ds (Audience

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