# Afa5: Unraveling the Complexities of Asian American Identity

The Asian American Filmmakers Alliance (Afa5) is a collective of Asian American filmmakers who came together in 2017 to amplify the voices and stories of their communities. With a mission to create a "new narrative for the next generation of Asian American filmmakers," Afa5 has quickly become a force to be reckoned with in the entertainment industry.

One of Afa5's most notable projects is their groundbreaking documentary film, "Are We Asian Yet?" Released in 2015, the film explores the complex and often contradictory experiences of Asian Americans in the United States.

Through interviews with a diverse group of Asian American actors, directors, producers, and writers, "Are We Asian Yet?" challenges stereotypes, delves into the history of Asian immigration, and examines the challenges and triumphs of living as an Asian American in the 21st century.



### AFA5 Are We Asian Yet?: History vs Geography (Australian Foreign Affairs) by Vincent Ostrom

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Language	;	English
File size	;	2080 KB
Text-to-Speech	;	Enabled
Screen Reader	;	Supported
Enhanced typesetting	;	Enabled
Word Wise	;	Enabled
Print length	;	109 pages



#### **Exploring Asian American Identity**

At the heart of "Are We Asian Yet?" is a profound exploration of Asian American identity. The film argues that there is no single, monolithic Asian American identity. Instead, it is a constantly evolving and multifaceted construct that is shaped by a complex interplay of factors, including race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexual orientation.

For many Asian Americans, the question of "Are we Asian yet?" is a loaded one. It can evoke feelings of belonging and exclusion, of pride and shame. The film explores these complex emotions and offers a nuanced portrait of the challenges and opportunities faced by Asian Americans in the United States.

#### **Challenging Stereotypes**

One of the most important contributions of "Are We Asian Yet?" is its challenge to stereotypes about Asian Americans. The film dispels the myth of the "model minority," the harmful stereotype that all Asian Americans are successful, high-achieving, and conformist.

Instead, the film reveals the diversity of Asian American experiences. It introduces viewers to Asian Americans from all walks of life, including working-class immigrants, queer activists, and single mothers. By ng so, "Are We Asian Yet?" helps to break down stereotypes and create a more accurate and inclusive representation of Asian Americans in the media.

#### The Importance of Representation

Representation is crucial for Asian Americans, who have long been underrepresented in the entertainment industry. "Are We Asian Yet?" is an important step towards increasing Asian American representation and giving Asian American voices a platform to be heard.

The film has been praised by critics and audiences alike for its powerful storytelling and its ability to spark important conversations about Asian American identity and representation. It has been screened at numerous film festivals and has won several awards, including the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2015 San Francisco International Film Festival.

#### A Call to Action

"Are We Asian Yet?" is more than just a documentary film. It is a call to action. The film challenges viewers to question their own assumptions about Asian Americans and to work towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

In the film's closing moments, director K. Lorrel Manning says, "We are Asian yet. We are Asian, but we are not yet." This statement captures the essence of the film's message: that Asian American identity is evolving and that there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and representation.

"Are We Asian Yet?" is a powerful and inspiring film that challenges stereotypes, celebrates diversity, and calls for a more inclusive society. It is a must-watch for anyone who wants to understand the complex and everchanging landscape of Asian American identity. Afa5's "Are We Asian Yet?" is a groundbreaking documentary film that explores the complex and often contradictory experiences of Asian Americans in the United States. The film challenges stereotypes, delves into the history of Asian immigration, and examines the challenges and triumphs of living as an Asian American in the 21st century.

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