

1. Welcome on Behalf of the Friends of V.C.

2. Who are Friends of V.C.
How did it come to be
Past activities

Reasons to Sponsor Film
3. What are the long-term goals issues
1. Nationally
2. locally

4. Information Tables

New England

On behalf of the Friends of Visual
Communications I would like to welcome
all of you ^{to} the the New England
Premiere of the film Hits - Data.

Before viewing the film, I would
like to ^{take} a just a few ~~more~~ minutes to
tell you a little about ^{who N.E.} the Friends
of Visual Communications are, and

what we hope to achieve here
in the greater Boston ~~or~~ community,
after the showing of Hito Hata.

~~Hata~~ During the fall of last
year Peter Kang & Fred Horn of the
Asian American Resource Workshop, which
is located in Boston's Chinatown, was
able to secure the film for ^{Hito Hata} showing
at a New England Premiere sometime
during the spring of 1981. The first
formal organizing meeting was held in
~~mid-~~ ^{mid-} January ~~who~~ ~~is~~ ~~which~~ and
was attended by representatives of a
number of ~~interested~~ Asian-American
groups ~~located~~ from the greater Boston

area. Since that time, we have been meeting weekly at the Asian American Resource Workshop to plan these for this ^{evening's} premiere showing of Kito Kola.

~~I think of~~ Speaking ^{sessions} personally ^{level,} ~~for myself,~~ ^{the planning} ~~has~~ ^{been} ~~an~~ especially exciting time, ~~for me,~~

since it was obvious from the beginning that this was going to be ^{the single most} ~~an~~ important event to involve the area's ^{gen} ~~community~~ ^{under} which a number of ~~disparate~~ ^{general} ~~Asian-American~~ ^{community} groups

~~could unite and work for a common~~ ^{for the first time} ~~we~~ ⁱⁿ Boston, ~~we~~ ^{could} ~~unite and work for a common~~ ^{under} ~~goals.~~ ^{single banner} ~~Meeting~~ ^{together} for the past

¹⁰ ~~8~~ weeks has given all of us an

(4) & work with AA -
opportunities to meet the variety of organizations
~~wright into~~ ~~the~~ ^{boards} ^{operating}
and special interest groups that are

in this area. I should like acknowledge
and ~~the~~ ~~representatives~~ of the ~~Planning~~ ~~Committee~~ some
of these ~~groups~~ just to give you an idea of how
broad the Area - American community is here in So. Cal.
Area - Am Resource Workshop, there ~~was~~
was Marilyn Wray
were representatives from the ECASON, N.E.

John Otto from the Only Newspaper,
Nancy Gato from the Children's Museum,
Yale & Jan Helms representing the
J A Community ~~and~~ ^{edge} Ability, son, Wendy
from ^{Honolulu} ^{Rodaffe} ^{Association} ~~Students~~ Association,
Individuals such as ^{and of course}
Richard Parlettou, Helen ~~Wray~~ Wray,
who served as our able & diligent
treasurer.

Hessie Gadsjoe
(GADJEW)

Grants:

(5)

Archie Epps, Dean of Students

Rodcliffe - Education for Action -

Asian Focus - 9AM.

Steve T

Finally I would like to acknowledge the financial support given to us by Dean Archie Epps of Harvard University and the grant from the Rodcliffe Education for Action Student Board.

I think now just a few comments about the goals for the N.E. Friend of VC after the showing of this film.

We hope that as you watch
this film you will view it as
more than just entertainment. but let
it serve
a basis for your thinking about the
experience of
Asian - American's experience in this
country, and what how these
relate to you and your family. In
one sense, Oda's experience ~~is~~
as 'portrayed' in the film speaks to
collective
our experience as Asian - Americans in
this country. ~~We see~~ the film speaks of
the struggles of our
parents and grand parents to gain
acceptance on this land, of the
sometimes hostile reaction by members
of the white community towards

newly arrived Chinese, Japanese, and
Filipino workers to this country. But

we are a strong people, ^{we each} and have
as newly arrived groups ~~have~~ demonstrated great courage in
^{of AA} over coming the obstacles that

have been placed upon ^{us} them.

So it is our hope ^{that after this meeting} that ~~the~~ ^{the}
steering of the boat ^{will} continue to serve ^{the} ^{community} ~~the~~
F of U.C. will be able to call into
focus, ^{by calling into} issues that have a direct

impact on the Asian American community
Issues that affect us on
state or the local level and at the

national level. Specifically we will

continue to draw attention to and

lead support to activities such as.

(1) the Redress and Reparations
campaign that is currently ^{being} ~~underway~~
initiated on a nationwide basis.

We believe this film will help
^{point out}
clearly, in a visceral way, the
psychological impact ^{that} the
incarceration had on 10,000

of A during WWII.

(2) the ^{destructive} impact ~~on~~ urban renewal
has had ^{Third}
on the Asian & other World

communities. We hope to ^{expose} ~~to~~ ^{elderly} ~~young~~ residents,
~~living~~ the plight of the Boston
China town area and to generate

the support of the Asian-American
community in ~~bringing~~ a protecting
the lives & lifestyles of the OLA's of
Boston.

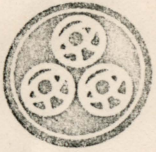
(3) Finally, we hope to provide a
clearinghouse for Asian-American
resource material ^{such as films & publications.} that will be
available in one location for educators,
 ^{civic} organizations, and others who are
interested in the history of Asians
in America.

We ^{are} asking you to join us in

this venture; to help us in presenting
the Asian American experience in
a proper perspective, to stand
against the potential ^{for} and often real
anti-Asian attitudes that occur
after occur
during times of economic ~~stress~~ stress.

After the showing of the film,
you are welcomed to look over the
information tables that will be set-
up in the area outside the
room. ^{Don't} ~~will~~ ^{sure} ~~that~~
~~passure~~ you will learn
something new tonight, something ~~and~~
about ^{the} Asian experience in this
country and perhaps some ~~important~~

something about yourself.



FRIENDS OF VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS (NEW ENGLAND)

Box 497, Essex Station, Boston, MA. 02111

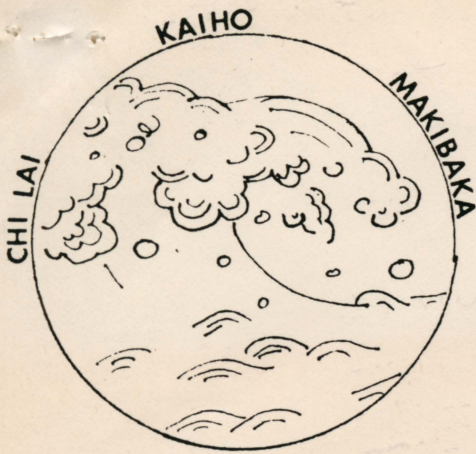
Telephone: (617) 876-1002, 864-2603, 643-8272

The New England Friends of Visual Communications is a coalition of organizations and individuals who have come together since January 1981 to organize a Boston-area benefit premiere showing of Visual Communications' "Hito Hata: Raise the Banner," the first feature-length film ever written, produced, directed, and performed by Asian Americans. (Please note the enclosed information sheet).

While Hito Hata's completion marks a significant breakthrough for independent feature film in general, its premiere in Boston is, perhaps, the most important single event ever to involve the area's general Asian American community. Hito Hata provides both a rich educational opportunity and a broad-based context with which a large number of groups can unite. Its value as an organizing tool cannot be overstated.

The April 5th premiere, then, intends to bring Japanese, Asian Americans, Third World cultural activists, progressive filmmakers, and others together for an educational program on the Asian American experience. Specific issues to be raised are:

1. Asian stereotypes in the media In light of the return of Fu Manchu and Charlie Chan to Hollywood, the importance of Hito Hata as a presentation of the Asian American experience from an Asian American perspective is clear. For many of the film's actresses and actors, Hito Hata presented their first opportunity to act in nonstereotypic roles.
2. Reparations and Redress Currently there is a national movement led by Japanese Americans to gain reparations and redress for the material losses and psychological damages caused by the WWII Internment. The premiere will help to clarify that historical experience for the audience through presenting the film as well as information tables.
3. Housing Little Tokyo, the focus of Hito Hata, like all Asian and Third World communities including the South End and Chinatown in Boston, has faced systematic destruction for twenty years in the name of redevelopment. In appreciating Oda's relationship to Little Tokyo in Hito Hata, one sees how essential the community is to the survival of Asians in America and how necessary it is to fight to preserve the community now. In this way, we hope to raise awareness and support for the housing struggles in Boston, particularly in Chinatown.
4. Asian American Resources The premiere's program booklet will contain a resource list of Asian American publications, films, and organizations to be used as a reference.



ASIAN AMERICAN RESOURCE WORKSHOP

27 Beach Street Boston, Mass. 02111

Tel. 426-5313

TO: Hito-Hata Committee/ New England Friends of Visual Communications

FROM: Peter Kiang

RE: Summary of Jan. 17, 1981 Meeting

1. Present: Rosanna Alfaro, Leslie Gladsjo, Arnold and Janice Hibino, Fred Houn, Peter Kiang, Helen Liu, John Ota, Richard Pendleton, David Sakura, Nancy Sato, Akili Tyson, Marilyn Wu.

Organizations Represented: AARW, Children's Museum, East Coast Asian Student Union, JACL, Nisei Group, Unity Newspaper, USCPFA.

2. Following personal introductions, a slideshow about Hito-Hata was presented. As the first feature film made by and about Asian Americans, H-H is a significant breakthrough. Comments about its important role included: to present a piece of history that everyone should know about; to counter the resurgence of Charlie Chan stereotypes in the media; to serve as a multicultural tool in high schools; to provide a context for a broad range of Asian American individuals and organizations to work together.
3. Decisions:
 - (a) to form as a working committee to bring Hito-Hata to Boston
 - (b) 50% of profits will go to VC; 50% to a fund to be used by a yet-to-form AA group
 - (c) Premiere will be April 5th, Sunday evening in Science Center B, Harvard
 - (d) Additional showings in Chinatown, high schools, 5-College area are possible
 - (e) To use our respective organizations in whatever ways we can to support Hito-Hata, for example, mailing lists, announcements, contributions, etc;;
4. Other Discussion:
 - (a) The reality of limited time in light of press and publicity deadlines
 - (b) The need for seed money
 - (c) The formation of committees: PUBLICITY, OUTREACH, PROGRAM-LOGISTICS
 - (d) The importance of defining the audience
 - (e) The coincidence of Hiroshima's East Coast tour with the premiere
 - (f) The need to recruit people as supporters/endorsers of the film
 - (g) The need for more people to become involved in the working committee

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 31, 1981 3:30pm, AARW Loft.