

# LUKA YUANYUAN YANG

## CHINATOWN CHA-CHA

LONDON, APRIL 2025

T: +44 (0)20 7439 7766  
press@flowersgallery.com  
www.flowersgallery.com



**LUKA YUANYUAN YANG'S CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED FEATURE FILM CHARTS A POWERFUL JOURNEY ACROSS GENERATIONS TO CELEBRATE THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE CHINESE DIASPORA**

**LONDON, APRIL 2025** – After a celebrated theatrical run in China, visual artist and filmmaker [Luka Yuanyuan Yang](#) is set to embark on an international tour across Europe and the US, bringing her debut feature film '*Chinatown Cha-Cha*' to new audiences to explore how migration, displacement, and cultural adaptation has shaped the Chinese diasporic experience.

*Chinatown Cha-Cha* is a visually rich and deeply personal documentary that follows the remarkable journey of 92-year-old former nightclub dancer Coby Yee as she returns to the stage with San Francisco senior dance troupe, Grant Avenue Follies. Together, they embarked on a final tour, bridging generations and reconnecting Chinese diaspora communities across the world. The film is a celebration of San Francisco's Chinatown's golden-era performers and highlights the resilience of Chinatowns in the face of cultural erasure.

As Coby Yee and Grant Avenue Follies take the stage one last time, *Chinatown Cha-Cha* captures a unique moment in history – one that reclaims the legacy of Chinese performers whose stories have often been overlooked. Alongside the film, Yang's newly published book *Dance in Herland* published by te editions serves as an extension of this archival work. Drawing from six years of research, the book delves into the nightclub era of San Francisco's Chinatown and the untold histories of Chinese female dancers across different historical periods.

**Speaking of Chinatown Cha-Cha, Luka Yuanyuan Yang and Producer Lou Wang-Holborn said:** "In a time of rising anti-Asian violence and threats to Chinatowns, the CHINATOWN CHA-CHA impact campaign 'Generations In Step Tour' brings generations together within the AAPI community through film, dance, and dialogue, creating meaningful discussions on identity, belonging, and activism. By spotlighting elder performers who defined

Chinatown's golden era, the campaign preserves their untold stories and inspires younger generations to honor and continue this rich legacy. Coby and the women of the Grant Avenue Follies reimaged burlesque by layering cultural pride over traditional performance, using self-designed, Asian-inspired costumes to challenge mainstream narratives. This campaign is an opportunity not only for younger Asian Americans to connect with these pioneering women, but also for these women to perform for a different kind of audience—one that is invested in their stories beyond the performance..”

Premiering at Pingyao International Film Festival and Hawaii International Film Festival in 2024 before its nationwide theatrical release in China, *Chinatown Cha-Cha* will now head to Europe with London as its first stop with a special performance by Grant Avenue Follies at the **ESEA Spring Art Fair** (19 April), followed by screenings and events at **The Garden Cinema** (23 April) and the **London Chinese Community Center** (23 April). Each event will feature a tailored programme, including panel discussions, short film showcases, and Dance in Herland book signings. The film will then make its German premiere in Berlin at **Babylon Theater** (25 April).

To mark **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** in May, *Chinatown Cha-Cha* will return to its roots with a special homecoming event in San Francisco's Chinatown for Mother's Day (11 May) with a screening at the historic Great Star Theater to celebrate generations of women in honour of motherhood, legacy, and the spirit of Chinatown's pioneering performers. A book talk will follow at **On Waverly** moderated by Christine Ni, where Yang will discuss Dance in Herland and reflect on the intergenerational stories at the heart of the film. The San Francisco programme will also highlight the **Showgirl Magic Museum** founded by Cynthia Yee – a member of the Grant Avenue Follies portrayed in the film – which preserves rare archives, photographs, and costumes from Coby Yee and the nightclub era.

Later in the month, *Chinatown Cha-Cha* will have its New York premiere in partnership with Roxy Cinema New York and the **High Line** (20 May) to coincide with Yang's anticipated solo exhibition 'Tales of Chinatown' on the High Line opening that same month. The exhibition, curated by High Line Art Associate Curator Taylor Zakarin, will showcase a series of short films exploring migration, memory, and the Chinese diaspora, expanding on the themes of *Chinatown Cha-Cha*.

## LISTING DETAILS

### Chinatown Cha-Cha London Programme 19 - 23 April 2025

ESEA Spring Art Fair – Saturday 19 April 2025, 2-6PM  
Special Performance by Grant Avenue Follies & Dance in Herland Book Signing  
Address: SET Social, 55a Nigel Rd, London SE15 4NP  
Tickets [HERE](#)

London Chinese Community Center – Wednesday 23 April 2025, 10:45AM - 2PM  
Feature film Screening, Panel Discussion with Luka Yuanyuan Yang, Grant Avenue Follies, and Frank Chickens, Dance in Herland Book Signing, Swing Dance Workshop  
Address: 2 Leicester Court, London, WC2H 7DW  
Tickets [HERE](#)

The Garden Cinema (Short Films Screening) – Wednesday 23 April 2025, 2:00PM  
Short films showcase + Intro, Dance in Herland Book Signing  
Address: 39-41 Parker Street London WC2B 5PQ  
Tickets [HERE](#)

The Garden Cinema (Chinatown Cha-Cha Screening) – Wednesday 23 April 2025, 4:25PM  
Feature film screening + Intro, Dance in Herland Book Signing,  
Special performance by Grant Avenue Follies  
Address: 39-41 Parker Street London WC2B 5PQ  
Tickets [HERE](#)

## Chinatown Cha-Cha Germany Programme

25 April – 2 May 2025

Babylon Theater, Berlin – 25 April 2025, 7:30PM  
German premiere of Chinatown Cha-Cha  
Feature film screening + Q&A, Dance in Herland book signing,  
Special performance by Grant Avenue Follies  
Address: Rosa-Luxemburg-Straße 30, 10178 Berlin, Germany  
Tickets [HERE](#)

Neues Rottmann Kino, Munich – 27 April 2025, 1:00PM  
Feature film screening + Virtual Q&A with the director  
Address: Rosa-Luxemburg-Straße 30, 10178 Berlin, Germany  
Tickets [HERE](#)

## Chinatown Cha-Cha US Tour

Roxy Cinema New York & High Line, New York – 20 May 2025, 7PM  
New York Premiere, Feature Film screening + Q&A  
Address: 2 6th Avenue Cellar Level, New York, NY 10013, United States

High Line – 9 May–9 July 2025  
Tales of Chinatown, Luka Yuanyuan Yang Solo Exhibition  
Address: On the High Line at 14th Street, New York, New York

San Francisco Chinatown, Mother's Day Special Event – 11 May 2024  
Screening at Great Star Theatre, 2-4PM  
636 Jackson St, San Francisco, CA 94133  
Tickets [HERE](#)

Book Talk at On Waverly Moderated by Christine Ni, 4:30-6PM  
162 Waverly Pl, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Free with RSVP [HERE](#)

Showgirl Magic Museum opens from 4pm-7pm, free admission.  
2 Waverly Pl, San Francisco, CA 94108

## ABOUT LUKA YUANYUAN YANG

Luka Yuanyuan Yang (b. 1989, Beijing) is a visual artist and filmmaker working across documentary film, photography, installation, and performance. Through weaving documentary and archival materials, she explores themes of identity, migration, and memory, challenging conventional historical narratives and amplifying overlooked voices.

Her debut feature documentary "*Chinatown Cha-Cha*" premiered in the Official Selection at Pingyao International Film Festival and Hawaii International Film Festival in 2024, followed by a nationwide theatrical release in China (Douban Rating 8.4/10). The film received support from The Gotham, Doc Edge, Beijing International Film Festival, CNEX, Shanyi International Women's Film Festival, and Aranya Waves Film Festival. Her short films have been featured in The New Yorker and screened at New Orleans Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, Camden International Film Festival, Asian American International Film Festival, and Women Make Waves Taiwan.

Yang is a recipient of the BAZAAR Art Awards - Cross Cultural Creator of the Year (2024), BVLGARI Aurora Award (2023), Art Power 100 (2019), and Rencontres d'Arles Author Book Award (2015). Her works are in the Power Station of Art collections, Kadist Art Foundation and ENIX Museum of Migration. She has received fellowships from the Asian Cultural Council and Asymmetry Art Foundation.

## PRESS ENQUIRIES

For more information and images please contact Leighanne Murray: [leighanne@atelierpublicrelations.com](mailto:leighanne@atelierpublicrelations.com)  
or [press@flowersgallery.com](mailto:press@flowersgallery.com) / +44 (0) 207 439 7766