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## Japantown's 'Crossroads' On Film

**AsianWeek Staff Report**, Dec 08, 2006

The much-anticipated documentary *Crossroads in Nihonmachi* on San Francisco's Japantown will premiere on Dec. 16 just in time to be included in Japantown's 100th anniversary year.

The film documents one of the most controversial periods in San Francisco's Japanese American history when forced redevelopment impacted the lives of over 4,000 families during the 1970s.

The screening will be followed with a question and answer session with directors Adrienne Anderson and Tony Sondag, and executive producer Boku Kodama.

"I believe this project was the most meticulous and ambitious effort in telling this crucial history of San Francisco," said Kodama.

In the early 1970s, Nihonmachi was facing the final stages of its controversial makeover — from a residential and small business community into a tourist destination. What was once a thriving community of some 30 blocks was condensed down to four.

While the original intent was to tell the story of a divided community 30 years ago, 3D Investment's purchase of Kintetsu's properties this year, made it imperative that the film incorporate this latest episode to show the similar dynamics of the two periods.

"We had an amazing response from the community," said Anderson. "This project really struck a nerve with many people and their participation and contributions are what make this documentary so compelling and important."

The project has taken nearly two years to complete with hundreds of hours of filming and over 10,000 photographs and film gathered and archived, much of which have never been seen in a public venue.

"This project is the story of an American people that fought through the adversities of racism, exploitation and exclusionism," said Sondag. "Their triumph is the story of America."

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