



## The Princess of Nebraska

Wayne Wang

USA, 2007  
English, Mandarin

77 minutes ■ Colour/35mm  
Production Company: California Asian American Media

Executive Producer: Yasushi Kotani,  
Taizo Son, Stephen Gong  
Producer: Yukie Kito, Donald Young  
Screenplay: Michael Ray, based on the  
short story by Yiyun Li

Cinematographer: Richard Wong  
Editor: Deirdre Slevin

Production Designer: Amy Chan  
Sound: David C. Hughes, Kent Sparling  
Music: Kent Sparling  
Principal Cast: Ling Li, Brian Danforth,  
Pamelyn Chee, Patrice Binaisa

Production: California Asian American  
Media, 145 Ninth Street, Suite 350,  
San Francisco CA 94103 USA.  
T (415) 863-0814 F (415) 863-7428  
don@asianamericanmedia.org

### CONTACT INFORMATION

International Sales Agent: The Match  
Factory

(see page 472)

A companion piece to *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, *The Princess of Nebraska* shares that film's theme of Chinese citizens visiting the United States and finding it alienating and bewildering. Both works are also based on the stories of impressive young writer Yiyun Li. Beyond that, they could not be less alike. As kinetic and edgy as its twin is restrained and subtle, *The Princess of Nebraska* sees Wang, the master, enjoying the freedom to experiment with cinematic form after a decade-long stint making big-budget Hollywood films. A restless camera, shrinking and expanding frames, wild colour schemes and a daring use of light give the film an impressive sense of innovation and push digital video to its extremes.

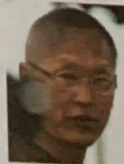
This aesthetic fits well with the story, which unfolds over a wild twenty-four hours. A young woman named Sasha (Ling Li) has been studying in Omaha, Nebraska, after leaving Beijing, pregnant from a fling with Yang. A Beijing Opera star, Yang was kicked out of the troupe for his scandalous tryst with an American man, Boshen (Brian Danforth). Yang is now working as a hustler on the streets of Beijing and has cut off all ties to both lovers, even though they still seek contact with him.

We join Sasha's story as she arrives in San Francisco with plans to get an abortion, having interrupted her semester for the trip. She is located by Boshen, who wants to lure Yang to America by starting a family with Sasha and her baby. With storied San Francisco and all its vast possibilities in front of her,

Sasha begins to rethink her intentions and her future, particularly after meeting and befriending the prostitute X (Pamelyn Chee).

Wang elicits wonderful performances from his group of young actors and aptly identifies the feeling of cultural strangeness that America provokes in foreign visitors. *The Princess of Nebraska* and *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* will be shown together for their first screening and separately thereafter; please consult the Official Film Schedule for more details.


■ Noah Cowan



Wayne Wang was born in Hong Kong and studied film and television at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. His films include *A Man, a Woman and a Killer* (co-director, 75), *Chan Is Missing* (82), *Dim Sum: A Little Bit of Heart* (85), *Slam*

*Dance* (87), *Eat a Bowl of Tea* (89), *The Joy Luck Club* (93), *Smoke* (95), *Blue in the Face* (95), *Chinese Box* (97), *Anywhere but Here* (99), *The Center of the World* (01), *Maid in Manhattan* (02), *Because of Winn-Dixie* (05), *Last Holiday* (06), *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* (07), which is also screening at the Festival, and *The Princess of Nebraska* (07).

SPONSORED BY

BMO  Nesbitt Burns®