This one-hour documentary, shows how Anna May Wong (1905-1961) became an artist, a world figure and an activist in spite of the prejudices of her time. It had its world premiere at the Busan International Film Festival and has been in four American and Canadian festivals.

Anna May Wong grew up in Los Angeles, where her parents ran a laundry. She first starred, at age 17, in *Toll of the Sea*, a silent version of *Madame Butterfly*. She went on to make dozens of films in Hollywood, London and Berlin, co-starring with Marlene Dietrich, Anthony Quinn, Douglas Fairbanks and Philip Ahn. She was glamorous; photographers loved her. She was a charming and interesting person whose friends included Carl van Vechten, Evelyn Waugh and Paul Robeson. Yet she spent most of her career playing painted dolls and dragon ladies.

Many older Asian Americans look down on Anna for playing stock Asian characters. But a younger generation sees her as a pioneering artist who beat the odds in a tough industry. Long before anyone was called a “community activist,” she devoted herself to the Chinese American community’s war effort during World War II. Her courage to be herself against all odds is truly inspiring.