

Toronto film-maker's work breaks silence on internment of JCs

TORONTO. — As we enter 1990 — slowly leaving the past with such things as Redress for wrongs against Japanese Canadians recognized and redressed — various and many-faceted, personal stories of the J.C. internment and concentration camps begin to emerge in poetry and film. One of the major ones is "The Displaced View" by Toronto Sansel film-maker, Midi Onodera.

Shown recently on television, the Displaced View premiered at the 1988 Toronto International Festival of Festivals and was originally broadcast on TV Ontario. It was nominated for the prestigious Gemini Award for the Best Documentary Program.

Through the experiences of her grandmother, Suno Yamazaki, Onodera, the film-maker recounts a personal history of three generations of Japanese Canadian women.

A third-generation Canadian, Onodera feels that the silence of Japanese Canadian history can only be broken through the stories of the second and third generation. "We're trying to get them to talk," she says, "to

open up that silence somehow."

Onodera first learned of the internment during World War II when she was 13 and knew that she would have to deal with that knowledge in some personal way.

"I felt I had to be mature enough to find a space to handle this material."

She also felt the pressure of time. "Time is running out for the first generation."

The film has been made for a Japanese audience. To underscore this, Japanese subtitles are used to translate English dialogue, but English subtitles do not accompany the Japanese voice-overs. This technique was also designed to impart some of the frustration and alienation experienced by Japanese Canadians in a country that Onodera says refused to accept them.

"The Displaced View" is available for home video use for \$95 from Dec. Films. A partial donation will be remitted to the NAJC. Contact Peter Stevens at Dec. Films, 394 Euclid Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6G 2S9. Tel. (416) 925-9338 for further information.



"The Displaced View"

TORONTO. — Toronto Sansel film-maker, Midi Onodera (left), narrator Tomoko Makabe, and Onodera's grandmother, Suno Yamazaki, 99, joined forces to make the powerful film, *The Displaced View*.