

# Film breaks silence on Japanese internment

By Stasia Evasuk  
TORONTO STAR

Vision TV presents the first national broadcast of *The Displaced View*, an intensely personal film by Toronto film-maker Midi Onodera exploring the cultural silence surrounding the internment of Japanese Canadians, at 7 p.m. tomorrow on *It's About Time*.

The film will be repeated at 11 p.m. tomorrow and at 3 p.m. on Monday.

Through the experiences of her grandmother, Suno Yamazaki, 99, and her mother, Martha Onodera, the film-maker recounts a personal history of three generations of Japanese-Canadian women.

A third-generation Canadian herself, 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 that 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.



**JAPANESE GENERATIONS:** Toronto film-maker Midi Onodera, left, narrator Tomoko Makabe and Onodera's grandmother, Suno Yamazaki, 99, joined forces to make powerful film, *The Displaced View*.

## Age of Reason

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