

HOLLYWOOD SO WHITE

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THE OXBOW SCHOOL



ASIAN-WASHED

The lack of Asian representation in Hollywood intrigues me greatly. Initially interested in being an actress, I debated for a long time what path I should take. I could never see myself as a successful actress in a movie or the lead in a Broadway musical. Asians were not represented well in enough, whether that be the assigned character or actions the character had to execute. When I delved deeper into the history of Asian actors, I came across those who were firsts in the industry; I came across stories of actors, like Anna May Wong, who were successful due to their highly sexualized and stereotyped roles. White-washing, when Asian roles are played by Caucasian actors was also very common from the start. Warner Oland, portrayed the Chinese detective “Charlie Chan” in 16 films throughout the 1930s. This unfair representation of Asians has become a vocal issue for the past few years and I would like to challenge the choices that Hollywood makes.

Using oil paint on canvas, I recreated two iconic movie posters. The main characters, who are originally Caucasian, were replaced with imagined Asian-American actors, highlighting the difference it makes for Asian-Americans of all ages to have a role in media. If I grew up seeing Asian actors playing well represented roles, I would have been more confident to pursue a career in the acting industry. These paintings show the kind of American cinema that we should be striving to achieve--characters that represent minority Americans.

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