



BEHIND THE STRINGS

The Shanghai Quartet Documentary Film



Our film showcases their lives, their rise to the top and the price they pay to stay there. And we reveal why China keeps inviting them back to perform their once forbidden music.

THE FILM

Because Mao's Cultural Revolution banned Western Classical music and persecuted those who played it, a group of talented young musicians fled the country and immigrated to the United States. Isolated, penniless and dejected, they struggled to overcome language and cultural barriers and were close to throwing in the towel and returning to China.

Against all odds, they succeeded and became one of the preeminent string quartets in the United States. The pressures of their extraordinary success, the nonstop touring schedule and teaching responsibilities resulted in a host of new challenges, creating fissures in the close-knit quartet.

In a bittersweet turn of events, the Quartet played a big role in making Western Classical Music gain new acceptance in China.

The group returned to their native country as conquering heroes and now play to sold out audiences throughout the country. Ironically, the music that was once banned and punishable, is not only appreciated in China, but is playing an increasingly important role in elevating the country's cultural significance on the world stage.

THE PRODUCTION

BEHIND THE STRINGS took five years to complete, and our crew filmed on location in France, Mexico, China and fifteen cities across the U.S. Our goal was to capture a 360-degree view of this very successful chamber music quartet, both on stage and off. We became a "fly on the wall" as we not only filmed their performances, rehearsals, and home lives but also watched them pursue their pastime passions.



"Beautiful Film" Woodstock Film Festival.

"If there's a documentary film crew following your every move, you're probably doing something interesting. That's certainly the case for the Shanghai Quartet." - The Washington Post