**Appendix 2**

**Lee Isaac Chung: Words from the Director**

I’m honored to screen this program in Hong Kong, which is a second home to me. I married into the city after meeting a Hong Kong girl in university; her urban sophistication held an endless fascination to this farm boy from Arkansas. It’s hard to believe that seventeen years have passed since we said our vows in Tsim Sha Tsui. Over the years, through our regular visits, I have learned that Hong Kong families are big, they are close, and they are kind. My wife’s family is proof. They were patient supporters in my journey to gain a footing as a filmmaker, and they spurred me forward despite how rough around the edges I was. I wouldn’t be here without them.

Nonetheless, when the Hong Kong Arts Centre and the American Consulate invited me to screen a program of my work, I almost declined the invitation. I was incredibly honored, but, I wondered, wasn’t I just getting started? Weren’t my early films awkward teenage photographs I should hide away? Then, I thought of my family in Hong Kong, my mother-in-law and father-in-law in particular, who have embraced and loved me from the start; they have always encouraged me to share my voice. I’m grateful to them, along with the presenters, to be able to do that in this program. Though I regret that I cannot be in Hong Kong due to my production schedule, I am so pleased that we will have virtual conversations together. I hope that this “retrospective” will challenge me to work harder, with the faith that my best years are yet to come. And in the meantime, I will hold the same hope for Hong Kong, this city that I love.