

Yiru Chen

(she/her)

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Portfolio: [yirucart.com](#)

FILMMAKER, NYS CERTIFIED TEACHER OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

I am an artist, educator, and cross-cultural access advocate working at the intersection of Deaf Education, disability justice, and creative technology. I create powerful, inclusive films that amplify female, diaspora, queer and disabled experiences. My expertise shapes my innovative, arts-based pedagogy. Driven by a deep commitment to accessibility, I leverage technology to break barriers and build a world where everyone can thrive. With a sharp strategic vision and a proven ability to lead in complex, cross-functional environments, I bring cultural competence and bold leadership to the art and disability communities. Through storytelling and advocacy, I aim to challenge norms and curate a more inclusive future.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (Professional)

Chinese (Mandarin & Shanghaiese, Native)

American Sign Language (Professional, ASLPI 3.0)

Chinese / Shanghai Sign Language (Intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

St.Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, New York

January 2022 - NOW

Classroom Teacher

Develop and provide a program within the classroom to meet the individual needs of each Deaf and hard-of-hearing child academically, linguistically (American Sign Language, Spoken English, AAC etc.) , socially, and physically. Work with Teacher Assistants and IPs in maintaining an orderly classroom that is functional and arranged in the best way possible for the needs of the students.

HERE Arts Center, New York

March 2020 - Aug 2020

Artistic Programming Assistant

Support the planning and execution of various artistic programs and events. Research community resources for online performances during COVID-19. Assist with coordinating schedules, managing communications with artists and production teams, and ensuring the accessibility of virtual performance and workshops.

Stephanie Black Films, New York

September 2019 - December 2019

Intern / Personal Assistant

Interned with documentary director Stephanie Black on the Jamaica Kincaid documentary, funded by the National Endowment of Arts. Responsibilities included conducting in-depth archival research, contributing to script development, budgeting, collaborating on narrative shaping, and providing creative insights.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

New York State, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Initial Certificate

Issued 12/13/2022, effective until 01/31/2028

Columbia University, Teachers College

September 2020 - December 2021

MA in Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

GPA: 4:00

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts

September 2016 - December 2019

BA in Film and Television Production

Minor in Psychology and American Sign Language

GPA: 3.85

ASSOCIATIONS

ASL SLAM

Volunteer, event support, and performer

World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)

Individual membership

National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

Individual membership

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

Individual membership

Filmmaker with Disabilities (FWD-DOC)

Film resources provider and community contributor

Shanghai iSigner Sign Language Center

Photographer, education outreach and event support

FILM PROJECTS AND AWARDS

- **DEPT/HELLOMONDAY SIGNS Case Study Film (2025)**
Director
Project footage shoot for SIGNS, an AI platform led by Nvidia and the American Society for Deaf Children
- **Music Magic: Turning Accessibility into Art (2024)**
Director / Editor
Short Documentary of "Broadway Beethoven" Jay Alan Zimmerman
- **In the Green Room (2022)**
Video Editor
Commissioned by the Asia Society Museum for Women in Jazz project "In the Green Room"
- **No Rule is Our Rule: Video Diary of Eiko Otake and Wen Hui (2022)**
Chief Editor, Post-Production
Best Feature Documentary at Japan International Film Festival
Official Selection at San Souci Festival of Dance Cinema
Official Selection at Munich New Wave Film Festival
Official Selection at WRPN Women's International Film Festival
- **Handscape (2020)**
Director / Writer
Grand Jury Prize at Shanghai Queer Film Festival
Best Short Film & Best Sound Design at Winter Film Festival
Best Male Lead at British Film Festival
- **I Promise to Enter the Oversized Hat (2020)**
Editor, Post-Production
Exhibition at Milan Contemporary Art Center
- **Bedtime Stories (2020)**
Director of Photography
Official Selection of 8th Annual Katra Film Series Grand Finale

PERFORMANCE ART PROJECTS AND AWARDS

- **#feelthemusic Deaf Music Project at Teachers College (2023 - 2025)**
Event Organizer and Master of Ceremony
- **Chien Sauvage (2023)**
Lead Actress, Sign Language Performer
Official Selection at 46th Moscow International Film Festival
- **The Hands (2023)**
Lead Actress, Sign Language Performer
Official Selection at SignLight International Film Festival
Official Selection at Outsider Garbatella Film Festival
Official Selection at Student Los Angeles Film Awards
Official Selection at Student World Impact Film Festival
- **Mirror of the Mother City (2023)**
Sign Language Performer, Choreographer
Commissioned by NYU Solidarity Week Marquee Event: Our Bodies, Our Stories
- **Song of a Lonely Bird, a Recreation (2018)**
Sign Language Performer, Choreographer
Collaborative project with Jia Qi Liu

PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

- **Knotting Code x LOOKFOR, Panel Guest:** Why Does a City Need a Deaf Film Festival? (2024)
- **Chinese Culture Saloon (501(c)(3)), Vol.178 Presenter:** Special Education and Disability Advocacy (2023)
- **NYU Global Disability Dialogue, Panel Guest:** Supporting Disability Advocacy with Artivism (2023)
- **Adelphi University ARTIVISM, Presenter:** Deaf Music Project Documentary with Dr. Julia Silvestri (2021)