

Yiru Chen

(she/her)

[linkedin.com/in/yiruchen1997](https://www.linkedin.com/in/yiruchen1997)

yiru.production@gmail.com

Tel (US): + 1(646)912-2311

Portfolio: yirucart.com

Podcast: *Disabled Talks*

NYS CERTIFIED TEACHER OF THE DEAF, DISABILITY ADVOCATE, FILMMAKER

My interdisciplinary, community-centered practice bridges media, education, and inclusive design to advance disability justice and equitable access. I create accessible frameworks that amplify the voices and lived experiences of Deaf, disabled, queer, and diasporic communities. Through multilingual and cross-cultural storytelling, I work to dismantle systemic barriers and reimagine learning, creativity, and participation as spaces where everyone can fully belong and thrive.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (Professional)

Chinese (Mandarin & Shanghainese, 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 implement individualized, accessible instruction that supports the academic, linguistic, social-emotional, and physical growth of Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Promote equitable communication through American Sign Language (ASL), spoken English, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and other student-centered language approaches. Collaborate with Teacher Assistants and Instructional Paraprofessionals to maintain an inclusive, well-structured classroom that fosters independence and meaningful participation.

HERE Arts Center, New York

March 2020 - August 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 performances and workshops.

Stephanie Black Films, New York

September 2019 - December 2019

Intern / Personal Assistant

Interned with award-winning 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

Deaf Spotlight

Board Member / Board Secretary

ASL SLAM

Event Support, Volunteer, 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 for *SIGNS*, an AI ASL platform developed by Nvidia and the American Society for Deaf Children
- **Music Magic: Turning Accessibility into Art (2024)**
Director / Editor
Documentary short of “Broadway Beethoven”, Deaf musician and composer, 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

ART & CURATION PROJECTS AND AWARDS

- **Brooklyn’s Deaf and DeafBlind Museum & Research Center (2025-NOW)**
Curator team and creator of accessible digital displays (exhibition slideshow, alumni interviews etc.)
- **#feelthemusic Deaf Music Project at Teachers College, Columbia University (2023-NOW)**
Event Curator, Producer, and Master of Ceremony
- **Chien Sauvage (2023)**
Lead Actress, Sign Language Performer
Official Selection at the 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
- **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

- **Shanghai Theater Academy, Presenter:** Sign Language and Deaf Theater in Drama Education (2026)
- **Elefam Conservation and Animal Welfare, Presenter:** Accessible Music Lessons for the Deaf (2025)
- **New York CN Culture Saloon (501(c)(3)), Panelist:** Ableism Bias in Artificial Intelligence (2025)
- **Knotting Code x LOOKFOR, Panelist:** Why Does a City Need a Deaf Film Festival? (2024)
- **New York CN Culture Saloon (501(c)(3)), Presenter:** Special Education and Disability Advocacy (2023)
- **NYU Global Disability Dialogue, Panelist:** Supporting Disability Advocacy with Artivism (2023)
- **Her Voices (US Consulate and UNFPA-supported program), Panelist:** Motherhood in Handscape (2022)
- **Adelphi University ARTIVISM, Panelist:** Deaf Music Project Documentary with Dr. Julia Silvestri (2021)