

Mardi Gras: Made in China, 74 mins David Redmon
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1:45 -- Smile!

1:55 -- One, two, three.

2:49 -- Directed, Produced, and edited by David Redmon

3:03 -- Crown me!

3:06 -- I crown thee!

3:31 - We give most of our beads away, and keep the toys and and make things out of them.

2:51 -- Miss Pearl, her Daughter April, and April's son Adam

3:43 -- You'll have your different kinds of bead people. You'll have people who act unconcerned and they'll sit in their chairs. Then you'll have people who say, "Please! Please!" I love it!

3:59 -- So I decided I'd be a joker today and put a target on my hand. And the idea just spread.

4:08 -- Shameless beadwhores will do anything to catch beads!

4:22 -- I'm a truck driver from Indiana. I had to pick up a load down here. Some people heard I was gonna be down here and they asked me to bring them back beads. So here's some beads if they don't all go away to boobs.

4:36 -- What do people do with beads?

4:30 -- They flash their hooters man! Flash their hooters!

4:40 -- What are you going to do with them?

4:41 - Hopefully somebody will flash me some hooters and I'll give them

away.

4:47 -- Where do you think the beads come from?

4:49 -- Don't know, don't care! They're beads for boobs man!

4:54 - Show your tits! Show your tits!

5:02 - In a way, Mardi Gras is serious. It's almost like a religious thing, but it's a serious thing, too. It's a little bit of everything.

5:14 - Mardi Gras is fabulous! I can't believe that girls are exposing themselves at this rate, but I think it's very cool. Exhibitionism is not a bad thing!

5:26 - Where do you think the beads came from?

5:28 - Where do I think the beads came from?

5:32 - Dirty old men who like to see us smile and wave at them! But that's about it.

5:37 - Who do you think made them?

5:42 - That's a fabulous questions. I have no idea. What's the answer?

7:15 - This is my office. We belong to A Grade. That means we are one of the ten top factories in this town.

7:29 -- In the year 1995 when we built it. It was so hard working at that time. The temperature is almost 37 degrees.

7:44- I sweated, sweated. You know, short pants, walking around. Looks like black people. It was terrible at that time. And we fon't have the office, so we dont have an airconditioner at that time. But still we got to work.

8:06 - Every machine runs two shifts, 24 hours working.

8:22 -- We want everybody to wear a red hat. It's easier for us to see where they are.

8:40 -- The majority before is almost 95% girls and 5% boys. The last two years we change, because we find that we should have more of the boys to work, because they got more strength and power to do something which the lady cannot do.

9:06 -- You push a car, you can't do that! They carry heavy things, and we try to bring in more of the boys now.

9:15 -- But at least not more than 10%, because we still believe that it is more easier for us to control the lady workers instead of the main workers.

9:36 -- Actual time

9:46 -- Electrical volts heat the pin to melt the beads together

9:53 -- Slow motion

10:07 - This is a regulation in American customs. You've got to have a Made in China label for every merchandise.

10:14 - We don't want to break the law.

10:39 -- We got a chalkboard to show the quantity that we produce everyday. This is the quantity of yesterday which is 7998 pounds. We keep this record so that we understand if they are working properly or they are not. You see here?

11:05 - We have a list here. This is a list so that the workers here can understand the minimum quantity they should produce everyday. Otherwise, if you don't give them a list, they will work very slow. But this list says that if you work hard, get to the standard, get to the level, then you get a 10% benefit or bonus. If you get less than this quantity, then there's a 5% punishment. Again, we talk about punishment. Otherwise, they will go to toilet too much. Is that a good idea?

12:00 -- 5:45 AM

12:10 -- David, Ohhh lala!

12:15 - Ga Hong Mei, 18 years old, 4th year

12:19 -- In the morning I get up at six.

12:28 - I brush my teeth and wash my face.

12:45 -- Next, I eat breakfast and get ready for work. And then I go to work at 6:45AM

13:16 -- First, you turn on the machines. Then you start to pull the beads from the machine.

13:31 -- I stand arms-length from the machine. I use my left hand to hold the door and my left hand to pull the beads.

13:41 - Each time I pull the beads out, I close the door.

13:43 - I remove the beads and put them into the bags.

13:51 -- When we leave work we must turn off the machines. If we forget, then we will be fined.

14:07 - Look how dirty they are.

14:16 - I make over 200 pounds in one day.

14:23 - I have to make 4 to 5 pounds in one day. I pull three thousand times a day.

14:36 -- If the engine is not turned off, and you put your hand inside the machine, it will be cut off.

14:43 -- Cut off? Yes, so don't put your hand in there!

14:52 -- So in one day we normally work 11 hours, but we are required to add on hours in between meals. So all together it adds up to 14 hours. And if you don't meet your quota at the end of the night, then you will be fined.

15:22 -- I work till noon - 6:45 to noon. Then I go to lunch.

15:42 -- And then I continue working.

16:29 -- This is the merchandise we make for Accent Annex and ship to K-Mart and Wal-Mart.

16:35 - Oh, these go to K-Mart and Wal-Mart? Yes.

16:39 --You see how we pack the beads? You see how the colors are common? We dont want this thing mixed together, looks like rubbish. Looks like trash. This is beautiful.

16:57 -- It makes it easier to handle?

16:59 -- Not only handle, but when people look at it they feel more comfortable, more attracted. If you put all the colors mixed together, it looks like trash. Is that right?

17:12 - Ohh yea, now I understand what you're saying. Yes.

17:20 - Roger was born in China. He moved to Hong Kong as a young boy.

17:25 - His father started the factory in Hong Kong in 1962, where a free market economy existed.

17:33 - Roger returned to mainland China in 1984, when its government had opened the economy to capitalism.

17:44 --The Chinese government tries to bring more of the people to go to China to invest. We are Chinese. We are proud of it now, because the government is open now.

17:54 - You see, I'm not the only guy who went to China to set up the factory. There are a lot of people.

17:58 - If I'm not going there, some other people will go there, too.

18:04 - And I'm happy because our country is open now, and we're willing to go and invest in China.

18:15 - Don't think about many years ago that the factories are small, and

the people gather together in a small place to work 24 hours a day. No, now it's changed.

18:29 - We let them do whatever they want. We don't treat the workers like slaves. How can we treat workers like slaves? That's nonsense.

18:51 -- Hail to the dictator. Hail to the dictator.

18:58 - You follow the rules, the laws of the government, then you can make your own factory, your own firm, your own company. That's it.

19:10 - Now since I've gotten back from China, there's a lot of things that I don't understand, really. I just keep thinking about the beads, and I saw that they're made in China and then they're exchanged here and people are throwing them away. It's such a huge contrast between what's going on - physical labor and physical fun. I mean, how do you make sense of that, being made in China, then shipped over and having fun?

19:37 -- If you're in China, then you can't make any sense out of it because they probably think we're crazy. If you rode on a float, you'd probably spend \$500 dollars at minimum on beads, doubloons, or other paraphernalia to throw.

20:05 - You have to understand that these poor people in China don't make \$500 in a month. Okay. A month, and you're taking \$500 and throwing it away. And they're working a whole month and not making that kind of money.

20:20 - Their entire time is encompassed right there in that operation. Once they leave, they don't come back. So they don't leave.

20:28 - It looks like a compound, a concentration camp, because they have barbed wire around it and everything else. Now that's not there to keep the people from getting out, it's there to keep people from getting in.

20:39 - Now they get paid for what they accomplish. And for every necklace they make, they get so much for that necklace. Now, if they work 10 hours instead of 8 hours, they're going to make extra money. Or if they work 12 hours or 15 hours, they're going to make more money than working just 8 hours.

20:57 - Because they're getting paid by the piece. I'd say the average is \$2-3 dollars a day. It all depends on how fast they go. And that's the ironic thing about this.

21:06 -- If you go there, and you've been there, I don't know if you had an opportunity to go into the factory where you have 400 people sitting side by side, rubbing elbows, and you can hear a pin drop, because you have 500 or 600 or whatever it is are all in the same room are busy working not talking or shooting the bull with this guy or laughing with that one or telling a joke.

21:27 - They're not interested in that. They're interested in, "How much can I get done today, how much money can I make. Cause if I talk, I'm going to miss the beat." So they don't talk. They just sit there and they work and work and work. And that's what they're there for.

21:40 - And there's no Tom Foolery, no fooling around, because if they don't put out, they don't get paid. Quite a system. It works for them. It'd never work in the United States, but it works for them.

21:57 -- Tai Kuen workers are fined one day's pay for talking while working

22:21 -- I come here to work so I can send money home.

22:27 -- When I was home I didn't go to school. I just sat around, ate, watched TV. No one really talked to me.

22:36 -- When I work, I make money. There are a lot of people here. They help me, and it's like a sisterly bond.

22:47 -- When I started working here, I didn't understand anything. So I just walked around and did nothing.

22:51 -- Slowly I learned. Sometimes I make beads like this. Sometimes it changes and I make other beads.

23:03 - How many have you made since you started?

23:07 -- I don't know! I really don't know! The quota is 200, but I can only

make close to 100.

23:19 - I paint purple ones mostly. I also pain green and gold.

24:23 -- We work for such a long time every day, but we only get a little salary.

24:32 -- Lio Lila, 18 years old, 3rd year

24:38 -- Too little! It's incredibly little.

24:42 -- Take me as an example.

24:46 -- The most I've made this year is 500 yuan (\$62) per month, not yet 600 yuan (\$75).

24:58 -- Because I have come to Earth, I have to make a living.

25:04 -- There are different ways to make a living.

25:09 -- Those of us who are not well-educated...

25:14 -- ...and don't have a good family background have no choice...

25:19 -- ...but to work hard and support ourselves.

25:24 -- So I just try to think about now.

25:28 -- When I was studying in school...

25:31 -- I dreamed of becoming an outstanding actress.

25:34 -- But this dream will never be realized.

25:38 -- What do you think about now?

25:40 -- About how to help my parents financially...

25:44 -- and support my younger brother.

25:48 -- Although I cannot realize my dreams, I still have hope in my brother.

25:55 -- I believe he can achieve his dreams!

26:00 -- I put all my hopes and dreams on my brother.

26:04 - He's studying in school now. He's 12, almost 13. I suppose he has just entered middle school.

26:11 - It's because we are poor. If I go to school, then my brother cannot ... go to school. Only one of us can go to school.

26:21 - Because you are here, now you can't go to school.

26:25 - Unfairness is irrelevant. I am willing to sacrifice for my brother.

26:34 -- What they really care is how much they make. Well, if they make enough they're happy right? They don't care who you are and if you are a capitalist or whatever you are. They really don't care.

26:48 -- They only care about when you give them the money. When you give them the pay. And how much they get paid. That's important for them. That's really important. Yea, yea.

27:01 -- Then also, they also really care about where they are going to work. And that's why we tried to build our factory in the style that people might like it. So I believe that if I have a good circumference for the workers, they work in the proper way, they work fast.

27:27 -- And that's why I believe my products are the best in town.

27:34 -- Besides prices people should think about the quality first. But you are throwing something that is beautiful. And the people are loving them. And people shout for them. That's great. If you throw something and then people throw it back to you. What's the use of that?

27:55 -- If you've got some beads to throw or people shouting, "give me your beads, give me your beads, throw me your beads." How do you feel? You feel so great! Oh my god people love my beads!

28:13 - [MUSIC: "When the Saints Go Marching In...)

28:12 -- Here we go! Hey, hey! You've got to beg!

28:23 - I got it I got it I got it.

28:25 - I'll give this to my grandson.

28:32 -- That's hard work.

28:35 - You got it! You got it! You got it!

28:42 - That was a good catch.

28:44 - Both of us are working hard.

28:52 - Now, come here. Let me see how you did.

28:56 - Ohhhh dude. You gonna have to do a little better. You're doing pretty good.

29:04 Ohhh look at those. Those are the emblems of the parade. That's a good catch.

29:09 - I caught that with one hand.

29:13 - How did you do?

29:15 I got all these bags.

[MUSIC]

29:40 -- Oh look at those tits.

29:50 -- In 1978 men and women began exchanging beads for nudity in the French Quarter of New Orleans

30:00 -- In 1978 Deng Xiaoping overturned Mao's Cultural Revolution by introducing China to a free market economy.

30:10 -- In the early 1980's China began producing plastic beads in the Fujian Special Economic Zone.

30:20 -- The free-market reforms have exposed over 150 million rural migrants to vulnerable economic conditions.

30:50 -- Well, yes what happens with the Mardi Gras beads is they stem from an old Roman tradition of people throwing the beads off of chariots. And during the Mardi Gras parade, they throw the beads off and the theory is the young women are supposed to pull their tops up and show their mammary glands.

31:18 - And so when you see a lot of people throwing beads, you'll see a lot of people exposing their genitalia.

31:26 -- Now, I never look, I never look at that. Ok. I never... I never look at... like that girl right over there thats getting ready to show her boobs. I never look at that type of stuff. Because I am a Catholic priest. You understand that right?

31:51 -- How did you get all your beads? Six foot six and very attractive.

31:56 -- Where do you think the beads came from? I have no idea. I hope it's nothing too bad, I hope it's nothing too bad. But I'm just here on vacation so...

32:07 -- Can I tell you? I guess; I'm a little nervous, but go ahead.

32:12 - China!

32:13 -- And what? Like 14 year old workers? Ten cents an hour. Ohhhh! Ohhhh! Get away! Get away! Don't bring my conscience into this!

32:25 -- That's bad. It's bad for tennis shoes, bad for factories, it's bad for all of it. But, I'm

getting drunk, and I'm from New York so I've had a hard enough year, so I'm going to have fun!

32:38 -- It's all relative, it doesn't matter. Why? Because ten cents for them is a lot of money. Ten cents for them is a lot of money. If the per capita income is very low, then it doesn't really matter. If they're making 10 cents, that's really good because most people might be making eight cents!

32:53 -- TEXT: MBA Graduate Student, University of Florida

32:55 -- But what about the owner who gets paid multiple millions of dollars? Well, you know, that's a capitalist market... That's just the world. That's the way it is.

33:05 - Ten cents an hour? That's not a lot of money. That's no money at all. You can work 5 hours and make only 50 cents. What kind of shit is that! You can't live off 10 cents an hour - that should be against the law. That shouldn't even be legal. That's not right. They making a family off of that. That's how they feed their people, their whole family off of 10 cents an hour. What kind of shit is that? No! This is some plastic colored shit with some string on it. And if somebody is making a living off of this, then they need to be paid more than that, you know what I'm saying? Because I'm walking around here with about a 100 beads on my neck, and haven't paid shit for them, and these people are working their asses off for 10 cents an hour. That's not right. That's not right. That's not right.

33:51 -- Do you think workers in the United States could make beads like this here?

33:55 -- No, they could not do it. Not that it's impossible for them to do, but it would be cost prohibitive. Because as I told you. These people over there are working for \$2, 3, 4 dollars a day. We pay \$5.50 a hour, or whatever it is an hour, and you can't even find anybody to work for that.

34:13 -- All of our employees make \$7.00 an hour. Now you realize that over there, they would be working for two to three days to make the same \$7.00 an hour this person is making in one hour over here. So if we had to use this type of personelle to make the beads, it would be cost prohibitive.

34:37 -- Do you think that the money they get paid, do you think it's fair? Oh yah. At this moment yes. You see here the question is this.

34:50 -- If they don't work or if they make a big mistake on the painting or melting the beads they will get punishment. So why should they not pay attention? They have to pay attention to their work. They should concentrate on their work.

35:10 -- If they try to think about something else they might do something wrong. And I think that a punishment is really important in the factory.

35:29 -- How many hours a day do you work? If I tell the truth I'm afraid the boss will punish me. Generally speaking, it's over 15 or 16 hours. But if we have an urgent job to do, we can only sleep for 4 hours. I'm afraid the boss will punish me.

35:58 - TEXT: Ga Hong Mei's first day off in two weeks

36:00 to 36:16 unit five. English. Clock. Box. Pencil Box. Ruler. Cup. Pear. Cake.

36:40 -- Two years ago I was studying middle school and decided not to study anymore. I was envious seeing other kids leave school to work outside. My father wouldn't let me go. So I argued with my mom and insisted to her, "No! I just want to work.!"

36:58 -- Finally, I was allowed to quit school and work here. During my first year here all I thought about was my home. I was so homesick that I kept crying. I wish to go back home and so does my father.

37:18 -- Last year, when I went back home, my father did not allow me to work outside again. He asked me to settle down and learn to be a doctor. So I studied medicine for about 2 months. It was too hard for me to memorize the medications. I was so frustrated that I became seriously sick. My father gave up the idea of training me as a doctor. Two years ago I was allowed to return to work here.

37:55 -- Dance! Dance!

37:57 --Just like the dance! Follow the rhythm.

38:59 - Walk like the Mabu. Follow the rhythm!

38:05 -- TEXT: 10 women share one 20X24 dorm located inside the factory premises. They are allowed to leave only on Sundays, if they are not required to work.

38:21 - What does this look like? It looks like catching shrimp! Catching shrimp looks like this!

38:32 -- TEXT: 15 minutes later. 2 A.M.

34:00 -- I think they really enjoy their work, even though they are doing the same thing everyday.

38:40 -- They don't feel bored because they have a lot of fun after work. They are free, right? They can play tennis, or basketball, or football. They can walk around the place, you know. It's a big place, so I don't think they feel bored. And they have so many friends.

39:20 -- Our supervisor lowered our pay per product, so we led a strike. We refused to work until he raised the pay.

39:33 -- Everyone decided not to work. Who led it? The experienced workers told us that the pay per product was totally unfair. And they asked us to stop working for half a day.

39:48 - Then the supervisor asked us to his office and told us that if we start working he will increase the salary.

39:56 -- Have the workers every stopped working? Have they ever refused to work? Ohhhh never. Not in my factory. Not in my factory. I believe that my workers won't do that type of thing. Because if you treat the workers like your brother and sister.

40:21 -- Don't say brother and sister. If you treat your workers like workers and friends, why should they stop work? Well, some people might stop work if they are being punished. They will say, "I don't won't to work today because you punish me." Well then, we just tell them, If you don't want to obey the rule, go home. That's it.

40:47 -- Why is the whole talk of the strike over now. The boss did not give us the pay fairly. The supervisor did not convey our request to the Chairman of the Board, so we argued with him. He denied. However we still did not get the money we deserved. So they raised your hours and not your pay?
Yes.

41:59 -- TEXT: Mardi Gras beads are made from Polystyrene and Polyethylene, both petroleum products.

42:15 - The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health states that STYRENE is a narcotic and central nervous system toxin.

42:28 - Several animal and human studies have suggested that STYRENE causes cancer when melted and inhaled. A decade later there are still no international laws regulating the use of STYRENE

42:48 -- TOY SONG: "I am a boy and you are a girl" [repeats]

43:53 -- What does it say? Is it in English? I don't know. Ask him, silly.

43:00 -- I am a boy and you are a girl. Do you want to be my friend?

43:14 -- We have a regulation. No woman is allowed to go to the men's room, and no man is allowed to go to the woman's room. When we catch people who don't want to listen to our regulation and then we punish them! Well, how do we punish them? We punish them by stop paying them for one month. Excuse me.

43:38 -- If they really want to talk about love, then they should talk outside the factory when they are off on Sundays. It's better for them too.

44:05 -- That's important. I don't want this factory becoming a hotel, a hourly hotel. That's no good.

44:28 - We, my friends, confide in each other, topics such as finding a boyfriend in the future, working and some private stuff.

44:37 TEXT: Ga Hong Mei with Lio Lila

44:43 -- Little sister. How are you? Another year has passed. Did you pass it well? Are you happy. Sister, I hope you are working well this year.

44:54 -- I heard... How can I say this? I'm not going to say this. I heard that Hong Hwain is chasing after you. Ohhh, I know a handsome boy that I wanted to introduce to you. I think there's no need for that now. This is too bad. I didn't think that my sister at this heaping age doesn't have anyone after her. Little sister! As soon as she is born has all these guys chasing after her. I am so envious of you. There is much jealousy. Now, as one person over there. Are you okay? Bye bye. Do yourself a favor and look for health and happiness.

45:51 -- It's New Orleans. That's the way it

is.

45:55 -- Would you do it outside of New Orleans, or only during Mardi Gras? No, only in New Orleans can this happen? Why? Because this is the party city. The get drunk, have sex, show your titties, party city. You know! Everything!

46:10 -- I think the women, when they show their tits, they love the beads. The color or the design attracts them.

46:21 -- Secondly, they are so happy or crazy about getting that bead because of some reason; I really don't understand. I think that atmosphere makes them feel so happy to get what they expect to get. So, they just show their tits.

46:49 -- TEXT: 1000 revelers expose themselves in exchange for beads every three minutes during Carnival.

47:05 -- Ohhhh, I love it because it makes me horny. Yea, it does! It does! You know. Everybody, the attention's all focused on you, you know. It's fun!

47:42 -- TEXT: After two days of filming, Ms. Pearl has been told nothing on what this film is about.

47:49 -- Can you talk about some of your philosophies on people around the world who we're not familiar with, who we don't know about but yet contribute to our happiness?

48:00 -- Like the people in China who make the beads, I often wonder about that. The beads, the hands those beads pass through. You know? The people who make those beads may not make much. I don't know much about that. All those beads are from China.

48:14 -- Are they?

48:18 -- It says on the paper. The glass ones used to be from Czechoslovakia. Probably some of them are made in America but all the tags I see say made in China. Isn't that what you see? Place I'd like to visit sometime.

48:28 --You know, Chinese, Oriental people do have a lot of festivals themselves. I'm wondering if they have anything like Mardi Gras. I know they have Mardi Gras all over the world, but I really don't think it's an Oriental custom. But it's be interesting to know what they have. More or less I'd like to invite them here to do what we do: catch some of the beads they created.

49:14 -- VOICES IN BACKGROUND: Migrants' right are human rights! No, no, no wage cuts!

49:29 -- TEXT: Every month, tens of thousands of workers in China rally for better working conditions.

49:39 -- Workers' demands are mostly ignored, and the organizers are usually arrested.

50:03 -- TEXT: Once a year for the Chinese New Year, the factory closes for two weeks.

50:11 -- Roger and the workers go home to spend time with their families.

50:30 -- What are you bringing home today?

50:32 -- Today? Winter clothes. I haven't been home in a year so I'm bringing back Winter clothes. Also some gifts for the New Year.

50:43 -- Gifts for the New Year?

50:45 - What kind of gifts?

50:47 - A watch for my brother.

51:20 -- This is my home.

51:23 -- Here. Here.

51:27 -- That's my bed.

51:47 - What are you looking for?

51:47 - What are you looking for?

51:51 - Nothing. To see if anything's changed.

51:57 -- - Qui Biu's father and brother

52:00 -- Are they going to eat this?

52:02 -- They're not going to eat this.

52:03 - Let's go order something.

52:05 - Let's order something.

52:21 - Here, take this.

52:23 - How much do we need?

52:25 - I think 10 yuan is enough.

52:23 - Come here!

52:39 - I got a watch,

52:44- I can learn how to tell time.

52:50 - Why are you wasting money?

52:51 -- I wanted to get him something.

52:52 -- How much did it cost?

52:54 -- None of your business.

52:56 -- He doesn't even know how to use it.

52:58 -- I'm going to show him how.

53:00 -- Very pretty.

53:08 -- Thank you! Thank you!

54:00 - The Tucks necklace

54:15 - Are you afraid of the WTO, the World Trade Organization opening up to China?

54:18 -- Why?

54:19 - What if Mardi Gras becomes so well known that that itself becomes a market, like Wal-Mart.

54:28 -- Well, then they can come buy from me.

54:32 - So, it's impossible for them to open up their own Mardi Gras factory?

54:35 - No, it's possible for them to open their factory. They can build a big factory like Nike. But what's the use of doing this?

54:48 -- Big capital people want to invest because they make big money. This is small money.

54:53 -- But is it big money for you?

54:56 -- Well, it's big money for us, because we are small.

55:00 -- I remember some Krewes write me direct, but I don't want to take their order because it's the principle. You must be loyal to Dom, or to anyone who tries to give you the business at the beginning.

55:16 -- I believe that if I am loyal to someone, then someone will be honest to me, too.

55:27 - If I help someone, then someone has to help me, too.

55:35 - Or maybe the young generation, maybe they are not talking about loyalty. Do you think so?

55:45 -- Well, they talk about loyalty in terms of branding, marketing.

55:49 -- The young generation, they only talk about the present.

56:00 - I think they talk about short-term profit.

56:05 -- Short term. And they talk about facts. They don't talk about the old people, when they have friends, you know. You know, friends, we always help each other. But the generation now, the young one, they talk about facts: what they see now, what they touch now.

56:21 -- But don't you think that has a lot to do with globalization? The globalization of capitalism? Because, capitalism sort-of severs those ties, those binds, like the relationship you have with Dom. So maybe that's one reason why. I don't know. I'm just thinking. I don't know. Cause I think it's important, what you're talking about, the loyalty.

56:41 -- You see, I don't know what will happen after Dom. Who will be the boss after Dom? Will that guy buy from me? I don't know. It's a question mark.

57:04 - How did your daughter grow up? Was she hardworking?

57:11 -- She liked to play a lot. Like a Tim Boy.

57:15 -- Tomboy.

57:17 -- Yeah, tomboy.

57:18 -- Lazy.

57:20 -- She doesn't want to work.

57:22 - -- She didn't help out with the housework at all.

57:25 -- Yeah, she went to Kindergarden at... What?

57:26 -- I don't remember much.

57:28 -- I held her since she was little. Then she went to Kindergarden at 7 years old.

57:32 - How did your daughter grow up?

57:35 --Yeah, she went to Kindergarden at... What?

57:36 -- Seven years old.

57:40 -- And then for 2-3 years she went to Junior High.

57:45 -- How old was she in eighth grade?

57:48 -- 13. She was 13.

57:50 -- I told her to get good grades in school.

57:54 -- She went to school until the 8th grade, but she didn't like it.

57:55 -- She almost flunked out of school!

57:57 -- You talk too much.

57:59 -- If I wasn't working in the factory, what would I be doing?

58:04 -- I would ask you to go to another factory and earn money. It's important.

58:09 --Everybody wants money.

58:11 -- All for the money. All for the money!

58:38 - TEXT: Qiu Bia and her mother

58:40 -- When we are on vaction we just play and fool around for a few days.

58:51 -- If my daughter was not working in the factory, I would send her outside the country to make money. If you can get outside the country, you can make big money.

59:09 -- Regularly, all the girls, whether educated or not, you need to send them outside to make money.

59:18 -- If they can make money outside, then you are home safe and secure.

59:24 -- -- Money is important to build houses. If we have money, the house will stand. If you have money, it can give you education.

59:31 -- You can own your own business or a factory. If you can open a factory, or have your own business, you'll be rich. Ohh yea! If you have money you can lend it to other people to do good things.

59:52 -- So it's important that the boss pay your daughter well?

59:57 -- Of course. The higher the salary, the better.

1:00:09 - Well, you see, at the beginning, when the new workers come, we don't tell them how we are going to use the beads. We only train them.

1:00:29 - Cheers!

1:00:43 -- Do you know where these beads are shipped?
Probably out of the country.

1:00:49 -- Where do you think the beads come from?

1:00:52 -- Bead company.

1:00:57 -- I don't know.

1:00:59 -- Who cares! People having a good time just like us.
That's it, brother.

1:01:05 - The video can show the people that everything is completely changed in China, nowadays.

1:01:15 -- Okay, I'm doing a cultural exchange. I went to China twice and I interviewed the people who make the beads. The thing is, they had no idea what people did with beads – they just made them. Now, I

come here and talk to people and they have no idea who makes the beads. So, neither group knows each other. So I'm here to show you footage of them working while they make the beads and I'm going to bring this footage back to them.

1:01:47 -- We're out here thinking it's no big deal, it's just beads, we're going to wear them. But then you see what goes on and you think that you don't... It's not fun.

1:01:56 -- You feel bad because we don't place any value on them, and so when we take them home they may get lost or thrown away, and they don't mean anything to us. But, the work they put in, and the hours, and the pain they go through, in the end it doesn't mean anything to us.

1:02:24 -- That's ridiculous. I want to take my beads off.

1:02:27 -- Where are you from?

1:02:27 -- I was born and raised in Texas, but I live in Pennsylvania right now.

1:02:30 -- Texas? Don't you think you're thank god to be an american, right? How are you gonna solve the problem of these kids making these beads? You can make a change, but the only way you're going to make a change is if you get your ass back over there!

1:02:42 -- So you're making recommendations to me? Right. What I'm trying to do is bring this to the attention of people, and then they can make up their own minds.

1:02:47 -- Right, but do you think this is the right way?

1:02:49 -- What other way is there?

1:02:52 -- To pass out fliers like Jesus Christ and shit!

1:02:54 -- But that's a waste of paper. People don't read it.

1:02:57 What, Jesus Christ is a waste of paper?

1:02:59 -- No, the paper is a waste. People don't read it.

1:02:00 - [Background voice] Should they make beads or shouldn't they make beads?

1:03:04 -- I live a life that's so completely different than that, and my standard of living. I could never imagine working like that for what they must get. It's not fair at all, it's not equal, so it's hard to see how someone can be okay with that standard of living.

1:03:28 -- How much do the beads cost in the US. They range from \$1-\$20.

1:03:38 And we make only 500 yuan [62 U.S.] a month. 100 to 200 yuan for each one? How does that happen?

1:03:48 - It's unfair, but we have no choice.

1:03:52 - We make them, however, we cannot sell them directly.

1:03:56 -- The price of each necklace in the U.S. is as much as our salaries for 3 months.

1:04:01 - For each one, we only earn .10 yuan [1 cent U.S.] for twelve necklaces.

1:04:11: -- Do you know how people use the beads you make? They wear it around their necks.

1:04:20 -- Be careful! Don't get the pictures dirty.

1:04:31 -- I saw a person butt naked!

1:04:38 -- And the women take off their clothes for beads.

1:04:44 -- How is that possible? We Chinese are different from Americans in that respect. We are not used to things like that.

1:04:50 -- Why do they like those beads so much? They buy them as presents. We have absolutely no interest in those beads.

1:05:01 -- TEXT: The workers pass the pictures around the factory.

1:05:13 -- Look at the naked boobs (breasts)

1:05:20 -- What do you think when you see this picture? Embarrassment.

1:05:30 -- There's rice to eat today.

1:05:33 -- I don't know what these beads are used for, how people use them. I used to always wonder why they wanted these beads. They do not look pretty at all, do they? When I was told that some Americans would remove their clothes for the ugly beads, I could not believe it!

1:05:58 -- Now that you know that some people take off their clothes for these beads, what do you want to say to them? Don't snatch! Don't grab! They're ugly!

1:06:35 -- When I was in New Orleans last year, and I saw people shouting for the beads that were made for Accent Annex, it was so great. I'm so glad to hear that. Not because I put so much in the factory, but more because I saw the crowd of people so happy, shouting, and it made me feel that I am a success!

1:07:05 -- But it also seems that your company makes so much profit from that labor. How do you feel about that? Well, how do I feel about that. I can answer that if I didn't do it someone else is going to do it. Regardless of how much profit we make, and everyone is here to make profit.

1:07:21 -- The point is if they weren't happy with what they wouldn't be there. They would be someplace else. They would be making Nike shoes or something else. They would be digging in the fields with their legs and feet in the water, up to their knees harvesting rice. That's what they're accustomed to.

1:07:41 -- And as a matter of fact, with this plant in operation, they're accustomed to a better life today, then they were before they went there, because they didn't even have it that well. You can imagine someone 20 or 25 years of age or whatever they may be not having any source of income what so ever.

1:07:55 -- Now, these people are working every day.

1:08:25 - TEXT: The majority of beads are thrown away as trash.

1:08:32 -- Do you want to know what my film is about? I don't know and I don't know that I want to find out. Because remember when I was five years old I got this beautiful box. You know? You open it up and a ballerina stands up, and she starts to to dance with beautiful music. I thought to myself, "How does she do it? How does she do it?"

1:08:53 -- So I pried the back off and I saw this ugly metal rod with little knots on it, and I said, "That's all it is? An ugly metal rod with little knots on it?"

1:09:05 -- So I don't always ask questions. If you've got something that gives you joy, don't question it. You might rub the stuff off the butterfly wings and it may not be able to fly anymore.

1:09:19 -- TEXT: Made in China

1:09:30 -- We are anonymous workers who are asking the boss to stop punishing us. That is what we want the most. We're not asking anyone to stop buying beads. We need to work so that we can make money to send back home. But we also want him to stop punishing us, to pay us minimum wages, and stop making us work

overtime. Thank you.

1:10-22 -- Directed, produced, and Edited by David Redmon
Carnavalesque Films

Assistant Editors: Suki Hawley, Aaron Lozier, Ashley Sabin

Associate Producer: Ashley Sabin, Deborah Smith and Dale Smith

Assistants to the Editor: Nick Chatfield-Taylor, Colin Moore

Original music created from factory noise: Matthew Dougherty

1:10:02 - I'm thinking of quitting now. The boss is too demanding and unkind.

TEXT: 1:11:19 -- Ga Hong Mei left Tai Kuen Bead Factory. She currently sews together blue jeans in another factory.

-- Lio Lila and Qui Bia have also quit.

1:11:30 - I feel so comfortable sitting here.

- Roger has expanded his business. His company currently offers bracelets, Christmas ornaments, photo frames, and stuffed toys for Mardi Gras, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and Valentine's Day.

1:11:45 - TEXT: Roger claims that Hurricane Katrina has not slowed down his business and the "the workers are busy because people in New Orleans want to hear jazz again."

1:11:52 - That dude is not supposed to be coming and getting in my shower and not telling me anything. He lives outside, not inside.

1:12:00 - Pearl, you wasn't here for him to tell you anything in the first place. He didn't tell me anything because I wasn't fucking here.

1:12:05 - You don't live here and you don't come and get into my shower without telling me. Hold on!

TEXT: Hurricane Katrina displaced Ms. Pearl for 6 weeks. She is currently housing 14 people in her back yard.

1:12:26 - See. Look at the quality on it, the painting on it, the color. They're vibrant, bright, brilliant. There's no flaws in this. Now, I'm going to pay you for this, and I'm going to pay you my good money for it, I'm not looking for a piece of trash.

-- In June 2005, Dom Carlone announced that Accent Annex was forced to reorganize under a different name after filing for bankruptcy due to embezzlement of more than \$300,000 by a former employee.

1:12:55 - I'm stationed back in Boston, MA. But I'm from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I've enjoyed my time down there and it's nice to see something like this happen here in Iraq. And to think that people back home are thinking about us. It kind of takes us away from what we are doing for a couple of minutes. It's been wonderful. What a great parade. We appreciate your support and thanks for everything.

TEXT: New Orleans residents send recycled beads to soldiers in Baghdad, Iraq as "care packages" so they can celebrate Mardi Gras.

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