



ABOUT CAATA

Our Mission The Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists (CAATA) envisions a strong and sustainable Asian American Theater community that is an integral presence in national culture—evocative of our past, declarative of our present, and innovative towards our future. Our mission is to advance the field of Asian American Theater through a national network of organizations and artists. We collaborate to inspire leaning and sharing of knowledge, and resources to promote a healthy, sustainable artistic ecology.

Our History In September 2003, six Asian American theater companies attended a convening sponsored by Theater Communications Group. The companies—Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, East West Players, Ma-Yi Theater, the National Asian American Theatre Company (NAATCO), Second Generation, and Mu Performing Arts—began discussions to hold the first National Asian American Theater Conference. Spearheaded by Tim Dang of East West Players, "Next Big Bang: The First Asian American Theater Conference" took place in Los Angeles in June 2006. The first National Asian American Theater Festival took place June 2007 in New York City, featuring over 25 performing artists and companies. Conferences and Festivals have since been hosted in Minneapolis, New York, and Los Angeles.

Board Members

- Andrea Assaf** – Artistic Director, **Art2Action Inc.** (Tampa, FL)
- Leilani Chan** – Artistic Director, **TeAda Productions** (Los Angeles, CA)
- Tisa Chang** – Artistic Producing Director, **Pan Asian Repertory Theatre** (New York, NY)
- Tim Dang** – Artistic Director, **East West Players** (Los Angeles, CA)
- Gayle Isa** – Executive Director, **Asian Arts Initiative** (Philadelphia, PA)
- Mia Katigbak** – Artistic Producing Director, **NAATCO** (New York, NY)
- Victor Maog** – Artistic Director, **Second Generation Productions** (2g) (New York, NY)
- Dipankar Mukherjee** – Artistic Director, **Pangea World Theater** (Minneapolis, MN)
- Meena Natarajan** – Executive/Literary Director, **Pangea World Theater** (Minneapolis, MN)
- Jorge Ortoll** – Executive Director, **Ma-Yi Theater** (New York, NY)
- Randy Reyes** – Artistic Director, **Mu Performing Arts** (Minneapolis, MN)
- Rick Shiomi** – Director/Co-Founder, **Mu Performing Arts** (Minneapolis, MN)



ABOUT ASIAN ARTS INITIATIVE

Founded in 1993 in response to concerns about racial tensions, Asian Arts Initiative is a multi-disciplinary community-based arts center in Philadelphia that engages artists and everyday people to create art that explores the diverse experiences of Asian Americans, addresses our social context, and imagines and effects positive community change. Asian Arts Initiative supports a gallery and exhibition program, performances and film screenings, year-round afterschool and summer youth programming, and artists-in-residence working to transform our immediate neighborhood of Chinatown North and our broader community.

Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists
520 8th Avenue, Suite 308, New York, NY 10018
www.caata.net

Asian Arts Initiative
1219 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
www.asianartsinitiative.org

The CONSORTIUM OF ASIAN AMERICAN THEATERS AND ARTISTS
& ASIAN ARTS INITIATIVE present the 2014

NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN THEATER CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL

Home: Here... There... Where?



Soomi Kim is Chang(e). Photo by Benjamin Heller.

Dennis Kim's Tree City Legends. Pak Han Photography.

OCTOBER 8 – 12, 2014
PHILADELPHIA



Children of Medea.



Dan Kwong.



Sex Tape Project.



Anu Yadav's Meena's Dream.



Hosted by Asian Arts Initiative with Co-hosts
InterAct Theatre Company | Fringe Arts | Underground Arts



And generous support from



FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES

Soomi Kim: *Chang(e)*

Wednesday, October 8th at 8pm | Friday, October 10th at 8pm | Saturday, Oct. 11th at 2pm

Chang(e) is a theatrical rumination of the Philly based performance artist and activist Kathy Change who was on a mission to save the world. As a final "act" of protest, she self-immolated on the campus of UPenn on October 22nd, 1996. *Chang(e)* captures the spirit of a passionate and marginalized woman, battling her own cultural and psychological demons and the community that both enveloped and dismissed her.

Dan Kwong: *WHAT? NO PING PONG BALLS?*

Friday, October 10th at 2pm | Saturday, October 11th at 8pm | Sunday, Oct. 12th at 2pm

Master storyteller Dan Kwong teams up with world renowned drummer Kenny Endo in a moving, insightful and hilarious tribute to Kwong's late mother, Momo Nagano. It's the tale of a Japanese American woman from "the greatest generation", living life unapologetically as a single parent and artist and joyously defying society to define or constrain her.

Sue Jin Song's *Children of Medea*

Thursday, October 9th at 2pm | Friday, Oct. 10th at 2pm

Children of Medea draws on one of the earliest stories of female immigration in the history of Western drama—the mythical figure of Medea. The play takes that story and draws clear parallels with modern immigration and the cultural strains it places on family dynamics. It also reflects on more metaphysical modes of escape, embodied by the tale of Alice in Wonderland.

Fu-GEN Theatre Company's *Sex Tapes*

Friday, October 10th and Saturday, Oct. 11th each hour from 7pm to 11pm

A site-specific, voyeuristic experiment that explores sexuality, spectatorship, perception, perspective, and the stories we invent. Warning: adult content.

CAATA Performance Showcase

Thursday, Oct. 9th at 8pm

A presentation of outstanding new work by Asian American performance artists from around the country. Excerpts include *JapanAmerica Wonderwave* by Makoto Hirano; *SLANT Unplugged* with Rick Ebihara and Perry Yung; Viet Nguyen's *Reincarnation Soup*; *Mommy Queerest*, performed and co-written by Kat Evasco with her director, John Caldon; and *Meena's Dream*, created and performed by Anu Yadav.

CAATA Open Mic and Cabaret hosted by Regie Cabico

Friday, October 10th at 10pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session 3: Saturday, October 11th at 11am

Home: Here? There? Where?: De/Constructing Homes

This panel will examine the questions of "home" symbolically and materially in the academy and in the larger sense of the nation. What does "home" mean in today's world of movement and migration? How are contemporary Asian American performers and theater artists registering these transits through their art practices and daily lives? Presentations by scholars and working artists, followed by a short discussion.

With Donatella Galella, Sehba Sarwar and Chris Eng

Professional Development: The Future for Women of Color in Theater

This discussion will explore how the challenges women of color face in developing a career in theater and finding mentorship and sponsorship for their work. With Jane Jung

New Play Reading: May Lee-Yang's *The Divorcee Diaries*

The Hmong sexual revolution is happening! And it's resulting in nightclubs, barhopping, and divorces. Set against the backdrop of a nightclub, four people explore the fun, the fear, and the fantasy of divorce as they drink, flirt, fight, and try to make sense of lives in transition.

Session 4: Saturday, October 11th at 4:30pm

Home: Here? There? Where?: The State of Asian American Theater

The roundtable will consist of artists and scholars who will discuss the current state of Asian American theatre with specific focus on what "home" means in Asian American theatre in 2014. Each artist and scholar will cite case studies to illustrate how the stage has been used to imagine and represent "home." The roundtable will also discuss how theatre has been a venue to explore a sense of displacement in an increasingly globalized world.

With Jeremy Tiang, Jeanne Sakata, Esther Kim Lee and Dan Bacalzo

Artistic Practice: Funny Asian Women..K (FAWK)

FAWK is a multi-ethnic collective of Asian American women (yeah, we got a Korean, a Hmong, a Lao, and the occasional sisters in drag) who use humor to talk about community issues in an uncensored, unfiltered space. Our panel is an interactive, experiential look at the work we do and invites conference attendees to take part in our process.

With Naomi Ko, May Lee-Yang and Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay

Professional Development: Maintaining a Career in Directing

Questions to be answered in this panel include: What does it take to become a working director? Is an artistic home necessary? What prevents artistic directors from taking on more regional freelance work? And how are directors overcoming or utilizing their race to move forward in their career?

With Peter J. Kuo, Desdomona Chiang, Snehal Desai and Randy Reyes

New Play Reading: Melissa Tien's *Familium Valgare*

An Asian American family comprised of a Buddhist scholar, an amateur filmmaker and a would-be science major navigate the peculiar waters of life after death. A play about the individual rituals we design for ourselves, and the power of the collective ritual.

For more detailed information about Conference plenary and breakout sessions, please go to www.caata.net.

2014 CAATA CONFEST ON HOWLROUND TV!

Watch live or later

all of the 2014 ConFest

plenary sessions and breakout discussions

addressing this year's theme:

Home? Here? Where? There?

Go to bit.ly/thenaatf

to catch or revisit the conversation.

In Twitter, use

[#theNAATF](#) and [#newplay](#)

to live-tweet and to track the conversation.

See more at:

<http://howlround.com/>

[livestreaming-the-national-asian-american-theater-conference-](#)

[thenaatf-philadelphia-](#)

[thurs-oct-9-sat](#)

[#sthash.8D4yOjsV.dpuf](#)

PLENARY SESSIONS

Opening Plenary: Thursday, Oct. 9th at 6:30pm

Welcome and introductions facilitated by local host Gayle Isa of Asian Arts Initiative, Andrea Assaf of Art2Action and a host of artists from far and near, followed by a conversation featuring theater artists and producers Snehal Desai, Soomi Kim, Traci Kato Kiriyama and Meena Natarajan addressing current and future directions for the field, including cross-disciplinary and/or multi-disciplinary work and community engagement and activism.

Plenary 2: UnHomed, Friday, Oct. 10th at 9:30am

Gordon Hirabayashi was tried and convicted in 1942 for refusing to follow the U.S. government's order for the forced removal of Japanese Americans to internment camps. An excerpt of *Hold these Truths*, Jeanne Sakata's play about the case, performed by Makoto Hirano, will introduce the plenary followed by comments from Karen Shimakawa, May Joseph and Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson.

Plenary 3: Casting & Representation for Asian Americans, Saturday, Oct. 11th at 9:30am

Yellow face acting and stereotypical representations of Asian Americans continue to plague us. This panel discussion between actors, directors, producers, and playwrights addresses recent issues across the country, seeking to conjure up new ideas for change. With Sarah Mitteldorf, Rick Shiomi, Randy Reyes, Pun Bandhu and Leslie Ishii

2014 CONFEST VENUES

Asian Arts Initiative
1219 Vine Street (Chinatown North)

InterAct Theatre Company
2030 Sansom Street (Center City)

Painted Bride Arts Center
230 Vine Street (Old City)

Underground Arts
1200 Callowhill Street (Chinatown North)

Fringe Arts
140 N. Columbus Boulevard (Old City)

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
116 North Broad Street (Center City)

Pennsylvania 30th Street Station
2955 Market Street (University City)

2014 CONFEST HOST COMMITTEE

Sarah Bishop-Stone, Philadelphia Fringe Arts
Sean Buffington, University of the Arts
Rob Buscher, Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival
Emily Cronin, Haverford College
Center for Arts and Humanities
Mindy Early, Philly Young Playwrights
Amy Harting, Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts
Gayle Isa, Asian Arts Initiative
Melody Lam, Philadelphia Asian-Pacific-American
Youth Summit (PAYS)
Lisa Nelson-Haynes, Painted Bride Arts Center
Michael Norris, Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
June Washikita O'Neill, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Harry Philbrick, Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts
Gary Reuben, Underground Arts
Seth Rozin, InterAct Theatre Company
Gabriela Sanchez, Power Street Theater Company
Daniel Student, Plays and Players
Peter Van Do, University of Pennsylvania
Pan-Asian American Community House

2014 CONFEST PRODUCTION TEAM

Jeff Mousseau, CAATA General Manager
Sueyeun Juliette Lee, 2014 ConFest Local Coordinator
Keighty McLallen, Production Manager/Technical Director
Lucas Nguyen, Production Stage Manager/Master Electrician
Jenna Stelmok, Production Stage Manager

ADDITIONAL THANKS FOR IN-KIND SUPPORT

- Asian Arts Initiative Staff -
- Alethea Carbaugh | Nancy Chen | Gayle Isa | Jae Shim | Melody Wong -
Amardeep Singh
Andrea Kirsh
Bhob Rainey
Brian Thrash
Bryan Chen
Omar Telan
Rob Buscher
Tony Jones, CBL Wine LLC
Art2Action
Bar Ly
Chinese Christian Church and Center, Laurence Tom
Cohesive Collection
Fgment Theater
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Philadelphia Young Playwrights / Independence Foundation Learning Lab
Trestle Inn, Renae Dinerman
University of the Arts, Karen Rosenberg

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session 1: Friday, October 9th at 11am

Home: Here? There? Where?: 2020: Evolving Asian American Theater

The model of ethnically-specific theaters has evolved over time to meet the needs of artists, audiences, and communities – what happens next?

With Victor Maog, Leslie Ishii, Jeff Liu and Roger Tang

Artistic Practice: Rainbow Connections:

Sharing & Building Theatre Programs for Asian American Youth

Rainbow Connections will explore using theater with Asian American youth and their communities to create a new generation of leadership and artistry. Leaders of successful models from existing youth programs will discuss their programs and share best practices. With Rick Shiomi, Randy Reyes, Nina Zoie Lam and Lydia Gaston

New Play Reading: Alameda by Jeremy Tiang

Alameda is the story of a woman who travels from China to America in search of family – but is she all that she seems? *Alameda* contrasts the Asian and Asian-American identities, and explores the fault-lines that can exist within our communities.

Session 2: Friday, October 9th at 4:30pm

Home: Here? There? Where?: Minding the Gap and Bridging It

Developed by Artists at Play, a theatre-producing collective based in Los Angeles, this session will engage both emerging and existing artists/leaders in conversations that will bring us together and plan out ideas of succession and partnership.

With Marie-Reine Velez and Victor Maog

Artistic Practice: To Train or Not To Train:

Exploring Actor Training for Asian Americans in America

To Train or Not To Train is a panel discussion about the state of actor training for Asian Americans in America today moderated by Randy Reyes of Mu Performing Arts with Leslie Ishii of East West Players.

Professional Development:

Elsewhere and Otherwise: Asian American Performance Beyond CA and NY

A roundtable discussion of theater artists and professionals who make their home outside of the major Asian American and theater arts centers of New York City and Los Angeles.

With Stan Kang, Roger Tang, Rick Shiomi and Justin Jain

New Play Reading: Saymoukda Vongsay's Kung Fu Zombies vs. Cannibals

In a post-apocalyptic world where zombies have taken over and cannibals hide in the mountains, two Lao women and a chorus of gangbanging monks struggle to maintain their personal moral code in a world gone wrong.

PARTNER PRODUCTIONS

Tree City Legends by Dennis Kim, directed by Marcvv Bamuthi Joseph

Presented by Asian Arts Initiative and Youth Speaks at Painted Bride Art Center

Thursday, Oct. 9th at 8pm | Friday, October 10th at 8pm

A multidisciplinary theater work that melds post-hip hop aesthetics, urban folklore, traditional tales, live music, and parable, *Tree City Legends* takes place in a mythological urban neighborhood and tells the story of a Korean American family of four young men attending a funeral. As the characters try to make sense of the goodbye letter left by their late brother, Junie, their eulogies ring like psalms, exploring the profound feelings of rootlessness and abandonment familiar to people of color, specifically Asian American immigrants—portraying a world that is both fractured by torment and loss, and united by faith and legend-making.

Caught by Christopher Chen, directed by Rick Shiomi

An open rehearsal presented by InterAct Theatre Company

Thursday, Oct. 9th at 4pm

When Chinese artist Lin Bo appears at the renowned Mana Gallery, his harrowing story of imprisonment in a Chinese detention center has the world standing at attention. His fame is short-lived, however, as an American publisher begins to question the authenticity of Lin Bo's story. Is he telling the truth or is he caught? Accusations fly as Chen's play cleverly exposes the thin line between truth and fiction where it is often difficult to tell the difference between the con artist and the conned.

capsized by Jungwoong Kim

Friday, Oct. 10th at 1pm | Saturday, October 11th at 1pm

In *capsized*, Korean-born, Philadelphia-based choreographer Jungwoong Kim channels ever-shifting thoughts and emotions ignited by the tragic loss of nearly 300 young people in the South Korean ferry disaster earlier this year. The 20-minute piece uses the specific architecture of AAI as the frame for a collage of movement, song, sound, and visual images in remembrance of the young lives and ambitions that were submerged with the ferry. *capsized* features performances by Jungwoong Kim and Marion Ramirez, and video images by Fred Hiatt.

Station by Eiko Otake

Presented by Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA)

Friday, Oct. 10th from 3 to 6pm, audience is welcome to come and go throughout

A series of durational performances conceived and performed by Eiko at Philadelphia's 30th Street Station. Station bears witness to human transformation. People traversing it are literally and figuratively in transition from one state to another—from home to work, from high school to college, from loneliness to an encounter and sometimes the reverse. Many are rushing to and fro; many are waiting. Some have no other place to go. In the construct of a performance where viewers are not in darkness, rather walking by or gathering around the performer, observers are themselves being observed, by each other and by the lone Eiko.

Purple Cloud by Jessica Huang

Friday, Oct. 10th at 2pm

When you're hapa, you know deep down you're greater than the sum of your many parts. In *Purple Cloud*, three generations of Huangs deal with the multifacets of their multiracial identities as – accompanied by a quartet of Stones – they embark on a mythical journey from China to America and back again. Through three intertwining stories, we see the Huang family through the messy and beautiful business of acculturation: Grandpa Lee immigrates from Shanghai to America during World War II; his son Orville deals with his confusion as a first generation Asian American, taught to pass as white and unsure of his own blood; and his granddaughter fights for her Chinese-ness through a tattoo of a deer and the search for her true name.

For more detailed information about Festival performances and Partner Productions, please go to www.caata.net.