

AUGUST 11-19, 2018 | CHICAGO
 PASSES, SHOW TICKETS AND MORE AVAILABLE AT CAATA.NET

REVOLUTIONARY ACTS

6TH NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN THEATER CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL



HOSTED BY:

THE THEATRE SCHOOL
 at DePaul University



PRESENTED BY:

CAATA CONSORTIUM OF ASIAN AMERICAN THEATERS & ARTISTS

THIS YEAR'S THEME

CONFEST 2018: REVOLUTIONARY ACTS will engage attendees and the Chicago community in courageous theater and dialogue regarding the intersection of art, leadership development and placement, and community and organizational well-being. ConfFest shines a light on these critical topics in the face of social injustice, inequity, and active resistance in American culture, and considers what we, as theater practitioners and allies, can do about it.

WHO WE ARE

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 learning and sharing of knowledge and resources to promote a healthy, sustainable artistic ecology.

As a collective of Asian American theater leaders and artists, we bring together local and regional leaders to work nationally toward our shared values of social justice, artistic diversity, cultural equity and inclusion. We hold national conferences and festivals biennially in different parts of the country, reaching as wide a range of Asian American populations and communities as possible. We survey Asian American theater artists and organizations to find out their foremost concerns. We form alliances with other theater groups of different affinities to advance mutual goals cooperatively and to exchange ideas and strategies.

LETTER FROM THE CAATA BOARD

We are so excited for you to join us for the 6th National Asian American Theater Conference and Festival, REVOLUTIONARY ACTS. Thanks to amazing partnerships with Victory Gardens Theater, Silk Road Rising, and The Theatre School at DePaul University, we are able to lift up the Chicago theater community. **This year's ConFest is a true celebration of the diversity of readings, plenaries, workshops, and panels from a range of ethnicities, aesthetics, perspectives, experiences and traditions.** We are also focusing on lifting up our Indigenous through thoughtful inclusion, and deepening our movement building amongst other cultural coalitions and collectives.

The Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (CAATA) gives me a sense of national pride. That's BIG pride. A feeling I rarely get in this country. It's the kind of pride that I would proudly display on a bumper sticker or a flag on my front lawn. I don't even have a lawn, but you know what I mean. Being part of CAATA assures me that there are others, LIKE ME, who are also struggling with the same challenges and working through the same issues. CAATA is about supporting our struggles but more importantly it's about celebrating our awesomeness.

CAATA has brokered many artistic and human relationships that, I can confidently say, will last my lifetime! It's one thing to read a great play that you end up producing and another thing to actually meet the playwright at a ConFest and build an artistic relationship that goes beyond one play but rather extends to an investment in the artist's long term career and them as a successful human. CAATA creates space of that—a truly revolutionary act!

Welcome and thank you for being part of our family!

Sincerely,



Randy Reyes

Artistic Director, Theater MU
CAATA Board President

LETTER FROM VICTORY GARDENS THEATER

Welcome, my friends and artists. One of the joys about this unique convening is to collide with old collaborators still fighting the good fight, making work that matters. Another is meeting the next generation of sterling Asian American theater artists who are creating new and innovative ways to bridge our communities and nation together through their art and craft.

This is an especially important time for us to convene, to learn from each other, to dialogue, to inspire, to do more.

Victory Gardens is passionately committed to inclusion, diversity and equity on every level of our institution, from artists to audiences, from board to staff. We believe in bringing our world onto our stages and creating civic dialogue towards a more equitable nation.

I'm thrilled to open our home to the 6th National Asian American Theater Conference and Festival so that our Chicago theater community can also learn and benefit from the best artistic and institutional practices in Asian American theater.

Fight. Resist. Create. The world is watching.

Sincerely,



Chay Yew

Artistic Director
Victory Gardens Theater

LETTER FROM THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Welcome to our artistic home and training ground! We are thrilled to be able to host the 6th National Asian American Theater Conference and Festival and to receive each of you as an extended part of our community for this exciting event.

The Theatre School is committed to fostering and nurturing the reality of who people are, who they have been, and who they want to be. We embrace the diversity of what we see, what we hear and what we feel. We give voice; we represent people and ideas. Our community engages in lively exploration, between and beyond categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, religion, nationality, ability and artistic discipline. We examine, appreciate and share the complexities of culture through artistic collaboration, and by doing so, revolutionize the next generation of theater artists and leaders.

This celebration and convening of the Asian American theater community is vital for the future of our profession. By sharing your plays, artistry, and networks, you are contributing to a meaningful and direct path to a theater of the future (and the now) that is more inclusive. The partnerships that you are forging will serve as a catalyst for changing both the theater industry and the landscape of the future.

We applaud the leadership of the CAATA Board in making this event possible. We are grateful to Victory Gardens Theater and Silk Road Rising for their contributions to making Chicago one of the very best theater cities in the world, and for their part in making these days of performances, dialogue, and celebration a reality.

We are so honored to have all of you here! Thank you to everyone who made this possible, and everyone who joins us as staff volunteers, artists, advocates, and guests. Welcome to Chicago, welcome to The Theatre School, and welcome to the 2018 CAATA ConFest!



John Culbert

Dean, The Theatre School at DePaul University

LETTER FROM SILK ROAD RISING

A consortium of Asian American theaters and artists, by definition, constitutes a movement. And in moving to expand the American story, we're committing revolutionary acts.

The peoples and cultures that connect Japan with Syria and Polynesia with Kazakhstan, can trace settlement in the Americas well before any present day borders. Yet in the crafting of national narratives, our stories were largely erased by those with more power than us. **This year's CAATA ConFest in Chicago is itself a revolutionary act, an intentional reversal of a deliberate erasure.** It represents yet another milestone in raising our voices and asserting our power. For if culture is defined by the artist, then the artist is unmistakably an activist. Or as I like to say, 'Don't Ask, Create!'

On behalf of the artistic and administrative teams at Silk Road Rising, I welcome you to Chicago for the 6th National Asian American Theater Conference and Festival. May we bear much fruit from our revolutionary acts and may the spirit of community prevail.

Sincerely,



Jamil Khoury

Founding Artistic Director
Silk Road Rising

CAATA

CAATA/CONFEST 2018 STAFF

Leslie Ishii & Joan Osato
Co-Chairs, ConFest 2018
Steering Committee

Donna Bachman
Festival Production Manager

Brian Falcom
ConFest Volunteer
Coordinator

Julia Malta-Weingard
Marketing & Administration

Jeff Mousseau
General Manager

Mia Park
Local ConFest Organizer

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Mac Vaughey
Lighting Supervisor

Ben Zeman
Audio & Video
Coordinator/Operator

Stage Managers:
Nadya Nauman & Davonte Washington

SHOUT Media
Media Relations

Andy Ross Creative
Program Guide Design

Local casting support
provided by **Silk Road Rising**
and **A-Squared Theatre**

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kt shorb
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(Austin, TX)

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(Seattle, WA)

Chay Yew
Artistic Director,
Victory Gardens Theater
(Chicago, IL)

*Members of CAATA ConFest 2018
Steering Committee

THANKS TO OUR CONFEST 2018 SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND HOSTS:



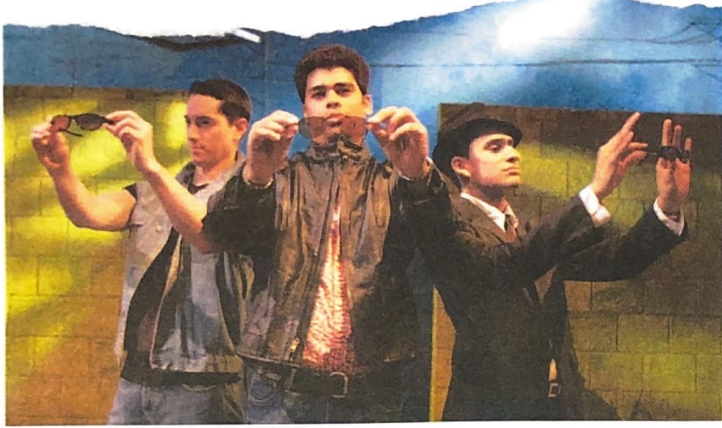
THANKS TO OUR 2018 INDIEGOGO CAMPAIGN AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS:

Andi Meyer, Angelina Fiordellisi, Anonymous donor, Ariel Estrada, Artists at Play, Cary Patrick Martin, Cheryl Leeman, Cheryl Ikemiyama, Christopher J. Williams, Tim Dang, David Maruyama, Gladys Chen, Greg Watanabe, Hazel Lozano, Howard Ho, Ian Darnton-Hill, Jamil Khoury, Jeff Mousseau, Joan Osato, Jorge Ortoll, Julia Malta-Weingard, Lia Kozatch, Marie-Reine Velez, Mary L Ishii, Mia Park, Michael Golamco, Peter Kuo, Randall Tamura, Randy Reyes, Robert Lee, Roger Tang, Soomi Kim, Stefanie Wong Lau & John Lau, Virginia Myung

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Barbara Levy-Kipper, Hitesh Bhatt, Amrita Ramanan, Anna Sung-En Medill, Lauren Yee, Minita Gandhi, J Ching, Christine Bunuan, Hana Kodoyama, Tanuja Jagernauth, Jessica Huang, Cary Shoda, Abbas Salem, Mishari Zambrano, Kamal Hans, Alka Nayyar, Kristin Morris, Erica Daniels, Majel Cuza, Andrew Glasenhardt, Sarah McElroy, Tyler King, Jana Liles, Rae Shuman, Malik Gillani, Corey Pond, Lavina Jadhvani, Aaron Shapiro, Alice Riser, Merilee Ford Barrera, Oregon Shakespeare Festival Costume Shop, and all of the 2018 ConFest Volunteers.

FESTIVAL SHOWS



HOT ASIAN EVERYTHING: REVOLT

PRESENTED BY CAATA
DIRECTED BY
VICTOR MALANA MAOG

Monday, August 13, 8pm
Victory Gardens Theater

An evening of revolutionary proportions featuring a powerhouse mix of Chicago and national talent—all hosted by the illustrious Emi Macadangdang and Jasmine! Kick off ConFest 2018 in style with a collection of sketch comedy, musical performances and celebrity sightings by some of Asian American theater's most noted artists. Lineup includes excerpts from and performances by:

Moses Goods' *Kinolau*
Comedy troupe *Stir-Friday Night!*
Anu Bhatt's *Hollow/Wave*
Shishir Kurup's *Merchant on Venice*, Rasaka Theatre & Vitalist Theatre
Prince Gomolvilas' *The Brothers Paranormal*, Definition Theatre



#//<EMBEDDED>//#

WRITTEN, CREATED, PERFORMED
AND DIRECTED BY PRATIK MOTWANI

Tuesday, August 14, 8pm
Wednesday, August 15, 3:30pm
Victory Gardens Theater

A multimedia experience combining film, Prezi presentation, and physical theatre, *EMBEDDED* is a revolt against all identities that trap us. *EMBEDDED* follows the journey of a YouTube cyber celebrity—a virtual identity trapped in the algorithms of a social media platform, a world from which it is impossible to disconnect and all communication happens via a "wall." Questioning notions of identity and image, reality and perception, this devised theatre piece explores our need for real connection and inclusion coupled with our inability to disconnect from our imposed virtual identities.

About Pratik Motwani

Originally from Mumbai, India Pratik Motwani is a resident actor, teaching artist, and company member with Dell'Arte International in California. Pratik creates, produces, and tours original works of devised physical theater. Motwani tours internationally as lead performer with IMAGO Theatre (Portland, OR) in their world renowned physical comedy and mask performance shows *FROGZ* and *Zoo*. He has served as a guest teacher for mask performance technique/devised physical theater at Pennsylvania State University, the University of California Berkeley, and the Michael Chekhov School in New York. Recent works include: #//<EMBEDDED>//# (2018 FURY Factory festival, San Francisco, 2018 CoHo Summer Fest, Portland, OR), *The Long Way* (2017 United Solo Festival, NYC), *The Mysterious Magical Brandishers of Magic* (2018 New York Clown Festival, The BRICK, NYC, 2017 Play the Fool Festival, Edmonton, Canada), and *IN'Tents* (OSF 2014 Green Show, Ashland, OR and AFCA's 5th annual Hakawy International Arts Festival, Cairo and Alexandria).



ACQUITTAL

BY SHAHID NADEEM
TRANSLATED BY TAHIRA NAQVI
DIRECTED BY NOELLE GHOUSSAINI
Pan Asian Repertory Theatre
Tisa Chang, Producing Artistic Director

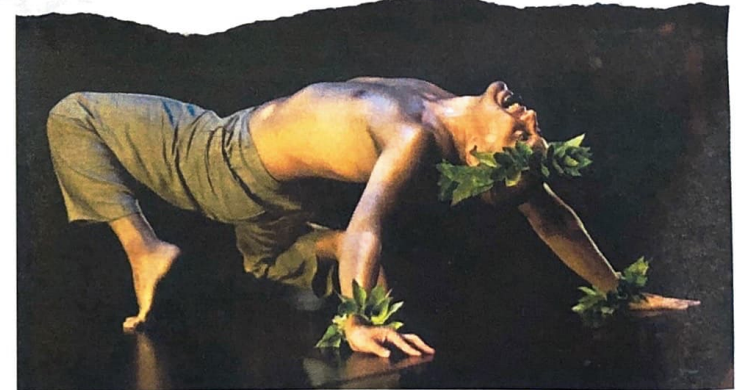
Tuesday, August 14, 3:30pm
Wednesday, August 15, 6pm
Victory Gardens Theater

Acquittal weaves together the story of four women unjustly imprisoned in Pakistan during General Zia-ul-Haq's discriminatory Hudood Ordinances: Zahida, an activist jailed for her political activity; Mariam, a pregnant rape victim in prison because she refused an abortion; Jamila, a woman denied divorce by Islamic law, who murdered her abusive husband; and Jannat Bibi, incarcerated in place of her son for theft. In this bleak 1980s prison, the women forge a bond that transcends their differences in class, ideology, and religious practice.

Set design by You-Shin Chen, Costume Design by Hyun Sook Kim, Lighting Design by Leslie Smith, and Sound Design by Sinan Refik Zafar.

About Pan Asian Repertory Theatre

Now in its 41st milestone season, Pan Asian is the pioneer Asian American theater in New York City, the second most veteran in the nation, and is at the forefront of promoting pan-Asian cultural stories previously unseen on the American stage. It was founded in 1977 by Tisa Chang with the vision that Asian American artists can equally follow their artistic aspirations to reach the zenith in American theater. Its mission is to provide professional theatre opportunities for diverse Asian American artists to work under the highest standards of excellence and create new works that dignify and dispel stereotypes, focusing on stories of probing social justice issues. Pan Asian's artistic distinction is seen in Off-Broadway productions, tours, educational outreach, and community service. The company has nurtured thousands of artists, with notable alumni including Lucy Liu, Daniel Dae Kim, and Wai Ching Ho from Marvel's *Defenders* series.



PŌHAKU

WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND
PERFORMED BY
CHRISTOPHER K. MORGAN

Wednesday, August 15, 8pm
Thursday, August 16, 3:30pm
Victory Gardens Theater

Pōhaku incorporates traditional Hawaiian chant, hula, contemporary dance, theater and storytelling to explore compelling universal themes in the story of Hawaii's native people, including land loss and fractured identity. In this solo dance theater piece, Christopher K. Morgan connects his personal family story of outward migration away from Hawai'i to the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the islands' colonial history, and its present day status.

About Christopher K. Morgan

Christopher K. Morgan is the Executive Artistic Director of Dance Place in Washington, DC, where he oversees performances and a school for youth and adults. He is the Artistic & Executive Director of dance company Christopher K. Morgan & Artists (CKM&A) and the Director of Dance Omi, an annual collaborative residency for international choreographers. Born in Orange County, CA, Morgan's Native Hawaiian ancestry and a broad, international dance career influence his work as an administrator, choreographer, educator, facilitator, curator and performer. Morgan's choreography has been presented in 18 countries on five continents, and was profiled as one of six breakout choreographers in the US in *Dance Magazine* 2011.

A recipient of an NPN Creation Fund and NEFA National Dance Project Award, *Pōhaku* premiered in March 2016 at Dance Place and has toured nine other venues in Hawaii, California, New York, and Minnesota.



893 | YA-KU-ZA

BY DARIA MIYEKO MARINELLI
DIRECTED BY
KT SHORB AND JESUS I. VALLES
Generic Ensemble Company (GenEnCo)

Thursday, August 16, 8pm
Friday, August 17, 3:30pm
Victory Gardens Theater

Set over the course of a business lunch in an unknown Japanese restaurant somewhere in the United States, *893 | Ya-ku-za* follows an ambitious young assassin's bid to become the first female member of the infamous Japanese crime syndicate. Over a meal of sushi, witty banter, and quiet threats, *893 | Ya-ku-za* explores the cost of ambition and change—questioning what it means to be first and what we're willing to do to get there.

About GenEnCo

Founded in 2009, the Generic Ensemble Company is a fixture in Austin theater. Centering devised work by queer people of color, GenEnCo uses the Suzuki Method and Anne Bogart's Viewpoints as principle training practices. Citations include: Open Meadows Foundation (2011, *The Experiment*), Q Rental Subsidy Grant (2012, *The Experiment*), B. Iden Payne Award for Best Original Script (2016, *The Mikado: Reclaimed*), and a two-year performance residency at the Dougherty Arts Center (2017-2019). GenEnCo has been featured on the cover of Austin's free weekly newspaper, *The Austin Chronicle*, for its devised Asian American reclamation of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, *The Mikado*. Their recent production of *Scheherazade*, a devised work centering Middle Eastern narratives in the context of the "Muslim Ban," was named one of the 10 most memorable theater productions of 2017 by the *Austin-American Statesman*, and an honorable mention for the *Austin Chronicle's* top 10 "Theatre Riches" of 2017.

FESTIVAL SHOWS



PILLOWTALK

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
KYOUNG H. PARK
Kyoung's Pacific Beat

Friday, August 17, 8pm
Saturday, August 18, 8pm
Victory Gardens Theater

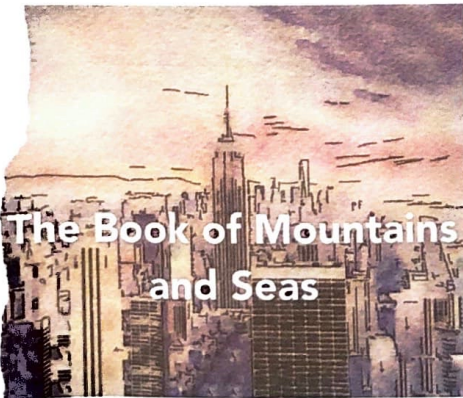
Set in Brooklyn 2017, *Pillowtalk* brings to life one night in the lives of Sam and Buck, a recently married interracial couple. Through a formal exploration of theatrical naturalism and the codified gender norms of ballet's pas de deux, *Pillowtalk* queers the intersections of race, gender, and class to illuminate how liberation and oppression co-exist in our most intimate spaces.

Pillowtalk is performed by two queer men of color, JP Moraga and Basit Shittu, and features live music by Helen Yee, choreography by Katy Pyle, set and lighting design by Marie Yokoyama, sound design by Lawrence Schober, and costume design by Andrew Jordan.

About Kyoung's Pacific Beat

Kyoung's Pacific Beat (KPB) is a peacemaking theater company based in Brooklyn, New York, which promotes a culture of peace through the production of new works of theater written and directed by Kyoung H. Park. The company develops its work over the course of multiple years, in collaboration with artists from different cultures and disciplines. Through research and engagement with local communities, KPB explores experiences of oppression and transforms the collected stories through radical experimentations with form. Its goal is to give voice to marginalized perspectives in society and bring together like-minded individuals that believe peace matters. KPB's work includes *disOriented*, *Tala*, and *Pillowtalk*. KPB is led by Kyoung H. Park, the first Korean playwright from Latin America to be produced and published in the U.S. and a 2010 UNESCO Aschberg-Laureate.

NEW PLAY READINGS



THE BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS

BY YILONG LIU
DIRECTED BY JEFF LIU
Presented by
East West Players

Wednesday, August 15, 10:45am
The Theatre School, DePaul University

After losing his son in a hate crime, a California dad from China teams up with his son's last boyfriend in New York on a mission to visit all the restaurants reviewed on his son's Yelp page. *The Book of Mountains and Seas* is a comic drama about two people dealing with loss, cultural and political differences, and their unlikely friendship in a digital and global age.

About Yilong Liu

Yilong is a New York-based playwright, born and raised in Chongqing, China. His work has been produced or developed at Stella Adler Studio of Acting, East West Players, Queens Theatre, WildWind Performance Lab, FringeNYC, Kumu Kahua Theatre, Living Room Theatre, MOJOAA Performing Arts, and others. Awards include Kennedy Center's Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award (*The Book of Mountains and Seas*), Paula Vogel Playwriting Award (June is The First Fall, 2nd Place), Po'okela Award for Best New Play (*Joker*), and an Asian Pacific American Friends of the Theatre Playwright Scholarship. He was a semi-finalist for BAPF and O'Neill, a finalist for The New Harmony Project and Lark's Van Lier New Voices Playwriting Fellowship. Currently, he's a resident playwright for SERIALS Writer's Room at The Flea Theatre, and a Greenhouse Resident at SPACE on Ryder Farm. Yilong received a BA in Chinese Language and Literature from Beijing Normal University and an MFA in Playwriting from University of Hawai'i. www.YilongLiu.com



THE SITAYANA (OR, HOW TO MAKE AN EXIT)

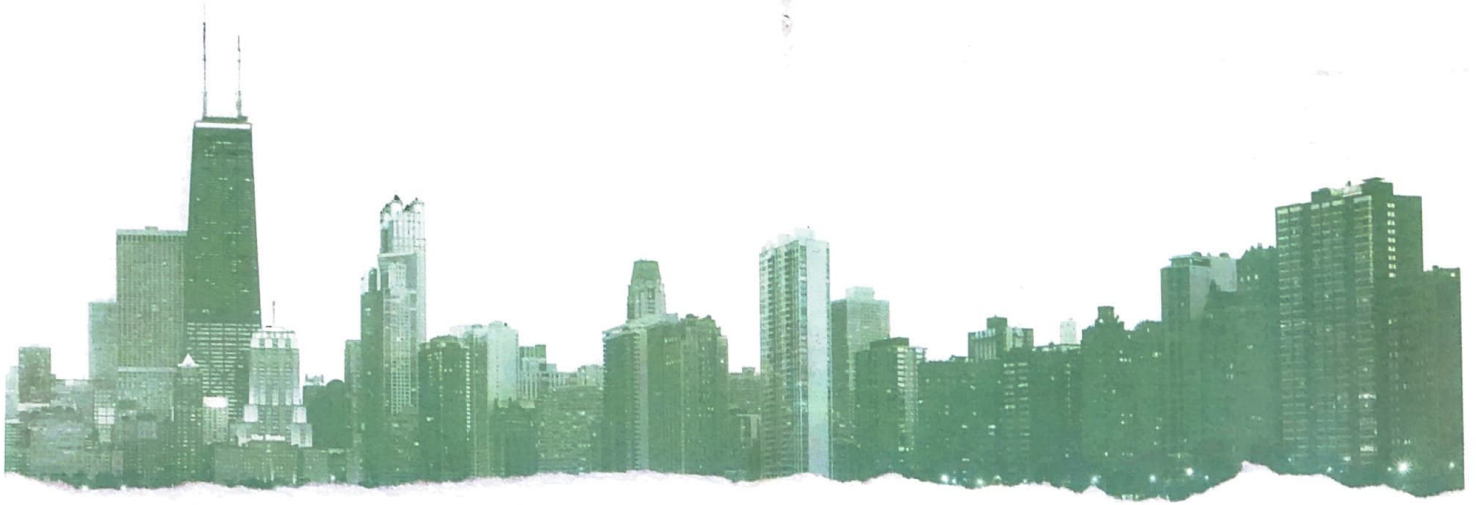
BY LAVINA JADHWANI
DIRECTED BY
MINITA GANDHI
Presented by Tradewind Arts

Thursday, August 16, 10:45am
The Theatre School, DePaul University

In *The Sitayana*, a young princess Sita follows her new husband Ram to his kingdom in Ayodhya—only to learn that they have been banished. Refusing to abandon her partner, she joins him in exile, but finds her loyalty tested to surprising lengths. A solo piece written from a distinctly South Asian American POV, *The Sitayana* is part Hindu epic, part coming of age story, and part break-up play.

About Lavina Jadhvani

Lavina Jadhvani is a Chicago based director, adaptor, and activist. As a director, her work has been seen at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Asolo Rep, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Silk Road Rising (where she is an artistic associate), Teatro Vista, and Victory Gardens. As an adaptor, her work has been developed by American Theatre Company, Gadfly Productions, the Gift Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Stage Left Theatre. Her adaptation, *Vanya* (or *That's Life!*) was premiered by Rasaka Theatre Company (the Midwest's first South Asian American ensemble) in 2017. Proud graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University, the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama, and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. www.lavinajadhvani.com



NEW PLAY READINGS

New play readings showcase emerging playwrights of Pan Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Indigenous and multiracial identities—highlighting the range of theater practitioners in contemporary Pan Asian American Theater.



INSTRUMENTAL JOURNEY

DEvised BY RIC OQUITA, JULIE TRAPPETT
AND BERNARDO MAZÓN DAHER
DIRECTED BY BERNARDO MAZÓN DAHER
Presented by Leslie Ishii

Friday, August 17, 10:45am
The Theatre School, DePaul University

Instrumental Journey follows the journey of Noa and Onda, who are forced to flee their home and overcome obstacles en route with the few instruments they are able to save from their repair shop. Incorporating both digital and live instruments, this staged reading shares the story of how music has developed across place and time, in parallel with a story of displacement and searching for refuge in a new home.

About Bernardo Mazón Daher

Bernardo Mazón Daher is a border-bred brat boy grown from Chula Vista, California. He was born of loving Mexican parents and brave Arab grandparents. He recently graduated from San Diego State University in double honors for Literature and Theatre Performance. While in school, Bernardo worked outside as a performer, director, dramaturg, educator, and producer. He recently completed a Literary Residency at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival through the FAIR program as an emerging professional artist and leader. Bernardo is driven to provide art that brings different peoples together. He is currently devoting himself to building a home for Latinx actors in San Diego.



THIS IS NOT A TRUE STORY

BY PRESTON CHOI
DIRECTED BY PETER J. KUO
Presented by Artists at Play

Saturday, August 18, 11:30am
Victory Gardens Theater

This Is Not A True Story is a new play reckoning with the problematic history and impact of *Madame Butterfly*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Kumiko the Treasure Hunter*. The play imagines a world where the heroines of these stories have a say in their telling, have choice, have agency, have a chance at changing their ill-fated endings.

About Preston Choi

Preston Choi is a recent graduate of Northwestern University where he majored in Theatre, pursuing acting and playwriting within the Playwriting Module. His most recent play, *Yang-Gongju: Yankee Princess*, was in Victory Gardens' College Night for Fun Home, and his play *A Great Migration*, was featured in the Agnes Nixon New Play Festival in 2017. Other plays produced on Northwestern's campus include *Ending*, *This Is Not A True Story*, *A Feast*, and *Salt* through Vertigo Productions, and *The Desert At The Bottom Of The Sea* through Purple Crayon Players. He is currently in residency with Wave Productions in their Past Present Future Residency for his play *On a Ship at Sea at Night*. He was the recipient of an Undergraduate Research Grant from Northwestern towards research in plastic surgery and its relationship to aesthetic beauty, race, and idealism for his play *Regularly Scheduled Programming*. He bakes bread in the morning.



FACE TO THE SUN

BY ALISON MINAMI
DIRECTED BY LESLIE ISHII
Presented by A-Squared Theatre

Saturday, August 18, 2:30pm
Victory Gardens Theater

Haunted by memories of his homeland and fearful of another war-driven imprisonment by the Cuban government, Hamada, an upstanding leader of the Japanese Cuban community, decides to uproot his family and return to Japan. But his daughter Flora is running with a guerrilla and Isabel, his Cuban wife, is no longer attracted to him. Each of them must make a choice about love and loyalty to both country and family. Set in Havana at the dawn of the Cuban Revolution, *Face to the Sun* is a lyrical, language-driven, play with a multicultural cast.

About Alison Minami

Alison Minami holds an MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts from UC Riverside. She has been the recipient of the Gluck Fellow Program for the Arts and a Humanities Research Grant. She was a student at the David Henry Hwang Writers' Institute and a 2016 participant at the Sewanee Summer Writers' Conference. She is a member of the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights (ALAP) and of Playground LA, a ten-minute playwrighting collective, for which her play *This is a Banana* was selected for showcase in 2016. Her play through the Will Geer's Theatrical Botanicum Dramaturgy Workshop, was selected for ALAP's New Works Lab in collaboration with East West Players. Her play *Shizzy's Story* was commissioned by Enrichment Works and is currently touring in LAUSD schools. Her storytelling has been featured on the Moth Radio Hour. @alisonminami

FEATURED GUESTS + SPEAKERS



Tuesday, August 14, 9:00am – 10:30am
The Theatre School, DePaul University

OPENING PLENARY & WELCOME

LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT, PART I

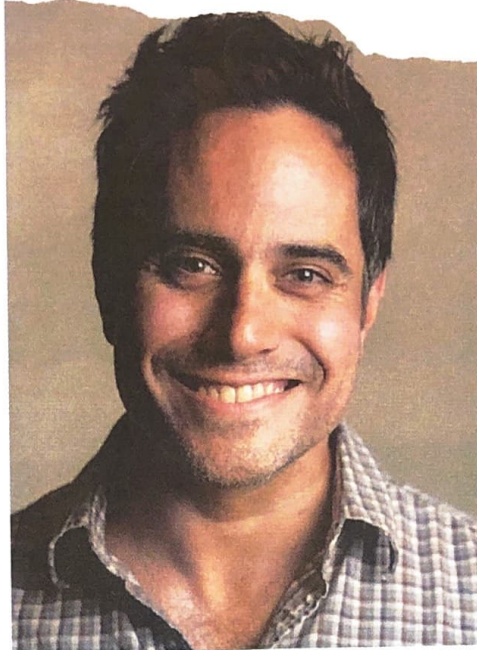
KEYNOTE:

TAMMY HAILI'OPUA BAKER

Artistic Director, Ka Hālau Hanakeeka
Associate Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

TAMMY HAILI'OPUA BAKER's work centers on the development of an indigenous Hawaiian theater aesthetic and form, Hawaiian language revitalization, and the empowerment of cultural identity through stage performance. Baker is also a playwright and the artistic director of Ka Hālau Hanakeeka, a Hawaiian medium theater troupe. As an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa she oversees both the Hawaiian Theatre and the Playwriting MFA programs. Originally from Kapa'a, Kaua'i, Baker now resides with her family in Kahalu'u, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu.

[This plenary will be ASL interpreted. Please see caata.net for complete ASL and accessibility information.]



Thursday, August 16, 9:00am – 10:30am
The Theatre School, DePaul University

MID-WEEK PLENARY

STORYTELLING AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT, PART II

KEYNOTE:

RAJIV JOSEPH

Playwright

RAJIV JOSEPH's play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama and also awarded a grant for Outstanding New American Play by the National Endowment for the Arts. He has twice won the Obie Award for Best New American Play, first in 2016 with *Guards at the Taj* (also a 2016 Lortel Winner for Best Play) and then, this year, for *Describe the Night*. Other plays include *Archduke*, *Grotesque Playground Injuries*, *Animals Out of Paper*, *The Lake Effect*, *The North Pool* and *Mr. Wolf*. Joseph has been awarded artistic grants from the Whiting Foundation, United States Artists and the Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust. He is a board member of the Lark Play Development Center in New York City, where he develops all his plays. He served for three years in the Peace Corps in Senegal and now lives in Brooklyn, New York.



Saturday, August 17, 9:30am – 11:00am
Victory Gardens Theater

CLOSING PLENARY

TRANSLATION & LANGUAGE AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT, PART III

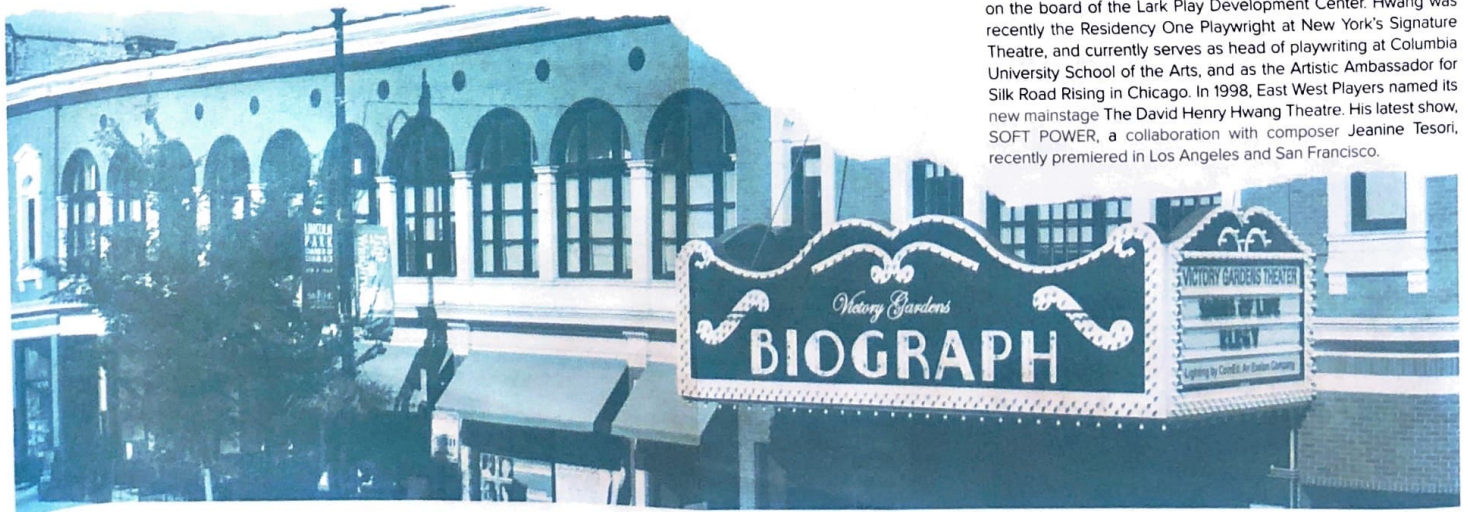
A CONVERSATION WITH:

DAVID HENRY HWANG

Playwright & Chairman, American Theatre Wing

Moderated by Jamil Khoury, Founding Artistic Director,
Silk Road Rising

DAVID HENRY HWANG's work includes Pulitzer Prize finalist *Yellow Face*, his Tony-nominated revival of *Flower Drum Song*, the plays *M. Butterfly*, *Chinglish*, *Kung Fu*, *Golden Child*, *The Dance and the Railroad* and *FOB*, and the Broadway musicals *Aida* (co-author) and Disney's *Tarzan*. He is also America's most-produced living opera librettist, and a writer/producer for the Golden Globe-winning television series "The Affair." Born and raised in Los Angeles, Hwang is a Tony Award winner (*M. Butterfly*) and three-time nominee, a three-time Obie Award winner and a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Recent honors include the 2011 PEN/Laura Pels Award for a Master American Dramatist, the 2012 Inge Award, the 2012 Steinberg Distinguished Playwright "Mimi" Award, a 2014 Doris Duke Artist Award and the 2015 IPSA Distinguished Artist Award. He is Chair of the American Theatre Wing and sits on the board of the Lark Play Development Center. Hwang was recently the Residency One Playwright at New York's Signature Theatre, and currently serves as head of playwriting at Columbia University School of the Arts, and as the Artistic Ambassador for Silk Road Rising in Chicago. In 1998, East West Players named its new mainstage The David Henry Hwang Theatre. His latest show, *SOFT POWER*, a collaboration with composer Jeanine Tesori, recently premiered in Los Angeles and San Francisco.



CONFERENCE TRACKS

REBELS FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING: NEW PLAY READINGS

THEATRE SCHOOL, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
ROOM 321

This track features sessions where the intersection of art and activism meet head on. Artists and activists build community, share organizing strategies, and create common goals for community and movement building towards justice; strengthening our coalitions for mutual sustainability.

CHANGE-MAKING PRACTICUMS FOR TRANSFORMATION

THEATRE SCHOOL, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
ROOM 305

Academics and practitioners of Pan Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Indigenous and Multiracial descent share research-based reflections, methodologies, field notes, and current best practices that make a case for curriculum changes and community best practices in the field through shared devised theater making and technique/craft-based work.

RADICALS FOR DRAMATIC INNOVATION

THEATRE SCHOOL, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
ROOM 320

Through the Pan Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Indigenous and Multiracial lens, artists push boundaries and question current forms and structures to bring visibility to oppressive systems and ultimately inspire change. Addressing and naming current political climates and oppressive issues with candor and courage makes this track a dynamic series of breakout sessions, each one building upon the next.

FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONISTS

THEATRE SCHOOL, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
ROOM 301

Beyond representation, beyond the Western European canon, and beyond this current presidential period, Pan Asian/Pacific Islander/Indigenous artists commit the ultimate revolutionary act: envisioning a future of powerful theater and media that amplifies our storytelling and self-determines our future.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

4:00pm – 6:30pm

NEW CHINA FESTIVAL: DIALOGUE & REBUTTAL
(Partner Event – ticketed)

@ Silk Road Rising – 77 West Washington Street

Staged readings of three plays translated from Chinese to English that highlight the work of contemporary playwrights from the Chinese speaking world. Use code CAATA for \$5 discounted tickets.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

4:00pm – 6:30pm

NEW CHINA FESTIVAL: DIALOGUE & REBUTTAL
(Partner Event – ticketed)

@ Silk Road Rising – 77 West Washington Street

Staged readings of three plays translated from Chinese to English that highlight the work of contemporary playwrights from the Chinese speaking world. Use code CAATA for \$5 discounted tickets.

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

12:00pm – 8:00pm (ongoing)

**CAATA CONFEST REGISTRATION,
BADGE & TICKET PICKUP**

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Stop by to pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees before the evening's kickoff events. *The CAATA ConFest Lounge will be open at DePaul University beginning Tuesday morning, August 14 for badge and ticket pickup throughout the week.*

6:00pm – 7:00pm

**OUR PERSPECTIVE: ASIAN AMERICAN
PLAY READINGS**

(Partner Event – Free)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

A year long celebration of plays written, directed and performed by Midwestern Asian Americans. Curated by Mia Park and produced by Asian Improv Arts Midwest's AA Arts Incubator, free to attend. **RSVP at Our-Perspective.com**

8:00pm – 9:30pm

HOT ASIAN EVERYTHING: REVOLT
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

9:30pm – Midnight

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

(Included with ConFest pass and Hot Asian Everything ticket, all others \$10 cover)

@ Lincoln Hall

Kick off ConFest in style at the opening night party! Hang with fellow ConFest attendees, get your dance and drink on, and plan your schedule for the week. Generously hosted by Lincoln Hall, just across the street from Victory Gardens Theater. *Door prizes, dance party hosted by Chicago's TeeJay the DJ, and more.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

8:30am – 2:00pm (ongoing)
CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees.

8:30am – 9:00am

DROP-IN BREAKFAST

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

Meet & greet your CAATA colleagues old and new, over a drop-in breakfast provided by CAATA to start the day off.

9:00am – 10:30am

**OPENING PLENARY & WELCOME: LANGUAGE
REVITALIZATION AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT, PART I**

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

Welcome by City of Chicago

Welcome by Randy Reyes, CAATA Board President

Introduction of keynote by Leilani Chan, Artistic Director, TeAda Productions and Andi Meyer, Artistic Director, Tradewind Arts

KEYNOTE: TAMMY HAILI'ŌPUA BAKER

Artistic Director, Ka Hālau Hanakeaka
Associate Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Discussion to follow with Moses Goods, Founder and Artistic Director, 'Inamona Theatre Company and Ensemble; Christopher K. Morgan, Dancer/Performer, Executive Artistic Director, Dance Place

Tammy Haili'ōpua Baker joins members of the native Hawaiian community for a conversation around language revitalization as a revolutionary act and what this means for Indigenous communities in the Hawaiian Islands and beyond.

11:00am – 6:00pm

CAATA & POC BOARD CONVENING
(by invitation)

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

As ConFest breakout session leaders are brilliantly committing revolutionary acts around their expertise, the CAATA & POC Board convenes concurrently to revolutionize the American theater field on behalf of the Pan Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Indigenous and Multiracial communities.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14
(CONTINUED)

11:00am – 12:30pm

PANEL & BREAKOUT SESSIONS

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

CHINA KID BLUES

TRACK: CHANGE-MAKING PRACTICUMS

@ Theatre School – Room 305

Los Angeles-based Wesley Du performs an excerpt of his one-man show, China Kid Blues. This solo work examines cultural and generational differences set within the context of the blues world. In the search to find his true voice, a fatherless Chinese boy, Pinky, seeks the help of a blues master, Cannonball, to be his mentor. Discussion to follow with performer and director and what it means to never give up on finding your voice.

Facilitator: Wesley Du, Performer & Playwright

THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS

TRACK: RADICALS FOR DRAMATIC INNOVATION

@ Theatre School – Room 320

A discussion to share and develop tools to broaden the scope of understanding around what is "normal" and "diverse" within historically and predominantly white institutions, with a focus on how to expand representation and opportunities for people of color on and off stage.

Facilitators: Nicholas Pilapil, Playwright & Producer, Artists At Play; Jonathan Castanien, Stage Manager, New York City

LET'S TALK STORY!

TRACK: FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONISTS

@ Theatre School – Room 301

Ada Cheng conducts a storytelling workshop where participants explore what it means to stand up and tell their stories. Knowing her own struggle against both subtle and overt gender and racial discrimination while battling conservative academia, she inspires her participants to follow their instincts, whims and passions, and to listen to their hearts no matter what their age or obstacles to overcome.

Facilitator: Ada Cheng, Storyteller, Stand-up Comedian, Improv Comic & former Sociology Professor

12:45pm-2:15pm

PANEL & BREAKOUT SESSIONS

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

STIR-FRIDAY NIGHT IMPROV WORKSHOP

TRACK: CHANGE-MAKING PRACTICUMS

@ Theatre School – Room 305

An improv workshop led by Stir-Friday Night, a 23-year-old Asian American theater company based in Chicago. From warm-up to participants playing, these sketch comedy/improv facilitators will tailor the workshop to attendees. All are welcome whether a beginner or experienced improviser. Stir-Friday Night performs comedy that challenges the perceptions of Asian Americans and examines the Asian American experience.

Facilitator: Avery Lee, Executive Director, Stir-Friday Night

TALKIN 'BOUT A REVOLUTION: TEACHING ASIAN AMERICAN RADICAL PERFORMANCE

TRACK: RADICALS FOR DRAMATIC INNOVATION

Theatre School – Room 320

How does Asian American theater move us with both radical aesthetics and actions? How does it help us imagine alternative futures? What are we doing through revolutionary and antiracist pedagogies to support student and community activism on the streets and on stage? In this 90-minute session, we attempt to answer these questions together and form a teach-in and learn from each other, together, forging a revolutionary Asian American performance syllabus that can be shared, accessed and publicly distributed following ConFest 2018.

Facilitator: Sean Metzger, Associate Professor, UCLA School of Theatre, Film & Television, President of Performance Studies International, Author

Panelists: Esther Kim Lee, University of Maryland; Josephine Lee, University of Minnesota; Christine Mok, University of Rhode Island; Elizabeth Son, Northwestern University

BEYOND REPRESENTATION: HOW TO CAST ASIAN AMERICAN ACTORS, EVEN AT A PWI
TRACK: FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONISTS

@ Theatre School – Room 301

A panel discussion focused on the "representation" of Asian American communities and narratives versus the "presentation" of what PWIs (Predominantly White Institutions), directors, producers, and casting directors deem the Pan-Asian monolith to be. The goal will be to create a universal language and doctrine meant to empower the Asian American community to take control of its own casting pipeline, while also expanding the artistic possibilities of celebrating Asian American diversity.

Panelists: Roger Tang, Executive Director, Pork Filled Productions; Alex Chester, Creator & Producer, WeSoHapa; Melissa Slaughter, Writer & Producer, We're Not All Ninjas; Kathy Hsieh, SIS Productions; Diane Phelan, Broadway Diversity Project; Ariel Estrada, Leviathan Lab, Asian American Arts Alliance

2:30pm – 8:00pm (ongoing)

CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees.

3:30pm – 5:00pm

ACQUITTAL

(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

5:00pm – 7:00pm

CAATA MEMBER MINGLE

@ Lincoln Station

A meetup for all new CAATA members! Mix & mingle, network, and share your membership ideas with the CAATA Board as we grow this exciting new community. Not yet a CAATA member? Stop by and we'll sign you up. Food & drink specials, pool table, dart board, door prizes, and more.

8:00pm – 9:30pm

EMBEDDED

(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.





WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

8:30am – 2:00pm (ongoing)
CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees. *Coffee and tea service provided.*

9:00am – 10:30am
PANEL & BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MEET MURASAKI SHIKIBU: EXCERPTS FROM A PLAY ABOUT CULTURAL ASSIMILATION
TRACK: CHANGE-MAKING PRACTICUMS

@ Theatre School – Room 305

A play that gives voice to an important female author of color, who is underrepresented both historically and culturally. While initially masked in a comedic premise, this piece sheds light on the not-often-discussed but increasingly present topic of *cultural assimilation and the American prerogative*. What about *assimilation and the toll it takes on the individual's identity*? Does Murasaki represent those who are forgotten and who, in turn, forget themselves? Excerpts from the play will be followed by a discussion and book signing.

Panelists: Brian Balcom, Director & Resident Artist for Access Program, Victory Gardens Theater; Julia Izumi, Playwright & Performer

THEATRE OF TERRORISM: MEDIA PROBLEMATICS & FUTURE SOLUTIONS
TRACK: RADICALS FOR DRAMATIC INNOVATION

@ Theatre School – Room 320

In his book *Stages Of Terror*, born of Ted Koppel's reports during the Iran hostage crisis, Dr. Anthony Kubiak broke ground in drama therapy by linking the Theater of Terrorism to the history of political reaction and change in theater (starting from classical theater). Since the book's publication in 1991, the Theater of Terrorism has grown exponentially as the West pursues a program of occupation and rescue in the Middle East. This session examines the role media has had in creating a Theater of Terrorism which has then influenced representation and stories in TV, film, and stage. How do we as artists respond? What are the solutions?

Panelist: Sevan Greene, Writer & Actor, based in New York City and London

THE PLAYWRIGHT-DIRECTOR RELATIONSHIP: COLLABORATION AND EVOLUTION
TRACK: FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONISTS

@ Theatre School – Room 301

The playwright-director relationship is perhaps the most important artistic collaboration in the contemporary theater. However, these two players are often not given the opportunity to understand each other's own unique set of challenges. This roundtable discussion and workshop is for playwrights and directors to express the challenges they face as individual artists and how they can empower each other in collaboration. This session will also look at the roles that gender and race may (or may not) play when playwrights are paired with directors. This workshop serves as an opportunity for new artistic relationships to be created in the room.

Panelists: Jeff Liu, Director; Prince Gomolvilas, Playwright; Peter J. Kuo, Director & Co-Founder, Artists At Play

10:45am – 12:15pm
PLAY READING: THE BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

12:45pm – 2:15pm
PANEL & BREAKOUT SESSIONS

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

LISTENING AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT
TRACK: REBELS FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING

@ Theatre School – Room 321

This interactive workshop is an invitation to learn from each other regarding racism and other oppressions through theater-based methods of listening and storycircling. As we participate in theater as a revolutionary act, this 'brave space' can combat oppression, strengthen community and offer healing and movement-building strategies.

Facilitator: Anu Yadav, Actor, Playwright, Devised Theater Maker

REVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES: DEEP ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY IN DEVISED THEATER PRACTICE
TRACK: CHANGE-MAKING PRACTICUMS

@ Theatre School – Room 305

In this skill-sharing workshop, we invite you to build a room full of community artist organizers, "artists," teaching artists, community members, activists, and those interested in social justice practice within the current Asian American theatrical landscape. The panelists will present on their current/recent works and engage all expertise in the room to explore how fruitful the work can be with longer and non-traditional devised theater processes. What are some of the significant challenges? How does this work help us grow as both theater artists and movement builders?

Panelists: Traci Kato-Kiriyama, Writer, Actor and Community Organizer; Kennedy Kabasares, Aerial Artist & Actor; Soomi Kim, Writer & Performer; Kathy Masaoka, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, Nikkei Progressives, Vigilant LOVE Coalition

THEATER & MEDIA: ALTERNATE REALITY, EXPERIMENTAL REVOLUTIONS, AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM TODAY'S INFLUENCERS
TRACK: RADICALS FOR DRAMATIC INNOVATION

@ Theatre School – Room 320

This panel and discussion will explore the ways that science fiction and fantasy theater allow us to experiment with revolutionary ideas, particularly in terms of cultural revolution. Given the huge science fiction and fantasy market in literature, media and theater, how does one influence the other? What can Asian American theater learn from Media Influencers, modern trends in entertainment, and new media content creators?

Facilitators: Ruth Pe Palileo, Ph.D. Trinity College, Artistic Director, Current Theatrics & Producer, Ryan Repertory; Andy Lowe, Co-Founder/Producing Artistic Director, Asian American Repertory Theatre, Casting Director/Production Manager, East West Players

Additional Panelists: Ginger Leopoldo, Giovanni Ortega, Jeff Yang, Phil Yu, Jeff Liu, Lia Chang, Kat Chow, Marvin Yueh

This session is generously supported by Michael Golamco, playwright, writer and producer.

CREATING THEATER IN THE AGE OF TRUMP
TRACK: FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONISTS

@ Theatre School – Room 301

In real time, this workshop will start an Asian American theater company. The workshop leaders share their experiences and endeavors to make something new, including the struggles faced and acknowledging the victories won up to this point. Producing the first play by Fall 2018, the participants and workshop leaders will, again, in real time, share process and progress with the community so those with the same vision can learn together and make change in their city or hometown.

Facilitators: David Rhee, Token Theatre Artistic Director, MFA Tisch at NYU; Erik Kaiko, Token Theater Managing Director, MFA Columbia University.

2:30pm – 8:00pm (ongoing)
CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees.

3:30pm – 5:00pm
EMBEDDED
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

6:00pm – 7:30pm
ACQUITTAL
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

8:00pm – 9:30pm
PŌHAKU
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

8:30am – 2:00pm (ongoing)
CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees. *Coffee and tea service provided.*

9:00am – 10:30am

MID-WEEK PLENARY: STORYTELLING AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT, PART II

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

KEYNOTE: RAJIV JOSEPH
Playwright

From his unique vantage point, award-winning playwright Rajiv Joseph gives voice to the extraordinary journey that made him into a writer and storyteller. His resilience and commitment to storytelling built his playwriting career and affirms us all as Pan Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Indigenous and Multiracial theater artists.

Discussion to follow with a dynamic panel of storytellers and stage directors on the current American theater landscape: the many senior and executive leadership openings, building a movement for greater visibility, access, and equity, diversity, inclusion best practices.

Facilitated by SDC Director: Chay Yew, Artistic Director, Victory Gardens Theater

Panelists: May Adrales, Milwaukee Repertory Theater; Tim Dang, Zelda Fichlander Awardee; Jess McLeod, resident at Hamilton Chicago & Victory Gardens Theater; Mei Ann Teo, 2018 National Directors Fellowship, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

Sponsored by Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

10:45am – 12:15pm

PLAY READING: THE SITAYANA
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

12:45pm – 2:15pm

PANEL & BREAKOUT SESSIONS

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

CROSSING BRIDGES: MOVE BACKS WITH ACTORS, AUDIENCES, AND OUR MANY GENERATIONS

TRACK: CHANGE-MAKING PRACTICUMS

@ Theatre School – Room 305

An intergenerational workshop facilitated to shift the relationship between audience and performances. The process is first, to model a Move Back: a new approach to processing theater; and then, to hold space for workshop participants to practice the technique. This workshop will culminate with a community dialog about the entire experience. The fundamental goal is to create a space for communal non-verbal processing of a performance.

Facilitators: Ken Yoshikawa, Actor & Spoken Word Artist, Chisao Hata, Associate Artist, Dance Exchange

CHANGE FROM WITHIN: FIELD NOTES ON SUBVERTING DOMINANT NARRATIVE

TRACK: RADICALS FOR DRAMATIC INNOVATION

@ Theatre School – Room 320

After meeting at the 2016 CAATA ConFest in Ashland, Oregon, Jenna and Nikolaj bring learnings born out of the micro-community established at the 2016 ConFest. Inspired by the relationship they built over distance, the two share how their relationship sustained them regarding equity and inclusion. They cut through the "lip service" as they share physical space to share strategy that inspires and encourages others to make deep, lasting change that betters our communities and industry.

Panelists: Jenna Rodgers, Director & Dramaturg, Calgary, Canada; Nikolaj Sorensen, Production Manager, Technical Director, Palo Alto, California

PHILADELPHIA ASIAN PERFORMING ARTS: AN ORIGIN STORY

TRACK: FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONISTS

@ Theatre School – Room 301

Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists (PAPA) will present their step-by-step process for developing an ongoing Asian American theater group, where none had existed before. They will discuss the origins of PAPA, and their strategies around using collaborations, workshops, showcases, readings, residencies, and main stage productions to create a core artist base, community connections and funding resources.

Facilitator: Cat Ramirez, Producer, Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists

Panelists: Rick Shiomi, Grantee, Doris Duke Building Demand For The Arts; Jeff Liu, Freelance Director

2:30pm – 8:00pm (ongoing)

CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees.

3:30pm – 5:00pm

PŌHAKU
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

7:30pm – 9:00pm

TALK STORIES: AN ASIAN AMERICAN/ASIAN DIASPORA STORYTELLING SHOW

(Partner Event – free)

@ National Cambodian Heritage Museum – 2831 W. Lawrence Ave

A night of storytelling, improv, and music by performers and community members of Asian descent in Chicago. Co-hosted and produced by Ada Cheng and Archy Jamjun.

8:00pm – 9:30pm

893 | YA-KU-ZA
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

8:30am – 2:00pm (ongoing)

CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees. *Coffee and tea service provided.*

9:00am – 10:30am

PANEL & BREAKOUT SESSIONS

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

LESSONS: NEW POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

TRACK: RADICALS FOR DRAMATIC INNOVATION

@ Theatre School – Room 321

The new Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is a movement comprised of artists, theologians, community organizers, organizations and others across the country to challenge the threats of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation. This interactive session will include Anu Yadav presenting her work of theater storycircling methods as a form of education, activism, and art, and case studies from the original 1968 Poor People's Campaign, a historic multiracial movement of poor people organizing together to end poverty, and the arts and cultural strategy of the new Poor People's Campaign 50 years later.

Facilitator: Anu Yadav, Actor, Playwright, Devised Theater Maker

THE GREAT AMERICAN MUSICAL

TRACK: CHANGE-MAKING PRACTICUMS

@ Theatre School – Room 305

This session is for anyone interested in learning and contributing to the current state of musical theater, especially Asian American musical theater. Asian Americans have an opportunity to seize the moment with something equally transformative. What do we make of this new landscape? The interactive session aims to inspire musical theater writers, producers, and directors while also sparking conversations to generate the next great Asian American musical.

Facilitator: Howard Ho, Playwright, Composer, Sound Designer & Musician

Panelists: Byron Au Yong, Composer, Assistant Professor of Music, Performing Arts & Social Justice, University of San Francisco

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN: #BOOYELLOWFACE, NO CAMPS, NO BAN, NO WALL!

TRACK: REBELS FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING

@ Theatre School – Room 320

This panel of artists and activists come together at the heart of art and activism for the Pan Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Indigenous, and Multiracial communities. They share their recent political actions centered around #booyellowface, confinement and separation of families, immigrant and refugee issues, and social justice in arts education. This is also an interactive political action strategizing session putting art squarely in the Movement where it amplifies, humanizes and unifies the fight for human rights and the sustainability of our communities. A political action will ensue within the session—join us!

Facilitator: Leslie Ishii, Director/Arts Educator/Dramaturg/Activist

Panelists: Leilani Chan, Founding Artistic Director, TeAda Productions; Carolyn San Juan, Ph.D., Director of Arts Education, East West Players

BEYOND CRITICISM: FUSING PUBLIC ACADEMIA & PERFORMANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

TRACK: FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONISTS

@ Theatre School – Room 301

In these contemporary times as authority and institutions are increasingly distrusted, the role of the academy in public life requires re-imagining. How can we move beyond criticism as a form of public academic engagement and what concrete forms could those activities take? This session seeks to imagine and add to a list of concrete actions and forms of academic engagement as well as collectively imagine other concrete ways we can engage with Asian American theatrical spaces, communities, and colleagues who work outside of the arts.

Facilitators: Aya Esther Hayashi, Ph.D., CUNY, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre; Gina Pisale, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Maryland, People's Light & Theatre Company

10:45am – 12:15pm

PLAY READING: INSTRUMENTAL JOURNEY
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

12:45pm – 2:15pm

FEATURED SESSION: CENTERING OUR VOICES IS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT

TRACK: REBELS FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING

@ Theatre School – DePaul University

This conversation enables artists of West Asian, Middle Eastern, and Arab backgrounds to explore the challenges of creating and producing representation that both honors our diverse experiences and counters the Orientalist, Islamophobic, and anti-immigrant narratives targeting our communities. Among the panelists are first, second, and third generation Americans, hailing from Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Iraqi, Lebanese, and Syrian backgrounds, including mixed-heritage backgrounds, and claiming Muslim, Christian, and/or secular identities.

Facilitator: Andrea Assaf, Founder & Artistic Director, Art2Action

Panelists: Heather Raffo, Solo Performer & Writer; Jamil Khoury, Founding Artistic Director, Silk Road Rising; Torange Yeghiazarian, Founding Artistic Director, Golden Thread Productions; Novid Parsi, Playwright, Fouad Teymour, Playwright and Actor

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 (CONTINUED)

2:30pm – 8:00pm (ongoing)
CAATA CONFEST LOUNGE

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Pick up your ConFest pass and reserved tickets, and mix and mingle with other attendees.

3:30pm – 5:00pm
893 | YA-KU-ZA
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

5:00pm – 7:00pm
CAATA HAPPY HOUR

@ Red Lion Pub

Join Greg Reiner, NEA Director of Theater and Musical Theater, along with fellow ConFest attendees and the CAATA Board for an informal Q&A over drinks and happy hour specials.

8:00pm – 9:30pm
PILLOWTALK
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Long Table post show discussion to follow.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

9:30am – 11:00am
CLOSING PLENARY: EXPANDING THE AMERICAN STORY AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT, PART III

@ Victory Gardens Theater

A Conversation with David Henry Hwang
Playwright & Chairman, American Theatre Wing

Moderated by Jamil Khoury, Founding Artistic Director, Silk Road Rising

David Henry Hwang, celebrated Asian American playwright and Chairman of the American Theatre Wing, brings a wealth of experience to the revolutionary act of expanding the American story. In this candid conversation with Silk Road Rising's Founding Artistic Director Jamil Khoury, Hwang will respond to questions about representation, yellowface, our evolving Asian American identity politics, when is it cultural appropriation and when is it not, the challenges and rewards of creating art in China, and the general state of the American theater as it wrestles with becoming more inclusive.

Awards & Closing Remarks by CAATA Board

11:30am – 1:30pm
PLAY READING: THIS IS NOT A TRUE STORY
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

2:30pm – 4:30pm
PLAY READING: FACE TO THE SUN
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

4:00pm – 6:30pm
NEW CHINA FESTIVAL: SAND ON A DISTANT STAR
(Partner Event – ticketed)

@ Silk Road Rising – 77 West Washington Street

Staged readings of three plays translated from Chinese to English that highlight the work of contemporary playwrights from the Chinese speaking world. Use code CAATA for \$5 discounted tickets.

6:00pm – 7:30pm
SDC HAPPY HOUR

@ Victory Gardens Theater Lobby

Join us for a toast and light appetizers, provided with support from the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. *Beer generously provided by Revolution Brewing.*

8:00pm – 9:30pm
PILLOWTALK
(CAATA ticketed)

@ Victory Gardens Theater

Post show discussion to follow.

9:30pm – 11:00pm
CAATA CLOSING RECEPTION

@ Victory Gardens Theater Lobby

Cheers to us all as we close out the 6th National ConFest with friends, both old and new, and light refreshments. *Beer generously provided by Revolution Brewing.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

4:00pm – 6:30pm
NEW CHINA FESTIVAL: SAND ON A DISTANT STAR
(Partner Event – ticketed)

@ Silk Road Rising – 77 West Washington Street

Staged readings of three plays translated from Chinese to English that highlight the work of contemporary playwrights from the Chinese speaking world. Use code CAATA for \$5 discounted tickets.



PHOTO CREDITS: COVER, left to right: *Pillowtalk*, photo by Walter Wlodarczyk | *Acquittal*, courtesy of Pan Asian Repertory Theatre | *Embedded*, courtesy of Pratik Motwani | *Anu Bhatt in Hollow/Wave*, photo by Crimson Cat Studios | *The Brothers Paranormal*, courtesy of Definition Theatre | *Lavina Jadhvani*, courtesy of the artist | *Kinolau*, courtesy of Moses Goods | *Pohaku*, photo by Brian S. Allard | *893 | Ya-ku-za*, courtesy of GenEnCo | *Merchant on Venice*, courtesy of Rasaka Theatre | *Str-Friday Night*, courtesy of Jimmy Chung.

FESTIVAL SHOWS (PAGES 3-4), left to right: *Merchant on Venice*, presented as part of *Hot Asian Everything: Revolt*,

courtesy of Rasaka Theatre | *Acquittal*, courtesy of Pan Asian Repertory Theatre | *Embedded*, courtesy of Pratik Motwani | *Pohaku*, photo by Brian S. Allard | *893 | Ya-ku-za*, courtesy of GenEnCo | *Pillowtalk*, photo by Walter Wlodarczyk; **NEW PLAY READINGS (PAGES 4-5), left to right:** *The Book of Mountains and Seas*, courtesy of Yilong Liu | *The Sitayana (or, This is not an Exit)*, courtesy of Lavina Jadhvani | *Screengrab from video of Instrumental Journey | This is Not a True Story*, courtesy of Preston Choi | *Face to the Sun*, courtesy of Alison Minami, **FEATURED GUESTS & SPEAKERS (PAGE 6)**, left to right: Tammy Haili'opua Baker, courtesy of the speaker | Rajiv Joseph, courtesy of the speaker | David Henry Hwang,

courtesy of the speaker | Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, creative commons; **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (PAGES 7-12), left to right:** Chicago Temple Building, creative commons | Theatre School at DePaul University, photo by Jeff Carrion | Andrea Assaf at ConFest 2016, photo by Brad Eastburn | Conference attendees at ConFest 2016, photo by Brad Eastburn | Emi Macadangdang and Jasmine host Hot Asian Everything at the 2016 ConFest, photo by Brad Eastburn | *Kinolau*, courtesy of Moses Goods | Pre-conference attendees at ConFest 2016, photo by Brad Eastburn | *Str-Friday Night*, courtesy of Jimmy Chung | Pre-conference attendees at ConFest 2016, photo by Brad Eastburn

CAATA SOLIDARITY STATEMENT: CAATA stands by the work of local and national professional theater organizations and networks including Latinx Theatre Commons, Black Theatre Commons, Indigenous Directions, and other POC theaters and artists. CAATA joins #NotInOurHouse in the cultural shift to strengthen our collective experience by working together to protect and develop our artists, our theaters, and our Chicago theater community by adopting the Chicago Theatre Standards.

REVOLUTIONARY ACTS

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

4:00pm – 6:00pm
New China Festival @ Silk Road Rising (partner event)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

4:00pm – 6:00pm
New China Festival @ Silk Road Rising (partner event)

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

12:00pm – 8:00pm
ConFest Registration, Badge & Ticket Pickup (ongoing)
@ Victory Gardens Theater

6:00pm – 7:00pm
Our Perspective: AsAm Play Readings (partner event)
@ Victory Gardens

8:00pm – 9:30pm
Hot Asian Everything: Revolt @ Victory Gardens Theater

9:30pm – 12am
Opening Night Party @ Lincoln Hall

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

8:30am – 2:00pm
ConFest Registration (ongoing) @ Theatre School – DePaul University

8:30am – 9:00am
Drop-in Breakfast @ Theatre School – DePaul University

9:00am – 10:30am
Opening Plenary: Tammy Haili'ōpua Baker
@ Theatre School – DePaul University

11:00am – 12:30pm
Panel & Breakout Sessions @ Theatre School – DePaul University

12:45pm – 2:15pm
Panel & Breakout Sessions @ Theatre School – DePaul University

2:30pm – 8:00pm
ConFest Lounge @ Victory Gardens Theater (ongoing)

3:30pm – 5:00pm
Acquittal @ Victory Gardens Theater

5:00pm – 7:00pm
CAATA Member Mingle @ Lincoln Station

8:00pm – 9:30pm
Embedded @ Victory Gardens Theater

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

8:30am – 2:00pm
ConFest Lounge @ Theatre School – DePaul University (ongoing)

9:00am – 10:30am
Panel & Breakout Sessions @ Theatre School – DePaul University

10:45am – 12:15pm
Play Reading: The Book of Mountains & Seas
@ Theatre School – DePaul University

12:45pm – 2:15pm
Panel & Breakout Sessions @ Theatre School – DePaul University

2:30pm – 8:00pm
ConFest Lounge @ Victory Gardens Theater (ongoing)

3:30pm – 5:00pm
Embedded @ Victory Gardens Theater

6:00pm – 7:30pm
Acquittal @ Victory Gardens Theater

8:00pm – 9:30pm
Pōhaku @ Victory Gardens Theater

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

8:30am – 2:00pm
ConFest Lounge @ Theatre School – DePaul University (ongoing)

9:00am – 10:30am
Mid-Week Plenary: Rajiv Joseph & SDC panel discussion
@ Theatre School – DePaul University

10:45am – 12:15pm
Play Reading: The Sitayana @ Theatre School – DePaul University

12:45pm – 2:15pm
Panel & Breakout Sessions @ Theatre School – DePaul University

2:30pm – 8:00pm
ConFest Lounge @ Victory Gardens Theater (ongoing)

3:30pm – 5:00pm
Pōhaku @ Victory Gardens Theater

8:00pm – 9:30pm
893 | Ya-ku-za @ Victory Gardens Theater

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

8:30am – 2:00pm
ConFest Lounge @ Theatre School – DePaul University (ongoing)

9:00am – 10:30am
Panel & Breakout Sessions @ Theatre School – DePaul University

10:45am – 12:15pm
Play Reading: Instrumental Journey
@ Theatre School – DePaul University

12:45pm – 2:15pm
Centering Our Voices Is a Revolutionary Act
@ DePaul University

3:30pm – 5:00pm
893 | Ya-ku-za @ Victory Gardens Theater

5:00pm – 7:00pm
CAATA Happy Hour @ Red Lion Pub

8:00pm – 9:30pm
Pillowtalk @ Victory Gardens Theater

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

9:30am – 11:00am
A Conversation with David Henry Hwang & Jamil Khoury
@ Victory Gardens Theater

11:30am – 1:30pm
Play Reading: This is Not a True Story @ Victory Gardens Theater

2:30pm – 4:30pm
Play Reading: Face to the Sun @ Victory Gardens Theater

4:00pm – 6:00pm
New China Festival @ Silk Road Rising (partner event)

6:00pm – 7:30pm
SDC Happy Hour @ Victory Gardens Theater

8:00pm – 9:30pm
Pillowtalk @ Victory Gardens Theater

9:30pm – 11:00pm
CAATA Closing Reception @ Victory Gardens Theater

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

4:00pm – 6:00pm
New China Festival @ Silk Road Rising (partner event)