

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Christopher Chen*	Actor 1
Tom Dang	Actor 3
Dennis Dun*	Larry Yee
Miley Yamamoto	Actor 2
Harmony Zhang	Lauren Yee

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

SERIES UNDERWRITERS
Ward & Louise Calaway
David Gordon

King of the Yees is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com
Key Art by Albany Carlson with permission from Baltimore Center Stage

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices.

CONSUMER ADVISORY: this show has instances of strong language, strobe lighting, and gun props and sounds.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Adventure is back in style!

People are starting to travel again. Headlines are telling us our world is constantly changing at lightning speed. Sierra Madre Playhouse is neighbor to one of the fasting growing and largest Asian communities in the country with its diversity of culture, language, and food.

At this performance, journey with playwright Lauren Yee right from your theatre seat as she plunges down the rabbit hole of San Francisco Chinatown in a meta-theatrical joyride that is part *Alice in Wonderland*, part *Wizard of Oz*, and part lesson of self-discovery.

How do we stay connected to our past while moving forward in a changing world?

How do the different generations navigate cultural, national, and familial borders of appreciation and understanding of each other? Hilarious and heartbreakingly honest, what timelier story can Sierra Madre Playhouse tell than *King of the Yees*?

Go with the flow. Process later. 😊

Tim Dang

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Tim Dang
Set & Projection Designer	Yi-Chien Lee
Costume Designer	Jojo Siu
Lighting Designer & Projection Engineer	Derek Jones
Sound Designer	Dennis Yen
Choreographer	Tom Tsai
Scenic Artist	Orlando de la Paz
Events Coordinator & COVID Compliance (OfficerBerrie Tsang
Production Stage Manager	Jeanne Marie Valleroy
Assistant Stage Managers	Bryan Ha, Risa Kurosaki
Associate Company Manager	
Technical Director	
Production Manager	
Volunteer Coordinator	Pamela Winters
Asst. Lighting Designer & Asst. Projection D	
Electricians	Shannon Barondeau
	David Campfield, Chris Rivera
Assistant Scenic Artist	, •
Scenic Builder	
Crew	
Program	
Publicity Photography	_
Production Photography	
Poster & Graphic Design	Albany Carlson, Kista Cook
Publicist	Philip Sokoloff

ABOUT OUR EXCLUSIVE TITLE PRODUCER





Video: <u>Reflections | In Honor of Asian</u>
Pacific American Heritage Month

Sierra Madre Playhouse is pleased to announce that Panda Express is the Presenting Sponsor of *King of the Yees*. For nearly 40 years, Panda Express has been sharing lovingly-crafted American Chinese cuisine with guests across the globe. But their story began with one immigrant family and a dream for a better life on the golden coast. As the largest Asian dining concept in the U.S. today, the beloved family-owned and operated restaurant brand aims to uplift diverse communities and help tell their stories to celebrate the experiences of those who make up the fabric of America through charitable grants from the Panda CommUnity Fund and meaningful partnerships with local institutions (including Sierra Madre Playhouse). Learn more about Panda Express' work in the community here.

Watch -> Panda Express is the Biggest Mom & Pop Chinese Restaurant:

AAPI Businesses Shaping America by Forbes

OUR SPONSORS

King of the Yees has been made possible by the support of our sponsors. The board, staff, and volunteers of the Sierra Madre Playhouse are grateful for their generosity and vision.

EXCLUSIVE TITLE PRODUCER

Panda Express

WEEKLY PRODUCER

Louise Neiby

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Lauren Yee is a playwright, screenwriter, and TV writer born and raised in San Francisco. She currently lives in New York City.

Lauren Yee's play *King of the Yees* premiered at The Goodman Theatre and Center Theatre Group, followed by productions at ACT Theatre, Canada's National Arts Centre, and Baltimore Center Stage.

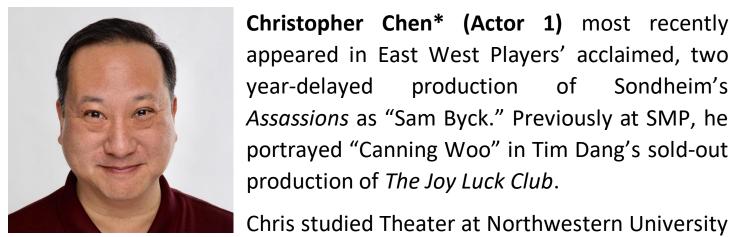
Other plays include *Cambodian Rock Band*, *The Great Leap*, *Ching Chong Chinaman* (Pan Asian Rep, Mu Performing Arts), *The Hatmaker's Wife* (Playwrights Realm, Moxie, PlayPenn), *Hookman* (Encore, Company One), *In A Word* (Young Vic, SF Playhouse, Cleveland Public, Strawdog), *Samsara* (Victory Gardens), *The Song of Summer* (Trinity Rep, Mixed Blood), and *The Tiger Among Us* (Mu).

She is the winner of the Doris Duke Artist Award, the Steinberg Playwright Award, the Horton Foote Prize, the Kesselring Prize, the ATCA/Steinberg Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters literature award, and the Francesca Primus Prize. She has been a finalist for the Edward M. Kennedy Prize and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her plays were the #1 and #2 plays on the 2017 Kilroys List.

Lauren is a Residency 5 playwright at Signature Theatre, New Dramatists member (class of 2025), Ma-Yi Writers' Lab member, former Princeton University Hodder fellow, and Playwrights Realm alumni playwright. Current commissions include Arena Stage, Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, Second Stage, South Coast Rep.

www.laurenyee.com

CAST



Christopher Chen* (Actor 1) most recently appeared in East West Players' acclaimed, two production year-delayed of Sondheim's Assassions as "Sam Byck." Previously at SMP, he portrayed "Canning Woo" in Tim Dang's sold-out production of *The Joy Luck Club*.

and can currently be seen in recurring guest roles on two NBC comedies: as Dwayne Johnson's PR Manager "Sandy" on Young Rock and as Payne Motors CFO "Jin" on American Auto. Other TV credits include: Criminal

Minds, Modern Family, The Mindy Project, Brooklyn 9-9, Superstore, It's Always Sunny..., Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, and Curb Your Enthusiasm, among others. Commercials for Liberty Mutual, Geico and DirecTV.

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Tom Dang (Actor 3) is an actor based in Los Angeles, CA and is so excited to make his debut at Sierra Madre! SELECT REGIONAL: M. Butterfly (Artswest Playhouse), Red Earth (ACT Theatre), Assassins (East West Players), Kaidan Rogue (Artists Ensemble and East West Players), Shakespeare in Love (Seattle Shakespeare), Hamlet and As You Like It (Colonials Shakespeare),



Witching Hour and Maltese Falcon (Nordo), Richard (REBATEnsemble). Recent Film/TV credits: Angelyne (Universal), Blue (CBS), Ryan's Playdate (Nickelodeon), and Bloods Assassin's Creed/Unknown9 (Reflector), Z Nation (SyFy), The Librarians (TNT). www.tomdangofficial.com



Dennis Dun* (Larry Yee) is happy to be on stage tonight. He studied marketing and got a "real" job but after stumbling into an acting class, his life's path took a left turn into the unknown. There were only two things he knew: 1) acting gave him joy and 2) the "real" job wasn't working for him. Now decades later he still does not have a "real" job but acting still brings him great joy. His stage credits

include productions at Asian American Theater Company, East West Players, Mark Taper Forum, Pan Asian Rep, Berkeley Rep and Lodestone Theatre. His film credits include *Big Trouble in Little China*, *The Last Emperor* and *Year of the Dragon*. TV credits include HBO's *Luck* (recurring) and NBC's *Midnight Caller* (series regular).

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Miley Yamamoto (Actor 2) has most recently performed as Butcher Rose, the Big Bad Main Boss from Borderlands 3 Bounty of Blood (Gearbox/2K) and the sly and elusive Tomoe in Ghost of Tsushima (SONY PLAYSTATION). Born and raised in sunny Los Angeles, California, Miley has worked as an on-camera actress on shows like How To Rock (Nickelodeon) and voiceover for original



animation for Triptank (Comedy Central). Other AAA video game titles

include *Days Gone* (SONY PLAYSTATION) and *Star Trek: Bridge Crew*. Miley's theatre credits include *Avenue Q, Closer Than Ever* (Lodestone Theatre) and *Terra Nova*. She's excited to be working with the awardwinning Sierra Madre Playhouse for this production of *King of the Yees*. Having spent her early adulthood in Tokyo she is fluent in Japanese and has a fondness for sakura viewing parties and late-night karaoke. In case you're wondering, Miley is pronounced Meelay.

www.mileyyamamoto.com



Harmony Zhang (Lauren Yee) is thrilled to be working with Sierra Madre Playhouse for the first time. Bicoastally based in Los Angeles and Chicago, Harmony is originally from Tucson, Arizona. Notable educational credits include: *An Experiment with an Air Pump* (Ellen), *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Maria/Lisa Simpson), *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Angustias), and *The*

Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra, Go! (Violet). Regional credits include the world premiere of Hershel & The Hanukkah Goblins at Strawdog Theatre Company, and Kentucky with The Gift Theatre. Favorite on-screen credits include The Red Line (CBS), a State Farm commercial on social media (Clap Snack Girl), Noodles and Incense (dir. Rey Tang), and BJ's Mobile Gift Shop (dir. Jason Park). She is grateful to her family, friends, and agents at Avant Artists and Lily's Talent. Education: BA in Theatre Studies - Duke University; MFA in Acting - The Theatre School at DePaul. www.harmonyzhang.com

PRODUCTION TEAM

Tim Dang (Director) is a theatre director/producer and is the recipient of the Society of Directors and Choreographers' Zelda Fichandler Award for transforming the regional theatre arts landscape through theatre. Tim is happy to be back at Sierra Madre Playhouse since directing *The Joy Luck Club* in 2019 and *Nothing is the Same* in 2018. He is a Los Angeles County Arts Commissioner and serves on several committees including the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (Co-Chair 2015-2020) and the County's Economic Resiliency Task Force for which he is the Arts and Culture sector leader. He is producing artistic director emeritus of East West Players (EWP), having run the longest running professional theatre of color in the United States for 23 years producing over a hundred plays and musicals. Tim is on faculty at the USC School of Dramatic Arts and AMDA College for the Performing Arts.

Kenny Cole (Assistant Lighting Designer and Assistant Projection Designer) is a recent transplant to Los Angeles. He spent the last five years working in Chicago for many theaters such as Chicago Shakespeare, Lookingglass, and The House Theatre of Chicago. He's very excited to be a part of his first production at Sierra Madre Playhouse!

Orlando de la Paz (Scenic Artist) has been a Scenic Painter in the Los Angeles area for several years and works for many different companies in the region. *King of the Yees* is his 16th show at SMP since 2014. Orlando has Art Directed several films including *Buttons: A Christmas Tale* starring Dick Van Dyke and Angela Lansbury and *A Golden Boy* both streaming on Amazon Prime. In the Summer of 2019 Orlando co-produced *I Wanna Be Evil: The Eartha Kitt Story* for the Hollywood Fringe Festival, and is the producer, director and writer for his own Radio Drama Ensemble – "The Imaginarium Virtual Ensemble" streaming on XOTV.me which he

conceived at the start of the Pandemic. At the same time, he is in production for a painting series called "Paz to Paint" also coming soon to XOTV.me.

Bryan Ha (Assistant Stage Manager) is extremely grateful for the opportunity to join this production as Assistant Stage Manager. He is a Chinese-Vietnamese American performer who primarily focuses on acting and voice acting, but also has experiences in singing, dancing, writing, directing, and stage managing. He would like to thank Risa, Jeanne, and Tim for having him onboard and hopes the audience will enjoy this show.

Derek Jones (Lighting Director, Lighting Designer & Projection Engineer) For SMP: Bee-luther-hatchee, The Marvelous Wonderettes, A Christmas Story (2017, 2018), Nothing Is the Same, The Immigrant, Pump Boys and Dinettes, The Gin Game, Tuesdays with Morrie, Stuart Little, Dames at Sea, The Joy Luck Club, Little Women, Every Christmas Story Ever Told, and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. In LA, he has been a lighting designer at California School for the Arts — San Gabriel Valley, REDCAT, SiriusXM, The Soraya, Stories Illuminated, Estrella TV, IATSE Local 33, and more. Highlights outside of LA include New York Fashion Week, Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, and the Virginia Opera. Derek has an MFA in Lighting Design from Indiana University and a BA in Theatre and a BS in Physics from The George Washington University. He is the lead designer for Panda Roja Design. www.pandaroja.com

Risa Kurosaki (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Los Angeles-based theatre technician dedicated to working with diverse storytellers. Some of her credits include *The Four Immigrants* (Artists at Play), *Seamless* (USC Visions + Voices), *Inflections* (Second Generation Production & The Consortium of Asian American Theater Artists), *40 Watts From Nowhere* (Mister & Mischief), *Cannibal! The Musical* (Coeurage Theater Company).

Yi-Chien Lee (Set & Projection Designer) is thrilled to make her debut with Sierra Madre Playhouse in this phenomenal play. Set design credits include Life Sucks, Water by the Spoonful, The Great Leap (Cygnet Theatre), The Great Khan (San Diego Repertory Theatre), Girlfriend, A Kind of Weather (Diversionary Theatre), Mother of the Maid (Moxie Theatre), BURN (STR Network), Turn Around, About Chia-Yi (Our Theatre, The 13th Grassstraw Festival), Play (Tainaner Ensemble), Seek Beckett (Double Theatre), Mission Incomplete (New Vision Play Festival), The Winter's Tale-globe for all (Old Globe). Her work for Moon drunk was selected for the Emerging Artist/Imagination Exhibit in the 2019 Prague Quadrennial, and Un-Tongue was exhibited at The 28th Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre. Portfolio: yichienlee.com

Todd McCraw (Technical Director) moved here from NYC where he spent 28 years working in all aspects of theater tech, in nearly every theater in NYC. He is head rigger for Fly-By-Night Dance Theater. He rigs for many other silk acts, trapeze acts & other theatrical productions. Todd spent four years in Big Apple Circus, assisting world-famous horse trainer & performer Katja Schumann. Todd is starting a new production company, "Mad Cackle Productions", that focuses mainly on stand-up comedy, live music, and all aspects of live entertainment. As SMP's Technical Director, Todd is responsible for all aspects of the technical demands for each show. Todd has been involved in all mainstage productions at SMP since *The Glass Menagerie* in 2016.

Jojo Siu (Costume Designer) has worked both nationally and internationally, in film, opera, theater and dance. She is a huge advocate for diversity and representation, and has a passion for storytelling. Her work includes *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*, *The Madres*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *The*

Caucasian Chalk Circle, The Joy Luck Club, Eurydice, Evita, Fun Home, Spring Awakening, Bright Star, and Head over Heels, Grand Night For Singing. She has worked with Musical Theatre West, Pasadena Playhouse, Perseverance Theatre, and South Coast Repertory, among others, and is so excited to be joining Sierra Madre Playhouse again for King of the Yees.

Tom Tsai (Choreographer) has choreographed for productions of Frederick and The Emperor's Nightingale at Lewis Family Playhouse, The Joy Luck Club at Sierra Madre Playhouse, and The Odyssey Project, a collaboration between UC Santa Barbara's Theatre Department and the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility. Originally from Taipei, Taiwan, Tom has been privileged to tour his solo dance works and teach workshops nationally and internationally. He has danced with LA-based choreographers Suchi Branfman, Laurie Cameron, Victoria Marks, and John Pennington; and has been part-time faculty at Pomona College, Cal State Long Beach, and Cal State Fullerton. Additionally, Tom is a chief collaborator with Dancing Through Prison Walls, a project giving visibility to those impacted by the carceral system, through dance, film, and written works.

Berrie Tsang (Associate Company Manager) has been working for Sierra Madre Playhouse since June 2019. She coordinates SMP's management, marketing, social media, outreach, fundraising, group sales, and whatever else is needed. She also works as an in-house photographer/videographer and graphic designer, and has previously worked as a Properties Designer and Production Assistant for past SMP productions such as *The Joy Luck Club*, *Virtual Off the Page Reading Series*, and *You're A Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*.

Jeanne Marie Valleroy (Production Stage Manager & Production Manager) Some of Jeanne's favorite shows she has worked on include You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown (Sierra Madre Playhouse in Memorial

Park), Cowboy Elektra (Rogue Artists Ensemble), The Joy Luck Club (Sierra Madre Playhouse), EINSTEIN! (Santa Monica Playhouse and Sierra Madre Playhouse), Princess Magic (The Complex), The Radiant (The Other Space), I Carry Your Heart (Bootleg Theater), Solve It Squad Returns (Tin Can Brothers), My Mañana Comes (The Fountain Theater), Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (Long Beach Playhouse). She would like to thank her family and friends for their support. Thank you for supporting live theater.

Dennis Yen (Sound Designer) is an award-winning sound designer and composer, who is happy to be re-united with Tim Dang and Dennis Dun in the theater playground, once again. He is excited to be working with the amazing cast, crew and production team on this fun, creative, but poignant, play. He would like to thank the Little Gwai and Bao Dze for giving him the time to play with and be a part of, the *King of the Yees* team.



Pictured: some of the King of Yees production team at rehearsal. (Photo: Berrie Tsang)

King of the Yees Thank Yous

We thank the following for their contributions to this production:

The Asian American Cultural Alliance at Sierra Madre Playhouse (AACA) for their outreach to our local AAPI community and individual support of Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Baldwin Art Gallery for the use of their venue for our opening night reception.

California Humanities and **Red Hen Press** for their financial and educational support for our supplementary audience engagement programs.

Po-Yu Chen for coordinating and providing props.

Congresswoman Judy Chu for recognizing Sierra Madre Playhouse and this production of *King of the Yees*.

Fritz Davis for projectors used in this production.

Ken Goldstein for providing raffle prizes at our *King of the Yees* Fundraising Garden Party.

The Goodman Theatre for the use of their *King of the Yees* production's Sichuan Face Changer costume.

Nicole Garcia Gordon for sponsoring and **Steve Chiu** for playing the erhu at our *King of the Yees* Fundraising Garden Party.

Dr. Laureen Hom and Annie Yee for speaking at some of our shows.

Immortals Lion Dance for the use of a real lion dance costume and for performing at our *King of the Yees* Fundraising Garden Party.

Kinetic Lighting for new moving lights.

Christian Lebano for choosing this show, helping cast most of the show, and choosing many of the designers.

Emilia Lopez and **Axiom Printing** for their patience with our last-minute printing requests.

Panda Express for their sponsorship of Sierra Madre Playhouse and this production, and for their commitment to uplifting communities by supporting AAPI organizations this AAPI Heritage Month.

Paul Scranton for the generous use of his lovely home and garden for our *King of the Yees* Fundraising Garden Party.

Diane Siegel for curating, designing, and installing our lobby exhibit brought to you by California Humanities.

The **Sierra Madre City Council** for their continued support of Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Terence Tsang and **Berrie Tsang** for helping with Cantonese vocal training and providing an erhu.

The **Volunteers of the Sierra Madre Playhouse** for contributing their time and talents to our *King of the Yees* Fundraising Garden Party, as ushers, marketers, assistants at public programs, and so many other tasks that help the Playhouse.





L: Congresswoman Judy Chu presents Director Tim Dang with a certificate of recognition. (Photo: Ken Fong) R: Some of the SMP volunteers & Volunteer Coordinator Pamela Winters. (Photo: Robert Velasco)

THE SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

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Associate Company ManagerBerrie Tsang
Interim Artistic DirectorGary B. Lamb
Technical DirectorTodd McCraw
Production ManagerJeanne Marie Valleroy
HR Manager and Volunteer CoordinatorPamela Winters
Assistant to the Technical DirectorJohn Dimitri
Patron Services/Box Office ManagerMary Baville
Special Projects/Box Office ManagerWard Calaway
AccountantLouise Calaway
BookkeeperPaulene Calaway
PublicistPhilip Sokoloff
Board Members
Advisory Board
Asian American Cultural Alliance (AACA)Tim Dang (Co-Chair) Ken Fong (Co-Chair), John Gong (Co-Chair)

Berrie Tsang (Secretary), Lydia Chen Shah Nicole Garcia, David Gordon, Wenli Jen Linda Puchalski, Paul Scranton Jeanne Marie Valleroy, Eileen Walker

Lighting Director	Derek Jones
Associate Artist – AKT Academy	Alison Eliel Kalmus
Organizational Consultant	Tim Dang
Grant Writer	Jesse Ruskin



Pictured: Sierra Madre Playhouse (Photo: Berrie Tsang)

THE CIRCLE OF ANGELS

SMP thanks the following members of the Circle of Angels for their generous contributions in support of our work. The gifts listed below were received between July 25, 2021 and May 7, 2022.

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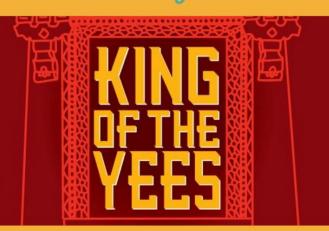
Your gift is deeply appreciated by all of us here at SMP, to report a misspelling or omission, please contact Info@SierraMadrePlayhouse.org

SIERRAMADRE Playhouse



BY LAUREN YEE
DIRECTED BY TIM DANG

SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS



To complement our production of *King of the Yees*, we hope you will join us for the following FREE supplementary events:

Wednesday, June 1 at 7 pm: Film Screening of Saving Face

Join us for a screening of this 2004 feature film by Alice Wu, where a Chinese-American lesbian and her traditionalist mother are reluctant to go public with secret loves that clash against cultural expectations.



Sunday, June 5 after the performance: Talkback discussion with Dr. Laureen Hom

Join us for a discussion with Laureen Hom, professor at Cal Poly Pomona whose research includes the community politics of redevelopment and gentrification in Los Angeles Chinatown.



Wednesday, June 8 at 7 pm: Film Screening of *Chinatown Rising*

Join us for a screening of this 2019 documentary film by Chuckwow Productions about the Asian-American Movement from the perspective of the young residents on the front lines of their historic neighborhood in transition.



Sunday, June 12 after the performance: Talkback discussion with Annie Yee

Join us for a discussion with choreographer Annie Yee, who will speak about her work on this play, as well as her family's involvement in LA's Chinese American community.





This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org.