

THE ASIAN AMERICAN
WRITERS' WORKSHOP
PRESENTS

ACT II

FALL 2002

NEW STAGES IN
VIETNAMESE
AMERICAN
NARRATIVE



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2002

7 PM
CHAC

Kim Chi Tyler screens her award-winning documentary, *CHAC*, in which Tyler journeys to the Mekong Delta to meet her biological father and investigate the true past of her mother. USA/Vietnam, 2000, color, 72 minutes.

Kim Chi Tyler and her family immigrated to the United States just days before the fall of Saigon in 1975. Kim Chi has worked for CNN since graduating from Florida State University in 1988. Her credits include CNN's LIVE coverage of The Persian Gulf War, China's Tiananmen Square, the Soviet Union's August Coup, The O.J Simpson Trial, TWA Flight 800 Crash. *CHAC* marks her directorial debut. The film won the Golden Elephant Award for Best Documentary feature at the Bangkok Film Festival, and The Lena Sharpe Audience Choice Award for best overall film at the Seattle Women In Cinema Film Festival. Since its completion *CHAC* has been screened in more than a dozen film festivals. Just recently, *CHAC* was seen at the Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington D.C. Kim Chi still divides her time between art and CNN.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2002

2 PM
Across the Shores: A Panel Talk

Scholars discuss Vietnamese literature as viewed in the U.S., Australia, France and Vietnam.

Panelists: **Nina Ha**, Doctoral Candidate, UMass-Amherst
Ly Lan, Fulbright Fellow, Wake Forest University
Dan Duffy, Doctoral Candidate, UNC-Chapel Hill

Moderator: **Quang Bao**, Executive Director, AAWW

Dan Duffy is founder and president of Books & Authors: Viet Nam, Inc., working to help non-specialists teach Vietnamese history and literature. He has worked as a publisher in Ha Noi and taught Vietnamese literature at Yale and at the University of North Carolina. He is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at Chapel Hill and in Vietnamese literature at the Oriental Institute of Paris, and a member of the editorial board of Education About Asia. His dissertation research is on the usefulness of Vietnamese literature outside Viet Nam.

Nina Ha is a Ph.D. candidate in the English Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research interests include Asian American Literature, Ethnic American Studies, Women's Studies, and Cultural Studies. Her dissertation research is on contemporary Vietnamese American and Vietnamese diasporic Literature.

Ly Lan was born in 1957 in Binh Duong (Vietnam) to a Chinese father and a Vietnamese mother. She grew up and spent most of her life so far in Cho Lon (China town of Hochiminh city). She has published 20 books of poetry, short stories, essays, novels and done some translation. She is currently a graduate student of the English department at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2002, continued

7 PM
Interior Designs

A dark comedy about a young Vietnamese American man struggling to come out to his family. Based on adaptations of work featured in the 1998 AAWW anthology, *Watermark: Vietnamese American Poetry and Prose*. Written by Kiseung Rhee and directed by Rick Shiomi.

CAST (in order of appearance)

Andrew.....**Campbell Chang**
Nancy.....**Lia Yang**
Father.....**Ariel Estrada**
Mother.....**Roxanne Baisas**
Ba Phuum.....**Constance Boardman**
Grandmother.....**Carol Honda**
Scott/Charles.....**Michael Minn**
Josh/Policeman/Cabbie.....**John Wernke**

Stage Directions.....**Tim Huang**

As a playwright and director, **Rick Shiomi** has been one of the leading figures of the Asian American theater movement since the early 1980's. Relocating to Minnesota in the 1990's he was one of the founders of Theater Mu and is presently the Artistic Director of the company. Mr. Shiomi's plays include the award winning *Yellow Fever*, *Rosie's Cafe*, *Uncle Tadao*, *Play Ball*, *Mask Dance*, *The Raven In The Starfruit Tree*, *The Tale of the Dancing Crane* and *Song of the Pipa*. Mr. Shiomi has had his plays produced by the major Asian American theater companies; Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco, Pan Asian Repertory in New York and East West Players in Los Angeles. Mr. Shiomi's other activities have included serving on the Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Pluralism Advisory Committee, as a board director at the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, and on the Ordway Cultural Advisory Committee. Mr. Shiomi recently received an Award for Leadership and Excellence in the Arts from the State Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

Kiseung Rhee's creative home for the past four years has been with Theater Mu. He has become their jack of all trades; acting in such plays as *The Tale of the Dancing Crane*, *Song for a Nisei Fisherman*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Temple of Dreams*; directing small projects in Theater Mu's New Directions and New Eyes Festivals; performing as a taiko drummer for the past 3 years in Mu Daiko's annual winter concert; and writing for Theater Mu's New Eyes Festivals and Educational Outreach Programs. Most recently, Theater Mu began their 10th season with Kiseung's *Distant Song*. *Interior Designs* is Kiseung's second play.

ACT II: New Stages in Vietnamese American Narrative

is produced and presented by

The Asian American Writers' Workshop

and made possible by

The Jerome Foundation, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The New York State Council on the Arts, The Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund, and the generosity of our individual donors.

A special thanks to these organizations, along with the following individuals for their support and aid with this festival:

**Monique T.D. Truong
Barbara Tran
Luu Truong Khoi
Rick Shiomi
Kiseung Rhee
Theater Mu, Minneapolis
Jin Auh
and
Shawn Cheng**



The Asian American Writers' Workshop

The Asian American Writers' Workshop is a non profit literary arts organization dedicated to the creation, development, publication and dissemination of Asian American literature.

For more information about programs and events, visit <http://www.aaww.org>.

cover design by Shawn Cheng