HOUSE PROGRAMME

Studio 180 Theatre and fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company in association with Crow's Theatre present

THE CHINESE LADY

Written by Lloyd Suh
Directed by Marjorie Chan
May 2 to 21, 2023
Opening Night: Friday, May 5, 2023
STUDIO THEATRE

THE COMPANY

Lloyd Suh	Playwright
Marjorie Chan 陳以廷	Director
Rosie Simon	Afong Moy
John Ng 吳健琳	Atung
Echo Zhou 周芷音	Set Designer
Kimberly Purtell	Lighting Designer
Jung-Hye Kim	Costume Designer
Gloria Mok 莫嘉詠	Sound Design and Composition
David Hoekstra	Head of Props
Kai-Yueh Chen 陳楷岳	Stage Manager
Charina Wee	Production Manager
Katie Saunoris	Publicist
劉芳宇 Steven Hao*	Assistant Director

*Generously supported by *RBC Foundation through Studio 180 Theatre's RBC Emerging Artists program.*

Studio 180 Theatre and fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company engage professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement.

Crow's Theatre is a proud member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts (TAPA). We engage professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA) with Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).

Co-world premiere presented at Barrington Stage (Julianne Boyd, Artistic Director; Branden Huldeen, Artistic Producer), Pittsfield, MA. July 2018.

Commissioned by and co-world premiere presented by Ma-Yi Theater Company (Ralph B. Peña, Artistic Director) in New York City.

Developed with support of the Roe Green Award at Cleveland Play House.

THE CHINESE LADY is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

The running time of THE CHINESE LADY is 90 minutes without intermission.

WELCOME TO CROW'S THEATRE

Thank you for joining us at Streetcar Crowsnest for Studio 180 Theatre's and fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company's Toronto premiere of Lloyd Suh's *The Chinese Lady*. We're very grateful to be partnering with both companies as well as marking the Crow's Theatre directing debut of Theatre Passe Muraille's Artistic Director Marjorie Chan. Partnerships with Toronto's independent theatres are an integral part of what we do at Crow's. They allow us to build connections between communities, artists, and audiences, and celebrate the wide array of artistic innovators working across the city.

Next year, our 40th anniversary season, features partnerships with leading indie companies like Tapestry Opera, The Howland Company, Obsidian Theatre Company, Théâtre français de Toronto, VideoCabaret, The Musical Stage Company, and more. It's a fabulous, eclectic mix: a series of dramas, true-life stories, fantasies, comedies, operas, and a musical, our 40th anniversary season will deliver 12 shows that celebrate so much of the artistic excellence that Toronto has to offer.

Please visit our website to see the full season and the many ways to save by becoming a member.

Still to come this season, the long-awaited Toronto premiere of Rick Miller's astonishing *Boom X*, the world premiere of Canadian playwright Alex Bulmer's travelogue *Perceptual Archaeology*, and the Crow's Theatre debut of Cole Danse with *X (Ex)*, choreography by Guillaume Côté, principal dancer and choreographic associate at The National Ballet of Canada.

Enjoy the show!

CHRIS ABRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SHERRIE JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CROW'S

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR MARJORIE CHAN

When I was introduced to this play by David Yee, it was the first time I learned Afong Moy's name. This surprised me greatly, and I was ashamed I did not know of her. As a Chinese Canadian and as an avid reader of history, if I had not heard of her before, how many others would ever learn of her existence? How easily someone could slip out of history and memory? How could she be so easily erased?

Although it holds many truths, *The Chinese Lady* is not a historical drama or biographical story. Instead, Lloyd Suh skillfully reveals Afong Moy perhaps the first Chinese woman in the U.S., as a metaphor and an opportunity to examine our own impulses for cultural commodification.

Set in America, starting in the 1830s, Afong Moy was brought over to be the centre of an exhibit by furniture importers, before gaining popularity (or perhaps notoriety) and joining much larger 'cultural exhibitions'. The was all fueled by the growing fascination by a Western public for all things, 'Oriental'.

It is hard to not also compare Afong Moy's relatively more 'human' exhibition to the horror of 'human zoos' where individuals were enslaved in harrowing circumstances and put on display in often hostile surroundings. The most famous perhaps, is Saartjie (Sarah) Baartman (real Sesfrau) who was born in 1789 in what South Africa is now. Billed as the Venus Hottentot, reaction to this woman by spectators across Europe was grounded by racist and gendered biases. Even in death, her body continued to be subject to the indignity of being scrutinised and examined under a Western gaze in the guise under the cover of 'science'. Her remains were ultimately expatriated from France to her homeland in 2002 at the request of Nelson Mandela.

In spite of the differences of the experiences of Afong Moy and Ssehura, the causes of their exhibition are the same – a colonial entitlement over a person with a different ethnicity and their subjugation for the sake of culture gathering, scientific racism and in the name of science. Of course, there is also the lens of gender and the cultural acceptability of such exploitation justified through the exoticification of women of colour whether Black, Asian or otherwise.

It should be noted that the practice of human exhibition is well-documented in English, and thus the research is readily available to us in the West. However, there is certainly evidence of the practice globally including in China where 'ethnic minorities' such as Tibetans were put on display as well as in Japan where Koreans were subjected to the same treatment.

Here, many people celebrate July 1st as Canada Day. Some communities do not, including many Indigenous people and me. My Chinese Canadian July 1st is instead known as the Day of Humiliation in my community – the day the Chinese Immigration Act was enacted in 1923. It targeted my community and perhaps accurately known as the Chinese Exclusion Act. This act replaced the onerous and flagrantly discriminatory Head Tax on Chinese migrants, and virtually stopped any immigration from China. It is estimated that only 15 Chinese individuals under very specific circumstances entered Canada from 1923 until 1946 when the Act was repealed. Now, we approach the 100th anniversary of that Act.

It is easy to imagine that the societal constructs that Afong Moy lived through no longer exist. There are friends of multiple ethnicities sharing a dim sum birthday or the common-place red decorations celebrating Lunar New Year. In the multicultural mosaic that is Toronto, these can be seen optimistically as representations of Chinese culture but belie an undercurrent of appropriation and an otherness that is still present today. With the pandemic experiences of the last few years, society has been shaped irrevocably by social reckonings and the resurgence of anti-Asian sentiment and attacks. A hundred years, relatively, is perhaps not that long ago.

In 2023, as brilliantly interpreted by Lloyd Suh, Afong Moy's depiction on a stage is a reminder to us all, to continue to examine our own actions as cultural consumers, as voyeur and as witness. We have no means to understand her except through performance, as that was the lens in which her life was documented. But, with this play, we are given the opportunity to unpack our own gaze.

Enjoy.

MARJORIE CHAN, DIRECTOR OF **THE CHINESE LADY**
TORONTO, MARCH 2023

SPECIAL THANKS

The Company of *THE CHINESE LADY* extends their special thanks to Karl *Ang*, Maddie Bautista, *Bob Blair*, Arlene Chan, Kathy Chin, Kerry Ann Dichter, Jackie Field, Glenn Juatco, Derek Kwan, George Moore, Mayko Nguyen, Jonathan Rooke, Susan Stower, Lloyd Suh, Dr. Serene Tan, Shaw Vernon, Eleanor Marie Wong 林林恩, Dr. Christina Yarmol, Martinprove Collaborative Institute, Theatre Passe Muraille.

Atung's jacket was originally designed by Amy McDougall and built by Kim Tymkow for Gateway Theatre's 2019 production of *China Doll*. Additionally, costumes from that production were used in promotional photography.

The Community Partner for *The Chinese Lady* is Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter.

The Cultural Media Partner for *The Chinese Lady* is Fête Chinoise.

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Studio 180 Theatre is a Toronto-based company with a mission to engage, provoke and entertain through dynamic theatre and innovative Beyond The Stage experiences that delve into social and political issues. Since 2002, Studio 180 Theatre has evolved from an informal artistic collective into one of Toronto's most respected independent professional theatre companies, expanding to include a strong new play development program and an extensive student workshop series supporting more than 1,500 students annually. The Laramie Project, *Stuff Happens*, Our Class, *Cityboume Park*, *The Normal Heart*, *The Nether*, *Oslo* and Indecent are among the many plays we have produced in the past twenty years.

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Studio 180 Theatre sincerely thanks all of our donors that have generously supported us for our 20th anniversary season. Please visit this link to see a complete list of our supporters.

Studio 180 Theatre welcomes new and longtime supporters alike to join us at our CELEBRATE STUDIO 180 party on Monday. June 5th at 7:30PM!

Join us as we celebrate our 20th anniversary and honour Joel Greenberg's leadership as Artistic Director over the past two decades. This evening will feature a special presentation, silent auction, cash bar, food stations by Oliver & Bonacini, and a special check presentation to mark the future of the company.

Visit **Studio180theatre.com/celebrate** for more info and to buy tickets.

We are pleased to support **Studio 180 Theatre** and the artists that have been captivating audiences with exciting, innovative, and entertaining productions for **20 seasons**.

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Founded in 2002, fu-GEN Theatre is devoted to providing a home for the Asian Canadian theatre artist; nurturing their voices and producing works of the highest artistic calibre that explore the Asian Canadian experience. fu-GEN is the longest running professional Asian theatre company in Canada, has fostered over 150 emerging artists over the last 20 years, produced the 49 1st (49 plays by women of colour that you can produce tomorrow), and created the first-ever International Conference and Festival on Asian Canadian theatre in 2010. Some notable works that have been nurtured at fu-GEN include *Banana Boys*, *Kim's Convenience*, *Singkil*, and *lady in the red dress*.

SPONSORS

fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre's 2020 season is sponsored by

TD READY COMMITMENT

Thank you to Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Council for their generous support of fu-GEN Theatre's 2022/23 season programming.

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Thank you to fu-GEN Theatre's dedicated donors: Aidan Morishita-Miki, Albert Rau, Anonymous (5), Antong Xu, Benny Min, Carole A Brearly, Catherine Gordon, Celia Harte, Chrsti Nguyen, Christine Horne, Dahlia Katz, Daniella Dela Pena, Derrick Chua, Elena Woo, Elizabeth Ing, Glen Newell, Jeannine Ing, Jennifer Villaverde, Joanna Dezc, Julie Tamiko Manning, Laura Paducch, Marissa Orjalo, Michael Man, Ming-Bo Lam, Nathalie Younglai, Norman Yeung, Nova Bhattacharya, Nova Dance, Nutmeg Yee, Philip Hartwick, Rick (Audley) Kong, Sohiel Parsa, Val Lem, Vienna Hehir, Yvette Lam.

To support the future of Asian Canadian theatre and its artists, please donate using this link: fu-gen.org/donate

CAST

ROSIE SIMON
(SHE/HER)
AFONG MOY

Hometown: Vancouver, BC
For Studio 180 Theatre: Debut.
For fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: acquaince [Factory Theatre/ fu-GEN].
For Crow's Theatre: Debut.
Recent Theatre: *The Three Musketeers, John* (NAFTC); *Dinner with the Dutchess* (Next Stage Festival); *Lady Sunrise* (Factory Theatre).
Additional Theatre: *Kim's Convenience, Cowboy Versus Samurai* (Soulpepper); *Urinetown* (Firehall); *The King and I* (Gateway); *A...My Name is Alice, Flower Drum Song* (MACT); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Arts Club/Belfry).
Film/TV: *The Recovery; Hudson & Rex; Good Witch; Slasher: Solstice; Shadowhunters; Carter; Killjoys;* and *Motive.*
Thank You: Thank you Jennifer Lee. Rosie is so grateful to be able to tell stories on stage and share her passion with the world. A big thank you to all who continue to support live theatre!

JOHN NG
(HE/HIM)
ATUNG

Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario. **For Studio 180 Theatre:** Debut.
For fu-GEN Theatre: ED in *CHING CHONG CHINAMAN*
For Crow's Theatre: Debut.
Other: John is a first-generation, Hong Kong-born actor of Toishanese descent. He received a Dora Award nomination for the principal role in Norman Yeung's *Fu-Eh* in 2010. He studied theatre at the University of Ottawa. He currently lives in Ottawa with his cat, Lady Toishan.

CREATIVE TEAM

LLOYD SUH
PLAYWRIGHT

Lloyd Suh is the author of *The Far Country*, which premiered in November at Atlantic Theater Company, and *The Heart Sellers*, which premiered in February at Milwaukee Rep. His other plays include *The Chinese Lady*, *Bina's Six Apples*, *Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery*, *American Hwangap*, and *Wonsan*, and have been produced internationally at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and with Pan Pan Guerilla Theatre in Seoul, Korea. Productions in the United States include the Public Theater, Alliance, Children's Theatre Company, Magic, Long Wharf, Denver Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and frequently with Ma-Yi Theatre Company. He is the recipient of the Steinberg Playwright Award, the Helen Merrill Award in the Arts, the Horton Foote Prize, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is a Resident Playwright at New Dramatists and was elected in 2016 to the Dramatists Guild Council.

MARJORIE CHAN 陳以廷
(SHE/HER)
DIRECTOR

Hometown: Scarborough, ON.
For Studio 180 Theatre: Debut.
For fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: *Ring-a-Ling-a-Ping-Pong* (writer, part of Factory Project).
For Crow's Theatre: *in the garden, two aunts by Hsueh Yeow Seet* (translation/ with Dr. Damien Atkins commissioned by Crow's & Japan Foundation).
Recent Theatre: *Mountain Song, Marjorie Around The Year of the Cello* (co-created with Nyo Kong Kei), and the digital version of *John & Waleed* for Theatre Passe Muraille.
Additional Directing Credits: *China Doll* (Gateway Theatre), *John & Waleed* and *Ultrasound* (Cahoots Theatre/ TPM), *The Enchanted Loom* (Cahoots/ Factory), *Lear* (Obsidian Theatre), *I Call Myself Princess* (Paper Canoe/Cahoots/ Nature Earth), *Frankenstein's Boy* (Gaitrich Theatre), *Knives in Hens* and *A Doll's House* (Theatre Jeff - *Hong Kong*). She also assistant directed *Maria Stuarda* (Pacific Opera Victoria), *A Synonym for Love* (Volcano Theatre) and *The Pirate Widow* (Young Peoples Theatre).
Upcoming Projects: Also a librettist, Marjorie's new opera *The Nightingale of a Thousand Songs* with composer Jessica Kadijan premieres in June with the Canadian Children's Opera Company.
Other: Marjorie is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist, and currently the artistic director of Theatre Passe Muraille. www.marjoriechan.com

KAI-YUEN CHEN 陳楷岳
(HE/HIM)
STAGE MANAGER

Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan.
For Studio 180 Theatre: Debut.
For fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: Debut.
For Crow's Theatre: Debut.
Recent Theatre: *I Forgive You* (National Arts Centre and Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland); *Prison Dancer* (Citadel Theatre); *Choir Boy* (Canadian Stage); *The Flying Dutchman* (Canadian Opera Company); *Death Valley* (Young People's Theatre); *Year Of The Rat, Acts Of Faith* (Factory Theatre).
Additional Theatre: *Copenhagen, The Marriage of Figaro, The Colony of Unrequited Dreams, Oil and Water, Tartuffe, Metamorphoses* (National Arts Centre); *Matilda The Musical* (Mirvish, Royal Shakespeare Company & The Dodgers).
Film/TV: 2015 Pan American Games Closing Ceremony (City of Toronto, BSC Productions).
Thank You: Kai would like to thank his family and friends for their support and patience over the years.

郝昶宇 STEVEN HAO
(HE/HIM)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR*

Hometown: Xi'An, China/ Victoria, BC.
For Studio 180 Theatre: Debut.
For fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: Debut.
For Crow's Theatre: Debut.
Selected Credits for Directing: *A Perfect Bowl of Pho*, Toronto Fringe 2022, *Turn You*, Precipice Productions; *Constellations*, Precipice Productions.
Selected Credits for Acting: *Cockroach, Cockroach*, Tarragon Theatre; *Duke of Burgundy/Gentlemen, The Tragedy of King Lear*, Shakespeare Bash'd.
Upcoming: *Yuck*, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare in High Park 2023.
Social Media: @steven_hatoy

*RBC Emerging Artists Program partner. Steven Hao's Assistant Director role has been generously supported by RBC Foundation through Studio 180 Theatre's RBC Emerging Artists program.

JUNG-HYE KIM
(SHE/HER)
COSTUME DESIGNER

For Studio 180: *Clybourne Park.*
For fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: Debut.
For Crow's Theatre: Debut.
Selected credits: *Human 911 (Stratford Festival); An Iron-Permanent Resident (Why Not Theatre); Hilal Means Heart (Native Earth); Blue Thunder* (Evermore Theatre), *Now You See Her* (Quote Unquote Collective, Dora

nomination for Outstanding Costume Design); Shirley Valentine (Thousand Islands Playhouse). *Prairie Nurse* (Factory Theatre).
Upcoming: *The Nightingale* at a Thousand Songs (Canadian Children's Opera Company); Anna Christ Superstar (Sheridan College Theatre).

GLORIA MOK 莫嘉詠
(SHE/HER)
SOUND DESIGNER AND COMPOSER

Hometown: Mississauga, ON.
For Studio 180 Theatre: Debut.
For Tu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: *Kitchen Ah! Playwriting Unit, Walk the Walk: Theatrical Festival of Asian Canadian Women, FEARLESS (playwright).*
For CrowʼsTheatre: Debut.
Other: Gloria is a playwright, producer, production manager, designer, and theatre creator. She is a settler and daughter of first-generation Chinese-Canadian immigrants from Hong Kong. Alongside Chinese-Canadian theatre creators Aaron Jan and Bessie Cheng, Gloria co-founded Silk Bath Collective in 2016, focused on creating multidisciplinary plays about the Chinese diaspora. Gloria is the Producer at Nightwatching, a dramaturgical company with a national mandate focused on commissioning and developing new theatrical creations and performance research. Gloria is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Production Design and Technical Arts program.

KATIE SAUNORIS
(SHE/HER)
PUBLICIST

Hometown: Elmvale, ON
For Studio 180: Debut.
For Tu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: Debut.
For CrowʼsTheatre: Gloria (ARC in association with Crowʼs Theatre)
Recent Theatre & Projects: *New* (Necessary Angel), *Public Sweat* (Art Spin), *Martin* (ARC), *Festival de Cadi* (Harbourfront Centre), *Three Sisters* (Howland Company), *Dido and Aeneas* (Opera Atelier), *MASHUP PON DI ROAD* (paul watson productions).
Other: Founder of KSPR. Board Member of the Paprika Theatre Festival.

CHARISSA WILCOX
PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Hometown: Ile d'Or Quebec, Frontenac Kansas, and Niagara Falls ON.
For Studio 180 Theatre: *The Laramie Project, The Norther.*
For Tu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: Debut.
For CrowʼsTheatre: Debut.
Recent Theatre & Projects: *Bad Inclusions* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Every Brilliant Thing* (Thousand Island Playhouse); *White Girls in Moccasins* (Manidoons Collective); *Mr. Sh and His Lover*; *I Swallowed Moon Made of Iron* (Music Picnic).
Other: Ecia is Chinese immigrant, Tkaronto-based scenographer working in live performance. She has been designed for Buddies in Bad Times, Theatre Passe Muraille, Thousand Island Playhouse, Tarragon Theatre, Theatre by the Bay, Fring Hall, The Theatre Centre, The Next Stage Festival, SummerWorks Festival, and more. www.echozhoudesign.com.
Thank You: For Grandpa.

ECHO ZHOU 周芷音
SET DESIGNER
(SHE/THEY)

Hometown: 湖南永州 Changsha, Hunan.
For Studio 180 Theatre: My Sister's Keeper.
For Tu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company: Debut.
For CrowʼsTheatre: Debut.
Selected Credits: Beginner's Luck (Benevolence Collective); *Between a Wok and a Hotpot* (Cahoots Theatre); *The Year of the Cello* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Every Brilliant Thing* (Thousand Island Playhouse); *White Girls in Moccasins* (Manidoons Collective); *Mr. Sh and His Lover*; *I Swallowed Moon Made of Iron* (Music Picnic).
Other: Echo is a Chinese immigrant, Tkaronto-based scenographer working in live performance. She has been designed for Buddies in Bad Times, Theatre Passe Muraille, Thousand Island Playhouse, Tarragon Theatre, Theatre by the Bay, Fring Hall, The Theatre Centre, The Next Stage Festival, SummerWorks Festival, and more. www.echozhoudesign.com.
Thank You: For Grandpa.

KIMBERLY PURTELL
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Hometown: Thornhill, Ontario.
For Studio 180 Theatre (selected): *Oslo, My Name is Asher Lev, My Night With Reg, Clybourne Park, God of Carnage, The Normal Heart, Outside Mullingar.*
For tu-GEN Canadian Asian Theatre Company: Debut.
For CrowʼsTheatre: *Fifteen Dogs, Uncle Vanya, We Set Not Alone, The Wedding Party, A&R Angels, The Boy In The Moon, The Seagull, Someone Else.*
Recent Theatre: *Da Kink In My Hair* (Soulpepper and TO Live); *Elf The Musical* (Grand Theatre); *Almost A Full Moon* (Citadel/e Theatre); *Dido and Aeneas* (Opera Atelier); *Indecent* (Studio 180 Theatre); *Public Enemy* (Canadian Stage). Additional Theatre: Mirvish Productions; Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Canadian Stage Company, Soulpepper Theatre, National Arts Centre and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Opera Atelier, Opera Hamilton, Opera Philadelphia, Edmonton Opera, Arena Stage, Theatre Calgary, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Citadel Theatre, Place des Arts, Dancemakers among others.
Upcoming Projects: *A Winnie in Time and Frankenstein* (Stratford Festival), *On The Razzle* (Shaw Festival), *Magpie* (Theatre Aquarius and Charlottetown Festival), *Pomegranate* (Canadian Opera Company), *Treemonisha* (Volcano).
More: Kimberly is the Vice President of IATSE Local ADC829 and The Associated Designers of Canada.

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