

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater, Viet Creatives Collective, Viet Rainbow of Orange County, VAALA, and Viet Q Media are excited to announce a special
AAPI Community Night for
“Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious”
Come to the Bette Aitken theater arts Center on Saturday, April 15th at 7PM for an evening that celebrates the vibrant AAPI culture that enriches our local communities

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, is pleased to announce a special Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Night for the Rolling World Premiere of Dustin H. Chinn’s “Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious,” directed by the Chance’s Executive Artistic Director Oánh Nguyễn.

Presented in association with media sponsor Viet Q Media and community partners Viet Creatives Collective, Viet Rainbow of Orange County, and Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association (VAALA), the event starts at 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 15th at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center. The event will start with a pre-show happy hour reception where audiences can enjoy discounted drinks and snacks while meeting local AAPI organizations. After a performance of the biting new comedy “Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious,” there will be a hosted discussion with the artists and community partners. The evening will wrap up with a second happy hour where audiences can further mingle with the artists and AAPI organizations. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the vibrant AAPI culture that enriches much of our local community — the food we eat, the people we meet, and the region we call home.

EVENT SCHEDULE

- 7:00 p.m. - Arrive early to meet Community Organizations and enjoy Happy Hour Drinks
- 8:00 p.m. - Performance of “Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious”
- 9:30 p.m. - Participate in a Post-show Discussion with Community Organizations & Cast
- 10:00 p.m. - Post-show Reception with 2nd Happy Hour Drinks

For more details about the event and to purchase tickets, visit ChanceTheater.com/aapi.

[Viet Q Media \(Media Sponsor\)](#) is an independent media & entertainment company that features the best emerging music, art, fashion, film, and youth culture from around Vietnam and Vietnamese diaspora. Through original content productions, live experiences, strategic partnerships, and artist services, Viet Q is devoted to showing the talents and stories that are driving broader culture forward. We are your destination for exploration, discovery, and inspiration. More info: <https://linktr.ee/VietQmedia>

[Viet Creatives Collective \(Community Partner\)](#) strives to create a safe space for API creatives – actors, designers, filmmakers, producers, musicians, etc. By sharing our stories through art, we not only celebrate the richness of our culture, but also work towards bridging and healing from the generational divide(s) we experience within our own community. More info: <http://thevietcreatives.com/>

[Viet Rainbow of Orange County \(Community Partner\)](#) strives to create a world where everyone has the resources and agency to thrive with dignity. VROC is a grassroots organization based in Orange County, California that builds community and mobilizes intergenerationally. We are grounded in values of equity, healing, joy, and social justice. We primarily work with LGBTQ+ Vietnamese Americans and their loved ones through research, education, and advocacy, while also strengthening collective power alongside other communities working towards liberation. More info: <https://vietroc.org/>

[VAALA: Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association \(Community Partner\)](#) was founded in 1991 by a group of Vietnamese American journalists, artists, and friends to fill a void and provide a space for artists to express themselves as a newly resettled immigrant community. The original mission of VAALA was to support Southeast artists, with an emphasis on Vietnamese literature and visual arts. VAALA is a community-based non-profit organization historically run entirely by volunteers. Over the years, VAALA has collaborated with diverse community partners to organize numerous cultural events to connect and enrich communities. These events have included art exhibitions, book signings, music recitals, plays, and annual events such as the Viet Film Fest and the Children’s Moon Festival Art Contest. More info: <http://vaala.org/>

ABOUT THE SHOW

Dustin Chinn's "Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious" took its inspiration from two viral incidents around cultural appropriation and food. [Chef Tyler Akin did a how-to video for Bon Appetit, "PSA: This is How You Should Be Eating Pho," and Dan Pashman of The Sporkful suggested you could improve bibimbap using a bundt pan.] Chinn says he "followed the rabbit hole" and wrote what he dubs "a triptych about the ownership and authorship of food following the journey of Vietnamese noodle soup."

This biting comedy spans centuries, continents, and cultures in a compelling three-part vignette structure. Beginning in 1880s French Indochina, a headstrong Vietnamese cook finds herself in the kitchen of aristocratic French settlers. Then in 1999 Vietnam, American tourists get their first taste of the local cuisine. Finally, in present-day, gentrifying Brooklyn, the simmering clash around culture, ownership, and authenticity comes to a roaring boil.

Laurie Smits Staude is the Executive Producer for this production and **Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield** are the Associate Producers. **Bette & Wylie Aitken** are producers for the entire 2023 Season and **The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar** are this season's associate producers. The media sponsor is **Viet Q Media** and the community partners are **Viet Creatives Collective**, **Viet Rainbow of Orange County**, and **Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association (VAALA)**.

To schedule press interviews, arrange for press comps, request press photos, or for any additional information regarding this production, please contact Casey Long, the Chance's managing director, at (626) 523-7151 or casey@chancetheater.com.

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for "nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre." The Chance was recently nominated for 47 OCTG Theatre Awards, including four for Outstanding Production (for *Next to Normal*, *Cry It Out*, *Green Day's American Idiot*, and *Little Women - The Broadway Musical*). Previously, Chance Theater has won eight OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical for its intimate revival of *Fun Home*, eight Ovation Awards, including four for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate

Theatre), and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. The Anaheim City Council named Chance Theater “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim” in 2014, and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold and personal storytelling to promote dialogue and connection within the Southern California theatrical landscape, the Chance is committed to contributing to a more compassionate, connected and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, The Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles, and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: AAPI Night for “Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious”

Chance Theater, Viet Creatives Collective, Viet Rainbow of Orange County, and VAALA invite you to join us for a special celebration of the vibrant AAPI culture that enriches much of our local community — the food we eat, the people we meet, and the region we call home. The event will start with a pre-show happy hour where audiences can enjoyed discounted drinks and snacks while meeting local AAPI organizations. After enjoying a performance of the rolling world premiere of the biting new comedy “Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious,” there will be a hosted discussion with the artists and community partners. The evening will wrap up with a second happy hour where audiences can further mingle with the artists and AAPI organizations.

WHEN: Saturday, April 15th, starting at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center on the Cripe Stage

5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

TICKETS: \$20-\$39

MORE INFO: www.ChanceTheater.com or call (888) 455-4212

###