

March 28, 2025

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For information regarding the 2025 season: [www.ChanceTheater.com/2025-season](http://www.ChanceTheater.com/2025-season)

**Chance Theater proudly presents the regional premiere of...**

## ***The Chinese Lady***

**Discover the untold story of the first Chinese woman to set foot in America**

**ANAHEIM, CA** – Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, is thrilled to announce the regional premiere of *The Chinese Lady*, written by **Lloyd Suh** and directed by Chance Producing Associate, **Shinshin Yuder Tsai**. Inspired by a true story, Lloyd Suh’s critically acclaimed play is a poetic, whimsical tale that paints a unique portrait of the United States as seen through the eyes of this remarkable young Chinese woman. Running **May 24 to June 8, 2025** at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center’s Cripe Stage, with previews beginning May 16, 2025!

*The Chinese Lady* follows 14-year-old Afong Moy, the first Chinese woman to set foot in America, after she has sailed into New York Harbor to be featured in a museum. She sees herself as a representative of China, here to educate and entertain. Or, in the eyes of the paying public, is she merely a mesmerizing display? Moving and sharply funny, this play follows the idealistic Moy as she travels through America as a living exhibit for decades. Over the course of her travels, Moy shares her impressions of a young country struggling to define itself.

This production of *The Chinese Lady* offers a timely exploration of the complexities of identity, representation, and the immigrant experience. Afong Moy, the first Chinese woman in America, was presented to the American public as both an object of fascination and a symbol of the distant and mysterious East. In Lloyd Suh's gripping play, we witness the personal and emotional toll of being both a cultural ambassador and a living spectacle. Through Afong's journey, Suh thoughtfully examines the intersection of race, gender, and power in early American society, revealing how her story remains relevant to ongoing conversations about who gets to define culture and whose voices are heard. As Afong confronts the painful isolation of being seen but not understood, *The Chinese Lady* challenges us to reflect on the ways history has shaped—and continues to shape—the narratives of marginalized communities. The play forces us to

reconsider the cost of representation, both for those who are visible and those who remain invisible.

*The Chinese Lady* features an exceptional cast, with [Michelle Krusiec](#) (International Tour of *Chinglish* & Netflix's *Hollywood*) in the role of Afong Moy and [Albert Park](#) (Geffen Playhouse's *Man of God*) as Atung, with [Amanda Kang](#) (Chance Debut) and [Kaixiang Zhang](#) (Chance Debut) serving as their respective understudies.

Director **Tsai** shares his excitement about the production, stating: "It's a show about being watched, but it's a play about being seen... *The Chinese Lady* is a powerful and timely story that... asks us to confront prejudice, to see past harmful preconceptions, and to connect with one another. It is filled with humor, poetry, and theatricality, bringing history to life in a way that feels both intimate and epic... History made her a spectacle, but this story gives her a voice... I feel honored to direct this production and am committed to sharing [Afong Moy's] story with the care and reverence it deserves."

The talented creative team includes [Christopher Scott Murillo](#) (*Gloria*) as Scenic Designer, [Grace Kim](#) (Chance Debut) as Costume Designer, [Masako Tobaru](#) (Chance Resident Artist) as Lighting Designer, [Bebe Herrera](#) (Chance Resident Artist) as Stage Manager, [Natalia Duong](#) (*Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious*) as Dramaturg, [Jerry Zou](#) (Chance Debut) and [Nico Pang](#) (Chance Debut) as Assistant Directors, [Shinshin Yuder Tsai](#) (Chance Resident Casting Director) as Casting Director, and [Fae Crane](#) (*Fancy Nancy, The Musical*) as Casting Associate.

Critics have praised *The Chinese Lady*...

"Moving & Sharply Funny!...piercing and intimate...this quiet play steadily deepens in complexity as we trail the idealistic Afong and the more knowing Atung through the decades" - *The New York Times*

"Playwright Lloyd Suh [has] constructed the dramatic equivalent of a perfect cabinet. Every hinge moves smoothly; the herringbone joins are low-key marvel. You can almost see yourself in its hard-won polish...Suh's version of Afong Moy is wonderful" - *Time Out New York*

**Special Events:** As a hub for connection, creativity, and compassion, Chance Theater is proud to make a difference in the local community by offering a space for connection, dialogue, and celebration with initiatives like Pride Night, Wine Night, and Community Spotlight. These events enrich the theatergoing experience and help create lasting bonds within our diverse audience.

**Post-Show Discussion:** Join us for post-show discussions after every performance! We invite the audience to engage with the artists and one another, fostering a more connected, compassionate, and creative community. Share your thoughts, ask questions, and deepen your experience of the production in an open and welcoming environment.

**Design Preview Party** is on April 14, 2025, where members of Chance Theater gain insights from the Director, Designers, and Cast about the artistic vision behind the Show.

**Community Spotlight** is on Saturday, May 31, 2025 starting at 2:00 PM. This special afternoon is dedicated to celebrating the vibrant community surrounding Chance Theater. Join us for a pre- and post-performance happy hour designed to foster meaningful conversation and connection.

**Pride Night** is on Saturday, May 31, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM. Theater lovers who share an identity can come together over refreshments and conversation. Before enjoying the performance, this special event provides a welcoming space to connect with others in the community, celebrate shared experiences, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

**Wine Night** is back by popular demand on Friday, May 30, 2025 starting at 7:00 PM. where you can enjoy exclusive wines generously donated by long-time supporters **Judy & David Joss**. The first 50 patrons through the door will receive complimentary access to these special wines, with priority access given to members and their guests. It's the perfect way to kick off the evening before the show begins!

**Pay-What-You-Can Previews** tickets are available for every show we produce for as low as \$10 per ticket, and **SaverTIX** are available for every performance after opening. Our goal with these initiatives is to make live theater accessible to everyone in our community, regardless of financial barriers.

These individuals are proud to support *The Chinese Lady* at Chance Theater:

Executive Producers **Gus & Mary Chabre; Sophie & Larry Cripe; Samuel & Tammy Tang**

Associate Producer **Myrna Hamid**

Supporting Producer **Bruce Goodrich**

Corporate Sponsor **Sally Ann Catering**

2025 Executive Season producer, **Bette & Wylie Aitken**, and Associate Season producer, **The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar**.

We are deeply grateful for their extraordinary generosity and commitment.

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**About The Playwright: Lloyd Suh**

**Lloyd Suh** (he/him) is the author of *The Chinese Lady*, *Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery*, *American Hwangap*, *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra Go!*, *Jesus in India*, and others, produced with Ma-Yi, Magic Theatre, EST, NAATCO, PlayCo, Denver Center, Milwaukee Rep, ArtsEmerson, Children's Theatre Co, and more, including internationally at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and with PCPA in Seoul, Korea. He has received support from the NEA Arena Stage New Play Development program, Mellon Foundation, NYFA, NYSCA, Jerome, TCG, Dramatists Guild, and residencies including NYS&F and Ojai. He is an alum of Youngblood and the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, and was a recipient of a 2016 Helen Merrill Award and the 2019 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. From 2005-2010 he served as Artistic Director of Second Generation and Co-Director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, and has served since 2011 as the Director of Artistic Programs at The Lark, and since 2015 as a member of the Dramatists Guild Council.

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### **About our Director: Shinshin Yuder Tsai**

**Shinshin Yuder Tsai** is the Producing Associate at Chance Theater, where he also serves as the Resident Intimacy and Casting Director. He is a Board Member-Council for OCTG and the Founding Artistic Director of the AAPI Sketch Comedy Troupe, No MSG Added.

His directing credits span a wide range of acclaimed productions, including *She Kills Monsters* at Long Beach Playhouse & STAGEstheatre, *The Hatmaker's Wife*, *LOVE/SICK*, and *Cowboy Vs. Samurai* at Long Beach Playhouse, as well as *The Pillowman* and *Almost, Maine* at the University of California, Irvine. At Chapman University, he has directed *Metamorphoses* and *Mother Courage and Her Children*. His production of *Kvetcher in the Wry* was a standout at OC-Centric, and he directed the 2024 OCTG Award Shows at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, with plans to direct the 2025 Award Show.

As an intimacy director, Shinshin has worked to ensure that performers feel safe and respected in their craft. His intimacy direction credits include the upcoming *Spring Awakening* and 2024's *Sweeney Todd*, *The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* at Chance Theater, *Unbroken Blossom* at East West Players, and productions of *Vietgone* and *Peter and the Starcatcher* at the University of California, Riverside.

Shinshin is also dedicated to the development of new theatrical works. He has collaborated on projects such as *Boat Show* by Dustin H. Chinn, *saving all my worries till the day you don't need me* and *Multiple Loads* by Nicholas Pilapil, and *The Lantern Bearer* and *Shanghai Express* by Aj Layague.

Outside of his artistic pursuits, Shinshin has curated an extensive list of All-You-Can-Eat restaurants across Southern California, with a passion for food that rivals his dedication to theater arts.

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### **Tickets and Additional Information**

Join us for *The Chinese Lady* from **May 16 - June 8, 2025** on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center, located in Anaheim, CA.

Tickets are available now at [ChanceTheater.com/thechineselady](https://ChanceTheater.com/thechineselady) or by calling the box office at **(888) 455-4212**, Monday through Friday, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

**Reviewers and other press are welcome to request any performance.** We encourage them to attend Opening Night on **May 24, 2025, at 8:00 PM.** For press inquiries, interviews, press comps, or photos, please contact Producing Associate Shinshin Tsai at (949) 346-2374 or via email at [Shinshin@chancetheater.com](mailto:Shinshin@chancetheater.com).

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### **ABOUT CHANCE THEATER**

As one of Southern California's leading ensemble-driven theater companies, Chance Theater is proud to have 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 has earned 31 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical for *Next to Normal* and *Fun Home*, Outstanding Production of a Play and Outstanding New Play for *Matinicus: The Story Of Abigail Burgess* (A Chance Theater Commission) and *Cry It Out*, as well as 6 Orange Curtain Review Awards, with Best Musical for *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. The theater's achievements also include eight Ovation Awards (four for Best Production of a Musical - Intimate Theatre) and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. In 2014, the Anaheim City Council designated Chance Theater as "the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim," and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as an "Outstanding Arts Organization." Known for using bold, personal storytelling to foster dialogue and connection in Southern California, the Chance remains committed to building a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a member of Theatre Communications Group, Theatre Producers of Southern California, OC Theatre Guild, and ArtsOC, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

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## CALENDAR LISTING

**WHAT:** *The Chinese Lady* by **Lloyd Suh**

*On the Cripe Stage...*

In 1834, 14-year-old Afong Moy, the first Chinese woman to set foot in America, sailed into New York Harbor to be featured in a museum. She sees herself as a representative of China, here to educate and entertain. Or, in the eyes of the paying public, is she merely a mesmerizing display? Moving and sharply funny, this play follows the idealistic Moy as she travels through America as a living exhibit for decades. Over the course of her travels, Moy shares her impressions of a young country struggling to define itself. Inspired by a true story, Lloyd Suh's critically acclaimed play is a poetic, whimsical tale that paints a unique portrait of the United States as seen through the eyes of this remarkable young Chinese woman.

**Previews:** May 16 - May 23, 2025; Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 7 p.m.

**Opening Night:** Saturday, May 24 at 8 p.m.

**Performances:** May 16 - June 8, 2025

Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m.

**RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 20 minutes with no intermissions.

**TICKETS:** \$10 - 48 (inclusive of fees)

**WHERE:** Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center on the Cripe Stage  
5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center is located at 5522 E. La Palma Avenue in Anaheim Hills. Going west on La Palma from Imperial Highway, we are on the left in the front of the industrial park just past the In & Out. There is plenty of free convenient parking in front of the theater.

**MORE INFO:** [www.ChanceTheater.com](http://www.ChanceTheater.com) or call **(888) 455-4212**

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