

March 12, 2023 For Immediate Release Contact: Steven Padla / <u>steven.padla@yale.edu</u>

> Yale Repertory Theatre presents *The Far Country* By Lloyd Suh Directed by Ralph B. Peña April 26–May 18, 2024

Yale Repertory Theatre (James Bundy, Artistic Director; Florie Seery, Managing Director) presents *The Far Country* by **Lloyd Suh**, directed by **Ralph B. Peña**. A finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Drama, *The Far Country* will be performed April 26–May 18, at Yale Repertory Theatre (1120 Chapel Street). Opening Night is Thursday, May 2, which is also press night.

The production features scenic design by **Kim Zhou**, costume design by **Kiyoshi Shaw**, lighting design by **Yichen Zhou**, sound design by **Joe Krempetz**, projection design by **Hana S. Kim**, production dramaturgy by **A.B. Orme**, technical direction by **Matteo Lanzarotta**, vocal and dialect coaching by **Midori Nakamura**, casting by **Calleri Jensen Davis**, and stage management by **Alexus Jade Coney**.

The cast of *The Far Country* includes **Tina Chilip**, **Hao Feng**, **Đavid Lee Huỳnh**, **Haskell King**, **Jesse Cao Long**, **Joe Osheroff**, **David Shih**, and **Joyce Meimei Zheng**.

Production support is provided by the Binger Center for New Theatre.

More About The Far Country

In the wake of the Chinese Exclusion Act, an unlikely family carries invented biographies and poems of longing on an arduous journey from rural Taishan to Angel Island Detention Center, in hopes of landing in San Francisco. Intimate and epic, *The Far Country* weighs the true cost of selling the past for the hope of a brighter future.

The Far Country is Yale Rep's 2023–24 WILLPOWER! production. Yale Rep's annual education initiative includes three morning matinee performances for high school students from New Haven Public Schools, entirely free of charge, May 14, 15, and 16. For more information on the program, or availability of NHPS seats, please contact Senior Artistic Producer Amy Boratko at amy.boratko@yale.edu.

The Far Country is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by TRW PLAYS 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. <u>www.trwplays.com</u>

Ticket Information and Performance Calendar

Tickets are \$15 and \$30 (all previews), \$15 and \$45 (weeknights), and \$15 and \$65 (weekends and matinees). Student tickets are \$15 for all performances. Tickets are available online at yalerep.org, by calling (203) 432-1234, and in person at the Yale Rep Box Office (1120 Chapel Street).

Friday, April 26 Saturday, April 27 Monday, April 29 Tuesday, April 30 Wednesday, May 01 Thursday, May 02 Friday, May 03 Saturday, May 04 Saturday, May 04 Tuesday, May 07	8PM 8PM 8PM 8PM 8PM 8PM 2PM 8PM 8PM	Preview Preview, Post-Show Discussion Preview, Post-Show Discussion Preview Preview Opening Night
Wednesday, May 08	2PM	Pre-performance Discussion
Wednesday, May 08 Thursday, May 09 Friday, May 10	8PM 8PM 8PM	
Saturday, May 11	2PM	Audio Description, Touch Tour, Talk Back
Saturday, May 11	8PM	American Sign Language
Tuesday, March 26 Wednesday, March 27	8PM 8PM	
Thursday, May 16	8PM	
Friday, May 17	8PM	Open Captioning in Spanish
Saturday, May 18	2PM	Open Captioning
Saturday, May 18	8PM	

The Creative Team

Lloyd Suh (Playwright) is also the author of *The Heart Sellers*, which premiered last February at Milwaukee Rep, and later played at the Huntington Theatre. Other plays include *The Chinese Lady*, *Bina's Six Apples*, *Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental* *Murder Mystery, American Hwangap*, and more, and have been produced across the country, with Ma-Yi, Atlantic, The Public Theater, Alliance, Children's Theatre Company, Magic, Long Wharf Theatre, Denver Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and more, including internationally at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and with PCPA at the Guerilla Theatre in Seoul, Korea. He is the recipient of the Steinberg Playwright Award, the Herb Alpert 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.

Ralph B. Peña (Director) is an OBIE Award-winning theater maker based in New York City. Recent directing credits include the world premiere of Lisa Sanaye Dring's *SUMO* at La Jolla Playhouse; Lloyd Suh's *The Chinese Lady* at The Public Theater, Indiana Rep, Long Wharf Theatre, Barrington Stage (Drama Desk, Lortel, New York Outer Critics, Connecticut Critics Circle nominations); Michael Lew's *Tiger Style!* at South Coast Repertory; and Daniel K. Isaac's *ONCE UPON A (korean) TIME* for Ma-Yi Theater Company, where he is currently Producing Artistic Director. For Ma-Yi he has directed the world premieres of Hansol Jung's *Among the Dead (The New York Times* Critic's Pick), Michael Lew's *microcrisis*, Lloyd Suh's *The Wong Kids* (Off Broadway, Alliance Best Children's Play), and *Children of Vonderly* (both also NYT Critic's Picks). He wrote and directed the short film *Vancouver* (Cannes World Film Festival, L.A. Indie Festival, NY International Film Award for Best Short and Best Director, 2023 UNIMA Citation of Excellence), and the documentary *The First Twenty: 20 Years of Asian American Playwriting* for PBS/ALL ARTS.

Kim Zhou *she/her/hers* (Scenic Designer) is a Chinese-born set designer and theater maker. Her recent credits include *Next to Normal* (David Geffen School of Drama); *Pride365* (Yale Summer Cabaret); *La Doriclea* (associate scenic design, Yale Baroque Opera); *The Fairy Queen* (Crescent Theater); *And the Beetle Hums* (playwright), *Every Brilliant Thing, We Fucked Up, Dr. Ride's American Beach House*, and *We're Gonna Die* (Yale Cabaret). She received her bachelor's degree from OCAD University in Toronto, where she studied and practiced architecture design. She is in her final year of training at David Geffen School of Drama. kimzhou.com | @kimx.zhou

Kiyoshi Shaw *he/him* (Costume Designer) is a fourth-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama, where he has designed costumes for Ibsen's *Ghosts* and Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. He received his B.F.A. in costume design and technology from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he designed costumes for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Assistant credits include *Fly* at Ford's Theatre, *Bodas de sangre/Blood Wedding* at the Geffen School, and *Choir Boy* at Yale Rep.

Yichen Zhou (Lighting Designer) is a theater designer born and raised in China and is currently pursuing an M.F.A. at David Geffen School of Drama. In her theatrical practice, she is deeply fascinated by the stories told through space and the truth one can find through imagination. Selected recent credits include *Invasive Species* (The Tank); *The Rasa Project* (National Sawdust); *Furlough's Paradise*, *Marys Seacole*, *Ghosts* (the Geffen School); *If We Could Turn Back Time* (Connecticut College); *burnbabyburn: an american dream* (Yale Summer Cabaret); and *A Number* (Beijing Inside-Out Theatre).

Joe Krempetz (Sound Designer) is a sound designer and composer from the San Francisco Bay Area. Recent credits include Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Yale Rep); *Fucking A, Julius Caesar* (David Geffen School of Drama); *Transpositions* (Yale Schwarzman Center); and *Upwelling* (multiple Bay Area venues). As a sound engineer, Joe has worked with Microsoft, Stanford University, Berkeley Rep, Theaterworks Silicon Valley, IFAI, and many others. Recently, Joe designed sound for *Voices of the New Belarus*, an installation for the Oslo Freedom Forum. He is easily Google-able.

Hana S. Kim she/her (Projection Designer) Broadway: The Old Man and the Pool; Summer, 1976; The Outsiders. Off-Broadway: The Harder They Come, The Visitor (Lucille Lortel nomination), and Eve's Song at The Public Theater; Everything Rises (BAM); Magdalene (Prototype Festival). New music/opera: L'Orfeo (Santa Fe Opera), Sweet Land (The Industry), The Anonymous Lover (Los Angeles Opera). Regional: Geffen Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Rep, Magic Theatre, A.C.T, among others. Hana is the recipient of the Princess Grace, Center Theatre Group's Sherwood, Helen Hayes, and LA Drama Critics Circle Distinguished Achievement awards, among others. hananow.com

A.B. Orme (Production Dramaturg) is a second-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama, interested in bringing the worlds of scholarship, performance, and activism into more honest and generative conversation with one another. On the page and on the stage, they love to explore queer theater, theaters of the left, and the legacies of early modern verse drama. Geffen School credits include *The Alley* and *Solstice*. They currently serve as the Co-Managing Editor of *Theater*, Yale's journal of drama and performance. Permanent Ceasefire Now.

Matteo Lanzarotta (Technical Director) is a second-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama.

Midori Nakamura (Vocal and Dialect Coach) is a Brooklyn-based teaching artist and Designated Linklater Voice Teacher. She teaches voice for David Geffen School of Drama, The Linklater Center in New York, the Maggie Flanigan Studio, and NYU Tisch at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. She has also taught for Columbia University's Social Impact Fellowship, LAByrinth Theater's Intensive Ensemble, Molloy/CAP21, New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, and New York Film Academy, as well as coaching private clients in both acting and voice. As an actor, she has worked in film, television, on Broadway, Off-Broadway, for Shakespeare in the Park, the Kennedy Center, the RSC, and in regional theater—working with George C. Wolfe (three times), Philip Seymour Hoffman (three times), and Alec Baldwin (two times). She has also acted alongside Anthony Hopkins, Patrick Stewart, Angela Bassett, Bill Irwin, Keanu Reeves, Michael C. Hall, Liev Schreiber, Karen Allen, Del Close, Kim Cattrall, Jennifer Aniston. Directors she has acted under include Morgan Freeman, Lena Dunham, Barry Levenson, Peter Sellars, Nicholas Hytner, Austin Pendleton, James Lapine, Jerzy Grotowski, Joe Chaikin. Midori co-directed, coproduced, and co-edited *T'an Bakhtale*, a documentary about the Russian Roma, which received awards from the American Association of Anthropology and the Royal Anthropological Institute. She assisted Karen Allen in her directorial debut, *A Tree, A Rock, A Cloud*.

Calleri Jensen Davis (Casting Director) is a creative casting partnership among James Calleri, Erica Jensen, and Paul Davis of over 20 years. They began their collaboration with Yale Rep last season with *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* and *the ripple, the wave that carried me home*. Broadway credits: *The Piano Lesson, Topdog/Underdog, for colored girls..., Thoughts of a Colored Man, Burn This, Fool for Love, The Elephant Man, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Of Mice and Men, Venus in Fur, A Raisin in the Sun, 33 Variations*. Television: *Love Life, Queens, Dickinson, and The Path, to name a few. callerijensendavis.com*

Alexus Jade Coney (Stage Manager) is a graduating M.F.A. candidate in stage management at David Geffen School of Drama, where she has worked on *Furlough's Paradise, Marys Seacole, Love's Labor's Lost, Manning,* and *Bodas de sangre/Blood Wedding.* Other credits include *The Bleeding Class* (Chautauqua Theater Company); *The Salvagers,* Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Between Two Knees* (Yale Rep); *The Royale, burnbabyburn: an american dream,* and *Bakkhai* (Yale Cabaret). Alexus was the Stage Management Apprentice for New York Stage and Film's 2023 Summer Season. She proudly holds a B.A. in English from Yale University and dedicates her final production as a Yale student to her parents, Bryan and Jackie Coney—thank you for lifting her up throughout life and especially the last eight years. "Every truly great accomplishment is at first impossible."

THE CAST

Tina Chilip (Low) Off-Broadway: *A Delicate Balance* (Transport Group); *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (Fiasco Theater, Red Bull); *Mothers* (The Playwrights Realm); *Twelfth Night* (Fiasco Theater, Classic Stage Company); *Golden Child* (Signature Theatre); *House Rules, Flipzoids* (Ma-Yi Theater Company); *A Dream Play* (NAATCO). Regional highlights: *after all the terrible things i do* (Huntington Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare), *Chinglish* (Portland Center Stage, Syracuse Stage), *tokyo fish story* (The Old Globe), *M. Butterfly* (Guthrie). Television: *Law & Order: SVU, Law & Order: Criminal Intent, Jessica Jones, It's Bruno!, FBI: Most Wanted, The Good Fight, Elementary, Deception, Madam Secretary*. Film: *Nonnas, Miguel Wants to Fight.* M.F.A., Brown/Trinity Rep. Company member of Fiasco Theater and The Actors Center.

Đavid Lee Huỳnh (Two) is an actor and writer based in NYC. Off-Broadway: *The Merchant of Venice* (Theatre for a New Audience), *ONCE UPON A (korean) TIME* (Ma-Yi Theater Company), the Drama Desk-nominated *Henry VI* (NAATCO), *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Gingold Theatrical Group), *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine* (Transport Group), *Warrior Sisters of Wu*, *No-No Boy*, *The Emperor's Nightingale* (Pan Asian Rep). Regional: Alley Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare, Everyman Theatre, Mixed Blood, and many others. Television/film: *Blue Bloods*, *FBI*, *Solitary*, *Children of the Dust*. He stars in the Dungeons & Dragons television show *Encounter Party* streaming on Freevee and Plex. M.F.A., University of Houston. davidleehuynh.com | @huynhsome

Haskell King (Dean/Inspector) Off-Broadway: *Russian Troll Farm* (Vineyard Theatre); *Kingfishers Catch Fire* (Irish Rep); *Please Continue, Isaac's Eye, Photograph 51, Turnabout* (Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Mother* (wild project); *Elvis and Juliet* (Abingdon Theatre). Regional: *Russian Troll Farm* (Geva Theatre). Television: *Dear Edward, Law* & Order: Criminal Intent. Film: The Heart Stays, The Fly Room, Shadows and Lies.

Jesse Cao Long *he/him* (Yip/One) is pleased to be making his Yale Rep debut. Previous theater credits include *Short Stack 2* (Ma-Yi Theater Company); *Big Love*, *Middletown* (Columbia University); *Translations* (Barnard College); *Hamlet* and *Twelfth Night* (RADA). He is currently a first-year M.F.A. acting student at Columbia University and holds a B.A. in modern East Asian and 20th-century American history from Columbia University. @paroldhinter

Joe Osheroff (Harriwell/Interpreter) First time at Yale Rep! National Tour: *War Horse.* Off Broadway: The Public, The Acting Company. Regional highlights: *Molly's Hammer, The Other Place, The Drawer Boy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice, Proof, The War of the Roses, As You Like It, The Caucasian Chalk Circle.* Television: *Law & Order: Criminal Intent, Quantico, The Blacklist, East New York, Blue Bloods,* plus various commercials and voiceovers. Thank you, Roger Paul Inc.! Love to KLC and SP.

David Shih *he/him* (Gee/Three) Broadway: *Life of Pi*. Off-Broadway: Will Eno's *Gnit* (Theater for a New Audience); *KPOP* (Ars Nova); *ONCE UPON A* (*korean*) *TIME*, *Bike America* (Ma-Yi); *Henry VI* (NAATCO); *Awake and Sing!* (The Public); *Somebody's Daughter* (2ST); *Crane Story* (Playwrights Realm). Regional: *SUMO*, *Tiger Style!* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Life of Pi* (A.R.T.); *Kim's Convenience* (Westport Country Playhouse); *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* (Indiana Rep); *The Great Wave* (Berkeley Rep). Television and film: *Billions*, *Hunters*, *City on a Hill*, *Iron Fist*, *The Path*, *Blindspot*, *Elementary*, *Madam Secretary*, *The Blacklist*, *Unforgettable*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Eighth Grade*, *Mr*. *Sushi*, *Saving Face*. He is also the voice of Eddie Toh in *Grand Theft Auto V*.

Hao Feng (Moon Gyet) is honored to be making his Yale Rep debut, especially as a part of this telling of a vital part of Asian American history that has often deliberately been neglected from the American curriculum. Thank you, Lloyd, for weaving this powerful story with your mellifluous language. Film: *Twisted Little Lies* (Lifetime). Theater: *Grumpy Monkey, The Musical* (Pasadena Playhouse); *The Dance and the Railroad* (Artists at Play/A Noise Within); *Twelfth Night, Pericles* (Independent Shakespeare Company); *Nightwalk in the Chinese Garden* (The Huntington Library/CalArts Center for New Performance). Voiceover: *Heavenly Delusion*

(Hulu); *Alchemy of Souls* (Netflix); *Soundtrack #1* (Disney+). M.F.A., acting, CalArts; MPhil, music and science, University of Cambridge; bachelor's in neuroscience and piano performance, Emory University. In his free time, Hao can be found doing martial arts, photography, or eating. Mostly eating. @haothefeng

Joyce Meimei Zheng *she/her* (Yuen/Four) is a proud Jersey Girl, daughter of Chinese immigrants, and lover of song. She is so excited to make her Yale Rep debut with this formidable team and this beautiful play. She holds a B.F.A. from Mason Gross School of Arts at Rutgers University. Recent credits: *A Christmas Carol* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Macbeth* (Double Feature Plays); *Vicky & Frank*, Irina in *Three Sisters* (Rutgers); Enobarbus in *The Tragedy of Antony and Cleopatra* (Rutgers at Shakespeare's Globe); Bounty in *Chinatown* (LF8 Studios debut short). @irokpink. Remember to rest. Jesus loves you.

About Yale Repertory Theatre

Yale Repertory Theatre, the internationally celebrated professional theatre in residence at David Geffen School of Drama, has championed new work since 1966, producing well over 100 premieres—including two Pulitzer Prize winners and four other nominated finalists—by emerging and established playwrights. Seventeen Yale Rep productions have advanced to Broadway, garnering more than 40 Tony Award nominations and ten Tony Awards. Yale Rep is also the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Established in 2008, Yale's **Binger Center for New Theatre** has distinguished itself as one of the nation's most robust and innovative new play programs. To date, the Binger Center has supported the work of more than 70 commissioned artists and underwritten the world premieres and subsequent productions of more than 30 new plays and musicals at Yale Rep and theaters across the country.

Yale Repertory Theatre is supported by CT Humanities, and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

####

yalerep.org