

Asian Ethics and Identity in Theatre

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In collaboration with the UCCS Theatre and Dance Program

DANIELS FUND
ETHICS INITIATIVE
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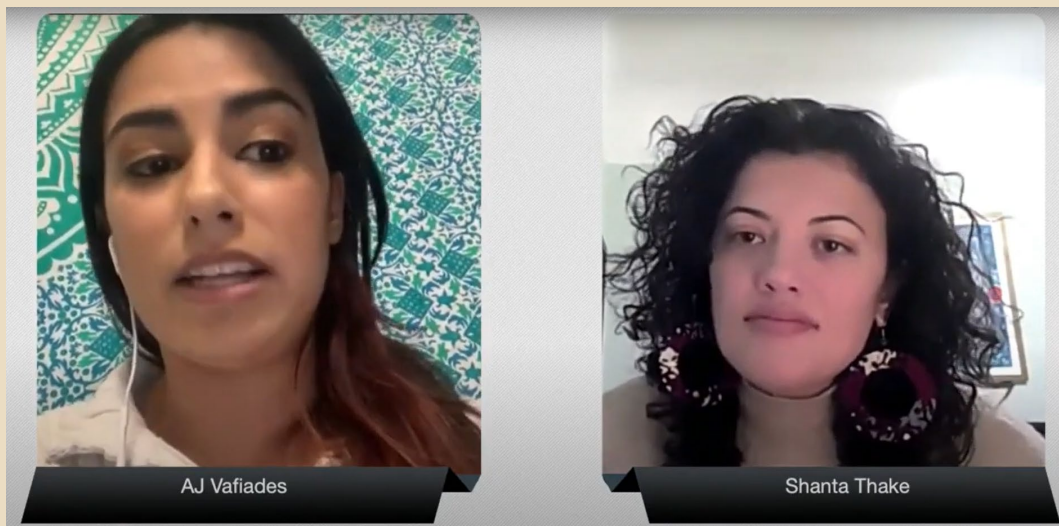
Asian Culture and Representation in the Arts

- Underrepresented in Theatre and Film in America
- Stereotypes in both Film and Theatre industries
- Lack of resources and opportunities for creative evolvment for Asian American performers
- Read more on the Asian American Arts Alliance website:
<https://www.arts.gov/stories/magazine/2021/2/showing-strength-through-creativity-equity-and-access-arts-asian-americanpacific-islander/making-space-asian-americans-arts>



Inspiration and the Project

- My own experience with casting, specifically in Colorado.
- Student Ethics Ambassador with Kevin Landis as part of his *Prologue* series.
- Colloquium for students, faculty, staff, and community members to learn and discuss Ethics in Asian casting and how we can better integrate cultures into our community
- Guest speakers Chay Yew and Vanessa Kai to come to Colorado.



Chay Yew

- Stage director, playwright, and producer born in Singapore.
- Based out of NYC
- Known for *Porcelain*, *A Language of Their Own*, *Half Lives* and countless other works as a writer.
- Known for directing *Ainadamar*, *Cambodian Rock Band*, and *Oedipus el Rey*.
- Was Artistic Director at Victory Gardens Theater from 2011-2020.



Vanessa Kai

- Chinese American Film Actress
- First Generation
- Based out of NYC
- Known for *Kung Fu* (the CW), *New Amsterdam* (NBC), and *Gabriel's Inferno: Part One* (Passionflix)
- Can discuss experience as a performer of Asian descent.



The Challenges of Ethical Casting in the Arts

- Accurate representation of Cultures
- Inclusivity in Diversity
- Will speak with Chay Yew and Vanessa Kai to hear their own experience with these issues during the talk.



Daniels Fund Ethical Principles: Integrity

- “Act with integrity in all situations.”- Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative
- Work to fight against stereotypes
- Represent cultures accurately when portraying them
- Work to advocate for fellow artists who are underrepresented, especially if you have the means

“**INTEGRITY,**
THE CHOICE BETWEEN
WHAT'S CONVENIENT
AND WHAT'S RIGHT.”

-Tony Dungy, *Uncommon*

Daniels Fund Ethical Principles: Trust

- “Build trust in all stakeholder relationships.” - Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative
- Show Asian performers dedication to diversity
- Work towards building those relationships and allowing them to trust that they will be represented accurately



Daniels Fund Ethical Principles: Accountability

- “Accept responsibility for all decisions.” - Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative
- Be willing/able to make mistakes
- Work to improve
- Admit fault and strive to grow



Daniels Fund Ethical Principles: Transparency

- “Maintain open and truthful communications.” - Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative
- Include unbiased reasoning in casting choices and be willing to share thoughts regarding casting plays/films



Daniels Fund Ethical Principles: Fairness

- “Engage in fair competition and create equitable and just relationships.” - Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative
- Work to bridge inequity in Asian casting
- Base casting choices on the ability to fulfill the role accurately and justly



Daniels Fund Ethical Principles: Respect

- “Honor the rights, freedoms, views, and property of others.” - Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative
- Respect other cultures
- Strive for accurate representation
- Conduct proper research about cultures and identities



Questions?

