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Brava! for Women in the Arts presents the Asian Pacific Islander Performance Series & Continental US Premiere of TeAda Productions'

Masters of the Currents

The first nationally touring play about Micronesians in the U.S.

Brava examines family migration, love and loss through the lens of Micronesians in a unique Performance Series with Te'Ada Productions. The Series features the Continental US Premiere of the play ***Masters of the Currents***, performance workshops by the company, and the screening of the film *Island Soldier* by visual journalist Nathan Fitch. Brava is thrilled to be able to present these works highlighting an underrepresented community.

Brava presents

MASTERS *of the* CURRENTS

October 18 - 20, 2018



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Brava presents a special screening of Nathan Fitch's ***Island Soldier***

Sunday, October 7 – 3pm

Island Soldier follows members of the Nena family from one of the most remote islands in the world to the training grounds of Texas and the battlefields in Afghanistan. The death of Sapuro “Sapp” Nena in Afghanistan makes waves through his tiny home island of Kosrae - where nearly everyone is connected to the U.S. Military directly or through family members. In an attempt to heal from his own deep wounds, Sapuro’s best friend in the Army, Mario Robles, heads to Kosrae with his family to meet Sapp’s parents for the first time and pay his respects on Veteran’s Day. It is an emotional gathering of two families, from opposite sides of the world, brought together by loss, love and honor.

A remote archipelago of hundreds of tiny volcanic islands in the western Pacific, The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an independent nation of 100,000 citizens, and a protectorate of the United States. In recent years, the country has become a “recruiter’s paradise” for the U.S. military, especially since 9/11. Yet they have lost five times more soldiers, per capita, than any U.S. state. The film captures a tightly knit island community — a microcosm of economic, social and political change, as the high price for military service in a foreign nation’s wars cuts deep.

Through an intricate weave of the personal journeys undertaken by Pacific Islander soldiers, the film illustrates a larger story of a remote region whose interests are caught in the ever-changing tides of international politics. ISLAND SOLDIER asks challenging questions while offering viewers a unique perspective on a globalized world. Who are these virtually unknown foreign soldiers fighting America’s wars? What does it mean for the United States to use, and practically discard, foreign citizens from their military? What happens to Micronesian veterans, and their families, when they return home and cannot access their benefits (healthcare, treatment for PTSD, loans, etc)? What is the future of these islands that exist at the mercy of foreign superpowers and strategic military interests?

The screening will open with the two short films, *Anointed* by Daniel Lin, and *Crossing Spaces* by Lola Quan Bautista and Shirley Thompson. Please join us after the screenings for a post-show discussion with *Island Soldier* writer/director Nathan Fitch and *Masters of the Currents* creators Leilani Chan and Ova Saopeng.

Tickets: \$12/\$8 students

About Nathan Fitch (Director, Cinematographer & Producer)

Nathan is a filmmaker and visual journalist based in Brooklyn. He currently works in the video department of The New Yorker. His work has been featured in The New York Times, TIME magazine, and The National Film Board of Canada. Nathan holds an MFA in documentary storytelling from Hunter college, where he was the recipient of the Welfare and Scholarship fund, and the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism. Nathan served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Micronesia doing Historic Preservation work, and still has a great fondness for breadfruit. More of his work can be seen at Nathan-Fitch.com

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Brava presents a Residency and Continental US Premiere of TeAda Productions'
Masters of the Currents

Created by Leilani Chan and Ova Saopeng

Calling upon the shared histories of refugees in Hawai'i, *Masters of the Currents* follows the story of recent newcomers from Micronesia who have fled their island nations due to environmental and economic pressures. The play centers around three Micronesian youth who must overcome conflicts of identity to be accepted by their peers while still holding on to the history and rich cultural traditions of their ancestral islands of Micronesia. *Masters of the Currents* takes audiences from remote island nations to urban cities, from ocean water passageways to paved asphalt highways.

Performances

Friday, October 19, 8pm – Performance & After Party

Saturday, October 20, 3pm – Performance

Performance Series Activities

Wednesday, October 10 at 7pm – Cross Cultural Performance Workshop

Meet and engage with *Masters of the Currents* touring company in a theater workshop. The workshop offers an opportunity for participants, Micronesian and non-Micronesian, who have interest in this community to explore and engage with each other through theater exercises: movement, storytelling and creative expression. These exercises could be applied to work and life in the hopes toward teamwork, empathy, and cultural understanding.

Thursday, October 18 & Friday, October 19 at 12pm - Student Matinees

Teachers and principals interested in bringing a group of students to a matinee performance may contact Brava's Education Director Melvign Badiola at mapa@brava.org or (415) 641-7657 x5 to arrange for tickets.

Tickets

\$12 students

\$17 adult

10% off tickets for groups of 10 or more

Pay what you can at the door (no one turned away for lack of funds, subject to availability).

Leilani Chan, Artistic Director

Leilani Chan is an award-winning performance artist, actor, playwright, director, cultural worker, Founding Artistic Director of TeAda Productions. Leilani Chan's newest collaboration with Ova Saopeng "Masters of the Current," opens October 2017 at the Honolulu Theatre for Youth Tenney Theatre. Developed through a New England Foundation for the Arts - National

Theater Project award to work with the Micronesian community in Hawai'i. She received her 3rd National Performance Network Creation Fund led by Intermedia Arts and Co-commissioned by East West Players for "Global Taxi Driver," a transnational community-based ensemble performance exploring immigration and mobility in the 21st century. Leilani is co-creator of "Refugee Nation," the first nationally touring play about Laotian refugees in the U.S., was commissioned through a MAP Fund, NPN Creation Fund and by Legacies of War. Leilani is currently serving as Board Secretary for the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (CAATA). Leilani received the 2009 Rainbow Award from the Los Angeles Women's Theater Festival. Leilani and obtained her M.F.A. from U.C. Irvine. She currently resides in Los Angeles, CA. Born & raised in Hawai'i, Leilani attended Hampshire College obtained her M.F.A. from U.C. Irvine in 2004.

Ova Saopeng, Associate Artistic Director

Ova Saopeng is an actor and writer from Los Angeles, born in Savannakhet, Laos and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is a TeAda Productions Associate Producer, Teaching Artist and co-creator of Refugee Nation. He received his BA in Theater from the University of Southern California and since then has performed nationally with theater companies including the Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis, Mark Taper Forum/P.L.A.Y., East West Players, and hereandnow.