

**feb**  
**20-22**

**question 27,**  
**question 28**

**BY CHAY YEW**

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**DIRECTED BY**  
**JACK NEE**

StrollersTheatre.org  
**STROLLERS**  
THEATRE LTD

BartellTheatre.org

**BARTELL THEATRE**



## RED BUCKET DONATIONS

Half of our Red Bucket donations will be given to the  
**Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project**

A grassroots organization dedicated to preserving, educating, and sharing the story of World War II-era incarceration of Japanese Americans in order to deepen understandings of American history and inspire action for equity.

You can find more details at their website at <https://densho.org/>

Please donate by dropping your spare change into the  
Red Bucket after the show



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Running Time is 2 hour and 15 minutes  
with a 15 minute intermission

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics.

Photography and video/audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited.

Strollers Theatre, LTD. is a member of the Madison Area Production Center (MAPC).

Support provided by The Evjue Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of The Capital Times.



Presents

# Question 27, Question 28

By Chay Yew

## Director

Jack Nee

## Stage Manager

Lauren Rusch

## Producer

Linda Johnson

## Lighting Designer

Collin Koenig

## Sound Designer

Karl Reinhardt

## Projections Designer

Perry L Haugen

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The Bartell Theatre on the Drury Stage  
Madison, Wisconsin

February 20th - February 22nd, 2020

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Produced by special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials  
supplied by WILLIAM MORRIS ENDEAVOR ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

**Anna Mei Baker**

Yuri Kochiyama, Mary Tsukamoto, Noriko Sawada Bridges, and others

**Jennifer Becker**

Haruko Hurt, Haruko Niwa, Emi Somekawa, and others

**Marie Chadwick**

Anonymous

**Kristina Jin**

Helen Murao, Amy Uno Ishii, Yoshiko Uchida, and others

**Amy L. Welk**

Elaine Black Yoneda, Eleanor Roosevelt, Eleanor Gerard Sekerak, and others

SPECIAL THANKS

This production was made possible with the special contributions of so many people.

A special thanks is in order for these individuals and organizations.

Children's Theatre of Madison (CTM), Madison Area Production Center (MAPC), St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Lakeview Moravian Church, Mercury Players Theatre, Madison Theatre Guild, StageQ, Kathie Rasmussen Women's Theatre, The Gerald A Bartell Community Theatre Foundation and Kirk Stantis, The Isthmus, ETC, Banzo Catering, Madison Public Libraries, Jack Morrison, Michelle Dayton, Sarah Edlund, Densho, The Evjue Foundation, David Furumoto, Peter Horikoshi, Sarah Whelan, Timothy Yu, The Friends and Family of Michael Dayton, Overture Center for the Arts and The Evjue Foundation



**The Evjue Foundation**

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

February 19th 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order 9066 ushers in the beginning of concentration camps to detain over 100,000 Japanese Americans in the continental United States. No legal charges were served as justification to hold people against their will. The creation of concentration camps to detain these people, a majority of whom were citizens born and raised in the U.S. was contrary to the advice of military investigations which determined no threat existed from Japanese American communities; the reports were ignored. This was one of many "perfectly legal" incidents of racial hatred towards Asian Americans, including limits on owning land, citizenship, voting, and testifying against Whites in a court of law.

2018: President Donald Trump publicly announces his family separation policy which had already been operating for a year; young children, including infants are forcibly removed from their parents and housed in overcrowded detention centers inadequately staffed or equipped to house human beings. There were no plans in place to reunite children with their parents. At least 6 die in custody that we know of. In June of 2019, the Trump Administration announces Fort Sill in Oklahoma as a possible site to process and hold 1,400 refugee children; Fort Sill held 700 Japanese Americans in 1942.

Chay Yew crafted Question 27, Question 28 as minimalistic documentary reading to accurately recount the history of and the often overlooked experiences of women in the camps. This was his response to the unfounded hysteria and hatred that was directed at Muslim communities during, and since 2001. This play is being produced here and now, Wisconsin in 2020, to expose a previous episode of concentration camps on American soil, because the United States is operating concentration camps right now.

- Jack Nee

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Jack Nee
Producer.....	Linda Johnson
Stage Manager.....	Lauren Rusch
Lighting Designer.....	Collin Koenig
Projections Designer.....	Perry L Haugen
Sound Designer.....	Karl Reinhardt
Lighting Crew.....	Conor Koenig
Rehearsal Photography.....	Kristina Jin
Production Photography.....	Jennifer Justice
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## BIOGRAPHIES

**Anna Mei Baker** (Cast) is honored to be making her debut with Strollers Theatre as part of such an important piece. A recent UW-Madison graduate, precious credits include *Our Stories*, *Our History*; *The Laramie Project*, and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. All her love to the creative team responsible for this project!

**Jennifer Becker** (Cast) is thrilled to be a part of this very important production. This is her Strollers Theatre debut. Jennifer has a theatre degree from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. Favorite roles include Eeyore (*House on Pooh Corner*), Fili (*The Hobbit*), Wanda (*Wanda's Visit*), and Vera/Snooks/Ensemble (*Shiny Things*). Thanks so much to Jack for this opportunity! Much love to my husband, Jason and my furry kitty babies Nuriko and Atticus.

**Marie Sachiyo Chadwick** (Cast) is grateful for this opportunity to be a part of this production and spread a part of the American history that had impacted her to explore and discover her identity as the first generation immigrant (Issei). She has been an actor for Family Fusion program at Blackhawk Church in Madison and continue seeking for more opportunities to be on stage.

**Perry L Haugen** (Projections Designer) is happy to join this Strollers production. Perry is an award winning video and live event producer for the last 20 years. He is grateful for the love and support of his family.

**Kristina Jin** (Cast) is excited to be performing in her first-ever production with Strollers Theatre! And with almost no formal training, this will also be her debut on stage. She is a recent graduate from The University of Texas at Austin and has absolutely no intention to follow her original career path. During the day, she works as a Social Media Specialist for Wisconsin's beloved sparkling water brands. In her free time, she loves to bake, redecorate, and do terrible impressions.

**Linda Johnson** (Producer) is happy to be producing a story that needs to be heard. I am grateful to the theater community for including me in their journey. Linda has produced and worked with many of the theater companies and hopes to continue to do so in the future.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Collin Koenig** (Lighting Designer) has been involved in theatre for over 18 years. He has done lighting design work for several community groups at the Bartell theatre and various shows in the Madison theatre community.

**Jack Nee** (Director) has previously worked at the Bartell as Assistant Director for Strollers' production of *The Father*, and Production Dramaturg for *Yankee Dawg*, *You Die!* with Madison Theatre Guild.

**Karl Reinhardt** (Sound Designer) is pleased to have been asked to lend a small hand of support to this important piece of historical work.

**Lauren Rusch** (Stage Manager) is very honored to be involved in this important work. In addition to stage managing, she has recently done prop design, acting, and directing for StageQ, MTG, Mercury Players, and Broom Street Theater.

**Amy L. Welk** (Cast) is pleased to join this cast of impressive women telling stories that need to be heard. Amy has a BFA in Theatre Performance from UW-Whitewater and attended Graduate School at the University of London: RHC. Favorite acting roles include: National tour: *Cabaret* (Fraulein Schneider); Regional: *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), *White Christmas* (Martha), *Oliver!* (Nancy), *The Robber Bridegroom* (Salome), *1776* (Ben Franklin), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Golde), *Anne of Green Gables* (Marilla), and *Follies* (Hattie).



## PRESHOW MUSIC

The songs playing before this performance come from several groups from the 1970s. Their songs ranged from political action to identity to simply artistic expression. These songs are only a snapshot of the music during this era, when American identity was becoming more complex than just Black and White, a time when the redress movement was gaining steam, and knowledge of the camps was becoming more common.

A Grain of Sand, the first album of songs about the Asian American movement of the time was released in 1973, featuring Chris Iijima, Nobuko Miyamoto, and William "Charlie" Chin. This album inspired the group Yokohama, California who released the second such album in 1977. Yokohama, CA member Peter Horikoshi was able to re-release the album in 2016. In addition, 2019 saw Horikoshi restore and release a 1979 concert featuring both a solo performance by Charlie Chin, as well as a set by future acclaimed playwrights Philip Kan Gotanda and David Henry Hwang, whose original songs added further voice to Asian American music of the era. Gotanda and Hwang had their own group, Bamboo Brew, who performed with Sandra "Sam" Takimoto and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo, two members of Yokohama, CA.

Even these are just a sample of what existed, but all are worthy of attention for their quality and nuance, and make for worthy pieces of cultural history. These songs, like the legacy of the camps themselves, need to be passed down so that we always remember the lessons of the past. As Horikoshi has expressed, he hopes that we all, "Share it with your children and grandchildren to show them that we had some fantastic songwriters and singers who sang songs about us and our communities." The tracks selected are a sample of songs about the concentration camps, solidarity, identity, generational legacy, empowerment, beauty in the middle of hardship, and what it means to be an American.

1. Tanforan (Yokohama, CA)
2. One Step Closer (Yokohama, CA)
3. I've Been Working on the Railroad (Charlie Chin)
4. Miles and Miles (Bamboo Brew)
5. Eating Fish (Bamboo Brew)
6. Ballad of the Issei (Bamboo Brew)
7. We are the Children (A Grain of Sand)

"Yokohama, CA", "Philip Kan Gotanda in Concert", and "Charlie Chin in Concert" are currently available through <http://www.yokohamaca.com/>  
A Grain of Sand is currently available through Smithsonian Folkways



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FURTHER READING

The words in this play all come from the spoken or written words of those who took part in the concentration camps, directly or indirectly. There are a variety of books and documentaries available to gain further perspective. Several of the women featured in this play have memoirs about the subject (Mine Okubo’s *Citizen 13660*, Monica Sone’s *Nisei Daughter*, and Yoshiko Uchida’s *Desert Exile*), or have their stories featured in anthologies such as *Only What We Could Carry*, or oral history projects like *Camp and Community* from California State University, Fullerton. There is also no shortage of theatrical works about the camps and their lasting effects. The following list is made up of plays that are readily available through the Madison Public Library, the library system of UW-Madison, and for purchase or online download.

- Gold Watch* by Momoko Iko, available in “*Unbroken Thread: An Anthology of Plays by Asian American Women*”
- 12-1-A* by Wakako Yamauchi, available in “*The Politics of Life: Four Plays by Asian American Women*”

-*Hold These Truths* by Jeanne Sakata, which recently became available for purchase online through Ageloff books

Finally, much of the work of Philip Kan Gotanda either directly grapples with the camps, or the lasting impact on future generations. Notable would be:

- Sisters Matsumoto*, available in the anthology “*No More Cherry Blossoms*”
- Song For a Nisei Fisherman*, available in “*Fish Head Soup and Other Plays*”
- After the War*, most recently available on Gotanda’s website <http://www.philipkan-gotanda.com/>

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