

San Francisco Playhouse announces casting for
The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin

By Jessica Huang
Directed by Jeffrey Lo

On stage May 4 – June 18, 2022

Press Opening Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 P.M.

Note: This production will **not** be available as a video stream.

SAN FRANCISCO (March 30, 2022) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director **Bill English**; Producing Director **Susi Damilano**) announced casting for ***The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*** by **Jessica Huang**. The play will run on the San Francisco Playhouse Mainstage from May 4 through June 18, 2022. Jeffrey Lo will direct.

During the Chinese Exclusion Act, Harry Chin, a Chinese national, entered the U.S. by buying forged documentation. Like other “paper sons,” Harry lived the rest of his life keeping secrets – even from his daughter. Told through the eyes of a middle-aged Chin, ***The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*** reveals the complicated loves and regrets of this Chinese immigrant. Through dreamlike leaps of time and space and with the powerful assistance of ghosts, the story of the Chin family reveals the personal and political repercussions of making a group of people “illegal.”

“In this time when there has been so much focus on immigration—and now with so many Ukraine refugees flooding into new lives—our story about Harry Chin is achingly universal,” said Bill English, Artistic Director. “This country is full of people who came from somewhere else. That fact has been, for several centuries, our glory and our shame. How those who migrate to a new land grieve the loss of their home and adapt to the new breaks our hearts with empathy.”

The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin is based on the true story of Liang Cheng Yu, who immigrated to the United States from Taishan, China in 1939 under the name Harry Chin. Through hours of interviews with Chin’s daughter, Sheila, and pages of archival interviews with Chin himself, Jessica Huang retells the story of this one man’s internal struggle.

“People and life sometimes, it’s so hard to know [what to do]. Right or wrong, it’s hard to say, hard to suggest ... You do what you can. We’re only human, you know.” – Harry Chin, in a 2002 interview with the Minnesota Historical Society.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Announces Casting for The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin

The cast features **Will Dao***, **Kina Kantor***, **Carrie Paff***, **Sharon Shao**, **Jomar Tagatac***, and **Michael Torres***.

About the Playwright

Jessica Huang is a playwright based in New York, from Minnesota. Her work has been commissioned by Audible, History Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, Mixed Blood Theatre, Timeline Theater, Theater Masters and Theater Mu, and includes *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* (Barry and Bernice Stavis Award, Kilroys List), *Mother of Exiles* (Rosa Parks Playwriting Award, Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award, Keneda Prize Finalist), *Transmissions in Advance of the Second Great Dying*, and *Purple Cloud*. She has been a member of the Civilians R&D Group, Page 73's Interstate 73 and Ars Nova Play Group, and has had fellowships at the Playwrights' Center and McDowell. She is a graduate of the Playwrights Program at Juilliard. More: Jessica-Huang.com

About San Francisco Playhouse

Founded by Bill English and Susi Damilano in 2003, **San Francisco Playhouse** has been described by the New York Times as “a company that stages some of the most consistently high-quality work around” and deemed “ever adventurous” by the Bay Area News Group. Located in the heart of the Union Square Theater District, **San Francisco Playhouse** is the city’s premier Off-Broadway company, an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square theater fare. San Francisco Playhouse provides audiences the opportunity to experience professional theater with top-notch actors and world-class design in a setting where they are close to the action. The company has received multiple awards for overall productions, acting, and design, including the SF Weekly Best Theatre Award and the Bay Guardian’s Best Off-Broadway Theatre Award, as well as three consecutive Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards for Best Entire Production in the Bay Area (2016-2018). KQED/NPR recently described the company: “San Francisco Playhouse is one of the few theaters in the Bay Area that has a mission that actually shows up on stage. Artistic director Bill English’s commitment to empathy as a guiding philosophical and aesthetic force is admirable and by living that mission, fascinating things happen onstage.” **San Francisco Playhouse** is committed to providing a creative home and inspiring environment where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theater lovers converge to create and experience dramatic works that celebrate the human spirit.

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE
Announces Casting for The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

THE PLAY: ***The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin***
By **Jessica Huang**
Directed by **Jeffrey Lo**

During the Chinese Exclusion Act, Harry Chin, a Chinese national, entered the U.S. by buying forged documentation. Like other “Paper Sons,” Harry lived the rest of his life keeping secrets – even from his daughter. Told through the eyes of a middle-aged Chin, *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* reveals the complicated loves and regrets of this Chinese immigrant. Through dreamlike leaps of time and space and with the powerful assistance of ghosts, the story of the Chin family reveals the personal and political repercussions of making a group of people “illegal.”

THE CAST: **Will Dao*** as Poet
 Kina Kantor* as Sheila
 Carrie Paff* as Laura
 Sharon Shao as Yuet
 Jomar Tagatac* as Harry
 Michael Torres* as Boss/Interrogator

WHEN: In-person performances: May 4 – June 18, 2022
 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 P.M., Fridays at 8:00 P.M.,
 Saturdays at 3:00 and 8:00 P.M., Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: San Francisco Playhouse
 450 Post St., San Francisco CA 94102

TICKETS: **Tickets (\$30 - \$100) are now available.** For tickets or more information, the public may contact the San Francisco Playhouse box office at 415-677-9596, or online at <https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2021-2022-season/the-paper-dreams-of-harry-chin/>