



East West Players Theatre

Affinity Theatre Leader Project



Who are they





Mission

East West Players (EWP) is the nation's longest-running Asian American theater and the largest producer of Asian American theatrical works.

Committed to raising the visibility of the Asian American experience by
Founded in 1965, East West Players is committed to raising the visibility of the Asian American experience by presenting inventive world-class theatrical productions, developing artists of color, and providing impactful youth education programs.

History

Established in 1965, East West Players has since premiered more than 228 plays and musicals, along with over 1,000 diverse readings and workshops for actors, writers, and directors. By building bridges between East and West, we have cultivated a loyal audience of over 70% people of color. Our company continues to build platforms for artists of color while advocating for multi-faceted representations of the Asian Pacific American experience in the performing arts.



*The impact they have
had on the field*



The background of the slide features a vibrant red border. On the left and right sides, there are traditional Asian cloud motifs in a light cream or gold color. At the bottom, there are stylized, abstract shapes in shades of green and blue, possibly representing mountains or water.

To create an open and inclusive space for diverse constituencies.

To lead the Asian American and theatrical communities with ground-breaking artistic works.

To aspire to the highest level of artistry.

How it has influenced others



Classes

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing the next generation of talent, East West Players offers several professional development classes for artists of all ages and backgrounds.

The Professional Enrichment program is supported in part by NBCUniversal, The Walt Disney Company, and Walt Disney Imagineering.

David Henry Huang Writing Institute

Join the most active Asian Pacific American playwright development program in the country, which has nurtured works read and produced at theaters nation-wide. Classes meet in downtown Los Angeles.

The work they did



Production Archive

Since 1965, East West Players has pushed the envelope of American theater, staging innovative productions incorporating Asian cultural influence and the color-conscious casting of artists of color. Peruse our groundbreaking history through our comprehensive production archive.

1960S



Rashomon
By Fay & Michael Kanin

Based on Short Stories by Ryunosuke
Akutagawa

Directed by Norman Gerard

Premiered April 3, 1965 at USC

May 15, 1965 at University of Judaism,
Hollywood

July to August 1965 at Warner Playhouse

Sweatshop Overlord



By Kristina Wong
Directed by Chay Yew
A Co-Production with Center Theatre Group

On This Side of the World



Music & Lyrics by Paulo K Tiról
Directed by & Co-Created with Noam Shapiro
May 11 - June 10, 2023; Opening Night May 14, 2023



What others have said about their work

■ *Review*

Charles McNulty

Entertainment & Arts

[Dang's](#) return to EWP to direct another production of this hugely ambitious musical turns out to be one of the best things to have happened in 2024, at least from a theater perspective. The new revival of “Pacific Overtures” may be the most impressive production I’ve seen anywhere all year.

It’s also one of the most entertaining. I wasn’t expecting to write such a sentence about an abstract and some might even say abstruse Sondheim musical that has had only one short-lived Broadway revival. Producers are intimidated by its artistic demands, to say nothing of its financial costs. “Pacific Overtures” definitely isn’t a musical for theatergoers who want to turn off their brains for a couple of hours.



Nov 18, 2024 • Previous review

Brilliant performance of Stephen Sondheim's Pacific Overtures last night. The set was amazing, the costumes were gorgeous, and all the actors were singing their hearts out. My favorite scene was...

[Read more](#)



Apr 22, 2024 • Previous review

Enjoyed the sci-fi romance play called Kairos yesterday, excellent acting and interesting storyline. Loved the set of a huge tree with well timed lighting and changes of season....

[Read more](#)



Nov 11, 2023 • Previous review

Watched a beautiful and passionate performance of Spring Awakening today. Well deserved standing ovation at the end!...

[Read more](#)



Jun 4, 2023 • Previous review

ON THIS SIDE OF THE WORLD is now playing until June 10th --about a young woman immigrating to the U.S. from the Philippines who has collected many stories of people who have made this life...

[Read more](#)