

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

Contact:

Susan Haramoto, sharamoto@jcccnc.org
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
1840 Sutter Street - San Francisco, CA 94115
415.567.5505 - www.jcccnc.org

Asian Americans on Broadway: Opening Doors *Broadway's Top Asian American Talent Arriving From New York*

SAN FRANCISCO (September 15, 2006) – On October 13th and 14th, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) will host the ASIAN AMERICANS ON BROADWAY: OPENING DOORS concert. The 90-minute concert will be held at the Brava Theater, San Francisco, with a pre-show VIP reception and auction for VIP ticket holders on the first night.

This concert performance is the return of the "Salute to the Stars" performers from last year's gala event which honored the lifetime achievements of some of the greatest Japanese American performers to grace the silver screen and Broadway stage. This New York produced 90-minute concert will feature Broadway's biggest hits over the years with personal anecdotes from the performers on how these songs have influenced or inspired them on their path to success in theater. These talented Asian Americans are traveling from New York exclusively for this JCCCNC production.

PRESENTED BY citibank at&t

ASIAN AMERICANS ON BROADWAY OPENING DOORS

A Musical Concert of Broadway's Best
featuring performances from

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|---------------|
| Alan Muraoka <i>Suzanne Street</i> | Christine Toy Johnson <i>The Music Man</i> | Allen Ing <i>Flower Drum Song</i> | Deborah Lew <i>The Three Musketeers</i> | Michael Lee <i>Rent</i> | Hazel Anna Raymundo <i>Pacific Overtone</i> | Sophie Oda <i>Special Local Guest Stars</i> | Colleen Ikemi |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|---------------|

Singing hits from

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Three Stars</i> | <i>Flower Drum Song</i> | <i>Flower Drum Song</i> | <i>Flower Drum Song</i> | <i>RENT</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|

Directed by Alan Muraoka
Musical Director Edward G. Robinson
Choreographer Francis Jue

Friday, October 13 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 14 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Tickets Now on Sale
call the JCCCNC at 415-567-5505
or online at www.ticketweb.com

Brava Theater Center
2791 - 24th Street, San Francisco
415-641-7857 Public Parking available
Limited Shuttle Service Available from Japantown

\$100 VIP \$50 orch \$30 mezz
Group Discounts available

co-sponsored by The Seligman Family Foundation, Kazuo Yamaguchi Always Brava Foundation, 3B Investments
Benefiting the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's (JCCCNC) Youth and Children's Cultural Arts Programs

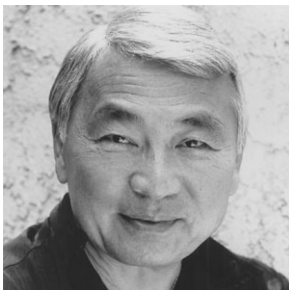


Alan Muraoka most recently directed Tony-nominated actor John Tartaglia (*Avenue Q*) in John Tartaglia, AD-LIBerty, which enjoyed a sold out run at Joe's Pub at the Public Theatre in New York. (Playbill, Backstage, and Show Business Awards for Best Musical Theatre Cabaret). He received acclaim for his 1998 New York Off-Broadway revival of *Falsettoland*, which was produced by NAATCO and enjoyed a

sold out run at the Vineyard Theater. Other New York directing credits include the world premiere of *Karaoke Stories* for the IMUA Theatre Company; *Empty Handed*, a musical revue starring the puppeteers on Broadway's *Avenue Q* and produced by Musicals Tonight; *Screaming Like a Fool*, a review of the music of Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich at the Triad Theatre; *A Salute to Julie and Carol at Carnegie Hall*, which also ran at the Triad; and readings of Euijoon Kim's *My Tired Broke Ass Pontificating Slapstick Funk* and Derek Nguyen's *Monster*, both for the Public Theater's New Works Now Series. Acting credits include appearing on Broadway in *Pacific Overtures*, *Mail*, *Shogun the Musical*, *My Favorite Year*, *The King and I*, and *Miss Saigon*, where he played the leading role of the Engineer. In addition, for the past 8 years, he has been on the Emmy award winning television series *Sesame Street*, where he plays "Alan," the new proprietor of Hooper's Store. He is a Theater Arts graduate of UCLA.



Christine Toy Johnson is an actor, writer and producer. She has extensive performing credits on Broadway, Off-Broadway, national tour, film and television. Highlights of over twenty years of work include featured roles in the New York revivals of *The Music Man*, *Falsettoland*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, and *Pacific Overtures*, the national tours of *CATS*, *Flower Drum Song* and *Bombay Dreams*, and leading roles at the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Huntington Theatre, and The Denver Center Theatre Company. Film and television credits include writing, producing and starring in the award-winning short film "All American Eyes" (New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, Hearts and Minds Film Festival, WAVES Festival – Audience Award), "One Life To Live" (2000 and 2001 aMedia Award nominations), "Crossing Jordan," "Blind Justice," "Grounded for Life," "Nonsense," and "Nonsense 2" (PBS and A&E), "Law & Order: SVU," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Oz," "Conspiracy Theory," "Jungle 2 Jungle," and "L.I.E."



Alvin Y. F. Ing started on Broadway with "The World of Suzie Wong" followed by being an original cast member of *Pacific Overtures*. He played in five national companies including "Flower Drum Song," "Two Gentlemen of Verona," and "City of Angels." He was a member of the national touring company of *Flower Drum Song* and played the role of Wang Ta more than any other actor. He has also performed in "Heading East," "Two Old for the Chorus," "Beijing Spring," and "Catching Heaven's Horse." In the 1960's, Alvin headed TAAPA, which convinced Harold Prince to cast *Pacific Overtures* with an all-Asian cast.



Hazel Anne Raymundo made her Broadway debut with the Roundabout Theatre Company's Fall 2004 production of *Pacific Overtures*. Her other theatre credits include *Miss Saigon* (Kim); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary Magdalene); *The King and I* (Tuptim); *Making Tracks* (Miyuki); pre-Broadway workshops of *Aida*, the first national tour of *Flower Drum Song*, and *Clear Day*. She is a Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism graduate.



Michael K. Lee is originally from Seoul, Korea, where he was asked by Cameron MacIntosh himself to portray the role of "Chris" in the Korean Debut Production of *Miss Saigon*. Earlier this year, he was seen in Toronto and around the United States in *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. Other Broadway credits include: *Pacific Overtures* (Kayama Yasaemon); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Simon Zealotes); *Miss Saigon* (Thuy); and *RENT* (Steve). His international work has shown him to be cast romantically opposite some of the industry's most talented actresses, including Lea Salonga in *They're Playing Our Song* (Philippines), and Laura Michelle Kelley in *A Twist of Fate* (Singapore). In addition to Broadway and Asia, Michael has performed extensively across the United States, including right here in the Bay Area, with Theatreworks (*Pacific Overtures*) and San Jose Repertory Theatre (*Making Tracks*). Other National Credits include: *Manzanar*; *Aladdin*; *The Wedding Banquet*; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*; *Heading East*; *Beijing Spring* (L.A. Ovation Award Nomination for Best Actor in a Musical); and many others. Michael is a graduate of Stanford University.



Deborah Lew made her Broadway debut this year when she played Vixen in *The Threepenny Opera*. Her Off-Broadway credits include: *Cupid and Psyche*. New York City Opera: *Candide* and *Cinderella*. Regional: Isabelle in *Amour* (Goodspeed), Maria in *West Side Story* (Joseph Jefferson nomination), and Kim in *Miss Saigon* (Westchester Broadway).

"We are so pleased to have these Broadway actors and actress at our "Asian Americans on Broadway: Opening Doors" event. Similar to last year's "Salute to the Stars" performance when we honored Asian American entertainers who dedicated their careers to exposing mainstream media to their talents since the 1950s when there were no faces to represent the Asian American community, this concert will underline the great strides Asian Americans have made in mainstream media," commented Paul Osaki, Executive Director of the JCCCNC.

Asian Americans on Broadway: Opening Doors proceeds will benefit the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California cultural arts programs for children and youth in the community. Directed by Muraoka, the show will feature Musical Direction by Edward G. Robinson, and choreography by Francis Jue.

Asian Americans on Broadway: Opening Doors is a presentation sponsored by Citibank. Other corporate sponsors include: Gold Level: Union Bank of California; Silver Level: AT&T, Comcast; Bronze Level: The Seligman Family Foundation. Also sponsored by Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation and 3D Investments.

Tickets are now on sale online at Ticket Web at www.ticketweb.com. Single tickets are \$50 and \$30. Group discount tickets are available for groups of 15 or more. VIP tickets are only available for the Friday show and also include a pre-show reception with the performers. The Friday performance will also include a pre-show silent auction featuring autographed memorabilia from the performers. For more information, or to purchase VIP tickets or group discount tickets, please call JCCCNC at 415.567.5505.

**Asian Americans on Broadway:
Opening Doors**

Brava Theater Center
2781 24th Street, San Francisco

Concert Performance Dates

October 13, 2006, 8:00 pm
October 14, 2006, 2:00 pm
October 14, 2006, 7:00 pm

About JCCCNC

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and administrative support and facilities for other local service organizations. The JCCCNC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center based in San Francisco.

#