



SCENES FROM A YELLOW PERIL

BY NATHAN JOE

PRESENTERS PACK

PRESENTED BY THE REACTION THEORY
WITH BIPOC ARTS AUSTRALIA

Excerpt from *My Ancestors Crossed Oceans To Be Here*
And All I Have To Show For It Is This Bubble Tea

**THE QUESTION ISN'T
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

**BUT WHY DID YOU COME
HERE?**

**WHY DID YOU COME
KNOWING WHAT YOU
WOULD LOSE?**

**WHAT WERE YOU
RUNNING FROM?**

**AND WHERE WILL YOU GO
WHEN THERE IS NO
WHERE LEFT TO GO?**

THE SHOW

Following the success of the New Zealand premier in 2022, The Reaction Theory and BIPOC Arts Australia have produced the Australian Premiere of 'Scenes From A Yellow Peril' written by Chinese - New Zealand playwright Nathan Joe. A meta-analysis of Asian identity, conveyed in razor-sharp scenes that mix commentary, confessions, poems and song.

Scenes from a Yellow Peril is less a play, more a series of insights and conversations that, when taken together, expose the pain of the way in which some people are othered but whose experience will not be denied. Through resulting in 'sharp and impactful' (Theatre Haus) scenes.



Daphne Chen, Chris Nguyen



Daphne Chen, Jazz Zhao, Chris Nguyen, Peter Wood

After the pandemic, the Kangaroo Point protests, the death of a monarch, and a failed referendum, through, *Scenes From A Yellow Peril* dismantles outdated stereotypes through performance poetry, documentary theatre, and political discourse. Positioned in 2024, post-pandemic and amid societal shifts, the play engages with Queenslanders' emotional reflections on identity and the quest for a better future. Nathan Joe's portrayal of Asian experiences encourages audiences to collectively acknowledge and unpack cultural burdens.

Through cross-cultural collaboration, play within the process and navigating personal engagement, the outcome became a 'beautiful, challenging and unique work' (Theatre Travels)



Egan Sun-Bin, Chelsea August
Photo: Georgia Haupt

A theatrical production scene featuring two actors. On the left, a man in a dark, patterned jacket and dark trousers holds a glowing lantern aloft. On the right, a woman in a long, light-colored coat and white pants stands on a wooden platform, also holding a glowing lantern. A large, dark, textured umbrella is positioned above them, partially obscuring the top of the frame. The background is dark, and the scene is lit with a strong blue-green hue. The text is overlaid in bright yellow.

WINNER
2024 QLD MATILDA
AWARDS

BEST
INDEPENDENT
PRODUCTION

BEST
ENSEMBLE

NOMINATIONS
BEST DIRECTION
BEST LIGHTING
BEST COSTUME

THE SHOW

Running Time

80 Minutes, no interval

Creatives

Playwright Nathan Joe

Co-Director/Producer Egan Sun-Bin

Co-Director/Producer Chelsea August

Producer Alyson Joyce

Associate Producer Jess Bunz

Set Designer Alex Riley

Costume Designer Frances Foo

Sound Designer Emma Burchell

Lighting Designer Briana Clark

Video Designer Imperfect Creatives

Stage and Production Manager Petria Leong

Cultural Safety Consultant Katrina Irwati Graham

Cast

Daphne Chen

Chris Nguyen

Peter Wood

Jazz Zhao

Themes

Identity / Intergenerational Trauma / Colonisation /

Content Warning

Frequent coarse language / Sexual references / Depictions of violence, discrimination and racism / Theatrical haze / Dynamic and loud sound / Strobe lighting / Simulated gun shot sounds / Lighting blackouts

Style

Spoken Word / Dialogue and conversations / Community Engagement / Realism & Magic Realism / Chorus & Ensemble / Political /

Audience

Diverse Communities / Young adults / Mature Age / Secondary Students

Age Range

Recommended for ages 15+

Education Resources?

IN PROGRESS

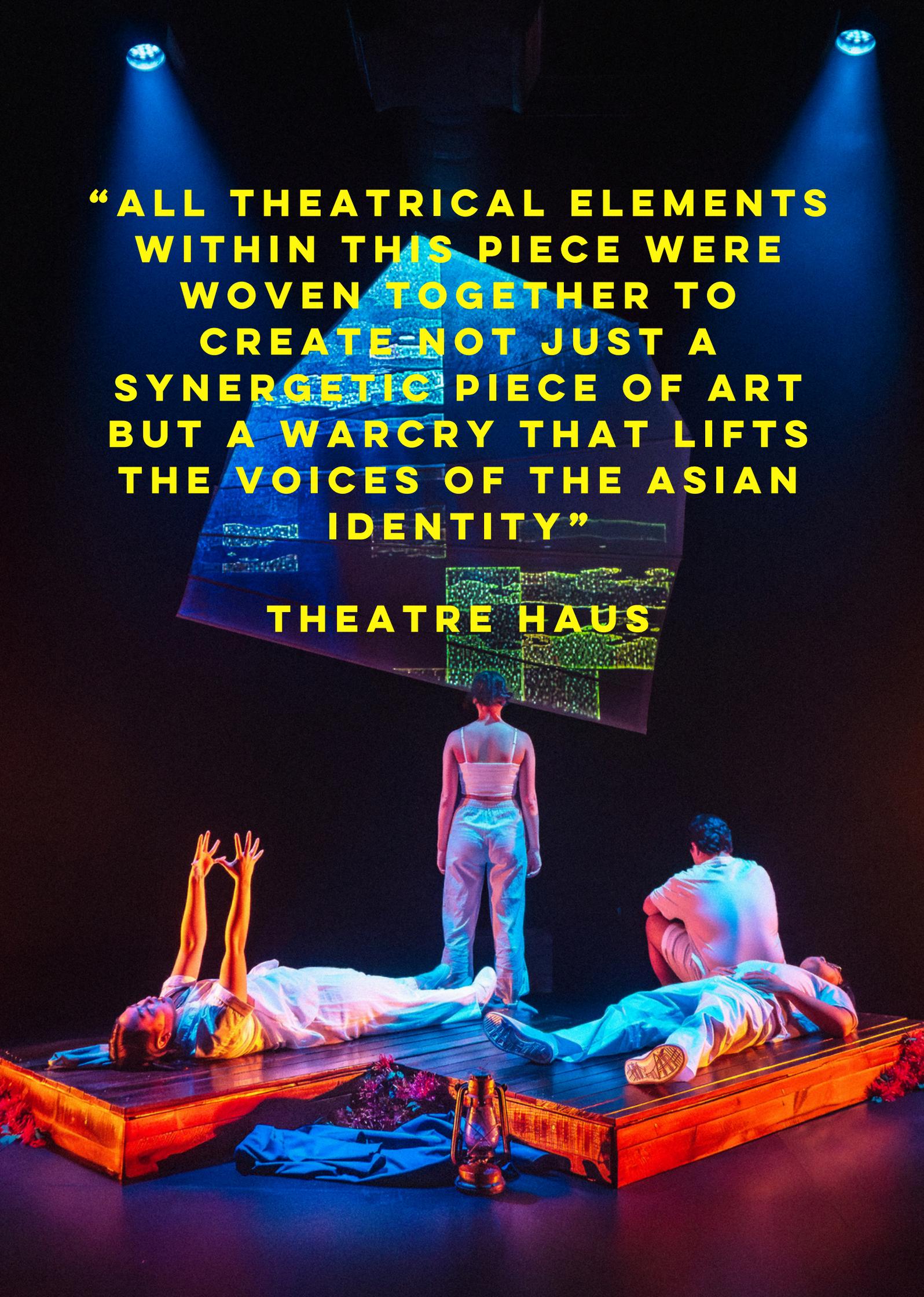
Performance History

August 9 - 24, 2024

Queensland Theatre, Diane Cilento Studio

Promotional Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0TD7Le9i9M>

A theatrical performance on a stage. A large projection screen at the back displays a cityscape at night with green lights. A woman in a white outfit stands with her back to the camera, looking at the screen. Two men in white outfits are lying on the stage floor; one has his hands raised. A man in a white shirt is sitting on the floor. A lantern and a blue cloth are on the floor in the foreground. Two spotlights illuminate the stage from above.

**“ALL THEATRICAL ELEMENTS
WITHIN THIS PIECE WERE
WOVEN TOGETHER TO
CREATE NOT JUST A
SYNERGETIC PIECE OF ART
BUT A WARCRY THAT LIFTS
THE VOICES OF THE ASIAN
IDENTITY”**

THEATRE HAUS

THE TEAM

THE REACTION THEORY & BIPOC ARTS AUSTRALIA

The Reaction Theory aims to create contemporary theatre for audiences aged 18-29 as a strategy to highlight and elevate performances of emerging and mid-career artists in Meanjin and beyond the region.

With the support of the Jennifer Blocksidge Memorial Award, the company has delivered multiple productions and developments to showcase the next generation of Queensland artists. The company strives to create intellectual and emotional responses in order to create an open conversation about our future to audiences.



BIPOC Arts Australia is a confirmed co-producer for this production. They have financially supported the Australian Premier, assisting in artists wages from bump in to delivery.

“At BIPOC Arts, our mission is to recognise, support, and nurture the talents of BIPOC artists living and working in Australia. We strive to create a nurturing environment for these artists, fostering the sharing of resources and the building of meaningful, lasting professional connections.” - Alyson Joyce

**"IT OVERCAME THE
EXPECTATIONS AND LIMITS
OF INDEPENDENT THEATRE
AND SHONE THROUGH AS
SOMETHING MAINSTAGE
WORTHY"**

THEATRE HAUS



TOURING & SCHEDULE

Touring Team

2X Actors, XI Stage/Tour Manager (operating through QLAB), IX Director

Subject to change based on the touring model, performer size vary pending on engaging with local artists incorporated with the original cast

Stage Management

Comms are required between the Touring Stage Manager, FOH (for doors and latecomers) and back of house

Bump In & Tech

3 Days

Bump Out

2-3 Hours

Lighting

Standard rig with additional

- 8x extra lights side booms
- 2x lusters for door boom (please contact for more detail)
- 2x floor lights (not essential)
- Fog Machine

Sound

FOH Left and Right Speakers

Set

Loading dock for unload and load set during bump in/out

Costumes

Laundry room for for washing

Projection

The custom sail has specific project mapping and will require additional time for mapping

Freight

Van sized vehicle required for transporting set to and from the venue

FOH

At least 1x front of house is required for this production



**“THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR
FROM THE BEGINNING:
WE’RE GOING ON A JOURNEY
- STRAP YOURSELVES IN”**

THE SATURDAY PAPER



CONTACT US

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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

This production by The Reaction Theory has received majority support from BIPOC Arts Australia. Scenes from a Yellow Peril received development assistance from the Wallace Foundation and the Playmarket Playfellows Programme. The Creative Sparks Grant Program is an initiative of Brisbane City Council in partnership with the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.