

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The 6th National Asian American Theater Festival & Conference

August 13-18, 2018 • Chicago, IL



THEME: REVOLUTIONARY ACTS

The Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists (CAATA) seeks proposals from Pan Asian and Pacific Islander American theater artists, practitioners, ensembles, ad hoc collectives, established companies, and scholars for theatre productions, small ensemble and solo showcase performances, new play readings, panel discussions, workshops, presentation sessions, and more for inclusion in the 6th National Asian American Theater Festival & Conference (ConFest).

CONFEST THEME

CAATA ConFest 2018: **Revolutionary Acts** will engage attendees and the Chicago community in critical and courageous theatre and dialogue regarding the intersection of art, leadership development and placement, and community and organizational well-being in the face of social injustice, inequity, and active resistance in American culture. What are we, as theater practitioners, doing about it? How will we be responsive together? This theme will inform the selection of the ConFest's content.

CONFEST DATES:

- August 13-18, 2018
- Hosted by Victory Gardens Theater, Silk Road Rising, DePaul University School of Theater, and Columbia College Chicago School of Dance and Theater

CONFEST 2018 WILL FEATURE:

- Approximately two plenary sessions, 24 panel discussions, workshops, staged readings, and presentation sessions
- Up to 6 festival performances
- Salons, open mics, and other opportunities to showcase works-in-progress

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION PROCESS

All completed proposals will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of CAATA board members and representatives from a committee which includes artists, practitioners, theatre organizations, academics, and community representatives. Their recommendations will then be given to the CAATA board subcommittee responsible for organizing and producing the 2018 ConFest. This subcommittee will finalize all choices.

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ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

- **Artistic Excellence**
 - Does this project feel complete and transformative? Is the submission a sterling example of Pan Asian and Pacific Islander American theater?
- **Artistic Vision**
 - To what extent does this project deepen and extend theater's value? Will it foster new connections and/or exemplify creativity and innovation?
- **Resonance with ConFest theme**
 - How well does this project relate to the theme of "Revolutionary Acts"?
- **Feasibility**
 - Does this project seem like it could thrive within the limited tech and logistical parameters? (The expectation is that projects are tour-ready and can be dismantled and remounted within an hour for the repertory nature of the schedule.)
- **Inclusivity**
 - Is the project inclusive of underrepresented voices and individuals from the Pan Asian and Pacific Islander diaspora, as well as different demographic backgrounds? This includes CAATA's welcome and inclusion of Central/West Asian, Arab and Middle Eastern, and Pacific Islander American theater communities, all of which are an integral presence in national culture.
 - Does this project support movement building for inclusion and cultural equity?

IF SELECTED

Given the wide array of proposals anticipated (and encouraged!) exact arrangements will be handled on a project by project basis with those selected. In general, below is an indication of how the ConFest will provide financial remuneration and operational support to performers, productions, panelists, etc.

- Full productions will receive a presenting fee that will be based, in part, on the number of performers involved in the show, and the distance and mode of transport to travel to Chicago to perform the piece. All artists and crew connected with a selected production will receive complimentary admission to the entire ConFest. Full productions will also be provided a performance space, load-in and tech time (generally 4-6 hours) and, depending upon the audience capacity of the selected venue, will be presented for either one or two or three performances.
- Panel session leaders will receive discounted ConFest Pass. Conference room space and limited technical support will also be provided. Panel sessions are anticipated to last approximately 60 or 90 minutes in length.

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- Playwrights submitting a new play for a reading will receive a small travel stipend and a discounted ConFest pass. New plays selected will be presented as script-in-hand readings (no staging) with local actors and, if needed, a director. Full and one-act plays will be considered.
- Showcase performers will receive a small travel stipend and a discounted ConFest pass. Showcase performances will be presented in a cabaret setting with a limited tech rehearsal held prior to the show. Showcase artists will each be allotted a 15 minute performance segment.
- Artists with other selected projects not fitting the above categories will be contacted to discuss in more detail feasibility and support levels.
- While housing suggestions will be offered, all artists are expected to make their own housing arrangements.

*Please note that confirmation of all projects or presentations selected will be dependent upon available funding. We anticipate being able to finalize terms and arrangements by April 1, 2018.

VENUES

Theatrical works will be staged in two different spaces at Victory Gardens Theater:

The Zacek-McVay Theatre

- Capacity: 259
- Proscenium stage, matte black floor
- Lighting within rep plot; projection capability
- Storage in wings
- Two modest dressing rooms and a green room
- If your show has a large ensemble and/or more complicated technical needs, this would be the preferred space.

The Richard Christiansen Theatre

- Capacity: 119
- Proscenium stage, matte black floor
- Lighting within rep plot; no projections
- Very tight storage backstage
- Two small dressing rooms
- This space is recommended for small casts with light technical needs.

Most other events (workshops, panels, presentations, etc) will take place at the Theatre School at DePaul University. Available venues are:

- DePaul classroom (cap: 35 people); projector available
- DePaul acting lab (cap: 30 people); sound system available
- DePaul rehearsal room (cap: 100 people); sound system available

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HOW TO APPLY:

If you have a production, plenary speaker suggestion, new play reading, a work-in-progress, or would like to lead a panel, workshop, or presentation session, CAATA wants to hear from you!

All applications are completed and submitted on-line, through Submittable at <https://caata.submittable.com/submit> The application deadline is January 15, 2018 at midnight PST.

ABOUT CAATA

The Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists (CAATA) envisions a strong and sustainable Pan Asian American community, that welcomes and includes Central/West Asian, Arab, Middle Eastern, and Pacific Islander American theatre communities, all of which are an integral presence in national culture—evocative of our past, declarative of our present, and innovative towards our future. Our mission is to advance the field of Pan Asian and Pacific Islander American theater through a national network of organizations and artists. We collaborate to inspire learning and sharing of knowledge, and resources to promote a healthy, equitable, and sustainable artistic ecology.

As a collective of Pan Asian and Pacific Islander American theater leaders and artists, we bring together local and regional leaders to work nationally toward our shared values of social justice, artistic diversity, cultural equity and inclusion. We hold national conferences and festivals biennially in different parts of the country, reaching as wide a range of Pan Asian and Pacific Islander American populations and communities as possible. We survey Pan Asian and Pacific Islander American theater artists and organizations to find out their foremost concerns and create pathways for leadership development within our field. We form alliances with other theater groups and their communities of different affinities to advance mutual goals cooperatively and to exchange ideas and strategies.

CAATA held its first ever National Asian American Theater Conference in Los Angeles in 2006. Past events also include the 1st and 2nd National Asian American Theater Festivals held in NYC in 2007 and 2009, the 2nd Asian American Theater Conference in 2008 in Minneapolis and the first combined Conference and Festival in 2011 in Los Angeles. The most recent conference was held in Ashland, Oregon in 2016. info@caata.net #CAATACHicago