

San Francisco Playhouse Announces Post-Show  
Discussion Series at Christopher Chen's  
***YOU MEAN TO DO ME HARM***

Directed by Bill English

Speaker Dates:

Tuesday 9/25/18 & Tuesday 10/2/18 with **Frank Wu**

Wednesday, 9/26/18 with **George Kich**

Thursday, 9/27/18 with **Dr. Leslie E. Wong**

Thursday, 10/11/18 with **Lee Mun Wah**

**San Francisco, CA** (September 2018) – **San Francisco Playhouse** invites audiences to join the conversation with expert-led discussions following performances of **Christopher Chen's** world premiere play ***You Mean to Do Me Harm***. Guest speakers will include **Frank H. Wu, George Kich, Dr. Leslie E. Wong, and Lee Mun Wah.**

*You Mean to Do Me Harm* is a psychological exploration of Chinese and American foreign relations, how our cultural traits affect our lives in ways we don't anticipate, and of the tenuous nature of the personal relations we hold most dear. The post-show discussion series is aimed at further analyzing these important issues and deepening the audience experience.

**About the Speakers**

**Frank H. Wu:** Tuesday 9/25/18 & Tuesday 10/2/18

President of the Committee of 100, Frank H. Wu became a Distinguished Professor following service as Chancellor & Dean at UC Hastings. He is dedicated to civic engagement and volunteer service. In April 2016, the members of Committee of 100 elected him as their Chair; then in February 2017, the Board named him as the group's first-ever President. C100 is a non-profit membership organization that invites Chinese Americans who have achieved the highest

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levels of success to join, working on twin missions of promoting good relations between the US and China and the participation of Chinese Americans in all aspects of public life.

**George Kich:** Wednesday, 9/26/18

Member of Asian-American Psychological Association, George Kich is an independent trial and litigation consultant and a psychotherapist with many years of experience consulting with the legal profession, counseling diverse populations, interracial couples, supervising pre-and post licensed therapists, leading groups, training, teaching, diversity work, conducting social & cultural research, writing, and publishing.

**Dr. Leslie E. Wong:** Thursday, 9/27/18

President of SFSU & Member Committee of 100, Dr. Wong has received a number of national and community awards including the 2014 Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education, as well as the Region VI National Association of Student Personnel Association (NASPA) President's award. He is also a member of the prestigious Committee of 100, a national and international organization with the dual mission of advancing constructive dialogue and relationships between the United States and Greater China, and advocating for Chinese American rights in the United States.

**Lee Mun Wah:** Thursday, 10/11/18

Founder of Stirfry Seminars & Consulting, Lee Mun Wah is an internationally renowned Chinese American documentary filmmaker, author, poet, Asian folk teller, educator, community therapist and master diversity trainer. He is now the Executive Director of Stirfry Seminars & Consulting, a diversity training company that provides educational tools and workshops on issues pertaining to cross-cultural communication and awareness, mindful facilitation, and conflict mediation techniques.

San Francisco Playhouse's production of *You Mean to Do Me Harm* is made possible by Season Producer Andrew Teufel; Executive Producers Scott Walecka & Martha Seaver; Janet & William McAllister; Producers Gail & Arne Wagner; and Associate Producers Mary & Tom Foote; Elizabeth Groenewegen; and Betty & Cliff Nakamoto.

**Christopher Chen** (Playwright) is an Obie Award-winning playwright whose plays have been performed across the US and abroad. Works include *Caught* (Obie Award for Playwriting, *New*

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York Times Critics Pick, Barrymore Award, Drama League Award nomination), *Home Invasion*, *The Hundred Flowers Project* (Will Glickman Award, Rella Lossy Award, James Tait Black Memorial Prize shortlist), *Into the Numbers* (Belarus Free Theatre International Contest of Contemporary Drama, second place), *The Late Wedding*, *Mutt*, *A Tale of Autumn*, and *Passage*, which will receive its New York premiere at Soho Repertory Theatre this season. Other honors include the Lanford Wilson Award, a Sundance Institute and Time Warner Fellowship, the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, a MAP Fund grant, and serving as playwright-in-residence at Crowded Fire Theater. Christopher has been published in *Theatre Bay Area*, *American Theater*, *Theater Magazine* (Yale), *The Drama Review*, and by Dramatists Play Service. His current commissions include Aurora Theatre Company, LCT3, Manhattan Theatre Club, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights Horizons (The Steinberg Commission), and The Royal Shakespeare Company. A San Francisco native, Chris is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and earned an MFA in playwriting from San Francisco State University.

**Bill English (Director)** is a co-founder and Artistic Director of San Francisco Playhouse, and in fifteen years with Susi Damilano, has guided its growth from a bare-bones storefront to the second-largest theatre in San Francisco. He designed the first theatre space at 536 Sutter Street and personally reconfigured a barn-like 700-seat hall to our currently gracious and intimate 200-seat venue. Along the way he has served as director, actor, set and sound designer, winning San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nominations or awards in all those categories. Bill is also an accomplished musician and builder. Milestone accomplishments include bringing Pulitzer Prize-winner Stephen Adly Guirgis to the Bay Area by directing three of his plays, commissioning twelve playwrights including Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, and Christopher Chen, and developing world premieres from workshops to Sandbox Series to our main stage to Off-Broadway (including the New York productions of *Ideation* and *Bauer*), and presenting the very first production of *Grounded* by George Brant which later played at the Public Theatre. He coined the phrase “the empathy gym” and it drives everything at the Playhouse.

The **Sandbox Series** is San Francisco Playhouse’s new works program. Designed to bridge the gap between staged readings and Mainstage productions, the program combines top-notch directors and actors with limited design elements, allowing new voices in American Theater to be heard while reducing the theatre’s financial risk for full production at this stage of a play’s

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development. Sandbox Series plays have won two Will Glickman Awards in the past three years, and the Sandbox smash hit *Ideation* recently completed a successful Off-Broadway engagement in New York City.

### **San Francisco Playhouse**

Founded in 2003 and boasting 2800 subscribers, San Francisco Playhouse is the only mid-sized professional venue in downtown San Francisco; an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square Theater fare. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, **San Francisco Playhouse** produces new works as well as re-imagined classics, “making the edgy accessible and the traditional edgy.” And with its bold Sandbox Series, dedicated to nurturing World Premieres, the Playhouse has become a significant player in developing new works as well. **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.

*\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.*

### FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

**WHAT:** *You Mean to Do Me Harm* begins when an innocuous comment at a dinner of two interracial couples leads to a surreal escalation of Cold War-style paranoia. *You Mean to Do Me Harm* is a psychological exploration of Chinese and American foreign relations, and of the personal relations we hold most dear.

**WHEN:** **September 18 to November 3, 2018**  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. (except opening and closing weekend). Preview Performances: September 18-21 at 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** 450 Post Street, San Francisco, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Kensington Park Hotel

**TICKETS:** For tickets (\$35 - \$125) 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/2018-2019-season/you-mean-to-do-me-harm/>