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Francis Jue to star in  
San Francisco Playhouse production of  
***King of the Yees***  
by Bay Area playwright Lauren Yee

Directed by Joshua Kahan Brody

**Press Opening: Saturday, January 26th at 8:00 p.m.**

**Run dates: January 22nd through March 2nd, 2019**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 7 p.m.; Friday, Saturday at 8 p.m.

Matinees: Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Preview Performances: January 22, 23, 24, 25 at 8 p.m.

**San Francisco, CA** (November 2018) – **San Francisco Playhouse** announced casting for **Lauren Yee's *King of the Yees***, headlined by Obie and Lucille Lortel Award-winning actor and San Francisco native **Francis Jue**. The play, centered on San Francisco's Chinatown, was inspired by Yee's family and their deep connections within the community. **Joshua Kahan Brody** will direct the Playhouse production.

For nearly 20 years, playwright Lauren Yee's father Larry (played by **Francis Jue**) has been a driving force in the Yee Family Association, a seemingly obsolescent Chinese American men's club formed 150 years ago in the wake of the Gold Rush. But when her father goes missing, Lauren (played by **Krystle Piamonte**) must plunge into the rabbit hole of San Francisco's Chinatown and confront a world both foreign and familiar. At once biting hilarity and heartbreakingly honest, ***King of the Yees*** is an epic joyride across cultural, national, and familial borders that explores what it truly means to be a Yee.

The cast features **Francis Jue\*** as Larry Yee and includes **Krystle Piamonte**, **Jomar Tagatac\***, **Rinabeth Apostol\***, and **Will Dao\***.

## SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

*King of the Yees*

*Continued:*

Playwright Lauren Yee, a Bay Area native, returns for her second San Francisco Playhouse production following 2015's Glickman Award-winning *in a word*, which had its world premiere as part of the Playhouse's Sandbox Series.

"I always felt that my father deserved to have a play written about him—so who better to write it than me?" said Yee. "***King of the Yees*** is a love letter to my family, and to San Francisco and its vibrant and historic Chinatown community. It's an extreme honor to be back in my hometown and making art for the people I grew up with."

San Francisco Playhouse's production of ***King of the Yees*** is made possible by Season Producer Andrew Teufel; Executive Producers Clay Foundation – West, William & Marsha Adler; Producers Margaret Sheehan, Betty & Clifford Nakamoto, Geoffrey Jue, Cynthia and David Bogolub, Phyllis & Jerry Rosenberg; Associate Producers Linda Brewer and Margot Golding.

**Francis Jue** is happy to return to hometown San Francisco, following last year's *Soft Power*. Broadway: *Pacific Overtures*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *M. Butterfly*. Other favorite theatre credits include *Yellow Face* (Obie and Lucille Lortel Awards, plus Drama Desk and Drama League nominations), *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (AriZoni Award), *Miss Saigon* (Elliot Norton Award), *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (Drama-Logue Award), *Cabaret* (Bay Area Critics Circle Award), *Falsettoland*, *Kung Fu*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *Wild Goose Dreams*, and *Paper Dolls*. Film and TV credits include *Joyful Noise*, and recurring roles on "Madam Secretary", "Law & Order: SVU", and "The Good Wife".

**Lauren Yee's** *Cambodian Rock Band*, with music by Dengue Fever, premiered in March 2018 at South Coast Rep and will open at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, and Victory Gardens in 2019. Her play *The Great Leap* premiered this past season at Denver Center, Seattle Repertory, and Atlantic Theatre with 2019 productions slated for the Guthrie, American Conservatory Theater, Arts Club, and InterAct Theatre. Also upcoming for 2018-19: *The Song of Summer* at Trinity Rep. Recent honors include the Horton Foote Prize, Kesselring Prize, Primus Prize, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton, and the #1 and #2 plays on the 2017 Kilroys List, as well as a finalist of both the ATCA/Steinberg Award and the Edward M. Kennedy Prize. She is a Ma-Yi Writers' Lab member and an alumni playwright of Playwrights Realm. She currently writes for *Mixtape* (Netflix). Current commissions include Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla

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*King of the Yees*

*Continued:*

Playhouse, Lincoln Center/LCT3, Mixed Blood, Portland Center Stage, Second Stage, South Coast Repertory, and Trinity Repertory Company. BA: Yale. MFA: UCSD. [www.laurenzee.com](http://www.laurenzee.com)

**Joshua Kahan Brody's** directing credits include *The Last Tiger in Haiti* (La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego); *True Believer* (Theaterlab, New York); *Fourteen Flights* (Fringe NYC, Official Selection of the Fringe Encore Series; Award for Excellence in Directing); *Three Plays in a Tattoo Shop* (THE TRIP, San Diego); *Pericles and Medea* (University of Missouri—Kansas City) and *Little Children Dream of God, A Man, His Wife and His Hat, The Santa Barbarians, Titus Andronicus* and *The Dybbuk* (University of California—San Diego). He has assistant directed for productions on and off-Broadway as well as at regional theaters. Mr. Brody received his MFA from University of California—San Diego and his BA from Yale University. He is the recipient of a 2015 Princess Grace Award.

### 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:** For nearly 20 years, playwright Lauren Yee's father Larry (played by **Francis Jue**) has been a driving force in the Yee Family Association, a seemingly obsolescent Chinese American men's club formed 150 years ago in the wake of the Gold Rush. But when her father goes missing, Lauren (played by **Krystle Piamonte**) must plunge into the rabbit hole of San Francisco Chinatown and confront a world both foreign and familiar. At once bitingly hilarious and heartbreakingly honest, *King of the Yees* is an epic joyride across cultural, national, and familial borders that explores what it truly means to be a Yee.

## **SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE**

*King of the Yees*

*Continued:*

**WHEN:**           **January 22nd through March 2nd, 2019**

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**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/king-of-the-yees/>