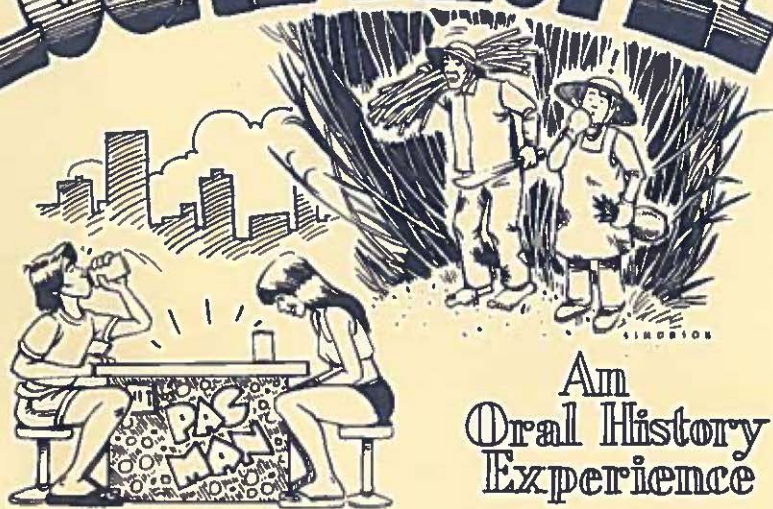


LOCAL PEOPLE



An
Oral History
Experience

Ethnic Studies Oral History Project

Ethnic Studies Program, University of Hawaii at Manoa

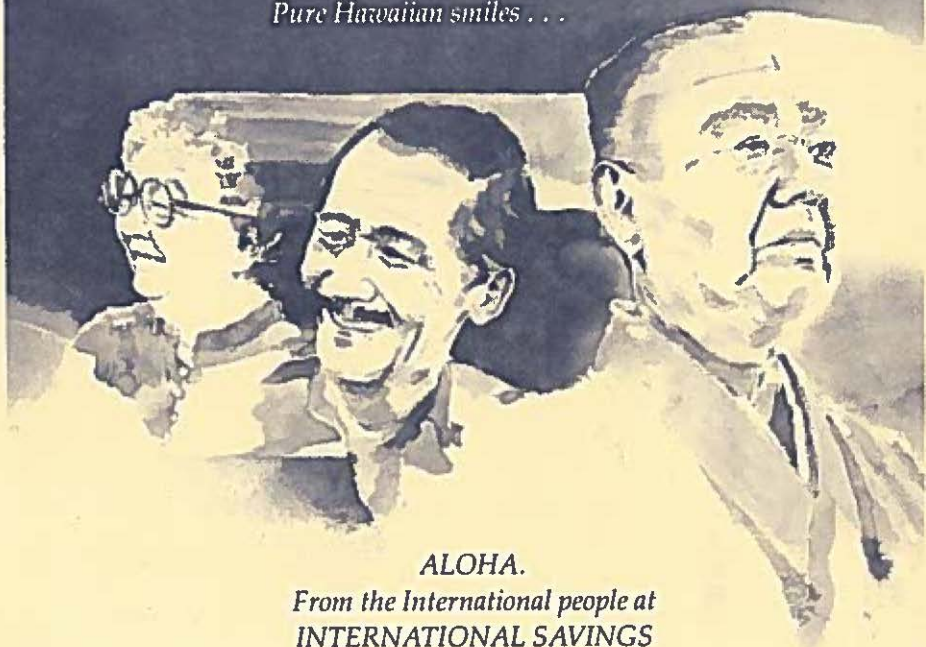
Oahu and Neighbor Island Performances

July 7 – August 13, 1982



This project is supported by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts under a special appropriation by the Hawaii State Legislature, and is supported in part by a grant from the Hawaii Committee for the Humanities.

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Local People

An Oral History Experience

A Play Written by Tremaine Tamayose
Directed by Tremaine Tamayose and Dando Kluever
Music and Sound by David Choy
Stage Design by Kurt Nelson
Costume Design by Gwynne Lee

LOCAL PEOPLE is based on oral history interviews conducted between 1976 and 1981 by the Ethnic Studies Oral History Project.

Chad Taniguchi, Principal Investigator
Michiko Kodama, Researcher/Interviewer
Warren Nishimoto, Researcher/Interviewer
Gale Yamada, Administrative and Fiscal Specialist
Cynthia Oshiro, Transcriber and Graphic Artist

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

July 10 7:30 pm Farrington High School
July 14 7:30 pm Waianae High School
July 17 7:30 pm Castle High School
July 21 7:30 pm Brigham Young Univ.
July 23 7:30 pm Farrington High School
July 27 7:30 pm Wheeler Inter. School
July 30 7:30 pm Leeward Com. College
Aug 6 7:30 pm UH-Hilo
Aug 8 7:00 pm Hale Halawai, Kona
Aug 9 7:00 pm Baldwin High School
Aug 11 7:30 pm Kauai Mem. Conv. Hall
Aug 13 7:30 pm Waimea Canyon School

ALL ADMISSION IS FREE.

Complimentary tickets available in advance at all branches of International Savings and Loan; Parks and Recreation (Yano Hall), Kona; Big Save Markets, Kauai.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

July 7 9:30 am Makua Alii Senior Center
July 12 9:30 am Farrington High School
July 16 9:30 am Castle High School
July 30 9:30 am Leeward Com. College
Aug 2 9:30 am Area-Wide Horizons,
Haleiwa
Aug 6 9:30 am UH-Hilo
Aug 10 9:30 am Baldwin High School
Aug 12 9:30 am Kauai Mem. Conv. Hall

These special performances for senior citizens are not being advertised to the general public. Tickets are *not* necessary to attend them.

Program

The Meeting of Generations
The Tourist Vera Donaghy
Polynesian Tacky Tours Kenneth Thompson

PICTURE BRIDE

The Shoppers Florence and Yuki Takara,
Drake Chinen, Jodie Taira
Leaving Japan
Immigration Station

WAIALUA PLANTATION

Just Like Me Johnny Villanueva, Frank Hilongo
Spanish Fly
Taxi Dance

WAIPI'O VALLEY

Kites and Boogie Boards Richard Ching, Leslie Inouye
Pulling Taro
The Boss' Daughter
1946 Tidal Wave Robert Orta, Frank Valencia,
Jodie Taira

PAIA STOREKEEPER

Cost of Living Mildred Ching, Candy Kua
Mrs. Ching's Store
Gossip and Gambling

1924 STRIKE

Study Hard Jesus Cayaban, Maureen Nazarino
Recruiting in the Barrio
Hands in the Dirt
Hard Words
Hanapepe Incident

THE LUAU

Kon Tiki
Poppers
Shake It Up

HAWAII, OUR HOME

*Each performance will be followed by a discussion of the play. Light refreshments will be served following the discussion.

Production Notes

Beginning in September, 1981, Tremaine Tamayose joined the Ethnic Studies Oral History Project staff in searching through 200 oral history interviews for material on which to base a script. By January, 1982, a rough outline was developed, utilizing a fraction of the material available. Farrington High School students and senior citizens were recruited "to perform in a play about Hawaii's history; no acting experience required."

While a representative ethnic mix and certain character types were desired, Tamayose looked mainly for motivation and commitment to attend regular theatre workshops and rehearsals which began in February. Tamayose gradually introduced exercises that helped the volunteers overcome their lack of stage experience and feel more comfortable as actors.

For awhile, training senior citizens and young students together presented difficulties because of different energy levels and patterns of behavior. In time, many people began to enjoy the new experience of acting and learning to *work together* with those of another generation.

Still, there were times when Tamayose completed parts of the basic script, only to have key persons drop out. Of the 40 people who started in February, the 16 final cast members have each invested more than 200 hours in training/rehearsal alone. They will spend another 300 or so hours on tour, setting aside summer jobs, recreation, travel and academic plans.

Tamayose wrote the final script with the personalities and limited acting experience of the performers in mind. By incorporating senior citizens' own life experiences into the scripts, he allows them to give special meaning to their lines: they generally *play themselves* while interpreting historical information from the original collection of interview transcripts. The six grandchildren in the intergenerational scenes also reflect character types like themselves.

For the actors, directors, and support staff this has been a productive learning experience—about Hawaii's rich history and about some of the challenges of theatre. The students and seniors have developed more self-confidence, an understanding and appreciation of each other, and a spirit of camaraderie.

We hope LOCAL PEOPLE will contribute to your knowledge and understanding of Hawaii's people and their history.

We also encourage more discussion and reflective interaction between grandchildren, parents, and grandparents. There is much to be learned from each other.

Chad Taniguchi

A Note on Accuracy

Every attempt has been made to be historically accurate, insofar as portraying actual occurrences, or at least occurrences *as remembered* by interviewees. The latter point acknowledges that oral history is history recalled by individual human beings, and as such, may be prone to error. Much of the historical dialog is true to the actual words found in interviews, with some adaptation for the stage and with an eye for comedy/entertainment. Historical re-enactments are presented as they were, or as they could have been, with one notable exception—the taxi dancer in drag is purely for comedy. Because of the theatrical nature of the play, performers play multiple roles, including age, ethnic and sex roles different from their own. A Filipino girl may play a Japanese picture bride in one scene and a Chinese farmer in another.

The Cast

Jesus Cayaban, 77, born in the Philippines, received his BA in Education from the University of Hawaii in 1930. He has been an office manager, senior clerk, real estate and insurance salesman, and group activities coordinator for senior citizens. He enjoys dancing, bowling, traveling with his wife, and doing volunteer work. He received the YMCA's highest award for 35 years of volunteer service to the Y.

Mildred Ching, 69, owned and operated grocery/meat/liquor stores on Maui and Oahu for many years. She enjoys crafts and gardening, and hopes to maintain good health and live a long life. Mildred and her husband, Richard, enjoy traveling around the world.

Richard Ching, 71, was born on Maui and helped Mildred with the family store after his regular job as a court clerk. Their store in Wailuku was named Paukukalo, which means "at the end of the taro fields." Richard, a recipient of many trophies for kite flying, enthusiastically demonstrates Chinese kite-making at schools and senior centers. He and Mildred are active in Makua Alii Senior Center, the Golden Age Club, and several Chinese organizations.

Vera Donaghy, 67, born in Turkey, immigrated to New York as a child. She worked as a saleslady in California before coming to Hawaii in 1965 for a visit that has never ended. She enjoys music, is a Red Cross volunteer, and teaches English to Indochinese refugees several times a week. She returned to Turkey for a visit in 1972.

Florence Takara, 68, born on the Big Island, has worked as a sales girl, a cook and waitress/owner of a family restaurant. She enjoys cooking, painting, crafts, gardening, all kinds of dancing, and traveling with Yuki, her husband.

Yuki Takara, 71, was born on the Big Island. He was once employed as a sugarcane cutter and restaurant worker. Later he and Florence opened up their first of several restaurants in Honolulu. Yuki enjoys traveling and round dancing, which is featured in "The Luau" scene. He and Florence are active members of Makua Alii Senior Citizens Center and several dance clubs.

Johnny Villanueva, 64, came from the Philippines to Hawaii in 1946. He was a union organizer for the ILWU in 1946-47. He worked at a pineapple cannery, then at Oahu Sugar Company for many years. He enjoys bowling, dancing and swimming. As president of a travel agency, he enjoys taking tours to Las Vegas, Canada, and the Philippines.



LOCAL PEOPLE cast and directors, bottom row, left to right: *Jodie Taira, David Choy, Tremaine Tamayose, Candy Kua, Johnny Villanueva, Robert Orta, Leslie Inouye, Dando Kluever, Frank Hilongo.*

Standing, left to right: *Drake Chinen, Mildred Ching, Florence Takara, Richard Ching, Yuki Takara, Kenneth Thompson, Vera Donaghy, Maureen Nazarino, Jesus Cayaban, Frank Valencia.*

Drake Chinen, 17, likes to socialize with people and is interested in a broadcasting or acting career. A junior at Farrington High School, he is active in the Drama Club. His acting credits include "Na'auao," and an educational television program. He plans to attend college after high school graduation.

Frank Hilongo, 17, a junior at Farrington High School, is interested in drawing, painting, bodysurfing and dancing. "Popping," his special talent, is highlighted in **LOCAL PEOPLE**. Frank plans to go into the Air Force after graduation.

Leslie Inouye, 15, a Farrington High School junior, counts bodysurfing and video games as his main hobbies. He is interested in joining the military service and then going to college.

Candy Kua, 15, a sophomore at Farrington High School, likes sports—football, basketball, baseball, and volleyball. She is considering military service and a career in criminal justice.

Maureen Nazarino, 18, a recent Farrington High School graduate, is interested in the performing arts and dancing. She participated in the school's Class Day assembly and was a Farrington High School Speech Tournament award winner. She aspires to attain a college degree in communication and hopes to embark on a people-oriented career.

Robert Orta, 17, is an avid basketball fan, football player, and a video-game wizard. A junior at Farrington High School, he is interested in college and a career in electronics or computers. Bobby enjoys acting and comedy.

Jodie Taira, 17, enjoys jazz dancing, guitar, and writing and singing music as hobbies. A Farrington High School junior, she is interested in a public relations career.

Kenneth Thompson, 18, a recent Farrington High School graduate, is interested in drama and wants eventually to become a professional actor. His previous acting credits include "Frankenstein," "Na' auao," and several one-act performances in school. To obtain educational benefits to further his training as an actor he is considering entering the military.

Frank Valencia, 16, was born in the Philippines and is a junior at Farrington High School. He is a member of the Drama Club and is interested in attending the University of Hawaii after graduation.

LOCAL PEOPLE is supported by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the Hawaii Committee for the Humanities under a grant entitled "Hawaii's Senior Citizens: Looking Forward Through the Past."

Project Sponsor: University of Hawaii, Moheb Ghali, Associate Dean of Research; Ethnic Studies Oral History Project, Chad Taniguchi, Project Director

Co-Sponsor: Executive Office of Aging, Renji Goto, Executive Director

Co-Principal Humanities Scholars: Franklin Odo, Ethnic Studies Program, Melvin Ezer, Educational Foundations

Other Humanities Scholars:

Belinda Aquino
Kenneth Baldrige
Stephen Boggs
Andrew Bushnell
Michael Foreman
Bert Kikuchi
Fred Soriano

Planning Committee:

Diane Akau
Renji Goto
Lillian Ito
David Johnson
Tom Larson
Helen Nagtalon-Miller

Forum Facilitators:

Diane Akau
Rev. Shugen Komagata
Sharon Moriwaki
Rev. Haruo Yamamoto
Juanita Mundon

Director's Notes

LOCAL PEOPLE is an experiment, a theatre piece based on oral history transcripts, performed by senior citizens, and Farrington High School students. Why seniors and students instead of professional actors? I believe that theatre is not only a vehicle of expression and communication, but is also therapy, to increase self confidence and self-expression. In developing LOCAL PEOPLE I have also incorporated some of the senior citizens' and students' personal experiences into the fabric of the play. After successfully writing and creating shows with dropouts, delinquents, and prison inmates, I can honestly say that working with students and senior citizens has truly been the most difficult of all my experience in theatre. At the same time, I have never learned as much about the people of Hawaii, *past and present*.

Tremaine Tamayose

Tremaine Tamayose attended Waianae High School and Leeward Community College. He has acted in numerous theatre and television productions and has been involved in writing a number of Hawaii-oriented plays, such as "Hotel Street," "Sexpectations," "Lovetown," and "Big Boys Don't Cry." Tremaine has also written comedy material for Andy Bumatai. Having lived with his Okinawan grandmother while attending college was a major motivation for his acceptance of this challenging assignment.

Dando Kluever, Co-Director, is a director, actor, teacher and writer with a MFA in directing from the University of Hawaii. He has taught at Kapiolani, Windward, and Leeward Colleges, as well as at various workshops for the Department of Education. Dando has acted and directed for Hawaii Performing Arts Company, UH, LCC, WCC, The Shakespeare Company, Kumu Kahua, the City and County of Honolulu, the State of Hawaii, and Andy Bumatai. He is currently a professional actor for Honolulu Theatre for Youth. Dando has been a Hawaii resident for 12 years.

Dávid Choy, Musical Director, is a guitar and music teacher at Punahou School and Kapiolani Community College. He has written and performed music for various theatre groups in Honolulu and is considered to be one of the foremost creators of original music for local theatre.

Kurt Nelson, Set Designer, has designed numerous productions for theatre companies in this community and is currently a designer for the Effects Group.

Gwynne Lee, Costume Designer, has costumed for the Hawaii Opera Theatre and a number of local theatre productions.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank the following people for their special assistance and contributions to LOCAL PEOPLE. We apologize to any persons not included due to the early printing of this program.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Makua Alii Senior Center
Ellen Araki
Nancy Sakata
Senior Volunteers
Jean Fujimura | University of Hawaii/Hilo
Jackie Debus
Yoshito Takamine
George Yoshida | McKinley High School
Jean Kurihara
Ernest Victorino |
| Farrington High School
Allen Kidoguchi
Robert Fukuyama
Gary Kau
Randall Tanaka
Sherilyn Tom
Lem Aweau | Mau
Ed Nakashima
Sylvia Sakaki
Ann Masuda
Rudy Souza | Honolulu Theatre for
Youth
Shellie Taglianetti
John Young
Jane Campbell |
| Waianae
Marvin Char
Theola Silva
Agnes Cope
Frenchy DeSoto | Kauai
Harold Naumu
Norman Hashisaka
Mae Kawakami
Sue Metivier
Kazue Taniguchi
Elsa Holtwick | Hawaii Committee for
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Ralph Morelli |
| Castle High School
Cheryl Kukino
Lloyd Riford
Ron Bright | Kona
Sidney Kanno
Bernard Obara
Kona Jaycees
Della Henriques
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First Hawaiian Bank
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Honolulu Federal
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Union
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Arnold Hiura |
| Brigham Young University
Robert Goodwin
Amor Larson
Dudley Kekala
Glen Lau | Department of Park and
Recreation Senior Citizens
Program, Honolulu | Sining Bayan-Hawaii
Davianna McGregor-
Alegado
Raymond Camacho |
| Wheeler Intermediate/AFB
Roy Shinsato
Melvin Nishihara | Lillian Ito
Ellen Katoda
Chris Sabolsky
Don Kusunoki
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Melvyn Sakaguchi | Hawaiian Airlines
Junius Lum
Maurice Iha | International Savings and
Loan
Lionel Tokioka
Ken Vandergrift
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The Ethnic Studies Oral History Project (ESOHP), established in 1976, is supported by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts under a special appropriation by the Hawaii State Legislature. The primary objectives of the Project are to record and preserve the recollections of working men and women of various ethnic groups through oral interviews and to disseminate oral history transcripts and educational by-products to teachers, students, and the general community.

An effort is made to record history told by the men and women who worked Hawaii's lands, who overcame differences between ethnic groups and whose efforts to better the quality of life were realized through struggle and hard work. Understanding the contributions of Hawaii's multi-ethnic people helps to foster within individuals a positive identity and an appreciation of the heritage of all Hawaii's people.

ESOHP's objectives also include developing and encouraging the development of pamphlets, readers, books, articles, short stories, drama, displays, slideshows and videotapes; serving as a resource center for oral history materials; and training groups and individuals in conducting oral history research and interviews.

ESOHP's completed oral history projects and publications include:

- Waialua and Haleiwa: The People Tell Their Story, 1977
- Life Histories of Native Hawaiians, 1978
- Remembering Kakaako: 1910-1950, 1978
- Waipi'o: Māno Wai (Source of Life), 1978
- Women Workers in Hawaii's Pineapple Industry, 1979
- The 1924 Filipino Strike on Kauai, 1979
- Stores and Storekeepers of Paia and Puunene, Maui, 1980
- A Social History Of Kona, 1981
- Uchinanchu: A History of Okinawans in Hawaii, 1981
- Catalog of Oral History Collections in Hawaii, 1982

LOCAL PEOPLE represents an attempt to further popularize the oral history materials collected and to introduce them to broad public audiences. We encourage the use of oral history interviews in the development of popular literature, drama, curriculum, and other by-products to enrich everyone's understanding of Hawaii's people and their history.



ETHNIC STUDIES

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