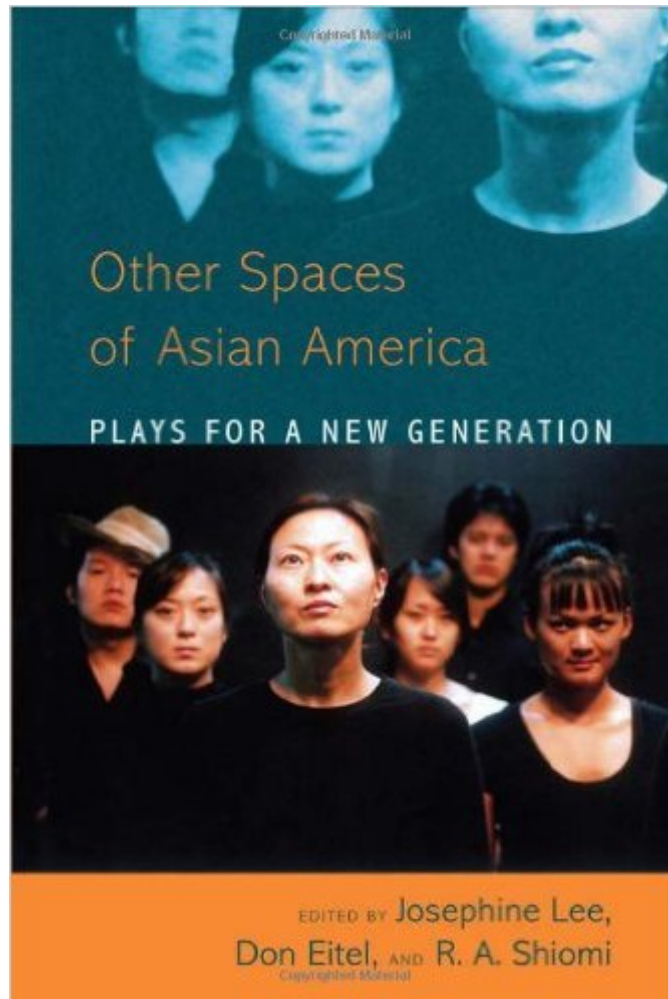


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# Asian American Plays For A New Generation



## Synopsis

Asian American plays provide an opportunity to think about how racial issues are engaged through theatrical performance—physical contact, bodily labour, and fleshly desires as well as through the more standard elements of plot, setting, characterization, staging, music, and action. *Other Spaces of Asian America* showcases seven exciting new plays that dramatize timely themes that are familiar to Asian Americans. The works variously address immigration, racism, stereotyping, identity, generational tensions, assimilation, and upward mobility as well as post-9/11 paranoia, racial isolation, and adoptee experiences. Each of these works engages directly and actively with Asian American themes through performance to provide an important starting point for building relationships, raising political awareness, and creating active communities that can foster a sense of connection or even rally individuals to collective action.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Temple University Press (May 27, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1439905169

ISBN-13: 978-1439905166

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,241,805 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Literature &](#)

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in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Anthologies](#) #3077 in [Books > Literature &](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Most or perhaps all of the plays in this collection were staged in Minnesota. Most seem to take place between 1950-1990, so I'm actually not sure if a "new generation" is quite apt! I'm old for a millennial, but I don't quite remember 1990 myself. When I think back to that time, I have little flashes of crimped hair, Ninja Turtles and arguments among my peers about whether or not "bad" should be used to describe something cool. Anyway, there's so little on stage to represent Asian cultures in a way that isn't stereotypical, that maybe it is fair to say these plays are "for a new generation." Asian American identity is extremely variable. Because these plays highlight the

uniqueness of some of those cultures, it makes the stories worth the read. Here are the seven plays in this book: 1. "Indian Cowboy," Zaraawar Mistry 2. "Walleye Kid: The Musical," Kurt Miyashiro (music and lyrics), R.A. Shiomi and Sundraya Kase 3. "Happy Valley," Aurore Khoo 4. "Asiamnesia," Sun Mee Chomet 5. "Sia(b)," May Lee-Yang 6. "Bahala Na (Let It Go)," Clarence Coo 7. "Ching Chong Chinaman," Lauren Yeel

In particular, I found plays (1) and (6) extremely moving, but here are some of my thoughts about each of them: 1. "Indian Cowboy" is about a man in India who was adopted by a family who loves him. But he looks different from them and this perception of being different becomes a lifelong challenge. It's hard for him to integrate his perception of himself and the way others treat him into a comfortable sense of identity. He wants to be an actor, and he goes to New York and L.A. to do his best.

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