

CHINESE MUSEUM & RMIT CULTURE

PROUDLY PRESENT

SCREEN PRESENCE '24



07/04/24

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VICTORIA . AUSTRALIA

Introduction

Welcome to Screen Presence 24! Today's three-session event will include stand-up comedy favourites, industry round tables, international guests as well as the premiere of ABC's brand new comedy series - WHITE FEVER

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, the Traditional Custodians of this land on which we meet today, and we pay our respects to their Traditional Elders past and present. We also extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Screen Presence Origins

Screen Presence has evolved from the Chinese Museum's Arts Collective, an initiative formed in 2022 to provide a platform for Chinese Australian creatives to explore, develop and express the diverse interpretation of their culture.

In 2023, in collaboration with curator Lisa Wang, the idea of Screen Presence was born - an initiative with the

broader aim of growing the representation of Asian Australians on and behind the screen by creating, mentoring, and securing work for Asian Australians in the industry.

Lisa has 30 years' experience in television and feature films, working regularly as a producer and line producer for leading Australian and international production companies and broadcast networks. She has produced, written, and directed award-winning documentaries Reunion (SBS) and PS I Love You (ABC) for her own company, Black Sheep Films. Some of her TV comedy credits include Ra Chapman's new series White Fever (ABC), Frayed (ABC/ Sky Vision/ Sky Comedy), The Family Law (SBS) and Please Like Me (ABC/ Pivot/ Hulu/Netflix).

As a result of much positive feedback, Screen Presence is now a year-round program for Asian Australian voices.

Achievements

Since its inception, Screen Presence has placed 27 members on a TV series (in full-time, part-time and casual positions, including Vicscreen Specialist Placements and Attachments), 4 mem-

bers on an indie film, 3 members on two offshore features and 1 on a web series, with 5 members receiving ongoing mentorship – all drawn from the Victorian screen database.

SCREEN PRESENCE ANNUAL PROGRAM

SCREEN PRESENCE at the Capitol RMIT

Our annual event at the Capitol showcasing Asian Australians in the screen Industry.

Screen Presence Trailblazers Exhibition

Documenting screen practitioners from the community for their outstanding contribution and who have paved the way for others.

NEXT GEN Quarterly Meetings

Meetings dedicated to connecting with and supporting Victorian-based Asian Australian screen practitioners in the mainstream industry. A perfect opportunity to find community and meet with new collaborators. Year-round mentorship to find pathways and opportunities into projects in development or production.

HOST LYANNA KEA



Lyanna Kea is a Malaysian Chinese actor and producer with an edge for comedy. Her comedy series LIFE OF KEA, funded by Screen Australia, was recently nominated for Online Series Production Of The Year 2023 by Screen Producers Australia. Lyanna was also awarded Best Actress for her theatre performance in V-DAY.

As an online content creator with over 11 Million fans globally, Lyanna was recently announced Top 5 Australian Breakout Creators on YouTube. She loves entertaining and connecting with her audience base through relatable comedy skits.

Award-winning animations featuring Lyanna's voice acting work were screened at several festivals including the Sunshine Short Film Festival and Los Angeles Horror Film Festival.

Today's Program

SESSION 1

11:00am - 1:00pm

DECONSTRUCTING COMEDY

Leading industry creatives come together to discuss and deconstruct the craft of comedy – what makes something funny on screen? And is anything off limits?

MODERATOR TODD ABBOTT (ABC)



Todd Abbott is ABC's Commissioning Editor of Comedy. He has previously produced landmark television programs including the iconic comedy series *The Dream* with Roy & H.G. and the internationally lauded ABC series *Please Like Me* with Josh Thomas. His Executive Producer credits include *Fisk*, *Mother & Son*, *Gold Diggers*, *In Limbo*, *Aunty Donna's Coffee Café*, *Rosehaven*, *Summer Love*, *Frayed* and *White Fever*.

GUESTS

CORRIE CHEN

(WRITER/DIRECTOR)

Corrie Chen is a highly sought-after, award winning writer/director who works in drama and comedy. Corrie directed the AACTA-nominated Stan Original mini-series *Bad Behaviour* for Matchbox Pictures, which premiered at the 2023 Berlinale in Official Competition. She also helmed the multi award-winning Goalpost/SBS mini-series *New Gold Mountain*, set on the frontiers of the Australian gold rush from the Chinese perspective - for which she won the ADG award for Best Direction in a miniseries. She has been named one of the Asian-Australian Leadership Awards 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians. Most recently, she completed *The Artful Dodger* for Disney+ starring David Thewlis, and will soon be directing the crime comedy *Good Cop / Bad Cop* for The CW and Stan.



RA CHAPMAN

(WRITER/ACTOR)



Ra is a Korean-Australian writer and actor. She is an adoptee and has strong ties with the adoption community, working closely with inter-

country adoptees and diverse artists. Ra is an alumnus of the Besen Writers Group (Malthouse Theatre) and was awarded the 2018 Hot Desk Fellowship (Wheeler Centre). Her play, K-Box, won the 2021 Patrick White Playwright Award and premiered at Malthouse Theatre in 2022, where she was an Artist in Residence (2019-2023). Ra wrote and starred in an episode of the horror web series Night Bloomers for Turn About Entertainment and SBS, which recently premiered on SBS On Demand and for which Ra has received an AWGIE nomination. She also recently co-wrote Because The Night (a Hamlet adaptation) for Malthouse Theatre, an immersive theatre work on a scale never seen before in Australia. Ra is currently developing various projects with other writers and makers across television and theatre and was featured on IF's 2024 Rising Talent list. Ra won the Best Actress Award at the 2011 Newport Beach Film Festival (U.S.) for her role as Therese in David Williamson's film adaptation of Face To Face, and was nominated for an IF Award for Best Actress for the same performance. Ra has filmed five seasons of the award-winning Foxtel Series Wentworth, reprising her role as prisoner Kim Chang.

URVI MAJUMDAR

(WRITER/ACTOR)

Urvi Majumdar is a comedian, writer, actor and producer. As one of the rising stars of Aussie comedy, you may have seen her on ABC TV's Fisk and Channel 9's Metrosexual, or in her own new comedy web series Urvi Went To An All Girls School, currently screening on the ABC, which was produced as part of ABC TV and Screen Australia's Freshblood initiative.



Urvi has written for Channel Ten's The Project and ABC's The Weekly, and as one of the first recipients of the 2019 Stand Up! grants awarded by the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in conjunction with Premier Daniel Andrews, Urvi has since secured herself as one of the most exciting up and coming voices in Australian comedy. the 2024 AACTA's.

On the live circuit, Urvi is one of this year's Moosehead Award recipients, granted by the Melbourne International Comedy Festival to support comedians who are bringing innovative shows to the festival, where in 2024 Urvi will be performing her new solo show Burnt, as part of a capital city national tour.

THE REJECTION LETTERS

From bad reviews to mean comments and horrible advice – comedians share moments of ‘no’ they turned into a big ‘yes!’, or at least into more material...

FEATURING SAM SEE



Sam See is an award nominated stand-up comedian currently based in London. He has headlined in over 25 different countries, garnered over millions of views online, and has crowd-surfed three times.

Sam's shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe has received the first Five-Star review for an act from South East Asia (On The Mic), and his recent show, Government Approved Sex, was on Fest Mag's list of The Best of the Edinburgh Festivals. He has been UK Tour Support for Ed Byrne (IRE/UK) and Asia Tour Support for Jim Jefferies (AUS/US), Bert Kreischer (USA), & Kevin Bridges (SCO).

“Smart storytelling and star quality, quick-witted, warm and winning with clear appeal” - CHORTLE, UK

SASHI PERERA

Sashi's comedy is a commentary on the daily absurdities of language and life - from doors to crows to self-serve checkouts.



She also draws on her former life as a refugee lawyer, which started in Perth and took her to Manila, Ankara, Dar es Salaam, Cairo and Bangkok over a decade.

She came to Melbourne to do her Masters in Law and started doing comedy. She's now found gigging all around the town and thoroughly enjoys doing too many things at the same time.

JENNY TIAN



Born in Finland and raised in Sydney, Jenny Tian is one of the fastest-rising young creatives in Australia.

A comedian, writer, and actress, you might recognise Jenny from her appearances on *Celebrity Letters* and *Numbers* (SBS), *triple j* or *The Feed*. Alongside fellow comedian Kevin Jin, she co-hosts *The Parasocial Social Club* podcast.

Jenny's creative prowess extends beyond TV and radio; she is the visionary behind the TikTok x Screen Australia web series Coach Dayum! a recipient of the prestigious Every Voice \$50,000 grant, which she co-wrote and starred in.

A regular on the stand-up comedy circuit, Jenny has sold out shows all over the country including her debut season at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. In 2024 she returns with Chinese Australian: A Tale Of Internet Fame where she will be dishing out ALL the secrets about life as a content creator.

Known most famously as @nomnomjenny on TikTok and @_jennytian on Insta, Jenny has been recognised internationally for her dry wit and everyday observations.

HE HUANG

After travelling the world - Uni in Beijing, a Masters in Washington DC - He Huang found herself in Australia.

In 2021, He auditioned for RAW Comedy, Australia's premiere new talent contest, winning state finalist for Victoria before performing in the



national final at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. However, it would be another audition that put He on the comedy map...

In 2022, He auditioned for the TV show, Australia's Got Talent, with her stand-up routine becoming a viral sensation, with over 60 million views globally.

More success followed with appearances on the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Just For Laughs TV galas, and her full hour comedy tour, Bad Bitch, broke sales records at Perth's Fringe World, culminating in a Best Newcomer nomination at the 2023 Melbourne International Comedy Festival and winning Best Newcomer at the 2023 Sydney Comedy Festival.

He has appeared on ABC, Channel 7, SBS and in 2023, made her debut on Network 10's Thank God You're Here. Her irreverent blend of dry wit, sarcasm and hilarious observations of family life, cultural differences and language has made He a fan favourite.

He is currently touring her brand-new show Tiger Daughter Vs The World throughout Australia and New Zealand.

SCREEN PRESENCE 24 TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The Trailblazer Award acknowledges ground-breaking industry contribution by an Asian-Australian creative. Presented by the Museum of Chinese Australian History. Recipient to be announced.

SESSION 2

1:30pm - 3:00pm

WHAT KIND OF ASIAN ARE YOU?

Between smashing stereotypes and living up to your parents expectations, there's no right way to answer this, but some of the best Asian comics will try...

MODERATOR BEVERLEY WANG



Beverley Wang is a radio and podcast host, journalist, producer and speaker based in Melbourne, Australia. She's co-host of Stop Everything! ABC Radio National's weekly pop culture show. Before that, she created and hosted It's Not A Race, a podcast about race and identity in Australia, and served as Executive Producer of RN Drive. She's also appeared on ABC TV's The Mix and The Drum. As an interviewer and speaker, Beverley is known for her humour, intelligence and warmth.

Before moving to Australia, Beverley worked as a reporter for The Associated Press in the United States and for regional newspapers in the New York City area. She holds an MA in journalism from New York University.

GUESTS

JOEL KIM BOOSTER

Prolific actor, comedian, producer, and writer Joel Kim Booster has solidified his status as one of the funniest and most compelling voices in contemporary comedy. A Korean adoptee, raised by a conservative, white, Evangelical Christian family and initially home-schooled, Joel has a whole lifetime of material to mine. Along with a Netflix special *Psychosexual* and numerous stand-up appearances on late-night TV, Joel recently co-wrote and starred in the queer Asian-American rom-com *Fire Island*, is a series regular in *Loot* and *Shrill* and wrote, co-produced and starred in cult favourites *Big Mouth* and *The Other Two*.



JASON LEONG



Dr Jason Leong has had a hectic couple of years, becoming the first comedian from Southeast Asia to have TWO comedy specials on Netflix - *Hashtag Blessed* (2020) and *Ride With Caution* (2023). And featured on Comedy Central's *Stand Up Asia*.

He returns to Australia after putting his name well and truly on the world comedy map after selling out the global tour of his previous show Heaty, which culminated in Leong becoming the first Malaysian comic to appear at the prestigious Just For Laughs in Montreal.

Fresh off his sold-out Brain Drain World Tour in 2023, Dr Jason Leong is back with a brand new show. Filled with never before seen jokes and revealing anecdotes, Dr Jason tries his best to examine his own personality but predicts that by the end, most will still be asking “Why is he like this?”

NIKI AKEN

Niki Aken is a multi-award winning screenwriter based in Melbourne.



She has written on all three seasons of the critically-acclaimed ABC series The Newsreader, which won the 2021 and 2022 AACTA for Best Drama Series, as well as the 2021 TV Week Silver Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series. Niki's episode depicting the Russell Street Bombing was nominated for the Best TV Series Australian Writers' Guild award.

Her cameo as an office worker fleeing for her life made every trailer for series 1, which is arguable more impressive.

Niki co-wrote *The Hunting*, which was the highest-rating commissioned drama in SBS history (since Niki last checked). Along with her co-writer Matthew Cormack, Niki won the 2019 AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television for episode 3 “#shitty boys”.

As a script producer, Niki ran the room on Foxtel/Sky UK’s comedy-drama series *Upright*, which won the 2020 AACTA Award for Best Comedy Series. She returned to script produce the second season, also writing episode 6. Prior to this, Niki script produced ABC/Netflix’s *Why Are You Like This* from the initial competition pilot, through to full series, after the Gen-Z satire won ABC’s hotly contested *Fresh Blood* competition.

She is currently in development on multiple television and unfinished craft projects.

COMEDY GEMS

A treasure trove of laughs, Comedy Gems features a hilarious line-up of some of Melbourne International Comedy Festival’s comedians giving us a taster of their solo shows.

FEATURING LIZZY HOO



Lizzy Hoo is many things – a noodle enthusiast, designer, sports lover, and rescue greyhound owner.

Lizzy is also a stand-up comedian, presenter, writer, and actor – And over the last few years has become one of the most in demand and hilarious live performers in Australia. You may have seen her on Network 10's Have You Been Paying Attention? and The Cheap Seats, a guest on ABC's Question Everything and The Weekly, Channel Nine's The Hundred with Andy Lee and SBS's The Cook Up with Adam Liaw. Her stand up has also appeared on numerous Melbourne International Comedy Festival Galas broadcast on the ABC and Just For Laughs Australia on Network Ten. In 2022, Lizzy released her stand up special Hoo Cares on Amazon Prime Video worldwide to great acclaim, including a nomination for Best Stand-Up Special at the 2024 AACTA's.

Lizzy is also an accomplished presenter, having guest hosted an episode of Channel Nine's lifestyle show Getaway, and co-hosted with Merrick Watts and Tyson Mayr a travel series for News Corp's Escape. She is also a regular

writing contributor for the Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Everyday and SBS Voices.

It's been a sharp rise to stardom, having only given stand-up a go for the first time in 2017, as a way to gain more self-confidence in the work place. Safe to say it worked out pretty well. Quickly moving from open mic's and as a State Finalist on the NSW RAW Comedy Competition, to within 12 months performing at the prestigious Just For Laughs Festival at the Sydney Opera House, with her spot broadcast on Network Ten and Foxtel's Comedy Channel. She was thankfully dealt a dose of humility soon after this, as she was booed off stage by a 12-year-old niece at that year's Hoo Family Christmas Talent Show. Brutal.

Luckily she came back from this with her 2019 debut stand-up show Hoo Am I? (What's My Name?). Lizzy introduced herself to the world, discussing her Chinese Malaysian/Irish Australian mixed-race heritage, and most notably her one-of-a-kind father (and premier Brisbane ukulele personality) Chan.

Lizzy is a master of mining her life and family into material that leaves audiences left wanting more. A hilarious, self-assured, observational-style has resonated with comedy-goers around

the world, with Lizzy's stand-up clips garnering millions of views online.

With each passing year, Lizzy has been exponentially growing her audience to sold out houses around Australia, while exponentially stretching the ability to use her name as a pun with shows such as Hoo Dis?, Hoo Cares and Woo Hoo.

Lizzy is hitting the road in 2024 with Hoo's That Girl? touring all over Australia.

TAKASHI WAKASUGI

Japanese Boy Takashi has lived in Australia for five years. He is getting more Aussie, but he is still so Japanese. The more Aussie he becomes, the more he loves Australia. The more he loves Australia, the more he wants to write jokes about Australia. This show is about a Japanese boy who tries to show you his understanding and love about his favourite country – Australia. Big bow. Arigato.



URVI MAJUMDAR



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NINA OYAMA

Nina Oyama is a comedian, writer, actress and director who scored her first TV writing job at age 19. As a stand-up comedian and on-screen presence, Nina is known for her charming and quick-witted persona. She is best known for playing ditzy receptionist Courtney on Utopia, doing comedic reporting on Tonightly with Tom Ballard and The Weekly, most recently as a contestant on the first series of Australia's Taskmaster, and playing constable Abby Matsuda on the popular Amazon comedic crime series, Deadloch.



Nina has racked up an impressive amount of writing credits including You're Skitting Me, The Chaser's Election Desk, Squinters, Love Me, YOLO and The Angus Project, a comedy series that she also directed and starred in, and was subsequently nominated for an Australian Directors Guild Award. In 2022, Nina was part of the team who created the SBS Digital Originals series Latecomers, a groundbreaking disability lead rom com that took out the 'Best Online Comedy or Drama' award at this year's AACTAs.

Nina is currently touring her brand new solo show, Nina Oyama is Coming across the country.

HARRY JUN



Harry Jun is a Sydney based comedian, host and cartoonist. He hosts, writes and produces content for ABC Gamer, and co-hosts an SBS podcast, Say Kimchi with Shona Yang.

Highlights:

Performed in Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Comedy Up Late and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow in 2023.

2024 Moosehead Award Recipient for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival
Much like Trevor Noah, Kumail Nanjiani and Osama Bin Laden, Harry is also a Pisces and he thinks about this a lot.

DIANA NGUYEN

Diana Nguyen is a comedian, creative entrepreneur, and snorter. You might hear it! She has worked in this industry for 19 years, and in 2021 was the official Asian Australian Leadership winner. You might have seen her in the award winning Phi and Me (www.phiandme.tv), on tv including The Project, How to stay Married and QandA.



Her stand up shows include Chasing Keanu Reeves (4 stars) and Going All In (4 stars).

Her short story 5 ways to disappoint your Vietnamese mother is featured in Alice Pung's anthology Growing Up Asian in Australia, and in 2022, she cowrote Alice's book with Petra Kalive called Laurinda which premiered at Melbourne Theatre Company.

Diana is on her comedy tour Sunny Side Up around Australia.

SESSION 3

3:15pm - 4:45pm



JANE (Ra Chapman) watches a K-Drama with her Asian sex-doll
Photo credit: Jane Zhang

WHITE FEVER PREMIERE

The official premiere of ABC's newest comedy series *White Fever*, created by and starring Ra Chapman, which follows Jane, a 35-year-old Korean-Australian adoptee, on a quest to reprogram her whitewashed libido after being called out for having a 'white man fetish.'

Featuring Melbourne's K-Pop Dance Crew – AO Crew.

Coming to ABC TV and ABC iview
Wednesday, 10th April at 9pm

ON STAGE AO CREW



AO Crew is a co-ed K-pop cover dance group that formed in early 2013 through their interest and passion for K-pop. Their members have dance experience in different styles and backgrounds and as a collective, have performed and shared numerous videos through their YouTube channel which you can see here: www.youtube.com/aocrew

In previous years, AO Crew has also hosted their annual event, K-NEXT where they aim to put a spotlight on Melbourne K-pop fans to showcase their dancing and singing talents. When and where they can, AO Crew try to organise large collaborative dance projects that include people outside of their team. Their latest collaboration featured 35 dancers from different cover groups in Melbourne, dancing to New Jeans – Super Shy.

AO Crew strives to stay active in the local Melbourne KPOP Community with events including dance workshops, camps, competitions, and concerts.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Screen Presence 24 greatly appreciates the skilful and dedicated contributions that our team of volunteers and in-kind supporters have provided to us. Their personal support has been integral to the success of this event.

GREAT VOLUNTEERS

MICHELLE WONG

JAMIE TAK

JUSTIN VILLAR

NATHAN LLOYD

SYDNEY REYES

SOPHY DORSCH OSLINGTON

DOROTHY YE

TASHA CHATAZKYA

OSCAR LAI

BEN QIN

ANGELINA CHRISANTHOPOULOS

HELEN MAGELAKI

LOUISE VILLAR

SPECIAL THANKYOU'S

OUR MODERATORS, COMEDIANS,
GUESTS & AGENTS

RACHEL BERGER

NAT LYNCH

ISABELLE BEAUPRE

STEPH WESTWOOD

DANI HAYEK

DAN LAKE

CAITLIN YEO

GOALPOST PICTURES

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WHITE FEVER SERIES ONE

HAVEN'T YOU DONE WELL PRO-
DUCTIONS

FRESH BLOOD 2023