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CHINESE WHISPERS PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

Golden Gate

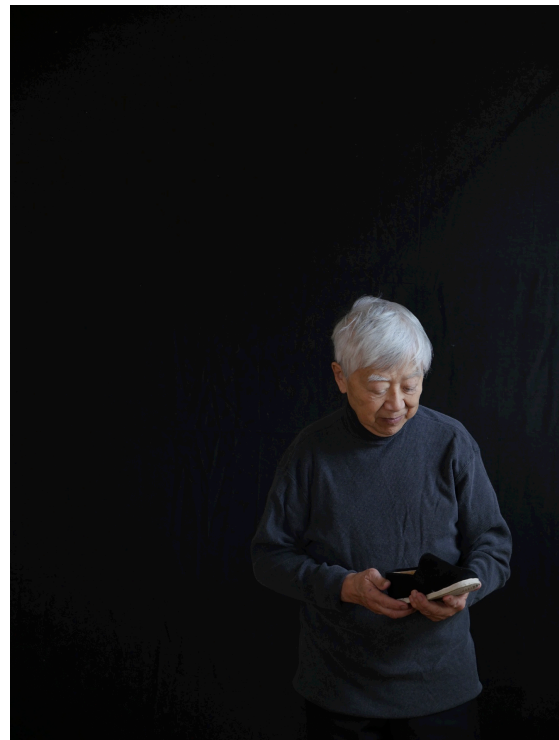
A multimedia storytelling theater work that brings to life the experiences of Chinese immigrants in the Bay Area

March 18 – 20, 8:00 pm
Southside Theater at Fort Mason Center
2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco, CA

chinese-whispers.org

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, February 10, 2016 – **Chinese Whispers**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to uncovering the forgotten history of the Chinese pioneers who helped build the American West, has announced the world premiere of **Golden Gate**, a multimedia storytelling theater work that brings to life the experiences of Chinese immigrants in the Bay Area. *Golden Gate* runs Friday to Sunday, **March 18 – 20**, at the **Southside Theater at Fort Mason Center**. Tickets, \$20 - \$25, are available for purchase online at fortmason.org/boxoffice.

Golden Gate presents a tapestry of stories threading the past and present of Chinese immigrants to the San Francisco Bay Area. “From the time of the Gold Rush through the end of the 19th century, over a quarter million Chinese came to work on the railroads, in mining, agriculture, fisheries, industries and various enterprises of the West,” said **Rene Yung**, founder and director of Chinese Whispers. “But there's hardly any mention of them as individuals in America’s national narrative.”



Ford Lee. Photo by Lisa Strong.

Since 2006 Yung and a team of artists and historians have traveled Northern California from the Sierra Nevada foothills to the San Francisco Bay, conducting interviews and collecting them into oral histories that form the heart of the work of Chinese Whispers. Yung has also led a research tour of the Bay aboard a replica 19th-century Chinese shrimp junk, she’s mounted a multimedia art installation at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, presented storytelling events on historic sea vessels at

Fisherman's Wharf, and convened public panels at the Richmond Craneway Pavilion and the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park in Bayview Hunters Point.

In addition, Yung has conducted new immigrant storytelling workshops at the Chinatown YMCA. *Golden Gate* culminates these efforts, synthesizing the material into an evening-length performance with eight storytellers, an original soundscape by **Jeremiah Moore** and lighting and projection design by **Stephanie Anne Johnson**. Yung herself wrote the script weaving the stories together. "My aim has been to create a ritualized space to honor the past," said Yung, "to invoke the spirit of the ancestors who paved the way, and to honor the spirit of the immigrants who continue that journey today."

"*Golden Gate* bridges languages and generations by bringing together Chinese American community elders and bilingual youth – and, moreover, the descendants of the European, African and Native American peoples who interacted with the Chinese," continues Yung. "The story of *Golden Gate*, while organized around the story of the Chinese immigrant experience, is ultimately the story of the American experience, as new immigrants have struggled to find belonging."

For more information about Chinese Whispers visit chinese-whispers.org.

Golden Gate is made possible with generous support by the San Francisco Arts Commission, California Humanities, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the Fleishhacker Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation and numerous individual donors.

ABOUT CHINESE WHISPERS

Chinese Whispers is a San Francisco-based nonprofit that uses a multi-platform program of research, storytelling, artistic productions and public programs to uncover and give voice and visibility to the overlooked contributions and experiences of the early Chinese immigrants in the making of the American West. Founded in 2006 by artist Rene Yung, Chinese Whispers has launched numerous projects including *Bay Chronicles*, retracing the forgotten history of Chinese shrimp fishing around the San Francisco Bay through a research expedition and a multimedia art installation; programs including place-based storytelling events about the Chinese immigrant experience; and cross-cultural, cross-generational storytelling workshops.

Rene Yung is an internationally exhibiting artist, designer, writer and cultural activist. Combining the poetic and the incisive, her work connects community, culture, history, and place, to articulate the hidden and the overlooked. A first-generation immigrant from Hong Kong, Yung has exhibited at the 46th Venice Biennale; the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, Texas; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; and the San Jose Museum of Art. She collaborated with the Stanford Archaeology Center on *City Beneath the City*, a series of art installations featuring artifacts excavated from the former Market Street Chinatown in San Jose.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

Chinese Whispers presents the world premiere of ***Golden Gate***, a multimedia storytelling theater work that brings to life the experiences of Chinese immigrants in the Bay Area.

WHEN:

March 18 – 20, 2016

Friday – Sunday, **8:00 pm**

WHERE:

Southside Theater

Fort Mason Center

2 Marina Blvd.

San Francisco, CA 94123

TICKETS:

\$20 - \$25

To purchase tickets online visit fortmason.org/boxoffice, or by phone call **(415) 345-7575**, Tuesday and Thursday from noon - 4:00 pm.

FOR PHOTOS & MORE INFORMATION:

chinese-whispers.org

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at johnhillpr@gmail.com.