

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[PRESS ROOM AND PHOTOS](#)

**NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER
PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE OF EPIC YELP REVIEW ADVENTURE,
THE BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS BY YILONG LIU
ANCIENT CHINESE MYTHOLOGY AND MODERN TECH COLLIDE IN THIS WORLD PREMIERE**

San Francisco, CA (February 11, 2020) – In March, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** is pleased to present the **world premiere of *The Book of Mountains and Seas***, directed by Bay Area favorite **Becca Wolff** and written by **Yilong Liu**. Named one of the “10 Contemporary Asian and Pacific Islander American Playwrights You Should Know” by *ArtsBoston*, Liu is the latest playwright to be produced by NCTC’s New Voices/New Work program. For this production, NCTC is proud to partner with **Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, and San Francisco Community Health Care**.

Andrew is in a weird position. His boyfriend Archie’s dad keeps sending him birthday gifts, holiday cards, and even care packages full of Chinese snacks Andrew has never heard of before. Now Archie’s father has shown up on Andrew’s doorstep with a bizarre request- he wants to retrace all of Archie’s Yelp reviews. Only one little problem: Archie has been kind of dead for two years. What ensues is an adventure filled with clashing cultures, unlikely friendships, and the review of a lifetime.

The Book of Mountains and Seas runs **Mar 6 – Apr 5, 2020**. Opening Night is **Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 8pm**. Tickets are \$25–55 and available at nctcsf.org, emailing boxoffice@nctcsf.org or by calling (415) 861-8972.

Audiences can enjoy these special events during the run of the show:

- *Low-cost Previews: Friday, March 6 – 13*
- *New Voices/New Work Interview* featuring a pre-show chat with the playwright, moderated by NCTC Founder and Artistic Director, Ed Decker on **Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 pm**.
- *Behind The Book: Post-Show Discussion* featuring the playwright and director will take place after the performance on **Friday, March 13 at 8pm**.
- *Opening Night* will take place on **Saturday, March 14, 2020** at 8pm. The performance will be followed by a reception **catered by 19-20 Season Restaurant Sponsor, Hazel Southern Bar & Kitchen**.
- *Onstage Insight, Post-Show Discussion* featuring the cast, and moderated by the director will take place after the performance on **Sunday, March 22 at 2pm**.

- Additional special events to be announced!

Playwright Yilong Liu is a New York-based bilingual playwright, originally from Chongqing, China. He is a Kennedy Center Paula Vogel Playwriting Award winner, a Sloan Project commission recipient, and was recently named one of the “10 Contemporary Asian and Pacific Islander American Playwrights You Should Know” by *ArtsBoston*. Currently, he is a proud member of Ensemble Studio Theatre's Obie Award-winning playwrights group Youngblood and serves as a mentor for NYFA's Immigrant Artists Mentoring Program. An alumni of The Flea Theatre's Writers Room and SPACE on Ryder Farm. Plays include *The Book of Mountains and Seas* (Kennedy Center Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award), *June is The First Fall* (Kennedy Center Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, Kumu Kahua Theatre, Yangtze Rep/New Ohio Theatre), *Joker* (Po’okela Award for Best New Play, Kumu Kahua Theatre, FringeNYC, National Queer Theatre). Yilong received a BA in Chinese Language and Literature from Beijing Normal University and an MFA in Playwriting from University of Hawai’i.

Director Becca Wolff is a California-based director and co-founder of Tilted Field Productions. She explores the intersection of the theatrical and the confessional, collaborating with virtuosic performer/creators to explore deeply personal material in bold new ways. She has directed new plays and premieres by Lauren Yee, Harvey Fierstein, Jen Silverman and Sarah Gubbins at venues including ACT, Theatreworks, San Francisco Playhouse and Z Space. Her work has been named to Best Of lists in the SF Chronicle and LA Weekly. Awards and nominations for her work include Princess Grace, Outstanding Solo Show & Outstanding Musical at the NYC Fringe, Ovarions (Los Angeles), Theatre Bay Area and Bay Area Critics Circle. She is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and co-creator of SCOTUS Theater.

The cast of *The Book of Mountains and Seas* includes **Randall Nakano*** (Raymond), **James Aaron Oh** (Archie), and **Brennan Pickman-Thoon** (Andrew).

The creative team includes set design by **Carlos Aceves**, stage management by **Toni Lynn Guidry**, sound design by **Lana Palmer**, lighting design by **Justin Partier**, and costume and props design by **Sharon Peng**.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been San Francisco’s premier LGBTQ+ performing arts institution and **progressive arts education** conservatory since 1981. NCTC is renowned for its diverse range of innovative, **high-quality productions**, touring productions and shows for young audiences; its foundational **anti-bullying work** with youth and educators through YouthAware; and its commitment to developing **new plays** to continue expanding the canon of Queer and Allied dramatic work.

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The Book of Mountains and Seas

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Written by **Yilong Liu** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Directed by **Becca Wolff** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Set design by **Carlos Aceves** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Stage management by **Toni Lynn Guidry** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Ed Decker
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Barbara Hodgen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sound design by **Lana Palmer** (*pronouns: she/her*)
Lighting design by **Justin Partier** (*pronouns: he/him*)
Costume and props design by **Sharon Peng** (*pronouns: she/her*)

CAST:

Raymond ... **Randall Nakano*** (*pronouns: he/him*)
Archie ... **James Aaron Oh** (*pronouns: he/him*)
Andrew ... **Brennan Pickman-Thoon** (*pronouns: he/him*)
* Appears courtesy of the Actors Equity Association.

WHAT: World premiere of *The Book of Mountains and Seas*
WHERE: New Conservatory Theatre Center
Decker Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave @ Market St, San Francisco, CA 94102

WHEN: Mar 6 – Apr 5, 2020
Wednesdays – Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm
Opening Night: Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 8pm

Community Partners: Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, and Gay Asian Pacific Alliance

Special Engagements:

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COST: \$25-55

TICKETS AND BOX OFFICE: [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972), boxoffice@nctcsf.org