



# SECRET WARRIORS

Written by R.A. Shiomi

Directed by Lily Tung Crystal

March 29 - April 19, 2025

**h**istory theatre

Annual Benefit

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## WELCOME



Hello and welcome to History Theatre, Whether it's your first time or your 50th, we're glad you're here to experience the remarkable story and celebrate the contributions of Japanese Americans during WWII. Rick Shiomi was one of the first artists I contacted when I started as Artistic Director, and during our conversation about life and history, he mentioned that he had an idea for a show about these gentlemen. We discussed not only the connection to Minnesota, but also the history of Japanese Americans, beginning with their immigration and their long-lasting influence on our country. I've always been interested because one of my mother's best friends from the College of

St. Benedict was of Japanese descent, and I'm excited to share this history with all of you.

I firmly believe that the examination of history should challenge us to think about what has happened and where we are. This story is about how these gentlemen contributed to America's victory, safety and security. It is important to recognize their significant contributions, and to consider all, not just the narratives that have traditionally been presented to us. Through these stories, we gain a larger understanding of our shared history as Americans.

*Secret Warriors* demonstrates the power of History Theatre. It's not a boring book; it's the people who make history, as seen in the selection of the stories. We can all relate to shared experiences, which help us connect and expose our human connection.

Thank you Rick Shiomi, Lily Tung Crystal, and the entire team for this extraordinary production. Special thanks to Edwin "Bud" Nakesone for meeting with me and Rick to chat about life. It was a true delight for a history nerd like me, and an honor to hear more of his story.

*Richard D. Thompson*  
*Artistic Director*

**P.S. Mark your calendars for History Theatre's upcoming spring benefit, "A Historic Night Out"** which will take place on April 27 at the 317 on Rice Park. Music, delicious food, and memorable auction items will be plentiful.

# history theatre

## SECRET WARRIORS

by R.A. SHIOMI

Directed by LILY TUNG CRYSTAL

Scenic Designer

**ERIK PAULSON**

Video Designer

**KATHY MAXWELL**

Costume Designer

**MEGHAN KENT**

Lighting Designer

**WU CHEN KHOO<sup>^</sup>**

Properties Designer

**KENJI SHOEMAKER**

Stage Manager

**HALEY N. WALSH\***

Sound Designer

**FREDERICK KENNEDY#**

Assistant Lighting Designer

**ALICE ENDO**

Assistant Stage Manager

**SAMANTHA SMITH**

### PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager.....	Lee Johnson
Intimacy Coach.....	Elena Glass
Choreographer.....	Stephanie Anne Bertumen
Fight Choreographer.....	Annie Enneking
Japanese American Cultural Consultant.....	Karen Tanaka Lucas
Japanese Language Consultant.....	Rio Saito
Japanese Language Translation.....	San Asato, Tak Ariga, Rio Saito
Japanese Vocal Recordings.....	Yuichiro Onishi, Shinya Yoshida
Pidgin Language Consultants.....	Reiko Ho, Ron Nakahara
Technical Director.....	Gunther Gullickson
Master Electrician.....	Nick Walberg
Associate Master Electrician.....	Nick Fetting
Stage Electricians.....	Brianna Mae, Bevibel Harvey, Katherine Peters, Asa Gutow
Associate Technical Director.....	Evan Sima
Carpenters.....	Phong Mai, Caleb Terry
Scenic Charge.....	Erika Soukup
Stitcher.....	Caroline Amaral Zaltron
Open Captioner.....	Laura Wiebers
Audio Descriptor.....	Laurie Pape Hadley
ASL Interpreters.....	Linda Gill, Nella Titus

### UNDERWRITER

The production is underwritten by Dr. Mary Anne Ebert and Paul Stembler.



\* Appearing through an agreement between History Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States  
† Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.  
‡ Member, Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians  
# Member, United Scenic Artists Local #829  
^ Member, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

## SETTING

Act One: The United States in 1942  
 Act Two: The Pacific Theater during World War II.

### Content Warning:

Sounds of war, mild war violence, e-cigarette use and historically accurate language that some may find offensive.

## THE ENSEMBLE

(in alphabetical order)

Natsuko Nishi ..... Stephanie Anne Bertumen\*  
 Tamio Takahashi ..... Erik Ohno Dagoberg  
 Denise Murphy ..... Kendall Kent  
 Masa Matsui, Mori Hudeyoshi, Okada, Ensemble ..... Song Kim  
 Isamu (Sam) Oikawa, Sato, Ensemble ..... Josh Kwon\*  
 Koji Kimura ..... Clay Man Soo\*  
 Lt. Jeff Nelson, Private Weber, Lt. Huber, Captain Peterson, Ensemble ..... Paul LaNave\*  
 Sergeant Willis, Corporal Rizzo, Ensemble ..... Tony Larkin\*  
 John Aiso, Captain Isamu Iwata ..... Rich Remedios\*  
 Understudies ..... Benjamin Dutcher\*, Moses Ekel, Kayla Dvorak Feld,  
 ..... Ashley Horiuchi, Sherwin Resurreccion, Kevin Vang



STEPHANIE ANNE  
BERTUMEN



ERIK OHNO  
DAGOBERG



KENDALL KENT



SONG KIM



JOSH KWON



CLAY MAN SOO



PAUL LANAVE



TONY LARKIN



RICH REMEDIOS



BENJAMIN DUTCHER

U



MOSES EKEL

U



KAYLA DVORAK FELD

U



ASHLEY HORIUCHI

U



SHERWIN  
RESURRECCION

U



KEVIN VANG

U

U: Understudy

## PLAYWRIGHT



**I have had this story in mind for over a decade, but it was not until Rick Thompson offered to commission me to write a new play that I felt I was in the right place to do so.**

In research for the play, I was amazed at the tremendous skill, courage and patriotism of these Japanese Americans as they took on such difficult and dangerous tasks during World War II, while their families were incarcerated as enemy aliens. This play is inspired by and dedicated to those soldiers whose incredible work in military intelligence was so valuable to the war effort in the Pacific.

This play is not strictly a documentary, but rather a theatrical amalgam of many stories woven into the fictional journeys of the two primary characters. So I aim to have this play reflect the general world of the efforts and experiences of the Japanese Americans who studied at the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Minnesota and then served in the Pacific Theater.

I want to thank so many people, especially Karen Tanaka Lucas and Karen and Fumi Matsumoto, for sharing the stories of their fathers which served as the starting kernel for my writing. And I want to thank Lily Tung Crystal for her great direction and dramaturgy, the whole cast and production team for their wonderful artistry and organizational work, and all the members of the Japanese American community who have supported me and this project. Finally, I want to thank my longtime partner in theater and life, Martha B. Johnson, for her unstinting support.

R.A. Shiomi

### SPECIAL THANKS

Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL), Karen Tanaka Lucas & Family, Fumi & Karen Matsumoto, Edwin M. Nakasone, Peggy Doi, Bill Doi (late), Seiki Oshiro, Lisa Crystal & Mark Houts, Stephen DiMenna, Steve Ozone, Laura McLean, Michael Wahlberg, Tak Ariga, San Asato, Gordon Nakagawa, East Side Freedom Library, Kimmy Tanaka (Community Outreach, Minnesota Historical Society), Ron Nakahara, Japanese America Society of Minnesota, Martha B. Johnson, Tom Ringberg

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Minnesota Historical Society  
Japanese American Citizens League



## DIRECTOR



**When Rick Shiomi and the History Theatre first asked me to direct *Secret Warriors*, I was touched and honored.** My history with Rick goes back many years. As a young Asian American actor, I knew that he was one of the people who had originally defined Asian American theater—the generation who forged the path before us and made our careers possible.

During the years I served as artistic director of Theater Mu, the company Rick co-founded, he became a mentor, but *Secret Warriors* marks the first time we have artistically collaborated. It's been a full-circle moment to cultivate this playwright-director relationship with him on this world premiere production. We were both

happy to discover that we have similar storytelling sensibilities. It's been an easy, joyful partnership, and I'm grateful for his confidence in my stewardship of his play.

To be entrusted with this important story is a privilege I don't take lightly.

The Japanese American soldiers in *Secret Warriors* were real-life heroes who fought for our country through impossible times. As they risked everything on the front lines, taking on the most dangerous missions, their families were unjustly incarcerated by the very country they were defending.

When I first read Rick's script, I was struck by how deeply it captured not only the historical significance of these men's service, but also their heart and humanity—their camaraderie, courage, humor, and love. We experience the immense loss that came with their sacrifice. And we realize their story is as relevant now as ever, in a time when conversations about race, citizenship, and belonging continue to shape our national identity.

Yes, World War II was 80 years ago, but during this challenging moment today, *Secret Warriors* reminds us of the dangers of discrimination and xenophobia as our country uses the Alien Enemies Act of 1798—the same law that justified the incarceration of Japanese Americans—to rationalize hundreds of current deportations.

What lessons from the past must we carry forward to ensure history does not repeat itself? How do we reconcile patriotism with the injustices committed by our own government? And what does it truly mean to be American?

These soldiers faced an extraordinary contradiction. They were asked to prove their loyalty to a nation that had turned its back on them. They fought on two fronts—one against an enemy abroad, the other against racism at home. Their contributions were critical to the war effort, yet for decades, their service has remained largely unrecognized. *Secret Warriors* shines a long-overdue light on their bravery and their strength as true Americans.

And as the play says, "None of us have, or ever will... forget you."

Lily Tung Crystal

## Cast

### STEPHANIE ANNE BERTUMEN\* (she/her)

*Natsuko Nishi/Choreographer*

**History Theatre:** *Complicated Fun, The Debutante's Ball*. **Theater:** *Guthrie: The History Plays, A Christmas Carol; Ten Thousand Things: Iphigenia at Aulis, The Winter's Tale; Ordway: Annie, Jesus Christ Superstar; Theater Latté Da: Bernarda Alba; Jungle Theatre: The Courtroom; Theater Mu: Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery (Guthrie Dowling Studio), Twelfth Night; Theater Mu/Park Square Theatre: Flower Drum Song; Frank Theatre: Sanctuary City; Children's Theatre Company; The Old Globe. **Choreography:** History Theatre, Artistry, Old Log Theatre, University of Minnesota. **Awards:** Twin Cities Theater Bloggers Favorite Choreographer. **Training:** UMN/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program.*

### ERIK OHNO DAGOBERG (he/him)

*Tamio Takahashi*

**History Theatre:** *The Boy Wonder*. **Theater:** *Mixed Blood/Phoenix Theatre: I and You*. **Awards:** KCACTF Irene Ryan Finalist. **Training:** BFA, Theatre Performance, Acting, University of Michigan. **Special Thanks:** Reiko and Tom Ohno, their siblings and parents whose lives changed forever in the Internment camps. IG: @erik\_dagoberg.

### KENDALL KENT (she/her)

*Denise Murphy*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *Guthrie Theater: For the People; Six Points Theater: Torch Song; Yellow Tree Theatre: A Streetcar Named Desire; Mixed Blood Theatre: Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies; Old Log Theatre: Charlotte's Web, Jack and the Beanstalk*. **Training:** UMN/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program, British American Drama Academy. [kendallkent.com](http://kendallkent.com)

### SONG KIM (he/him)

*Masa Matsui, Ensemble*

**History Theatre:** *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*. **Theater:** *Nimbus, Full Circle Theater Company, Exposed Brick Theatre, and Theater Mu: Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay's Kung Fu Zombies Saga*.

### JOSH KWON (he/him)

*Isamu (Sam) Oikawa, Sato, Ensemble*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *Theater Mu: Hells Canyon; Children's Theatre Company: Cinderella, The Wizard of Oz*. **Other:** *Redefined* (documentary). **Awards:** Semans Art Grant. **Training:** UNCSA. IG: @josh\_kwon

### CLAY MAN SOO\* (he/him)

*Koji Kimura*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *Guthrie Theater: A Christmas Carol; Ten Thousand Things Theater: The Hatmaker's Wife, Milima's Tale; Children's Theatre Company/Alliance Theatre: Bina's Six Apples; Theater Mu: A Korean Drama Addict's Guide..., Inside Out and Back Again; Frank Theatre: Sanctuary City; Pillsbury House+Theatre: Passage; Park Square Theatre: Romeo and Juliet; Great River Shakespeare Festival: Love's Labor's Lost, Macbeth, The Servant of Two Masters,*

*Cymbeline; TigerLion Arts: The Buddha Prince; Pangea World Theater: Mother Courage and Her Children; South Dakota Shakespeare Festival: A Comedy of Errors.*

**Film:** *The Telepath, Serenity, The House of Tomorrow.*

**Training:** B.A. Gustavus Adolphus College, GRSF Actor Apprenticeship, Theater Mu Institute, Remedios Creative, Huge Theater, Guthrie Education, Encompass Collective NYC, The Celebration Barn Theater, and plenty of professional actors, directors, and playwrights. **Upcoming:** Theater Mu: *Stop Kiss*. [claymansoo.com](http://claymansoo.com).

### PAUL LANAVE\* (he/him)

*Lt. Jeff Nelson, Private Weber, Lt. Huber, Captain Peterson, Ensemble*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *Six Points Theater: The Moneylender's Daughter, Trayf, Significant Other; Yellow Tree Theatre: The Rats/The Wasps' Nest; Dark & Stormy Productions: Jacuzzi; Park Square Theatre: Romeo & Juliet, Six Characters in Search of an Author; Walking Shadow: Red Speedo, Marie Antoinette, The Aliens; Gremlin Theatre: Samuel J & K*. **Other:** *Theater People Web Series*. **Awards:** Best Supporting Actor, NYC Web Fest. **Training:** BFA Acting, UMN-Duluth. [paullanave.com](http://paullanave.com)

### TONY LARKIN\* (he/him)

*Sargent Willis, Corporal Rizzo, Ensemble*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *Guthrie Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Gable Stage, Alliance Theater, GA Shakespeare Festival, NC Stage, Penobscot Theater Co, New Repertory, Gray Mallard Theater Co, Six Points Theater, Theatrical Outfit, GA Ensemble Theater, Aurora Theater, Actors Express, Synchronicity Theater, Highlands Playhouse, Dad's Garage Theater Co, Uprising Theater Co, and others*. **Other:** *Monk, GA Lottery, I Was There, Drop Dead Diva, Ben 10: Alien Swarm*. **Awards:** Best Supporting Actor (Winner, ATL Theater Fans for GA Ensemble Theater: *Swell Party*); 4 Suzi Bass Award nominations. **Training:** BFA Acting, FSU. **Upcoming:** *Gray Mallard Theater Co: Much Ado About Nothing*.

### RICH REMEDIOS\* (he/him)

*John Aiso, Captain Isamu Iwata*

**History Theatre:** *A Crack in the Sky*. **Theater:** *Broadway: Love! Valour! Compassion!; An Inspector Calls*. *Theater Mu (Associate Artist): Man of God, Purple Cloud; Full Circle Theater (Core Artist Leadership Group): AntigoniK; Jungle Theater: Anna in the Tropics; Park Square Theatre: Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue; Frank Theatre: Ajax in Iraq; Milwaukee Rep: Born Yesterday, King Lear; Theater in the Square: The Persians, A Man for All Seasons; Theatrical Outfit: A Lesson Before Dying*. **Other:** *The Public Domain, To Say Goodbye, Drop Dead Diva, All My Children, As the World Turns*. **Training:** MFA, Acting, University of South Carolina, William Esper Studio, Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium, True Acting Institute, The Shakespeare Lab, NY Public Theater. [remedioscreative.com](http://remedioscreative.com)

### ASHLEY HORIUCHI (she/her)

*Understudy*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *Six Points Theater: The Messenger; Tigerlion Arts: The Buddha Prince; Theater Mu: Hells Canyon*. **Training:** BFA, UMN/Guthrie Actor Training Program. IG: @ashleyhoriuchi



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 ‡ Member, Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians  
 † Member, United Scenic Artists Local #829  
 ‡ Member, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees



## THE CAST

### KAYLA DVORAK FELD (she/her)

*Understudy*

**History Theatre:** *Swede Hollow (Raw Stages)*. **Theater:** Daleko Arts: *The Thin Place, Constellations, Our Town, Wait Until Dark*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Expecting Isabel*; Theatre Pro Rata: *By the Bog of Cats, The Convent of Pleasure, My Sister in this House, Good Woman of Setzuan*; Hero Now Theatre: *The Turn of the Screw*; The Winding Sheet Outfit: *Arsgang: What You Follow Follows You, What Alice Found There, You are Cordially Invited...*, *Blood Nocturne, The Memory Box of the Sisters Fox*. **Training:** BA Theatre Arts, Simpson College. **Upcoming:** *Walking Shadow* Theatre Company; *Mae West and the Trial of Sex*.

### BENJAMIN DUTCHER\* (he/him)

*Understudy*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914, Johnny Skeezy, La Bohème, Assassins, Ragtime, Sweeney Todd, Master Class, NEXT Festival*; Artistry Theatre: *Godspell, She Loves Me*; Asolo Repertory Theatre: *All is Calm, Ragtime, Sweeney Todd*; Frank Theatre: *Ironbound*; Six Points Theater: *Promise of America*; Trademark Theater: *The Boy and Robinhood*. **Opera:** Opera Columbus: *The Threepenny Opera, La Traviata*; Skylark Opera: *Eugene Onegin*; Mill City Summer Opera: *Carmen*; Minnesota Opera: *The Manchurian Candidate*. **Training:** B.M. Vocal Performance, UMN. **Upcoming:** South Dakota Symphony Orchestra: *Giants in the Earth*. **Other:** Private voice instructor at St. Paul Central High School, and loves being a dad.

### MOSES EKEL (he/him)

*Understudy*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** The Art of Reconciliation: *Little Shop of Horrors, Jane Eyre*; CPA Theatricals: *The Moment!*; Chicago College of Performing Arts: *American Songbook, Color Me*. **Other:** Original debut album *Beauty Sinner* by MUSA. **Upcoming:** MUSA Concert, July 2025. IG: @themusaofficial; TikTok: @themusaman.

### KEIVIN VANG (he/him)

*Understudy*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Frank Theatre: *Sanctuary City*; Stages Theatre Company: *The Name Jar*; Full Circle Theatre: *Fire in The New World*; Full Circle Theatre: *Antigonick*; UMN-TAD: *Lament of the Dead Things*; Theatre23: *Coyfish*; Carved Out Theatre: *Spring Awakening*; SouthEast Asian Diaspora: (SEAD) *Stories from Naga, Sea Echoes Through Rivers, Nco Ntsoov Kev Cai: A Story of Remembrance*. **Other:** Modern Shaman, Hmong Organization, Your Unspoken Words, The Wind Strikes The Highest Mountain, Stay Here Forever, Weavers. **Training:** BA Theatre Arts UMN, Mu Training Institute, Remedios Creative, On-Camera Acting, SAFD Unarmed Training. **Upcoming:** Theater Mu: *Stop Kiss*. FB: @keivinvang, IG: @keivnvang

### SHERWIN RESURRECCION (he/him)

*Understudy*

**History Theatre:** *100 Men's Wife, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*. **Theater:** Theater Mu: *The Romance of Magno Rubio, The Two Kids That Blow Shit Up*; Mixed Blood: *Vietgone*.



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## CREATIVE TEAM

### Creative Team

#### R.A.SHIOMI (he/him)

##### Playwright

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Playwriting: Plays produced at Theater Mu, Pan Asian Repertory Theater (NYC), East West Players (Los Angeles) and Park Square Theatre, including plays: *Fire In The New World*, *Yellow Fever*, *Mask Dance*, *Tale of the Dancing Crane*, *Uncle Tadao*, *Rosie's Café* and *Play Ball*. Directing: Theater Mu, Asian American Theater Company (San Francisco), InterAct Theatre (Philadelphia) and Theatre Esprit Asia (Denver), Minnesota Opera and Skylark Opera for *The Song Poet*, *The Mikado* (my own adaptation), *Yellow Fever*, *Caught, Me For You For Me*, *Into The Woods*, *Flower Drum Song* (David Hwang version) and *Yellow Face*. Artistic Director: Theater Mu, 1993-2014, and Co-AD, Full Circle Theater, 2015-2024. **Other:** Writer, ENG series for CTV and *Dance To Remember* (CBC) in Canada. Founder, leader, drummer and composer of Mu Daiko, 1997-2010. My plays have been published in *Bold Words* by Rutgers Univ. Press, *Asian American Plays for a New Generation* by Temple Univ Press and *West Coast Plays and Love + Realationships* in Canada. **Awards:** Western Literature Association Artist of the Year, McKnight Distinguished Artist Award, Ivey Award for Lifetime Achievement, Sally Orday Irvine Award for Vision, Award from State Council for Asian Pacific Minnesotans for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts. Project grants: MSAB and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. **Training:** BA University of Toronto, Teaching Diploma Simon Fraser University in Vancouver Canada. **Upcoming:** Pan Asian Repertory Theatre: *Fire In The New World*, 2026.

#### LILY TUNG CRYSTAL (she/her)

##### Director

A director, actor/singer, and the artistic director of East West Players in Los Angeles. She is also the former artistic director of Theater Mu and co-founder of Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company in the San Francisco Bay Area. **History Theatre:** Jessica Huang and Jacinth Greywoode's *Blended 和 (Harmony): The Kim Loo Sisters* (Mu/History Theatre). **Theater:** Directing: Jiehae Park's *Peerless*; Theater Mu: Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay's *The Kung Fu Zombies Saga*, Lauren Yee's *Cambodian Rock Band* (Mu/Jungle Theater), Susan Soon He Stanton's *Today is My Birthday*; Park Square Theatre: Steven Karam's *The Humans*; Palo Alto Players: David Henry Hwang's *Chinglish*, *Flower Drum Song*; Ferocious Lotus: world premiere of Leah Nanako Winkler's *Two Mile Hollow*. As an actor/singer, Lily has performed at Cal Shakes, Jungle Theater, Magic Theatre, Mixed Blood, New World Stages, Playwrights' Center, Portland Center Stage, SF Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, and Theater Mu, among others. **Awards:** Twin Cities Theatre Bloggers' Favorite Play 2022 (*The Humans*); Theatre Bay Area Award Finalist for Outstanding

Direction (*Two Mile Hollow*, *Chinglish*, *Flower Drum Song*). [lilytungcrystal.com](http://lilytungcrystal.com); [eastwestplayers.org](http://eastwestplayers.org)

#### ERIK PAULSON (he/him)

##### Scenic Designer

**History Theatre:** *Tyrone and Ralph*, *The Baron*, *The Christmas Schooner*. **Theater Mu:** *Hells Canyon*; Park Square Theatre: *The Humans*, *Holmes/Poirot*; Old Log Theater: *Million Dollar Quartet*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*; Great River Shakespeare Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Fantastiks*; Madison Opera: *The Turn of the Screw*, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis: *The Comedy of Errors*.

#### KENJI SHOEMAKER (he/they)

##### Properties Designer

**History Theatre:** *Orphan Train*. **Theater Mu:** *Hells Canyon*, *Man of God*, *Again*. Children's Theatre: *Milo Imagines the World*, *Drawing Lessons*. **Awards:** 2024 Arts in This Present Moment recipient. **Training:** BA, Macalester College. **Upcoming:** KEN AMERICAN Player's Theatre: Art

#### MEGHAN KENT (she/her)

##### Costume Designer

**History Theatre:** *A Unique Assignment*, *Behind the Sun*. **Theater:** Artistry: *Newsies*; Lakeshore Players: *Calendar Girls*, *She Loves Me*, *Little House on the Prairie: The Musical*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, *Christmas Carol*, and *Misery*; The Phipps Center for the Arts: *Something Rotten*, *Murdered to Death*; Old Log Theatre: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Reluctant Dragon*, *Snow White and the Seven Vikings*, *Million Dollar Quartet*; Stages Theatre Company: *Once Upon This Island*, *Newsies Jr. Matilda Jr.*; Ashland Productions: *Company*; Freshwater Theatre Company: *The Bucket List of Boozie Club*; Youth Performance Company: *Little Women*, *Elf*, *Freedom Riders*, *Velveteen Rabbit*, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, *A Woman Called Truth*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Hairspray*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; Steppingstone Theatre: *Nate the Great*, *Fly Guy the Musical*, *Annie*; and productions at Theatre Unbound, Cromulent Shakespeare Co., Eden Prairie Players, Masquers Theater Company, Concordia Academy, Southwest High School, Apple Valley High School, Mounds Park Academy, and Eden Prairie High School. **Training:** BFA Theatrical Performance and Costume Design, Iowa State University. **Upcoming:** Lakeshore Players: *Anything Goes*; Artistry: *Waitress*; Eden Prairie HS: *Animal Farm*.

#### WU CHEN KHOO<sup>^</sup>

##### Lighting Designer

**History Theatre:** *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*, *Not In Our Neighborhood*, *The Highwaymen*, *The Things They Carried*, *Lonely Soldiers*, and more. **Theater:** Children's Theatre Company, Penumbra Theater, The Guthrie, Mixed Blood Theater, Pillsbury House + Theater, Ballet of the Dolls, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Theatre de la Jeune Lune and many more.



<sup>^</sup> Appearing through an agreement between History Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States  
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• Member, United Scenic Artists Local #829  
• Member, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

## CREATIVE TEAM

### ALICE ENDO (she/her)

Assistant Lighting Designer

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Theater Mu: *Again, The Name Jar*; Artistry: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Pajama Game*; GREAT Theater: *Steel Magnolias, Silent Sky*; Full Circle Theater Company: *They Wear Teal Ribbons Around Their Necks*; Stages Theater Company: *Señorita Mariposa*. **Training:** BA, Macalester College. **Upcoming:** Walking Shadow Theatre Company: *Witch*.

### FREDERICK KENNEDY\* (he/him)

Sound Designer

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Off-Broadway: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Malvolio, Twelfth Night, Seize the King*; Classical Theatre of Harlem: *The Bacchae*; The Acting Co.: *Native Son*; Gingold Theatrical Group: *Mrs. Warren's Profession, Caesar and Cleopatra*; Regional: Alley Theatre: *Seared*; Signature: *Primary Trust*; Baltimore Center Stage: *The Folks at Home, Richard and Jane & Dick & Sally*; American Conservatory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre: *Father Comes Home from the Wars, Parts 1, 2, & 3* (American); Hartford Stage: *It's a Wonderful Life, a Live Radio Play*; Westport Country Playhouse: *Flyin' West, Doubt*; TheaterWorks Hartford: *This Bitter Earth, The River, American Son*; Park Square: *Holmes/Poirot*. **Other:** Lincoln Center: *The Forbidden City* (audio play); Two River Theater: *Kisses Through the Glass* (audio play); Keen Co.: *Radio Nowhere* (audio play). **Performance:** Two decades as a touring and recording jazz drummer. **Awards:** Robert Merritt Award, Best Sound Design and Music (Canada), multiple nominations for AUDELCO, Connecticut Critics Circle, Henry Hewes design awards. **Training:** BMus Jazz performance, University of North Texas; MFA Sound Design, Yale School of Drama. **Upcoming:** Park Square: *Between Riverside and Crazy*; *Emerge 125: For Joy* (music commission for NYC-based dance company); Classical Theatre of Harlem: *Memnon*. fredkennedy.org.

### KATHY MAXWELL (she/her)

Video Designer

**History Theatre:** *The Root Beer Lady, This Side of Paradise, God Girl, Watermelon Hill, Complicated Fun, Teen Idol, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin, All the Way, A Crack in the Sky, Dirty Business, Superman Becomes Lois Lane, Parks, Christmas of Swing, Great Society, Not in Our Neighborhood, Not For Sale*. **Theater:** Designed video and lights for Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, History Theatre, the Ordway and the Guthrie Theatre. Recent design credits: *This Bitter Earth, Benevolence, Mamma Mia!, Ride the Cycle*. **Education:** M.F.A. Theatrical Design, UMN, B.A. Theatre and Dance, University of Texas.

### ANNIE ENNEKING (she/her)

Fight Choreography

**History Theatre:** *Diesel Heart*. **Theater:** Guthrie: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The History Plays, Skeleton Crew, Little Shop of Horrors*; **Jungle Theater:** *Hand to God, The Effect*; UMN: *The James Plays, She Kills Monsters*; Shakespearean Youth, Theater: *Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, Hamlet*. **Other:** Front woman, founder of rock band Annie and the Bang Bang. **Awards:** 2010 Playwright's Center McKnight Theater Fellow. **Training:** UMN Theater/Dance Department.

### ELENA GLASS (she/her)

Intimacy Coach

**History Theatre:** Debut (Intimacy Coach). **Theater:** UMN Theatre Program: *Silent Sky, The Amateurs*; ArtistryMN: *Newsies, The Sound of Music, The Pajama Game, Crazy for You*; Lakeshore Players Theatre: *Singin' in the Rain, Death of a Salesman, Noises Off, The Little Mermaid, La Cage Aux Folles*; Lakeshore Players Theatre's Educational Program: *Romeo & Juliet: Under Construction*; Children's Performing Arts: *Grease*; MN Fringe Festival: *One Stride Behind the Setting Sun*. **Training:** Theatrical Intimacy. Education. **Upcoming:** Lyric Arts: *Significant Other*; Artistry: *Waitress*. elenaglass.com. IG: @eglass789

### REIKO HO (she/her)

Pidgin Language Consultant

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Children's Theatre Company: *The Carp Who Would Not Quit* (playwright and director); Honolulu Theatre for Youth: *The Great Race: The Story of the Chinese Zodiac* (playwright and director). **Awards:** 2024 National Endowment for the Arts grant (*The Great Race*). **Other:** Director, multi-disciplinary theatre maker from Honolulu, Hawai'i. Artistic Associate, Honolulu Theatre for Youth; member, The Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists (CAATA); and member, Board of Directors, TYA/USA. **Upcoming:** *The Great Race*: national tour, spring 2026.

### RIO SATO (she/her)

Japanese Language Consultant

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Other:** Japanese National, Executive Director of Japan America Society of Minnesota, former adjunct instructor of Japanese for Art and Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

### HALEY N. WALSH\* (she/her)

Stage Manager

**History Theatre:** *The Highwayman, Beyond the Rainbow, Runestone*, and 15 others. **Theater:** Dark and Stormy Productions, Theater Mu, Illusion Theater, Theater Latte Da, Mixed Blood Theater, Pillsbury House and Theater, Park Square Theatre, Trademark Theater, Six Points Theater. **Dance:** A Dancer's Place Productions, Alternative Motion Project, MN Dance Theater, Collide Theatrical Dance Company. haleywalsh.com

### SAMANTHA SMITH (she/her)

Assistant Stage Manager

**History Theatre:** *A Unique Assignment*. **Theater:** Artistry: *Sweet Charity, Rent, Newsies, Crazy For You, Some Enchanted Evening, Memphis, Little Women*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *The Rats and The Wasp's Nest, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, Misery*; Theatre L'Homme Dieu: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Dancing Lessons*; Guthrie Theatre: *A Christmas Carol* (2022, 2024). **Education:** BA (Hons) Drama and Theatre Arts, Goldsmiths, University of London.

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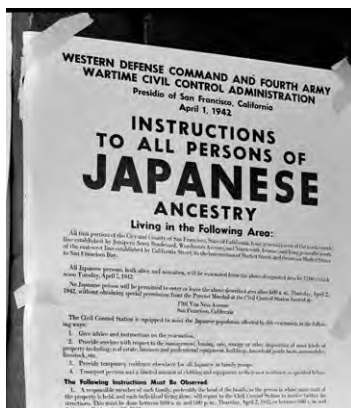
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(above) Exclusion Order posted at First and Front Streets directing removal of persons of Japanese ancestry from the first San Francisco section to be effected by the evacuation.

Toshio Abe (right) was one of the more than 4,000 Nisei who worked as interpreters, translators, and interrogators at the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling during World War II. As seen in this photograph, Toshio Abe at a rest camp in the Himalayas in 1945. After training at Camp Savage, Abe was deployed to Calcutta, India, and served in the China-Burma-India Theater.

## TIMELINE

### NOVEMBER 1, 1941

Fourth Army Intelligence School started in an abandoned hangar at Crissy Field, Presidio of San Francisco, California. Japanese language training led by four civilian Japanese American instructors. Initial class had 60 students (58 Nisei, 2 Caucasians).

### DECEMBER 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor attacked; United States (U.S.) entered World War II.

### FEBRUARY 19, 1942

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the War Department to prescribe military areas from which any or all persons may be excluded. More than 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from the West Coast states and interned; two-thirds were U.S. citizens.

### MAY 1942

First class of 45 students graduated with 10 remaining as faculty. Other 35 deployed to Guadalcanal and the Aleutian Islands in small

teams in small teams to assist American and Allied Forces units in the Pacific.

### MAY 1942

Governor Harold Stassen offered Camp Savage, a former Civilian Conservation Camp, as a home for the school in Minnesota. Renamed the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS). Over 6,000 students graduated in 21 classes.

### JUNE 1, 1942

First official MISLS class started at Camp Savage under jurisdiction of the War Department with 18 instructors, 200 enlisted students. Twenty students placed in a special accelerated class and graduated in Sept. 1942. Excellent combat reports of MISLS graduates coming in from the Aleutian Islands battles and Guadalcanal.

### APRIL 1943

Increased need for linguists. Hundreds of Japanese American volunteers recruited from U.S. internment camps and Hawaii.



COURTESY OF ALAMEDA JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT, DENSHO

(top) Saburo “Bill” Doi enlisted in the U.S. army from Tule Lake internment camp and served in the Office of Special Services at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling by organizing activities to boost morale and occupy soldiers during their free time. (above) MIS students take advantage of the winter conditions at Camp Savage.

Iris Watanabe originally volunteered for the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) from the Granada concentration camp. She was released from camp to work in Chicago before being inducted into the WAC. Watanabe was the first Japanese American woman from a concentration camp to enlist. Pictured (left to right) is Iris Watanabe, Sue Ogata and Bette Nichimura, amongst the first Nisei WACs to be stationed at Fort Snelling.

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## U.S. ARMY’S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

### 1943–1945

MISLS graduates served throughout the Pacific, U.S. Zone of the Interior, and Europe, as interpreters, translators, interrogators, psychological warfare specialists, frontline infantrymen, and in the opening phase of the Occupation of Japan. MIS soldiers supported over 135 organizations, serving commands (and battles) in the Pacific War.

### AUGUST 1944

MISLS moved to Fort Snelling.

### NOVEMBER 1944

Fifty-one Womens Army Corps (WAC) students arrived at Fort Snelling for language training.

### MAY 1945

Surrender of Germany.

### AUGUST 1945

Surrender of Japan.

### JANUARY 1946

Thirteen WAC linguists work in the Allied

Translator Intelligence Service (ATIS) in Tokyo; others sent to intelligence service at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, and other bases in the U.S.

### AUGUST 1945–APRIL 1952

More than 5,000 MIS graduates served during the Occupation of Japan, in military government, disarmament, civil affairs, education, and intelligence.

### DECEMBER 1945-1948

MIS linguists provided translation and interpreter services for the war crimes tribunals and trials.

### JUNE 1946

Twenty-first and final MISLS class graduated from Fort Snelling.

### JULY 1946

MISLS moved to Presidio of Monterey, California. Renamed the U.S. Army Language School.

### APRIL 2000

MIS awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.

## GLOSSARY

**Allied:** relating to the countries (Great Britain, France, U.S., Soviet Union from 1941, and China) fighting against the Axis powers (Germany, Soviet Union until 1941, Japan, and Italy) during World War II.

**Camp Savage:** location in Minnesota where the MISLS moved to in 1942.

**Concentration Camp:** A facility in which noncombatant civilians are detained without legal due process on the basis of identification with a particular racial, ethnic, or political group, whereas internment is the legally permissible confinement of enemy aliens.

**Fort Snelling:** location in Minnesota where the MISLS moved to in 1944.

**Go:** Probably the world's oldest board game. Of East Asian origin, it is popular in China, Korea, and especially Japan, the country with which it is most closely identified ...Go demands great skill, strategy, and subtlety and is capable of infinite variety, yet the rules and

pieces are so simple that children can play.

**Interrogators:** persons who ask questions.

**Internees:** persons forced to live in an internment camp.

**Issei** (ee say): a person born in Japan who immigrated to the United States.

**Kibei:** (key bay) American-born Japanese persons who were sent back to Japan for their formal education, and then returned to live in America.

**Linguists:** persons who are skilled in languages.

**MISLS:** abbreviation for the Military Intelligence Service Language School.

**Nisei:** (nee say) American citizens of Japanese ancestry, born of immigrant parents; second-generation Japanese Americans.

**POWs:** abbreviation for prisoners of war.

**WAC:** Womens Army Corps.

SOURCE: Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League; Military Intelligence Service Curriculum & Resource Guide; Britannica



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