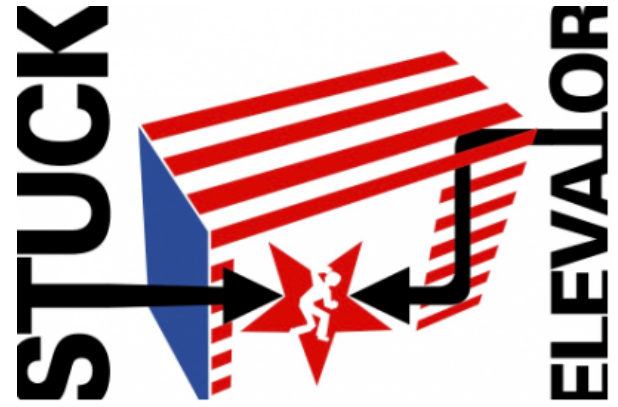


STUCK ELEVATOR

Stuck Elevator is a comic-rap-scrap-metal-opera about a trapped man. The story is prompted by the experience of a real-life Chinese restaurant deliveryman who survived 81 hours in a Bronx elevator. Composer Byron Au Yong and writer Aaron Jafferis work with director Chay Yew and four actor/rapper/singers, a found-object percussionist, a violinist and a cellist to create an 80-minute hybrid music theatre work about labor, family, hunger, love and fortune cookies. During the show, our hero Guang gets mugged by a bursting bladder, battles General Tso of Homeland Security, leads an army of bicycle deliverymen and dreams himself into a sexy morsel of Orange Beef.



Of the 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States, over 200,000 of them are Chinese. Most are from Fujian Province, the origin of Au Yong's ancestors. Stuck Elevator's character, Guang, paid smugglers \$60,000 for his passage from a country touted as the next global economic superpower to a country founded on the ideals of democracy and freedom.



Suspended between the upward mobility of the American dream and the downward plunge into an empty abyss, Stuck Elevator explores the places between refuge/prison, freedom/safety and voice/silence for our undocumented superhero. Although Au Yong is a U.S. citizen by birthright, when he enters a building in midtown Manhattan, security guards often eye him suspiciously as if to say, "No take-out menus allowed." Stuck Elevator slips under the guard of regional theatres and the immigration debate wearing the disarming garb of a musical, then disrobing to reveal its migrant, mongrel, hip hop soul.

BYRON AU YONG (歐陽良仁) combines classical music, Chinese folk music and American musical theatre with a penchant for the avant-garde. His works have been

performed in theaters, museums and site-specific locations that include the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, the Tokyo Art Museum and the Seattle Aquarium. Projects include Farewell: A Fantastical Contemplation on America's Relationship with China (Spectrum Dance Theatre/Seattle Theatre Group), Tzu Lho: Simmering Songs (The Esoterics, Stanford Chorale) and Forbidden Circles (Fukuoka Gendai Hogaku Festival, International House of Japan).

"There's desperation and loneliness and horror in the delivery-person's plight. But there's humor, too."

— Christopher Arnett
New Haven Advocate

AARON JAFFERIS is a hip-hop poet and playwright whose works include Kingdom (Old Globe, Richard Rodgers Award), Shakespeare: The Remix (TheatreWorks/Palo Alto, St. Louis Black Rep, Capital Rep, Zachary Scott Theatre, International Festival of Arts & Ideas) and No Lie (Nuyorican Poets Café, H.E.R.E., Passage Theatre). He has performed his poetry at Madison Square Garden, the Kennedy Center and the National Poetry Slam Championships, where he was the 1997 Open Rap Slam champion. His poetry has been performed by the Urban Bush Women and published in The Nation.

WORKSHOP SHOWINGS

- International Festival of Arts & Ideas 2010
- Hand2Mouth Risk/Reward Festival 2009
- On the Boards NW New Works Festival 2009
- Museum of Chinese in America 2009
- Theatre Off Jackson 2007

RESIDENCIES

- Sundance Institute Theatre Lab 2011
- Yale Institute for Music Theatre 2010
- A/P/A Institute at NYU 2009-2010

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