

STUDY GUIDE



Welcome to Sama Sama: Solidarity in the Fields

For each of our Theatre for Youth shows, we create study guides to help our audiences - regardless of age, ethnicity, and background - understand the many layers of the production. There is a lot to the history of the Delano Grape Strike that we could not fit into a thirty-minute show. We hope that you find it insightful to go through the many resources, articles, and lesson plans provided.

Please note that this is a live document, along with the activities. This means we will continue to update it as we find more resources, discover new developments, and more related to this topic.

Lastly, we hope that you participate in the activities as well. We not only enjoy seeing how folks connected with the show but seeing how we can connect with each other.

Thank you for attending and solidarity forever.

Synopsis

Sama Sama: Solidarity in the Fields is a story that infuses narration, poetry, music, movement & Eskrima told through the lens of Tonantzin, Araw, and Uriel, three high school students who are finding themselves and their cultural identity by learning about the “Manongs” and “Bracero Program.” It emphasizes the shared narratives of Mexican and Filipino culture and uses English, Spanish, and Tagalog to amplify this important piece of history. The play is intended to be interactive/immersive and inspired by theatrical praxis similar to Teatro Campesino, PETA (Philippine Educational Theatre Association), and Theatre of the Oppressed. Tri-linguality permeates the sonic universe, and English translations have been provided on the script.

About EAST WEST PLAYERS

Founded in 1965, East West Players is committed to raising the visibility of the Asian American experience by presenting inventive world-class theatrical productions, developing artists of color, and providing impactful youth education programs.



Cast, Crew & Creatives

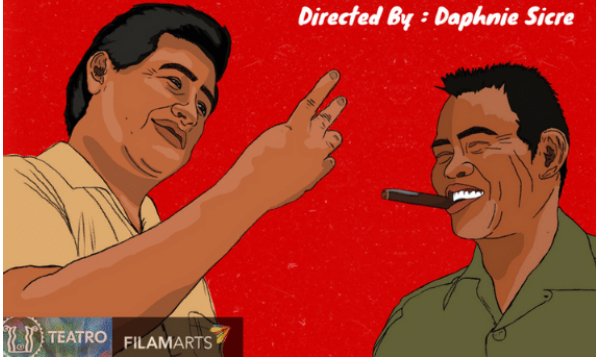


Theatre for Youth Presents

Sama Sama


Solidarity in the Fields

By Giovanni Ortega
Directed By : Daphnie Sicre




TEATRO FILAMARTS

CAST & CREW



Marisa Frankie (she/her) Thrilled to make my first debut at EWPI! Being Mexican / Filipino myself this means a lot to me to be part of this production. Learning more about both my culture's history and to tell the story of these important events that aren't taught in history class. I dedicate this performance to all those that can relate to this show and know that you are not alone. Thank you to the creative team and Gio for writing this beautiful and impactful script. Much love to my family, boyfriend, friends, and mentors. Instagram: @marisafrankie



Chelsea Violet Garcia trained at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. This is her first time being in a East West Players production and she is so thrilled to be working in such an inclusive environment telling a story about migrant workers. Previous productions include: Twelfth Night, Treasure Island, Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo & Juliet, Noises Off, and Steel Magnolias. Chelsea is so thrilled to be a part of sharing this important story to the youth of LA.

Who was Larry Itliong?



Larry Itliong was a Filipino farm labor leader and Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) co-founder. He came to the United States at age fifteen to work in 1929. Initially wanting to be a lawyer, Itliong advocated for Filipino migrant workers' rights despite having only a 6th-grade education. He knew how to speak various Philippine languages and learned how to speak English, Cantonese, Japanese, and Spanish fluently. Often discredited for his contributions to the Great Delano Grape Strike, Itliong initiated the strike and convinced the braceros (Mexican farm workers) to work with the manongs (first generation of Filipino farm workers) in fighting for better working conditions, forming a partnership with Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

What are Manongs?

Manongs They came told they were "part of America"

a term of respect for the first-born male in a Filipino family

also

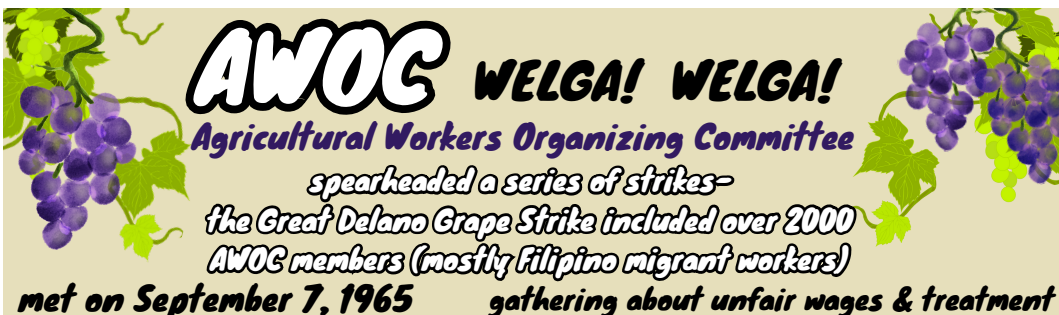
used to describe the first wave of Filipino immigrants that came to the United States



but were discriminated against

- with broken English & language barriers
- not knowing how to read or write
- remained single because of anti-miscegenation laws (ban on interracial marriage)
- could not own property or start a business

The AWOC



AWOC WELGA! WELGA!

Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee

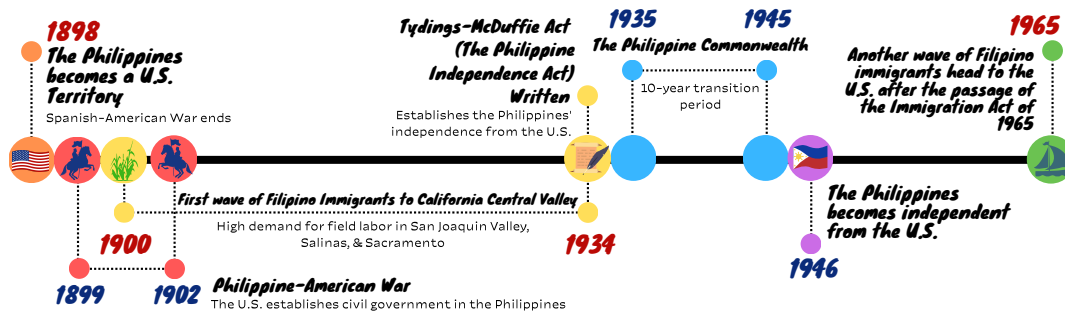
spearheaded a series of strikes-

the Great Delano Grape Strike included over 2000

AWOC members (mostly Filipino migrant workers)

met on September 7, 1965 gathering about unfair wages & treatment

A Timeline of Filipino Immigration to the United States



To learn more about the timeline of Filipino American History, check out the link below:

<https://welgadigitalarchive.omeka.net/filipino-history-timeline>

Lesson Plans and Resources

Filipino-American Farm Workers Lesson Plans

The Asian American Education is thrilled to support East West Players' production SAMA SAMA: SOLIDARITY IN THE FIELDS. Many people know about Cesar Chavez and the California grape strike, but few know that it was actually Filipino American farmworkers who started the strike. More specifically, it was [Larry Itliong](#), a Filipino labor organizer and the co-founder of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), who called for solidarity with Mexican American migrant farmworkers, leading to the formation of the United Farmworkers Union (UFW). Together, Filipino and Mexican Americans engaged in a five-year-long workers' strike and boycott against the California grape industry. A passionate and fiery leader, Itliong worked with unions across California (and Alaska) and eventually secured higher pay, medical insurance, and pesticide protections for farmworkers. He is remembered for being one of the fathers of the West Coast labor movement.

About The Asian American Education Project

The Asian American Education Project is a nonprofit organization committed to bringing Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIA) histories and narratives to communities across the nation. We develop APIA-centered lessons and training as we believe that education is one of the key solutions to decreasing bias and prejudice. The Asian American Education Project was started in 2021 by Stewart and Pat Kwoh in response to escalating anti-Asian hate. They have been providing APIA curriculum to schools since 2006.

The Asian American Education Project

[ASIANAMERICANEDU.ORG](https://asianamericanedu.org)

Click below to see lesson plans created by The Asian American Education Project:

Lesson	Grade	Subject	Number of Lessons
4.1.1.1 - Filipino American Farmworkers Fight for Their Rights https://asianamericanedu.org/larry-itliong-cesar-chavez-grape-strike.html	4-6	English Language Arts, Social Studies, U.S. History	2

<p>4.1 Larry Itliong: Unity of Filipino and Mexican Farmworkers</p> <p>https://asianamericanedu.org/filipino-american-farmworkers.html</p>	<p>6-12</p>	<p>English Language Arts, U.S. History</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Unit Plan: Biology Grades 7-11 Ecological Model and Philip Vera Cruz</p> <p>https://asianamericanedu.org/ecological-model-and-philip-vera-cruz.html</p>	<p>7-11</p>	<p>Life Science (7th), Biology (9th), Inter-Coordinated Science (10-11)</p>	<p>7</p>

Read more about the United Farm Workers (UFW) Movement & Philip Vera Cruz:





United Farm Workers (UFW) Movement:


Philip Vera Cruz, Unsung Hero



<https://asianamericanedu.org/awoc-united-farm-workers-ufw-movement-philip-vera-cruz-unsung-hero.pdf>

Books and More

<i>Link</i>	<i>Information</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Power in Our Hands</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;">  <p>The Power in Our Hands: A Curriculum on the History of Work and Workers in the... zinnedproject.org</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">Grades 9-12</p>	<p>This book comes with a built-out curriculum, including handouts and case-studies, to help students understand the history of work and workers in the United States.</p> <p>This book is free for download, just click on the link to the left!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Journey for Justice</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;">  <p>Journey for Justice: The life of Larry Itliong teachingbooks.net</p> </div>	<p>This book, written by historian Dawn Bohulano Mabalon with writer Gayle Romasanta, richly illustrated by Andre Sibayan, tells the story of Larry Itliong's lifelong fight for a farmworkers union, and the birth of one of the most significant American social movements of all</p>

<p>Grades 4-8</p>	<p>time, the farmworker's struggle, and its most enduring union, the United Farm Workers.</p> <p>Click on the link to the left for access to the read aloud.</p>
<p>Voices from the Fields</p>  <p>Voices from the Fields: Children of Migrant Farmworkers Tell Their Stories teachingbooks.net</p> <p>Suggested for ages 9-14</p>	<p>First-person narratives and poems represent ten voices representative of Hispanic migrant children and teenagers working in the Salinas Valley of California. This unparalleled photodocumentary children's book originated in migrant programs or in the fields where some of the children and teenagers agreed to tell their stories and be photographed. Spanish was used in most of the interviews, the English translations of which offer an urgent witness and testimony to certain realities and experiences and, sometimes, also to hopes, as well.</p> <p>Click on the link to the left for access to the read aloud.</p>

Additional Readings

Click below for further readings and see how history continues to repeat itself:



**When love is not enough:
The Philippines' migrant...**
With few jobs at home, millions...
cnn.com



Can the United Farm Workers Rise Again?

Decades after Cesar Chavez made the union a power in California fields, it has lost much of its clout. Membership dropped precipitously, from 60,000 to 5,500. It hopes a new law will turn the tide.

[Read the Article: Can the United Farm Workers Rise Again?](#)

Reflection Questions

1. What information did you know about the show before going in? What did you not know?
2. How did it make you feel to know that a lot of information has been left out? What other examples can you think of?

Activities

Click on the Padlet below and add your favorite organization you want others to know about and support! Let's support each other and the communities around us!





Present-Day Workers: Farmworkers still suffer difficult living & working conditions, job hazards, instability, and fight for labor rights.

What issues do you know of that migrant workers, like farm workers, are struggling through? How can we better support these workers?

Share out any articles you find here!

Powered by [wckeleet](#)



Share out any articles or research you've found to help spread information on the ongoing conditions of migrant workers, such as farm workers. Reflect on how we can continue to support our workers. Let's share this information far and wide so that

Bonus points if you **use the library or hoopladigital** to research the above questions (including the organizations) and respond to each other's posts!