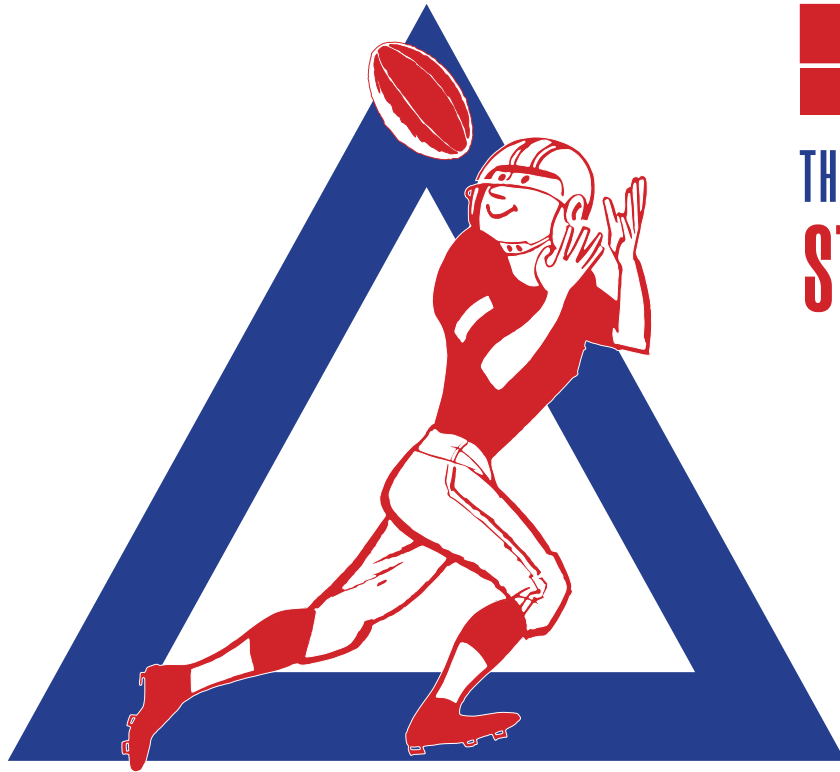


EWP **EAST
WEST
PLAYERS**

**THEATRE FOR YOUTH
STUDY GUIDE
2019**



SCRIMMAGE

**WHEN IT'S BROTHER vs BROTHER...
NOBODY WINS.**



WRITTEN BY **PRINCE COMOLVILAS** DIRECTED BY **GIOVANNI ORTEGA**

FEATURING **ANDREW AN TRUONG | MATT FUENTES | ROSIE NARASAKI | JEFFREY HAN | RACHEL MARSH**
SCENIC/PROPS **EFFY YANG** COSTUMES **SHERRY LINNELL** SOUND DESIGN **HOWARD HO** STAGE MANAGER **JAIME "JAI" MILLS**

ABOUT EAST WEST PLAYERS

As the nation's premier Asian American theatre organization, East West Players produces outstanding works and educational programs that give voice to the Asian Pacific American experience.

What started in 1965 with workshops in a small church basement, to the organization's maiden production of *Rashomon*, then onto years of success in a 99-seat theater in Silverlake, and now a nationally-acclaimed professional theater, East West Players has enjoyed over 40 years of great performances and community service.

East West Players began with nine artists who wanted theater where they could strive for artistic excellence, have control over their own careers as Asian American artists and tell the stories of their own community. Over the years the organization has provided opportunities to Asian Pacific American artists by producing classic plays, Broadway musicals, and stories specific to the Asian American experience.

In 1998 East West players moved to its current 240 seat home, the David Henry Hwang Theater at the historic Union Center for the arts in downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district. The theater now serves more than 10,000 people each year through its mainstage productions and arts educational programs serving youth and underrepresented Asian Pacific Islander communities.



THEATRE FOR YOUTH

The East West Players' Theatre for Youth touring production offers new ways to see the world through theatre that stimulate students to discover the prominent role Asian Pacific Americans have played in our history. Created in the early 1970s, Theatre for Youth was designed to promote cultural understanding and racial tolerance among youth. Today, the program strives to expand the history and curriculum to include stories about pioneering and groundbreaking Americans. The programs we offer illustrate the incredible wealth of Asian Pacific American cultural experiences in Southern California.

DEAR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND ADMINISTRATORS:

Thank you for hosting East West Players' production of *Scrimmage*. It is an honor to be able to bring this important piece of work to your school.

The idea for this play came from my predecessor, Carolina San Juan, who wanted to present a show that included students of all genders. She and Prince both thought that the subjects of bullying, especially in regards to toxic masculinity, were important to discuss today. We experience bullying in many forms, and it is sometimes not as straightforward as it may seem through name calling or being physically pushed around. It can be the assumption that you are not good enough because you are a girl, or your ethnicity - or sometimes both.

When I took this position in January, I knew I had a moral responsibility to instill strength in all of our audiences, regardless of age, gender, and religion. I hope this empowers you to be who you are, to be fearless and unapologetic, and to be an ally for those who are too afraid to be that for themselves.

Sincerely,
Jade Cagalawan
Arts Education and
Professional Enrichment Programs Manager



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Toxic Masculinity is the adherence to traditional male roles that expect boys and men to show few emotions and assert their dominance. Our production of *Scrimmage* not only presents this theme throughout the play but also begs to question us on what kind of repercussions it may cause to oneself and others when you adhere to such archaic ideologies. Just like Han and Benny, I didn't have a male figure growing up. Raised by a single mother in Chicago with a brother 12 years older than myself, we didn't have the opportunity to have conversations or discuss our own feelings. We simply had to survive. This play interrogates the notion of a binary world that gives power to patriarchy to dire consequences. Does this story still exist in American households? Yes, it most definitely does and it is our job as artists to dismantle these binary ideologies that can be detrimental to our youth especially when they are simply trying to navigate the world and figure who they are as human beings.

—Giovanni Ortega

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Even though East West Players had a specific topic already in mind when the company commissioned me to write *Scrimmage*, this play is still very personal to me. As an Asian-American male, I have always been hyper-aware of the stereotypes and pressures that get placed upon us, as well as how we've traditionally been depicted in the media. While things are evolving for the better, there's always room for improvement, particularly in our relationships with females and on our path to self-acceptance. Special thanks to the wonderful cast, director, design team, and crew; Snehal Desai, Carolina San Juan, Jade Cagalawan, and everyone at East West Players; and our script consultant, Matt Ackels.

—Prince Gomolvilas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2** About East West Players and Theatre for Youth
- 3** Director's Note
Playwright's Notes
- 4** Actor Bios/ Designer Bios
- 5** Vocabulary
- 6** Football Heroes
- 7** What did you do?
What is API?
- 8** Trading Cards
- 9** Reggie Ho
- 11** Character Study
- 12** Cast Photo



CAST

MATT FUENTES (*Han*) is a second-generation Filipino American actor and voice actor, born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. When he turned 18, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting in Film and TV. He currently studies the craft at LAUREN PATRICE NADLER STUDIOS, having previously received training on the Meisner Technique from Iris Klein and additional training on improvisational methods from Patrick Murphy of DePaul University. He can be seen in multiple productions at USC and THE NAKED MAN directed by Ben Gutteridge. He is currently repped by AKA Talent and by Manager Abby Johnson at The Green Room. He will play Dave Flores in the series, NORTH SHORE, a character he co-created with Jocelyn Lenhardt.

Jeffrey Han (*Benny/Han Understudy*) is excited to be a part of Scrimmage, his first production with East West Players. He earned his MFA in performing arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Theatre credits include Watching O.J. with Ensemble Studio Theatre Los Angeles, The Odd Couple at the Mondanaro Theater, and a touring production of The Taming of the Shrew with The Festival Players in the United Kingdom. He enjoys practicing martial arts, performing poetry, and listening to country music while stuck in LA traffic.

Rachel Marsh (*Narrator Understudy*) is an actor and improviser based in Los Angeles. She is trained in comedy at the Upright Citizens Brigade and can be seen performing with her team, Bungo, around LA. You can watch her star in a new digital series, *Before We Go*, online starting in April 2019.

Rosie Narasaki (*Narrator*) is a Los Angeles-based writer and actor. As an actor, recent highlights include LITTLE WOMEN with Playwright's Arena, and TWO MILE HOLLOW and IN LOVE AND WARCRAFT with Artists at Play. TV credits include SHAMELESS, WISDOM OF THE CROWD and FOR THE PEOPLE. In her spare time, she is the associate editor for TotalBeauty.com.

Andrew An Truong (*Benny*) is an individual concerned with the pursuit of happiness under crushing mundanity. Please contact if you're interested in devising new works regarding the endless toils of the pedestrian. "And I lay there, alone, colder as the warmth of blissful unfamiliarity left me."
IG: @andrewatruong

CREATIVE TEAM

Prince Gomolvilas (*Playwright*) Plays include Big Hunk o' Burnin' Love, The Theory of Everything, and the stage adaptation of the Scott Heim novel, Mysterious Skin, all of which have been produced on the main stage at East West Players. The Theory of Everything won the PEN Center USA Literary Award for Drama, and was published by Dramatic Publishing. His work has been performed across the United States, as well as in Canada, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and Thailand. His plays for elementary, middle, and high schools have been touring continuously for more than ten years in the San Francisco Bay Area, and they now tour in such cities as Houston, Los Angeles, Modesto, and Philadelphia. He currently teaches in the David Henry Hwang Writers Institute at East West Players, and he is the former Associate Director of the Master of Professional Writing Program at the University of Southern California, where he was also an Assistant Professor in Writing. He received his MFA in Playwriting from San Francisco State University.

princegomolvilas.com

Giovanni Ortega (*Director*) (SDC) considers East West Players (EWP) his artistic home. Additional works as a director include: The Hotel Play (Associate Director, Center Theatre Group/ Playwrights' Arena), La Madre de Todos los Exilios (Bogotá), Cabaret, The Musical, The House of the Spirits, Spring Awakening, Urinetown, In the Next Room, The Government Inspector, Convergence Zone (LATC), Mama Bares Concert (EWP), 9 EWP's New Works Festival, Upon the Fragile Shore (LA Asian Pacific Film Festival). Additional works for EWP include writing Criers for Hire and ALLOS, the Story of Carlos Bulosan and originating the role of President Marcos in Imelda, The Musical. He is an Assistant Professor in Pomona College Department of Theatre for the Claremont Colleges.

giovanniortega.com

Howard Ho (*Sound Design*) is a playwright, composer, and Ovation-nominated sound designer. This is his eighth East West Players Theatre for Youth show as sound designer. He also has worked on sound design at Center Theatre Group (CTG), TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, East West Players, Playwrights' Arena, Native Voices, Sierra Madre Playhouse, Pull Project, and Company of Angels. He was a CTG Literary Fellow in 2016.

Sherry Linnell (*Costume Designer*) Sherry is excited for the opportunity to work with East West Players. She is looking forward to working with such a great group of people on such a timely play as Scrimmage. Sherry's costume designs have been seen throughout the greater LA area including: Theatre at Boston Court, the Blank Theatre, the Odyssey, the Bootleg Theatre, Lewis Family Playhouse, the Colony and the Chance Theatre. In addition to designing costumes, Sherry also teaches design. She is currently the Resident Designer/Professor of Theatre and Dance at Pomona College, where she designs and teaches costume design.

Jaime "Jai" Mills (*Stage Manager*) attended Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Program with studies in both Stage and Production Management. Some of her most recent Stage Management Experience I & II held at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, The Dance Experience I - V at the Martha B.Knoebel Dance Theater at Cal State Long Beach University and Violet with Actors Co-Op Theater in Los Angeles, CA. Jai has also worked with Allison Keating and Wild Art Group on their recent production *On Death* at Pollution Studios and will return to work with Actors Co Op for *Steel Magnolias* this Spring.

Effy Yang (*Scenic Design*) Effy Yizhou Yang is excited to be working with East West Players. Originally from China, she graduated from the University of Southern California focusing on scenic design. Her recent credits include *Detroit '67* and *The Receptionist* at Pasadena Playhouse, Merrily We Roll Along at the Burbank Colony Theatre.

effyyangdesign.com

VOCABULARY

Stereotype:

A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing

Reflect on what stereotypes you have heard of. How are they harmful?

Model Minority:

The cultural expectation placed on Asian Americans as a group that each individual will be:

- Naturally Smart
- Wealthy
- Hard-working
- Obedient
- Spiritually Enlightened

Fill in the blank

The Model Minority is a _____ of Asian Americans.

Discuss why the Model Minority Stigma is a myth. How does this not only affect the person, but other groups as well?

Toxic Masculinity:

A term that describes narrow repressive type of ideas about the male gender role, that defines masculinity as exaggerated masculine traits like being violent, unemotional, aggressive in their relationships, and so forth. Also suggests that men who act too emotional, aren't violent enough or don't do all of the things that "real men" do are "girly" and are "not real men".

Many people confuse the difference between Masculinity and toxic Masculinity. However, one can be masculine without having toxic Masculinity.

x = I know it 0 = I don't know it ? = I'm not sure

	Before Play	After Play	After Discussion
Gender Roles			
AAPI			
The Chinese Exclusion Act			
Scrimmage Line			
Concussion			



“My heroes in the NFL were the players who defied the odds and defied their parents and defied the stereotypes that hold most of us back. They were dudes who were Asian-American, just like me.”
(Benny, Scene 3)

Discussion Questions

Benny looked up to Walter Achiu because of his perseverance through the NFL. Do you have anyone you look up to and why? It does not have to be a celebrity or athlete, it can be a family member, teacher, or friend.

Reflect

Have you ever been made fun of because of how you looked, what your ethnicity was, or your gender? How did it make you feel? Did you do anything? Would you have done anything differently?



Rate yourself using the scale below and then answer the questions that follow each item

1 = I almost never do this.

2 = I sometimes do this.

3 = I often do this

4 = I always do this

___ I engage in name-calling.

- o What are some reasons why I do (or don't do) this?
- o What would be the value of my not engaging in name-calling at all?

___ I make assumptions about people based on the groups to which they belong.

- o Why do I think I do (or do not do) this?
- o What are some ways I can practice not making assumptions and not believing stereotypes?

___ I tell jokes that make fun of people because of things like their gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, clothes, body size or shape, physical or mental ability.

- o Why do I think I do (or don't do) this?
- o What is the value of not telling jokes about people?

___ I speak up for others when I see them being treated unfairly.

- o Why do I think I do (or don't) speak up?
- o What can I do to become more outspoken on issues of unfairness and inequality?
- o How would I benefit from speaking out for others?
- o How would others benefit if I spoke out?

What does it mean to identify as AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander)?

AAPI is an acronym for Asian American and Pacific Islander. This is generally for anyone from the continent of Asia or from a Pacific Island.

The following ethnicities fall under the AAPI title:

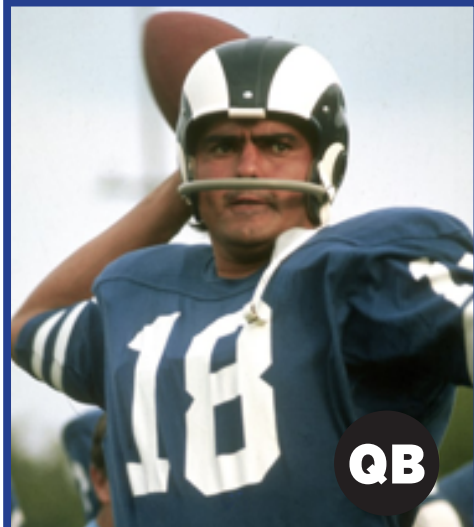
Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia (parts in Europe and Asia), Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), Turkey (parts in Europe and Asia), Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Yemen.



FB

Walter "Sneeze" Achiu

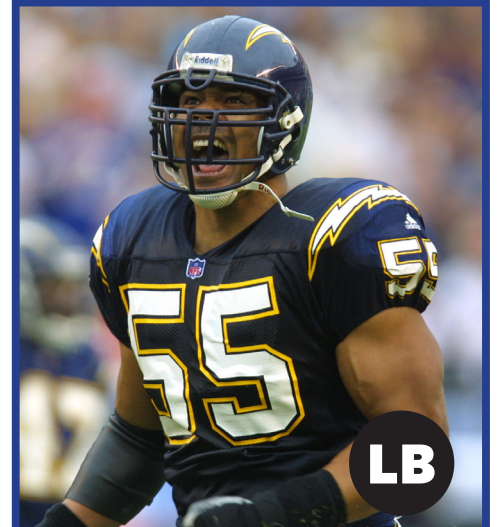
Well known for being the first person of east Asian descent to play in the National Football League. He was also a baseball player, wrestler, and track runner.



QB

Roman Gabriel

The first Filipino football player and first large quarterback, weighing in at 220 and was 6'5". Most Valuable Player in 1969 and 4-time Pro Bowler.



LB

Junior Seau

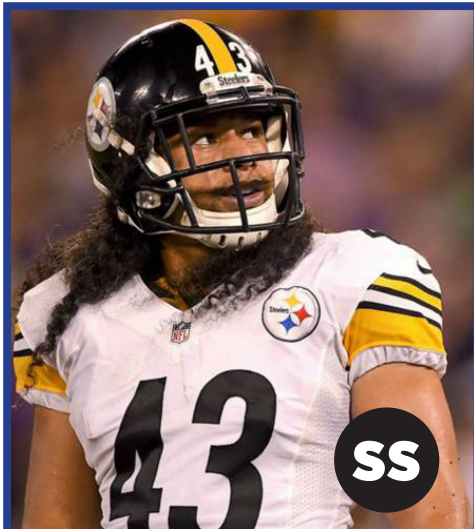
Played 20 years in the NFL as a Pro-Bowl Linebacker. Committed suicide in 2012 at the age of 43. Studies concluded that he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)



LB

Dat Nguyen

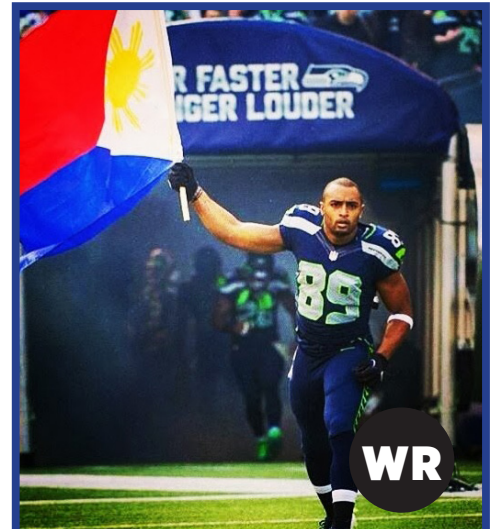
Born in a refugee camp in Arkansas when his parents were among the 50 members that fled their village during the Vietnam War.



SS

Troy Polamalu

NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2010. Played college football for the USC Trojans and won 2 Super Bowls with the Steelers.



WR

Doug Baldwin

Super Bowl winning wide-receiver raised the Philippine flag in support of Typhoon Haiyan victims. His mom is from Tacloban

SUGGESTED VIEWING



STUDENT/ATHLETE

Directed by Ken Jeong

Reggie Ho enrolled at Notre Dame hoping to pursue a career in medicine. But he also made history as a walk-on kicker who helped the Irish win a national championship in 1988

http://www.espn.com/30for30/film/_/page/student%2Fathlete

“...he had worked out his routine: the steps, the focus, the deep breath, the holding out of the arms and the waving of the fingers, the ritual his teammates call ‘the voodoo stuff.’ Because he is of Chinese descent, many people who saw his gestures assumed that the inscrutable strumming had something to do with martial arts. Ho laughs. “No. It’s to relieve stress,” he says. “My fingers wiggle because I get so nervous. My arms go off to the right out of habit, I guess. I’d rather have them out there than in front of me, because otherwise they’d distract me.”

—William Knack, “HO, HO, HE’S A HERO” (1988)

Discussion Questions

1. What were people’s first impressions of Reggie? (Coaches, students, fellow athletes and even sports commentators)
2. What did Reggie aspire to do for himself? How did this reflect in his work?
3. How did he defy Asian stereotypes? How did he defy “jock” stereotypes?

Timeline of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Football Players

Walter “Sneeze” Achiu

Dayton Triangles, 1927-1928

Wally Yonamine

San Francisco 49ers, 1947

Roman Gabriel

Los Angeles Rams, 1962-1972

Philadelphia Eagles, 1973-1977

Mosiula Faasuka Tatupu

New England Patriots, 1978-1990

John Lee

St. Louis Cardinals, 1986-1987

Los Angeles Raiders, 1988

Junior Seau

San Diego Chargers, 1990-2002

Miami Dolphins, 2003-2006

New England Patriots, 2006-2010

Tedy Bruschi

New England Patriots, 1996-2009

Hines Ward

Pittsburgh Steelers, 1998-2011

Troy Polamalu

Pittsburgh Steelers, 2003-2014

Dat Nguyen

Dallas Cowboys, 1999-2006

Norm Chow

Head Football Coach of University of Hawai’i Manoa, 2011-2015.

Younghoe Koo

Los Angeles Chargers, 2017

Doug Baldwin

Seattle Seahawks, 2011 - present

And many more!

CHARACTER STUDY

1. Come up with an adjective that describes each character.
2. Write down an antonym and synonym for each word.
3. Include an example of the character trait.
4. Identify the origin(s), cause(s), or consequence(s) of each trait.
5. Use the chart as an example to make one that helps to define your own character or someone you admire.

	Benny	Han	Rebecca
Word			
Definition			
Antonym			
Example			
Origin, Cause, or Consequence			



eastwestplayers.org/youth-arts-education

