

**“some are born great,
some achieve greatness,
while some have greatness
thrust upon them...”**



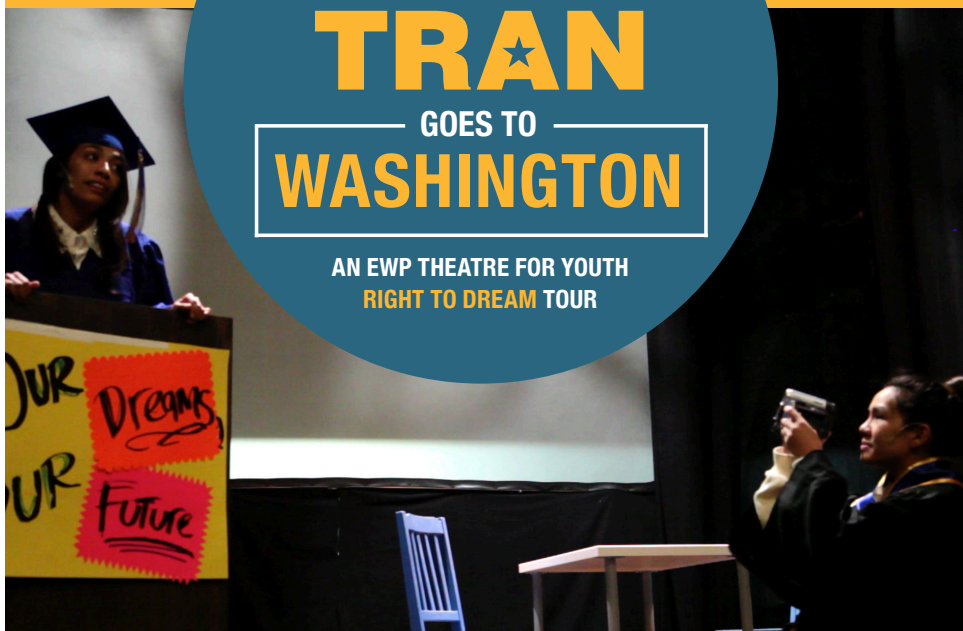
TAM

TRAN

GOES TO

WASHINGTON

**AN EWP THEATRE FOR YOUTH
RIGHT TO DREAM TOUR**



WORLD PREMIERE

FRIDAY MARCH 2, 2018

PALMS MIDDLE SCHOOL

10860 WOODBINE ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90034

PERIODS 4 & 5

Dear Palms Middle School students, educators, and administrators,

Thank you for hosting East West Players' presentation of *Tam Tran Goes to Washington*. It has been an honor to bring this important work to your school.

This play was produced with a focus on all the **social justice movements** initiated, organized, and led by **youth—just like you**. From Civil Rights, Standing Rock, the #MeToo movement, and now the DREAM Act, our youth continue to lead our nation in the greatest social movements of our time. I hope this work emphasizes **your abilities, your courage, and your potential**.

Special thanks to **Dr. Moriuchi** and **Mr. Kim** for supporting theatre and the performing arts as a means to engage and enrich your education.

Sincerely,

CAROLINA SAN JUAN, PhD

Arts Education Director, East West Players

Dear Students,

Tam Tran, the young woman featured in this play, was my student at UCLA, and later became my colleague and friend. Tam came from a very humble family of immigrants, but she emerged as **a recognized leader of the immigrant rights movement** throughout the country.

Tam was talented, creative, and cared deeply for her family and friends. She also **cared deeply about justice**. Tam knew that she and two million other undocumented immigrant youth were not being treated fairly by the only country they called home. And **she knew that she had to speak up, organize, and fight** to make this country true to our history as a nation of immigrants.

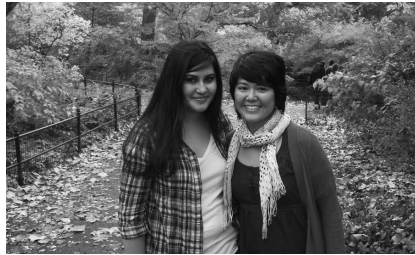
Although Tam was my student, in truth, she taught me more than I could ever teach her. Tam taught me about **courage, compassion, and how each of us can make a difference with our lives**. I think of Tam often, and I hope that this play will inspire other young people to learn from her life and legacy.



¡Sí se puede! Yes, we can!

KENT WONG

Director, UCLA Labor Center



Synopsis

Tam Tran, a graduating student at UCLA, is a filmmaker and Radiohead fan. She and her bestfriend, Cinthya, are also **undocumented Americans**. Tam has been asked to testify on behalf of the **DREAM Act** to the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.

She is afraid because she is usually behind not in front of the camera. But with the help of her friends, her teachers, and her mother- **she gathers the courage to speak her truth** to the Senate about the **right to dream**.

But there is a cost: after her testimony, her family is arrested. She rallies her professors and every public official she can contact until they are released three days later. Tam and Cinthya continue their activism while living their dream to attend graduate school at Brown and Columbia respectively. Three years later, on May 15, 2010, Tam and Cinthya are killed by a drunk driver. Their legacy lives on in the DREAM Act, DACA, and in this play.



LYNN CAO ACTOR

Lynn was raised in Connecticut and graduated Quinnipiac University with a BA in Biomedical Sciences; Shortly after, she moved to California to pursue her true passion in acting. She is currently studying at Lee Strasberg Film and Theatre Institute. She has participated in multiple short films, including her lead roles in *Breaking Point* and *Offbeat*, directed by Chris Nguyen and Annabell Liao, respectively. Lynn is incredibly honored and humbled to be playing Tam Tran in her first East West Players project. To the cast and crew: it's been a privilege to be working alongside with you. Thank you for the wonderful memories! To the students: I hope as Tam takes you on her journey, you feel her urge to fight for what is right, even if it's hard. The choices that you make and the efforts you put in really do make a difference.

TARA COX ACTOR

Tara is honored to perform the role of Cinthya Felix (and company ;p) in her East West Players debut. She graduated from UCLA with a BA in Theatre, has studied with the Groundlings, and acted in short films. Tara's favorite roles have been Dromio of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors*, Rosie Alvarez in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, for which she received the Goldie award for *Best Actress in a Musical*. She holds this entire creative team in such high esteem, and is so inspired by Tam Tran and Cinthya Felix. Thank you for watching!

LILY HUYNH ACTOR

Born and raised in San Diego, CA. Lily knew she wanted to be a performer at the age of six years old. Growing up as a first generation Vietnamese American, she knew she needed to use her voice for those who are unable to. Just like Tam Tran, Lily is aware of the power a strong minded Vietnamese woman can hold. Lily is beyond thankful to join her first production right after graduating from AMDA Los Angeles. She is humbled to be a part of a production that represents strength and the future. #StudentsLeadTheWay

MAGGIE MAY ACTOR is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles and an alumnus of the Acting Intensive Program at South Coast Repertory. She is honoured to be a part of this production and, as the future of the DACA program hangs in the balance, she hopes students will be inspired to step up and speak up during this defining moment in American history.

ELIZABETH WONG PLAYWRIGHT

Award-winning plays for family and young audiences include *Boyd & Oskar*, *Prometheus*, *Amazing Adventures of the Marvelous Monkey King*, and *Goloshes of Fortune*. With teen novelist Jeff Gottesfeld, she co-wrote stage adaptation of Randa Abdel-Fattah's *Does My Head Look Big in This* [Dramatic Publishing] and Josh Hanagarne's *The World's Strongest Librarian*, which was awarded the AATE 2017 Distinguished Play Award. Ms. Wong was a Disney Studio Writing Fellow and a staff writer for All-American Girl with Margaret Cho. She is a proud member of PEN, Writers Guild West and the Dramatist Guild.

elizabethwong.net

MARILYN TOKUDA DIRECTOR

Recently retired from East West Players (EWP) where she has worked as the organizations' first Arts Education Director for fourteen years. Marilyn also participated with the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC) to evaluate the visibility and portrayals of Asian Pacific Americans in the media. She was one of the founding members of COLD TOFU, the first Asian American comedy group and served as its Artistic Director for six years. As an actress, Marilyn has performed in numerous productions at EWP including: *Sweeney Todd in the role of Mrs. Lovett*, *Follies*, *The Theory of Everything*, *Hanako*, and *Woman From the Other Side of the World*. Television shows include *Frasier*, *Friends*, *Seinfeld*, *Magnum P.I.* and *JAG*. Currently, she can be seen in a recurring role on *Grey's Anatomy*.

HOWARD HO SOUND DESIGNER

Howard is a playwright, composer, and Ovation-nominated sound designer. This is his seventh East West Players Theatre for Youth show as sound designer. He also has worked or is currently working 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. As a writer, his play *Various Emporia* was a 2017 O'Neill National Playwrights Finalist, and his musical *Pretendo* will be featured in the CTG Library Reading Series this April. He was a CTG Literary Fellow in 2016. He would like to thank Marilyn, Elizabeth, and Carolina for the opportunity to share Tam's story.

ASHPHORD JACOWAY COSTUME DESIGNER

Ashphord is honored to be the Costume Designer for East West Player's production of *Tam Tran Goes to Washington*. She holds a B.F.A in Theatre Performance and a minor in Political Science, so she is always looking for ways to combine her two passions to create positive change. Her previous credits include *The Watson's go to Birmingham-1963*, *Paradise Lost*, *Return to Oz*, and *The Music Man* at The Nate Holden Theatre. She works as East West Player's Wardrobe Supervisor year around and is a Founding Sister of Chocolate Covered Cosplay, a group dedicated to diversity in the Cosplay Community through open dialogue by hosting panels across the country. Ashphord hopes this piece will inspire you to live your life fully and stand for your beliefs and human rights. We are truly the future.

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO SET DESIGNER

Recent Credits at Easy West Players include: *Yohen*, *Criers For Hire*, *Beijing Spring* and *Steel Magnolias*. Most recently, his work has been seen at Native Voices at The Autry, New Village Arts, The Chance Theater, The Getty Villa and the Hollywood Bowl. Currently, he is an associate artist with Playwrights' Arena serving as their resident scenic designer. Christopher is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Fellowship-Pierre Cardin Award and holds an MFA from the UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance and a BA from the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television.

VOCABULARY



The DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act

A legislative proposal for a multi-phase process for undocumented immigrants that would initially grant conditional residency and then, upon meeting further qualifications, permanent residency and a path to citizenship.

California DREAM Act

A two-part legislature consisting of Assembly Bills 130 and 131 passed by the California State Legislature and signed into law in October of 2011. The California DREAM Act took effect in January of 2013. The first part of the Bill allows AB540-eligible students at public universities to qualify for private scholarships throughout the State of California, regardless of citizenship status. The second bill grants them the opportunity to apply for and receive financial aid from state funds.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

A change in policy for the Department of Homeland Security implemented by the Obama Administration in June of 2012. The policy shift introduced two separate applications for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the US before the age of sixteen and are currently enrolled in high school, have graduated high school, or the equivalent. Applicants also qualify if they are serving or have served in the US military and do not have a previous criminal record and have been continuously residing within the country since the time of their arrival. All applicants must be less than thirty years old. If they meet these requirements, applicants can petition for Deferred Action of their status in the US, putting a stop to any current or future deportation proceedings and granting them a temporary work permit and Social Security number. This approval lasts for 2 years before the student is required to re-apply for it.

On September 5, 2017, the Trump administration rescinded DACA. To date, various organizations from Federal and State agencies to local grassroots organizations are disputing the decision. Polls indicate that 80% favor continuing DACA. After 16 years, we continue to work to make the DREAM Act a reality.

DOCUMENTING OUR STORIES: FILM AS A SOCIAL JUSTICE TOOL



QUESTIONS:

What are some of the **experiences and challenges** undocumented students navigate as they pursue higher education?

What are some of the **methods undocumented students have used** to advance their cause?

ACTIVITY:



Watch *Lost and Found* by Tam Tran
[Story of a DREAM Act Student]
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jl7J2b3t4WU

- **EXPLORE** the effects of immigration status on immigrant young adults' lives.
- **LEARN** about the barriers that undocumented faced in accessing higher education.
- **LEARN** about the different undocumented immigrant communities.
- **LEARN** how some immigrants become undocumented

WHAT IF YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO FILM AND DIRECT A DOCUMENTARY?

What would your documentary be about? Why did you choose to emphasize on that issue? Who would you interview for this documentary?

Where would you record your documentary? **Who would this documentary target?**
What would be the purpose of this documentary?



The **East West Players' Theatre for Youth** touring production offers new ways to see the world through theatre and encourage students to discover the prominent role Asian Pacific Islander Americans have played in history. Created in the early 1970s, Theatre for Youth was designed to promote cultural understanding and tolerance. Today, the program strives to expand the history and curriculum to include stories about pioneering and groundbreaking API-Americans.



This work would not be possible without the generous assistance from **East West Players Board of Directors, UCLA Labor Center, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Wells Fargo, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, and Dwight Stuart Youth Fund.**

