

KRISTINA

WONG

www.kristinawong.com



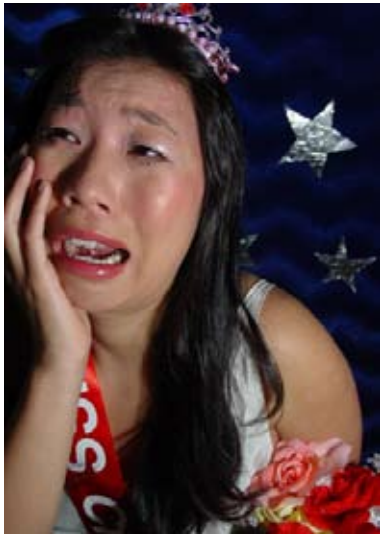
For Booking Information:
Kristina Wong
booking@kristinasherylwong.com
Tel (310) 435-4817

Kristina Wong
PO Box 251664
Los Angeles, CA 90025



“Brutal but hilarious... a woman who takes life’s absurdities very seriously.” — *East Bay Express*

BIO



Kristina Wong is solo performer, writer, actor, educator, “culture jammer”, and filmmaker. Kristina’s background in education, art for social change, and community work informs the content of her performances and writing which are both entertaining and thought provoking.

Her original performances have been toured nationally, crossing geographic and cultural boundaries. She is an equal opportunity satirist poking fun at everyone even herself. Introducing her work at a recent conference in reference to racial politics and presenting diverse programming she quipped, “I’m so post race, I’m post-post race! I don’t care if you call me Oriental! Just call me!”

Wong has this to say about her work, “I see my performance work as a humorous and ephemeral response to the invisible and visible boundaries that shape my life, rather than a hermetic declaration of my identity.”

Her performances are quirky, hilarious, subversive, and insightful. She facilitates workshops that build community, are inclusive for participants of all levels and encourages them to explore their creativity while helping the host organization to build strong ties and future audiences in their community.

She was awarded the Creative Capital Award in Theater and a Creation Fund from the National Performance Network to create her third full-length solo show *Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* exploring the remarkably high incidence of suicide among Asian American women in a world that’s more nuts than we are. Kristina was selected to write and perform in the CBS Multicultural Comedy Showcase and a compilation “best-of” performance for the Comedy Central Workspace. Her show “Free?” was as one of the few “performance art meets stand-up” offerings at the South Beach Comedy Festival in Miami.

She was invited as the alumna commencement speaker for the 2008 UCLA Department of English graduation. She is completing a novel started with the PEN USA Rosenthal Emerging Voices Fellowship. She is a freelance contributor to anthologies and magazines that include *Playgirl Magazine*. Her mail order bride website is www.bigbadchinesemama.com.

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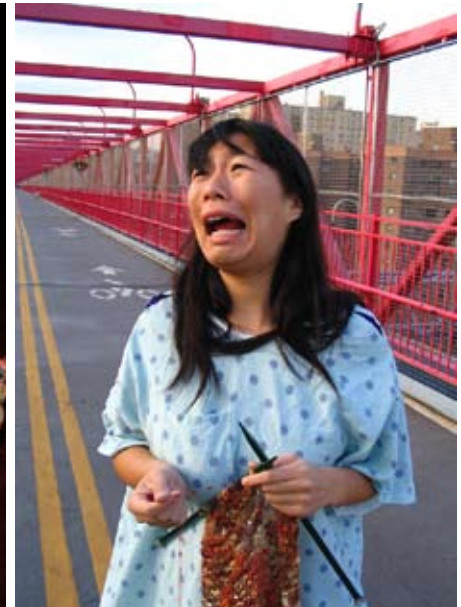
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★ available to tour

“One woman show keeps the laughs coming as it tackles issue of depression.”

— Philadelphia Metro



Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Sharp humor and incisive psychology collide in this swear-to-god-not-autobiographical, serio-comic portrayal of the high incidence of anxiety, depression and mental illness among Asian American women. Tangling, spinning, and mixing yarns, Kristina asks: Which came first? The sky-high suicides of Asian American women? The maddening world? And when the heck do we get to climax? Knitters—cuckoo and not—are invited to knit in the audience during the shows.

Themes: Social themes: Mental health issues in marginalized communities, public resources (or lack of) available for mental health, moving past oppression into healthy futures, art as a healer.

Artistic themes: Ethical issues in creating political performance, ethical issues in working with personal material, solo performance, use of art and craft in performance, interdisciplinary performance, improvising material for the stage.

Duration: 75 min.

Post show Q & A Available (Schools are encouraged to engage counselors from their Student Psychological Service Centers to participate in the post-show discussions.)

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"Part sassy stand-up comedian, she is genuinely funny, has terrific stage timing and uses media with studied originality." — Los Angeles Times



Free?

With more street cred than you can shake a pair of Hammer pants at, Kristina Wong swoops into your town to riff on notions of freedom in times that would make Joe McCarthy gasp. Excerpts include a satirical homage to "save the world in five minutes" spoken word, a Flashdance tribute, and an explanation (or un-explanation) of why she prefers life in the almighty closet. Bidding paddles will be provided for a live auction of gentrified neighborhoods.

Issues/ Themes Covered in Show: Spoken Word Culture, War, Gentrification, LGBTQ/ Coming Out, National and World Politics

Runtime: 60 minutes

Excerpts: 10-45 minute excerpts can be accommodated in a range of spaces

Post show Q &A Available

Kristina Wong's performances have been shown in spaces that include the Public Theater & La MaMa ETC (New York City, NY), REDCAT & Mark Taper Forum, (Los Angeles, CA) Jumpstart Performance Company (San Antonio, TX), the Painted Bride (Philadelphia, PA) among dozens of others.

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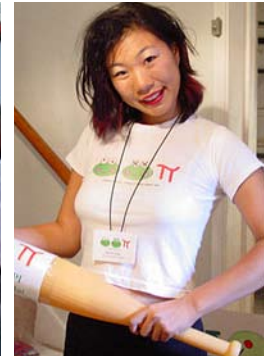
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Stand-up/ Hosting/Special Events

For over 10 years Kristina has been creating characters that take on a life of their own. Wherever Ms. Wong appears these hilarious characters are likely to pop up. Historically she may be the first performance artist to be stalked by her own characters.

These various personas originally started in real world settings during her culture-jamming missions. Wong and Friends have hosted events like the New World Theater Intersections Conference Showcase, been acts of their own, or animate public spaces in unexpected ways.

If you spot Kristina Wong at an event – keep your eyes peeled for celebrity sightings and close encounters of the ludicrous kind

Miss Saigon with the Wind— *a politically subversive Broadway tribute!*

A perfect way to keep the momentum of your mixed bill show going! A Karaoke machine and some homemade costumes provide the panache and glam of Broadway on a shoestring budget! Fun facts about racism in musicals! Real helicopter lowered onto stage!

Fannie Wong, **Former Miss Chinatown 2nd Runner Up**

This faux beauty queen smokes a cigar and talks like one classy broad. She tells the kind of jokes that would sailors blush.

Officer MacGillawongster, **Department of Homeland Suckurity**

This wayward cop puts the “Suck” in Suckurity with absurd and invasive checks of audience members. He also tells jokes-- think Red Skeleton crossed with Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

Jenny Lee, **President of Kero Kero Pi Asian American Sorority**

Jenny Lee can conduct rush or announce rush at your school for her “Asian American Sisterhood—Anyone can rush, not everyone will get a bid”!

Mildred Fong, **Import Model Superstar**

This faux import model gives problematic motivational speeches then follows up with awkward dance numbers that can incorporate students. She makes for a great “featured speaker” to speak to young women about empowerment via their own adult payscale!

Lady Mora Cha-Ching **of the Billionaires for Bush**

A Sassy Billionairess who rallies for the economic advancement of the top 1% wealth owners. Four More Wars! Leave No Billionaire Behind!

Stand-up!

Kristina’s adult-only stand-up provides hilarious insight on everything from Craigslist, her time at Playgirl Magazine, and stoners.

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WORKSHOPS + LECTURES



A four-time grantee of the Los Angeles Artist-in-Residence Award, the former Artistic Director of the Asian American Teen Theater Company, and a popular guest presenter at universities nationwide, Kristina has extensive experience in speaking about her work and the work that inspires her. She's also taught hundreds of lively hands-on workshops for teens and adults. Below are descriptions of some of the workshops that can be tailored for your program needs.

All of these workshops can be modified to fit the age range of participants, time and space constraints, and curriculum needs. Workshops can also combine lecture material and hands-on activities upon request.

LECTURES

Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest:

Mental Illness and Suicide Among Asian American Women (60-120 minutes)

This is an informal 30-minute excerpt presentation of Kristina's most recent solo work "Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" which follows a Q&A discussion. The selected excerpts explore the following themes: the high rates of suicide among APIA women, the cultural stigma of mental illness, the difficulty of seeking low cost help, the relationships between Asian American women, and the desire to achieve as linked to depression. The excerpts follow a discussion on the artist's creative process in creating the show. It is also recommended that the presenter assemble a panel from their local mental health community to be available during the Q&A.

Suitable for: Ages 18 and up

Ideal Curriculum matches: Sociology, Media Arts, Media Studies, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, Psychology, Social Work, Performance Studies, Political Science
Technical Needs: excerpts can play in a theater, laptop hook-up to video screen (to play powerpoint slides), boombox and a volunteer to run the cues.

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★ WORKSHOPS + LECTURES

★ **Subversive Art and Activism: The Art of Kristina Wong**

(60-90 minutes)

This is a general lecture of Kristina's performance work, film, and writings. In a fun interactive lecture, Kristina confronts, stretches, and challenges the popular connotations of words like "activism" and "feminism"—why they seem scary, why they were scary for her in her pre-bad-ass performance art days. She redefined those words through her art today and continues to use art and performance to make new discoveries and revolutionize the world around her. Kristina also describes how she redefines "performance" in her art. Acts of resistance can be hilarious and thought provoking! From bigbadchinesemama.com to crashing the Miss Chinatown Pageant-- "performances" aren't just what you paid \$50 to see in a theater. Kristina shows how revolution can be funny, effective, and a way of life.

Suitable for: Ages 16 and up

Ideal Curriculum matches: Sociology, Media Arts, Media Studies, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, Performance Studies Technical Needs: DVD player, VHS player, TV or video projector and screen, internet ready computer, overhead projector. Accommodations can be made if some of these are not available.

★ **Culture Jammers Around the World**

(60-90 minutes)

What do artistic revolutionaries do when they don't have a theater but want to upstage injustice in big ways? Cue the culture jammers! Kristina will play clips from some of the most outrageous of public stunts from theatrical activists working with very few resources. Clips include work from The Yes Men, Improv Everywhere, Chris Rock and Michael Moore's "The Awful Truth." What tactics are these artists using? What works? What doesn't work? Expect amazing discussion between DVD changing.

Suitable for: Ages 14 and up

Ideal Curriculum matches: Sociology, Media Arts, Media Studies, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, Performance Studies, Political Science Technical Needs: DVD player, TV or video screen



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Performance/ Writing Workshops

Finding Your Language: Playing with Different Performance Tongues (60-90 minutes)

You don't have to be the best actor, singer, or dancer to tell an amazing story. Finding the honest place and dabbling between different disciplines might be where you find your strongest voice. Sometimes your award-worthy performance may work best offstage for an unsuspecting audience. This workshop is focused on process rather than product. We start with some warm-ups, movement and theater games-- the rest is playing! Be dressed to move! In a non-judgmental space, participants will play with movement, text, visuals and working in site-specific contexts to forge a new performance language all their own.

Suitable for: Ages 18 and up
This workshop can run in one or multiple sessions.

Masks, Disguises, Personas, and the Performances of Everyday Life: **A Solo Performance Workshop** (60-90 minutes)

In this workshop we deconstruct the way we are seen and how we see ourselves. We'll draw ourselves again and again to visualize ourselves in metaphor. We'll make giant sculptures on our bodies and take turns performing the real and unreal to empower, recreate, and comment on our own identities. These are fun exercises that participants can bring back to their student groups.

Suitable for: Ages 16 and up
This workshop can run in one or multiple sessions.

Other workshops are available in (inquire for more details):

Performing Subculture: Women who Subvert Culture (lecture)
Improv Theater Basics
BECAUSE: Multi-generational Performance and Writing Workshops
Using Theater games to break boundaries
Polishing: An Interdisciplinary Performance Workshop for Tuning Up Almost Finished Pieces
Making a Viable Living as an Artist 101
Teen Writing Workshop
Using Theater for Group Building and Exploring Teen Issues
DIY/ Crafting for Social Change