KRISTINA WONG FOR PUBLIC OFFICE: LIVE FROM HER HOME!
A Visions and Voices Signature Event

Written and performed by KRISTINA WONG
Directed and dramaturgy by DIANA WYENN
Devised by KRISTINA WONG and DIANA WYENN
Sound by MARK McCLAIN WILSON
Scenic, Costumes, and Props by KRISTINA WONG

Friday, October 23, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. PT
Live via Zoom
University of Southern California

WHAT TO KNOW
- Kristina Wong is a performance artist, comedian, and writer.
- Her projects include the web series How Not to Pick Up Asian Chicks and the theatre shows The Wong Street Journal and Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.
- She is also an elected official representing her fellow Koreatown residents on the Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council.

“I believe that as an artist, my job is not to ‘fix’ the wrongs of the world with easy answers, but instead, to further complicate the question by making the invisible—visible, and hopefully, creating some space for public discourse.”—Kristina Wong

ABOUT KRISTINA WONG
Kristina Wong is a performance artist, comedian, writer, and neighborhood elected official who has been presented internationally across North America, the UK, Hong Kong, and Africa. She was featured in the New York Times’ “Off Color Comedy” video series, which highlights “artists of color who use humor to make smart social statements about the sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious ways that race plays out in America today.” Wong has been a late-night-show guest on Comedy Central and FX, and an actor in film and television. Center Theatre Group honored her as the 2019 Sherwood Award recipient for her exceptional contribution to the Los Angeles theatre landscape and her work as an innovative and adventurous artist.

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS
Neighborhood councils are L.A.’s most local form of government, or “the closest form of government to the people,” as the City of Los Angeles puts it. They are a formal part of the L.A. city government. Neighborhood-council board members are elected by their communities, and serve as city officials on a volunteer basis. The neighborhood-council system was established in 1999. There are currently 99 neighborhood councils across L.A.
CULTURE JAMMING
“i’m interested in guerilla performance as culture jamming—
creating performances that subvert the use of space not
intended for ‘performance.’ i experiment with interactive,
improvisational performance that blurs the roles of ‘artist’
and ‘audience’—recasting unsuspecting bystanders as co-
stars to my performance personas—unearting the masks,
disguises, and performances hidden in the most mundane of
daily life.”—Kristina Wong
Culture jamming is a form of protest that disrupts or subverts
mainstream media and culture, especially corporate
advertising and other forms of mass communication. Culture
jamming became a popular form of anti-consumerist protest
in the 1990s, with creative and critical reconfigurations of
corporate logos, advertisements, and more. Today, culture
jamming often takes the form of memes on social media.

Some notable exemplars of culture jamming: The Yes Men,
the Billboard Liberation Front, Adbusters magazine, the
Guerrilla Girls, Crimethinc, and Jorge Rodriguez-Gerada,
among others.

SOME OTHER PROJECTS BY KRISTINA WONG

The Auntie Sewing Squad
Launched by Kristina Wong in her apartment in the early
days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Auntie Sewing Squad has
grown into a national network of volunteers sewing masks
for vulnerable communities. They have donated more than
80,000 masks since March.

Radical Cram School
A digital series in which Asian American kids explore issues
of identity, revolution, and social justice through puppets,
community storytelling, and comedy. (Find it on YouTube.)

The Wong Street Journal
A solo theatre work about global poverty, privilege, and
economics.

Going Green the Wong Way
A theatre piece about the environment and Wong’s efforts at
a carbon-free life.

Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest
A performance about Asian American women and mental
health.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

What is the role of performance in politics and
government? Think about press conferences, elected
officials on social media, and any other public
appearance of a member of government.

What do you think of the idea that “culture is power”?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

Kristina Wong online | kristinawong.com
Find Your Neighborhood Council | empowerla.org/councils
The Auntie Sewing Squad | auntiesewingsquad.com
11/6 & 11/7 at Visions and Voices: Live Artists Live III: Despair/Repair

STORYTELLING AND SOCIAL CHANGE

“[I]n order to make any change, people must join
together. They must talk with one another to figure
out what change they want to make and build
relationships to do it. And those relationships are
conducted in no small part through stories.”—from
the guidebook “Storytelling and Social Change” by
Paul VanDeCarr and Working Narratives

“Current realities are often rooted in oppressive
narratives. Our role as change agents is to
undermine these narratives and replace them with
new stories that help build a fairer, freer world.”—
Patrick Reinsborough and Doyle Canning of the
Center for Story-Based Strategy
DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

CHRISTINA SNIDER of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this evening’s event. Those with a call number (e.g., books) are physical items which you can find in our campus libraries. Those without a call number (e.g., e-books, journals, and databases) are electronic resources, which are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS


DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: E184.O6 Y45 2001
- Melody Berger, ed., We Don’t Need Another Wave: Dispatches from the Next Generation of Feminists (Emeryville: Seal Press, 2006).

DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: HQ1111.W4 2006

DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: HQ1426 .C284 2003

DATABASES

- Asian American Drama
- Performing Arts Periodicals Database
- ProQuest Music and Performing Arts Collection
- Theatre in Performance

JOURNALS

- Journal of Asian American Studies
- American Politics Research
- Comedy Studies

FILMS

- Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest (Cinema Libre Studio, 2013)