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Songs Of The Dragons Flying To Heaven And Other Plays



Synopsis

"Have you ever noticed how most Asian Americans are slightly brain-damaged from having grown up with Asian parents?" begins the Korean American protagonist of *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*, the singular work by Young Jean Lee. This is the first collection by the downtown writer-director, whose explorations of stereotypes of race, gender, and religion are unflinching and seat-squirmy funny. This volume includes the following plays: *Songs of the Dragon Flying to Heaven*; Scathingly mischievous; *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven* is a provocateur's funny, guns-blazing take on the utter banality of ethnic stereotypes and other cross-cultural outrages. In its slyly eccentric way, it's an evening of enlightenment.

- Peter Marks, *Washington Post*; Part performance art, part comic sketches, fights, dance, song and reverse Bible study, and at times strangely serious, *Dragons* is a bracingly funny; always provocative equal-opportunity offender.
- Robert Hurwitz, *San Francisco Gate*; Miss Lee has a talent for evocative and sometimes grotesque imagery, and on the attack she is at the height of her powers.
- *New York Times*; I will happily worship in the house of Young Jean Lee.
- David Cote, *TimeOut New York*; A thoroughly entertaining, uplifting, inescapable piece of art; So thought provoking, it's only appropriate to give thanks and praise.
- Helen Shaw, *The New York Sun*; Pullman, WA "[Lee's] new work has the deadpan simplicity of the plays of Richard Maxwell and the awkward, secretly suffering angst of a teenage diarist working through an identity crisis. It is an honest [work] that takes itself seriously, and that is refreshing." -Jason Zinoman, *New York Times*
- *The Appeal* "The Appeal is the happiest literary desecration since Amy Freed's *The Bard of Avon*, in which Shakespeare declared, 'I have great thought-like things within my head.'"
- Jeremy McCarter, *The New York Sun*; Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals; Lee is a queen of unease; chuckles never come unaccompanied by squirms.
- *Village Voice*; Yagoo; A rising star of the downtown theatre scene.
- *New York Times*; Young Jean Lee has written and directed shows in New York with Young Jean Lee's Theater Company and toured her work to over twenty cities around the world. Her plays include *Straight White Men*, *We're Gonna Die*, *Untitled Feminist Show*, *The Shipment*, *Lear* and *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*. Awards include two Obies, the Festival Prize of the Zuercher Theater Spektakel, a Prize in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Doris Duke Artist Award.

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Customer Reviews

It's creepy when someone is making fun of your demographic stereotype in a over the top obnoxiously funny way, and they still seem to totally peg you and pull your heart stings at the same time. Hmm, maybe the truth doesn't always hurt, it feels kind of uncomfortable, and doesn't quite fit right, but it's still fun.

I enjoyed reading Young Jean Lee's collection of plays. Her voice is deeply strange as it is funny and the way she tackles big subjects in a sattirical yet accessible way definitely proves to be interesting and worthwhile. A great source for contemporary drama and experimental theater. Definitely reccomend.

This is such an amazing collection of Young Jean Lee's plays! Her brand of theater is totally irresistible. These plays are ingeniously subversive, deeply challenging and genuinely entertaining. Her work always reminds me that political theater can be intensely moving, hilarious, abrasive and so acutely insightful all at the same time. This is seriously one of my all-time favorite theater books!! You must read these plays!!

Young Jean continues to develop her themes of alienation based on racial, sexual, ethnic, religious and class stereotypes. This may sound rather dry but picking up the book and reading it is an engaging experience. I think this is due to the obvious fact that she doesn't recognize boundaries of

what is safe to say or do. The reader can never be sure when she will blow right past the tasteful limit and take them along for the ride. Buckle Up!

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