

Land Acknowledgement

We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people.

Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

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ROBERT AND MARGRIT MONDAVI CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
& UC DAVIS ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENT

Asian futures, without Asians

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024 | 7:30PM
VANDERHOEF STUDIO THEATRE

Part of the Stars, Earth, and Coral: Pacific Entanglements and Futures
Beyond the Human Symposium

THIS SEASON IS SPONSORED BY
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This performance is sponsored by UC Davis Asian American Studies,
Mellon Foundation Affirming Multivocal Humanities Grant, and the
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This multimedia performance lecture by artist **Astria Suparak** asks: “What does it mean when so many white filmmakers envision futures inflected by Asian culture, but devoid of actual Asian people?”

Part critical analysis, part reflective essay and sprinkled throughout with humor, justified anger, and informative morsels, Suparak’s illustrated lecture examines nearly 60 years of American science fiction cinema through the lens of Asian appropriation and whitewashing.

Using a wide interpretation of “Asian” to reflect current and historical geopolitical trends and self-definitions (inclusive of East, Southeast, South, West, and Central Asia, as well as, on occasion, North Africa and the Pacific Islands), this research-creation project examines how Asian cultures have been mixed and matched, contrasted against, and conflated with each other, often creating a fungible “Asianness” in futuristic sci-fi.

Music: Tammy Lakkis

Costume: Stephanie Gancayco

Makeup & Hair: Carla Grace Fajardo

Schedule

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PERFORMANCE:

Astria Suparak

MUSIC SET:

Tammy Lakkis

CONVERSATION:

Astria Suparak and Mark Jerng

About

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Astria Suparak

Astria Suparak’s cross-disciplinary projects address complex and urgent issues made accessible through a popular culture lens, such as science fiction movies, rock music, and sports. Straddling creative and scholarly work, the projects often take the form of publicly available tools and databases. Suparak’s creative projects have been exhibited and performed at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Institute of Contemporary Art Los Angeles; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and ArtScience Museum, Singapore. Suparak is the winner of the 2022 San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Award and is based in Oakland.

Tammy Lakkis

Tammy Lakkis is a songwriter, singer, producer, poet, and DJ based in Hamtramck, Michigan with a focus on genre-defying and transnational electronic music. Lakkis made a name for herself performing playful, all-hardware live sets and singing bilingually in English and Arabic. Her debut EP, “Notice” (2021), gained international traction and accolades, landing a spot on NPR’s “100 Best Songs of 2021” list.

Mark Jerng

Mark Jerng is Professor of English and Asian American Studies and Chair of African American Studies at UC Davis. His research specializations include Asian American literature and transnationalism, critical race theory, science fiction and fantasy, genre and narrative theory, and law and literature. He is the author of *Racial Worldmaking* (2018) and *Claiming Others: Transracial Adoption and National Belonging* (2010).