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PARTICIPANTS EMBARK ON THE SEARCH FOR ASIAN AMERICA AT THE 2ND NATIONAL APIA SPOKEN WORD & POETRY SUMMIT 2003

Chicago, IL — The Asian American Artists Collective-Chicago is proud to announce an all-star line up of seasoned performers and emerging voices who will participate in this weekend's 2nd National Asian/Pacific Islander American (APIA) Spoken Word and Poetry Summit to be held August 1-4, 2003. Co-sponsored by DePaul University's Women's Studies Program and Hostelling International-Chicago, the Summit highlights the oral tradition of story-telling and poetry as a fundamental medium for creating culture, preserving history and transforming community. Over 175 people are expected to attend this four-day gathering.

"The APIA Summit connects people, young and younger, who NEED to know each other," says Summit Co-Coordinator, Jona Mercado. "This is an amazing experience where there are no bystanders. Everyone can walk away with a deep sense of community, and learn from each other in a safe space."

Among the summit activities that include workshops, panel discussions and master classes, two evening performances are scheduled for Saturday August 2nd and Sunday August 3rd, 2003 at Chicago's Vittum Theater located at 1012 Noble Street. Over the course of two nights, the performance work will span both generations and geography, redefining images and stories from Asian America.

Featured performances include work from:

- **Nobuko Miyamoto**, performer and founder of Great Leap, a multi-cultural arts organization since 1979. Miyamoto was recently announced as one of 29 national finalists for the prestigious Ford Foundation's *Leadership for a Changing World* grant.
- **Mango Tribe**, a Chicago-based APIA women's interdisciplinary performance group. Mango Tribe recently toured "Sisters in the Smoke," a project partially supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund.
- **Genny Lim**, poet, playwright and performer whose work has been featured on the PBS series, *The United States of Poetry* and *American Playhouse*. Lim has collaborated with jazz artists, Max Roach and Jon Jang. She has recently published a new book of poetry entitled *Child of War*.
- **Robert Karimi**, writer, educator and filmmaker. Karimi recently presented his one man and two DJ show: "self (the remix)," as part of the "United States of Asian America" Festival.
- **Zero 3**, Los Angeles based performance trio. Zero 3 is currently artists-in-residence at Visual Communications in Los Angeles, the nation's oldest Asian American media arts group.

Kelly Tsai, Summit Co-Coordinator emphasizes, "The summit and the showcases reflect a truth of ourselves rarely seen in the mainstream. From teenager to elder, we are more than breaking stereotypes and discussing basic identity politics. We are shaping America."

As in 2001, the Summit will precede the National Poetry Slam, to be held August 6-9, 2003, in Chicago. Participants are encouraged to stay through the duration of the Summit and NPS 2003 to help support those APIA artists competing in the slam, and to contribute to the Asian American Showcase, an NPS sponsored day-activity.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2003 III 7:00PM - "first there was the WORD....."

***Summit participants with Featured Artists: Nobuko Miyamoto & Mango Tribe

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2003 III 7:00PM - ".....then there was the FIST!"

***With Feature Artists: Genny Lim, zero3 & Robert Karimi (w/DJs Yellowfist & DDouble)

@ The Vittum Theatre

1012 N. Noble St. (between Milwaukee/Augusta)
Chicago, IL 60622
(773) 278-7471

\$10 tickets / \$7 students w/IDs (each night)

For more information, contact Anida Esguerra, anida@mangotribe.com, tel. 773.271.9531. www.wordfist.org