

## NEW HOME FOR ASIAN-AMERICAN THEATER COMPANY

Negotiations are now being completed for the Asian-American Theater Company to remain the resident company at the People's Theater Coalition's Fort Mason Center facility for the 1985-86 season. AATC's current season in the Building B theater has been very successful so far; the production of *Tea* this month should bring further acclaim to this beleaguered group.

It's been a bumpy road for the AATC en route to their current resident status at Fort Mason. Not only have they suffered from decreasing government support for the arts, but they have also been homeless since October 1983, performing at four different locations during the 83-84 season. "Being able to hold our productions at the People's Theater at Fort Mason has helped stabilize our program by relieving us of the mad scramble for performance space every time we wanted to produce a play," said David Fong, Executive Director, "[and] helped us to hold on to much of our subscriber base, since we can assure people that we can deliver our full schedule."

Founded in 1973 with the help of the American Conservatory Theatre, the stated goals of the Asian-American Theater Company are "to produce high-quality Asian-American theater in order to promote inter-ethnic understanding and provide positive role models for the Asian-American Community as well as the community-at-large, and to provide career opportunities for Asian-American theater artists." The local critics and community have been supportive of the AATC, and they have premiered several works that have been successfully transplanted to New York and Los Angeles.

AATC's current production, *Tea*, demonstrates how well this group has met its goals. The award-winning playwright Velina Hasu Houston received a Rockefeller Fellowship to develop this new drama, which explores the story of a Japanese war-bride who is ostracized not only from mainstream society but from the Japanese-American community as well. The talented female actors will play not only the war-bride characters but also their G.I. husbands. *Tea*, which opens on March 15, will run through April 28.



Photo: Bob Hsiang

AATC's production of *The Sound of a Voice* premiered November 30, 1984 at Fort Mason Center.

The AATC is already developing the 1985 season opener. Three talented playwrights who have worked with the AATC before will work this summer with Playwrights Unlimited to create a piece told from three different points of view. Each writer will develop one segment and all will collaborate on the finale. This work-in-progress should prove to be another exciting premiere for the AATC.

Tickets for *Tea* are now on sale. It opens March 15 and runs through April 28, Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm and Sundays at 3 pm and 7 pm in the People's Theater in Building B on the third floor. The box office number is 776-8999.

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