SCENES FROM A YELLOW PERIL

This information may contain spoilers and is subject to change without notice.

Content Advisory

This production contains medium level, frequent coarse language; adult themes including sexual references, depictions of violence and discrimination based on verbatim stories and real life events in Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia. The use of theatrical haze, dynamic sound, strobe lighting and lighting blackouts.

Age Suitability

Recommended for Audiences 15+

Synopsis

An uncomfortable, playful and enlightening provocation on racism and privilege from Aotearoa.

From award-winning Chinese-New Zealand writer and poet Nathan Joe, Scenes From a Yellow Peril is less a play, more a series of insights, when taken together, expose the pain of the way in which some people are othered but whose experience will not be denied.

There are 14 poems.

- Introduction (or the Rage Poem)
- Short History of Humiliation
- Love In A Time of Colonisation
- You Often Masturbate
- Write A Manifesto. Play by New Rules.
- How To End Racism
- Write A Manifesto. Play by New Rules. Redux.
- My Ancestors Crossed Oceans and All I have Is This Bubble Tea
- They Shoot Chinamen, Don’t They?
- Decolonise The Body. We Are All Meatsacks.
- Affirmations At the End of The World.
- I Cannot Invite My Parents to My Play
- Fail Again / Fail Better
- Afterword

In-Depth Content Analysis

Offensive Language

Words that are deemed profane, vulgar, obscene or socially offensive.

Scenes From a Yellow Peril includes the following instances of offensive language:

- 2 instances or variations ‘Fuck’
- 2 instances or variations ‘Shit’
- 5 instances or variations ‘Cum’
- 4 instances or variations ‘Chink’
- 1 instances or variations ‘Ching Chong’
- 1 instances or variations ‘Bitch’
- 1 instances or variations ‘Pussy’

Discrimination / Racism / Bigotry / Abuses

Unjust or prejudicial treatment of a person/people on the basis of protected attributes such as age, disability, race, sexuality, gender, intersex status, orientation, in certain areas of public life including education and employment.

There is collectively and specifically anti-Asian sentiment or abuses towards Asian people within the narrative of Scenes From a Yellow Peril:

- *Introduction (or the Rage Poem)*
  This scene references harmful Asian stereotypes that are perpetuated by society.

- *Short History of Humiliations*
  This scene references real verbatim abuses that the cast or creatives have witnessed within their own personal lives.

- *Love In A Time Of Colonisation*
  This scene unpacks the politics of being in an interracial relationship with a white partner from an Asian perspective.

- *You Often Masturbate*
  This scene showcases a verbatim retelling of a porn scene around the relationship between a ‘Japanese Exchange Student’ and a ‘Californian White Man’.

- *Write A Manifesto. Play By New Rules.*
  This poem flips the stereotypes that are depicted on Asian people and showcases what it would be like if this treatment was given to white people.

- *They Shoot Chinamen, Don’t They?*
  This depicts the story of Joe Kum Yum, Jae Hyeon Kim and Mei Fan where they met their violent demise by the hands of white men.

Violence towards Asian People

Physical or emotional ill treatment by someone in a position of responsibility, trust or power that harms or could harm health, survival, development or dignity. Including psychological, financial or sexual abuse, exposure to violence, exploitation, and/or removal of bodily control.

Scenes From a Yellow Peril discusses the violence of Asian people throughout time. This is most poignant in the poem *They Shoot Chinamen, Don't They?*

It retells the stories of:
JOE KUM YUNG, 68-year-old Chinese man
JAE HYEON KIM, a 25-year-old Korean man
MEI FAN, a 37-year-old Chinese woman – note: this story is situated in domestic violence in the home.

No actions are represented physically but the performers provide graphic verbal descriptions on how each character met their demise.

Offensive Language / Actions

Language used to insult, disparage, or offend people/peoples on the basis of protected attributes such as racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, ableism, xenophobia, faith or hate-speech.

Scenes From a Yellow Peril uses depictions of racism through the use of slurs and derogatory language and images. The show contains the following references.

- *Introduction*
  This scene mentions:
  - "Tight Asian Pussy"
  - "Mickey Rooney in Breakfast at Tiffany's" is the actor who is yellow-faced in order to embody Mr Yunioshi.

- *Short History Of Humiliation*
  This scene mentions:
  - An instance when a man asked if "all Asian women have sideways vaginas?"
  - "Ching Chong"

- *Love In A Time Of Colonisation*
  This scene mentions:
  - An instance of "Opium Den" as a metaphor for a vagina.
  - An instance of "gold-mining chink".

- *Decolonise The Body. We Are All Meatsacks.*
  This scene mentions:
  - 3 instances or variations "Chink"

- *I Cannot Invite My Parents To My Play*
  This scene mentions:
    - The line “I cannot invite my parents to my play because when my mother said ‘brown people are lazy’ I said nothing.”

Physical Intimacy/Sexual References

Physical actions or reactions between characters that may or may not be of a sexual nature.

Scenes from a Yellow Peril investigates the ways racism affects views of sexuality including the hypersexualisation of Asian women and how power imbalances seep into our intimate relationships.

- *Introduction*
  In this scene, a performer makes a reference to “Tight Asian Pussy.”

- *Love In A Time Of Colonisation*
  This scene uses an Asian perspective to unpack the politics of being in an interracial relationship with a white partner. We follow two characters *HIM* and *HER. HIM* and *HER* describe their intimacy with their white partners while mixing in provocative images of Asian stereotypes. The following passage demonstrates this.

HER: Imagine them shredding you apart
HIM: Imagine the two of you
HER: Debasing each other
HIM: Hurting each other
HER: HIM crawling into your opium den
HIM: HER Calling you a little gold mining chink
HER: HIM Bending you over the lazy susan and fucking you over and over again
HIM: HER fingers twisting inside you as if she’s hunting hunting hunting for something foreign
HIM: Something so far back in your timeline it makes your great great great great great grandmother flinch.
HER: You tell him you’re my favourite coloniser
HIM: Tell her that no one colonises like you
And she cums
HER: And he cums
BOTH: And they cum
and they cum
and they cum
And so do you

- *You Often Masturbate*
  This scene showcases a verbatim retelling of a porn scene from two performers. In this reenactment, the actors will portray the power dynamics and explicitly describe the actions of the video. The actors will describe the following actions:

- “I like you a lot. Can I, maybe, I mean, I just need to straighten your panties. It's just, you know, they’re riding up a little bit and I just don't think it'd be appropriate if they were riding up.”
- So he adjusts them
- Her white panties that are riding up.
- Yes
- And as he adjusts them he presses
- Yes
- He presses his nose against them
- Yes
- And sniffs
- Sniffs
- Sniffs the panties that he's adjusting
- A long long sniff
- “What are you doing Mr. [redacted]?”
- An understandable question.
- Of course.
- And he reacts with a totally reasonable explanation
- “Oh, nothing, it's just you smell so good.”
- This seems to suffice, and she replies, smiling:
“you like my smell, you should taste.”
- And he does.
- he bites her panties
- “Oh, so nice [redacted]. You taste good.”
- And she giggles:
- “You naughty man, Mr. [redacted].”
- He corrects her and says:
- “No, I'm a nice man.”
- and he continues to kiss her
- Her panties
- biting them
- Yes (she laughs)
- pulling them
- Yes (he laughs)
- tugging them
- (they both laugh)
- kissing them

This sequence ends with the performers audibly laughing to then moaning insinuating the two characters having sex. Also, as part of the production design, projected onto the work will be pixelated cuts of videos that look similar to the original video. However, this projection will not show any lewd images.

Resources for Further Support

- *Lifeline - 13 11 14*
  Lifeline has trained crisis support available 24/7. They also offer an online Crisis Support Chat 7 days a week between 7pm-4am AEDT (www.lifeline.org.au/crisischat)

- *QLD Mental Health Crisis Number* - 1300 642 255
  Confidential Mental Health telephone triage service that provides the first point of contact to public mental health services to Queenslanders, 24/7

- *13 Yarn* - 13 92 76
  For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are going through a tough time and feel like having a yarn.

- *1800 Respect* - 1800 737 732
  1800RESPECT is available for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support people impacted by domestic, family or sexual violence.

- *Beyond Blue* - 1300 224 636
  Mental Health support helpline. Counsellors available 24/7 for a free, confidential session.

- *Griefline* – 1300 845 745
  Free nationwide telephone support for adults experiencing grief. Sessions are secure and confidential and available to adults aged 18 years and over. Available 8am and 8pm, 7 days a week (AEST/AEDT) 365 days a year.

- *Suicide Call Back Service* – 1300 659 467
  Free nationwide service providing 24/7 phone and online counselling to people affected by suicide

- *Headspace* – 1800 650 890
  Nation-wide online and telephone service, where young people and family can connect with a mental health clinician via web chat, telephone and email. Available from 9am to 1am AEST, 365 days of the year

- *Support Act Wellbeing Helpline* – 1800 959 500
  A free phone counselling service for anyone working in Australian music or the creative industries