

Asian Representation in Media/Arts

Student names redacted



Movies

- Korean Director Bong Joon Ho became the first man since Walt Disney to win 4 Oscars in one night for his 2019 film *Parasite*. The film struck a chord with American audiences due to its relatable themes of class struggle and the daily fight that poverty creates.
- Everything, Everywhere, All At Once(2021) was released last year to critical and commercial acclaim quadrupling their budget and receiving a 95% on Rotten Tomatoes from Critics
- Crazy Rich Asians(2018) was another huge milestone for Asian stars in lead roles as it made five times its budget of 30 million dollars at the box office. Proving that Asian leads could draw mainstream crowds to the theater.
- Controversy did arise around the release of the 2020 film *Minari* as it was deemed ineligible for the Best Drama category at the Golden Globes due to over 50% of the dialogue being in Korean. It would go on to win Best International Film

(wild)



Lloyd Suh

Theatre - Playwrights

“Mia Chung”



Mia Chung

- Lloyd Suh
 - Awarded the 2020 Horton Foote awarded for his play *The Chinese Lady*
 - The award recognizes excellence in American theatre
 - Served as Artistic Director of Second Generation and Co-Director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab from 2005-2010
 - Since 2011 as the Director of Artistic Programs at The Lark, and since 2015 as a member of the Dramatists Guild Council.
- Mia Chung
 - Awarded the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Initiative Commissions through the Manhattan Theatre Club and the 2016 Stavis Playwright Award
 - Alfred Commissions are granted towards members of groups that are underrepresented in their fields
 - Stavis award is presented to recognize an outstanding emerging playwright



TV

- When it comes to television, typically you only get two sides of Asian people. For the most part, they're either portrayed as super smart or super funny. Very stereotypical.
- However, certain actors/ actresses have made it their mission to go against this. For example, Lana Condor from "To all the boys I loved before," and Sandrah Oh from Grey's Anatomy.
- These actresses have expressed that they've made it a point to choose roles that bring recognition to the fact that their characters are Asian without stereotyping and poorly portraying them.

Music



- Currently, the largest representation of Asian artists in America is Korean pop music
 - BTS is one of the most popular KPOP bands of all time
 - In 2020, they became the first Asian act to reach #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart
- Other popular Asian music artists include cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Mitski, Japanese Breakfast, and Yaeji
- According to the New York Times:
 - “Asian artists encounter stereotypes that their music-making is soulless and mechanical. They are portrayed as exotic and treated as outsiders in a world with its main lineage from Europe. They are accused of besmirching cultural traditions that aren’t theirs and have become targets of online harassment and racial slurs.”

Citations

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Anti-Asian Racism 2008-Present

Student names redacted

Phases of racism: Color Blindness

- Yellow Face, Act 1, "you can't just come out and ask an actor his race. That would be illegal—and racist."
- From 2008: "As we struggle to confront the continued existence of structural racism, the topic of race has become increasingly taboo in **the color-blind rhetoric of contemporary politics,**
- "California's failed Racial Privacy Initiative of 2002 attempted to protect our racial identities from... the state by banning the collection of all racial information.
- Whereas the civil rights victories of the 1960s addressed the use of race as the basis for legalized discrimination, **these inversions from the post-civil rights era have made any mention or consideration of race a suspect act, even in the context of analyzing or confronting racism."**

Covid-19 Pandemic

- Since the outbreak of Covid-19, there has been increased xenophobia and violence towards Asians
- People blame China and Asians for the spread of the virus
- Asian owners of small businesses lost customers and had to close businesses due to distrust
- From March 2020-June 2021 over 9,000 anti-Asian hate incidents were reported

Stop AAPI Hate Org.

- Launched on March 19, 2020, in the wake of the Asian American hate crimes that were happening due to COVID-19
- "Our mission is to advance equity, justice, and power by dismantling systemic racism and building a multiracial movement to end anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate."
- Is a resource for tracking and responding to incidents of hate violence, hate, harassment, discrimination, etc. against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the US

Eileen Gu

(Olympics 2022)



The controversy of Eileen's 2022 Olympic Performance

- Whether this Chinese American freestyle skier should be competing for China
- Gu was born in California and is currently residing and going to college there
- Her mother was born in China
- Gu made the decision to compete for China
 - This made headlines, bringing attention to Gu
- The controversy was able to make American's feel territorial of an Asian American
 - Both positive and negative because the reason Gu was brought to headlines was a negative controversy
 - Racism towards Asian in America is still not over and is continuing to take one step forward and two steps back

Legacy of Yellow Face

Student names redacted



2010s



- Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE)
 - Founded in 1974 in Manhattan's Chinatown
 - 2010: Took landlords in Chinatown to court and prevented them from demolishing affordable apartment buildings in the area
 - 2013: Joined a coalition of elected officials and non-profit organizations to speak out against a series of attacks against Asian residents of East Harlem
- Michael Wang
 - March 2016: After being denied admission to seven Ivy League schools, "a coalition of 132 Asian American organizations filed complaints with the U.S. Department of Education against Yale, Dartmouth, and Brown, alleging that these Ivy League universities make decisions based on informal racial quotas that effectively cap the number of Asian American students" (Lee)
 - 2019: Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard; Ruling: Harvard does not discriminate against Asian applicants

"Stop Asian Hate"

- "Stop Asian Hate" is a slogan that was created for a series of protests, demonstrations, and rallies against violence targeted towards Asians, Asian Americans, and other people of Asian descent.
 - Began in 2021 during the height of Asian discrimination relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Events that sparked this movement:
 - The death of Vicha Ratanapakdee, an 84 Thai man who was forcefully pushed to the ground in a San Francisco attack.
 - The 2021 Atlanta spa shootings: On March 26, 2021, three spa shootings occurred. 8 people were killed, six of whom were of Asian descent.

2021-22 and National Representation

- 16% of Asian American adults were victims of hate crimes in 2021
- 31% worry “all the time” or “often” about being victimized because of their race; and 36% have changed their routines over concerns about personal safety.
- Despite the increase of hate crimes towards the Asian community, 1/3rd of Americans remain unaware of the situation.
- The White House's invitation to BTS- the globally popular KPOP group- went a long way toward raising awareness.
- This event gave them the platform to spread awareness of the mass murder of 6 Asian women in Atlanta in 2021.