

BAY AREA AUDIENCES GET LUCKY: *FORTUNATE DAUGHTER* COMES TO IMPACT THEATRE THIS SUMMER

Thao P. Nguyen's hilarious, moving solo show opens in Berkeley July 13

BERKELEY, CA, JUNE 12, 2013—Impact Theatre is excited to welcome the brilliant solo performer **Thao P. Nguyen**, who brings her critically acclaimed show *Fortunate Daughter* to La Val's Subterranean, which previews July 11 and 12 and opens July 13 at Impact Theatre's home, La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley.

Developed in San Francisco's Solo Performance Workshop, *Fortunate Daughter* had its debut at the New York Fringe Festival last year in a critically acclaimed production directed by the celebrated solo performer (and now FX Network talk-show host) W. Kamau Bell. Nguyen then brought the show home to San Francisco, where she performed it at StageWerx in a sold-out run directed by Martha Rynberg.

In the hilarious and moving *Fortunate Daughter*, **Nguyen explores what it's like to be torn between her two homes: her traditional Vietnamese family and the queer community where she doesn't have to hide her homosexuality.** But her story goes far beyond the now-familiar coming-out tale; though her queer friends want her to declare her sexuality in words, Nguyen tries instead to "come home," in which she slowly acclimates her family to this part of her life without saying so explicitly. Nguyen nimbly portrays several different characters as she leads her audience on this journey filled with loving honesty and rich humor.

The FringeNYC production garnered rave reviews: NYTheatre.com wrote, "Theatrical magic; a pure story, with heart, passion and humor. **I promised myself that I would remember each quotable line as I heard them, but alas, I would have had to memorize the entire script.**" TheatreReviews.com called it "hysterically comical."

Thao P. Nguyen is a solo artist on the rise. A featured performer on the closing night of the previous four editions of the San Francisco Theater Festival, she is the creator and performer of another solo show, *Lady Parts*. Beyond her life in the theatre, Nguyen received a master's in public health from UC Berkeley and is an instructor of public speaking at SF State University.

"Ever since I found out about Thao and saw what she does, I've been hoping for a chance to have her on our stage," Impact Theatre Artistic Director Melissa Hillman says. "She's an amazingly engaging performer, and I'm so excited she'll be with us this summer."

For press photos and more information about the show, visit <http://impacttheatre.com/press>.

ABOUT IMPACT THEATRE

Since 1996 Impact Theatre has spoken to a new generation of theatregoers and longtime enthusiasts alike who want to see something fresh and fearless on stage. Our audience ranges from students to professionals

to seniors, all of whom share a taste for exciting, unpretentious theatre that doesn't conform to traditional assumptions of what constitutes high culture. Impact ensures the continued strength of American theatre by featuring new plays by emerging playwrights as well as vital, contemporary spins on classic drama; engaging new audiences; and fostering the development of Bay Area theatremakers. Impact shows compel, provoke, and inspire, at prices everyone can afford.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

PRODUCTION: *Fortunate Daughter*
Written and performed by Thao P. Nguyen
Directed by Martha Rynberg
Previews July 11 & 12 · Opens July 13 · Runs through August 10 · Thu–Sat 8pm

WHERE: La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709

ADMISSION: \$10–20

MORE INFO: impacttheatre.com

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