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### **Staged Reading Brings Play “Innocent When You Dream” to Life**

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American program presents a staged reading of the critically acclaimed new play “Innocent When You Dream,” by Ken Narasaki and directed by Alberto Isaac. The performance will take place in Meyer Auditorium of the Freer Gallery of Art, located at 12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., Saturday, Feb. 23, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The play, which won the 2006 Kumu Kahua Pacific Rim Playwriting Award, was named a “Critic’s Choice” by *The Los Angeles Times* and a “Pick of the Week” by *LA Weekly* newspaper.

The play tells the story of a Nisei (a second-generation, Japanese American father) who is lying in a hospital bed only partly aware of his two adult children, who have arrived at his bedside unsure whether their father will survive. Through dreams, the father, a survivor of the Japanese American prison camps during World War II, returns to his interned past to search for his lost first love while his children bicker and argue, unprepared to let their parent go. The reading features original cast members Sab Shimono, Emily Kuroda, Ken Narasaki, John Miyasaki, Sharon Omi, and Mike Hagiwara.

This program commemorates Day of Remembrance, an annual event at the Smithsonian. This year marks the 66th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt which led to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

The 90-minute production will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the show’s creators and actors. The event is free and open to the public.

The program is co-sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the Japanese American Veterans Association.

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