
Guide to the Refugee Nation videorecordings and promotional materials MS.SEA.038

Finding aid prepared by Joanna Lamb

Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

The UCI Libraries

P.O. Box 19557

University of California, Irvine

Irvine, California, 92623-9557

949-824-3947

spcoll@uci.edu

© 2011

Title: *Refugee Nation* videorecordings and promotional materials

Identifier/Call Number: MS.SEA.038

Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 0.2 Linear feet(1 box)

Date (inclusive): circa 2007-2009

Abstract: This collection comprises 4 video recordings of *Refugee Nation*, a national theater project that explores the Laotian refugee experience.

creator: Chan, Leilani

creator: Refugee Nation (Theatrical performance).

creator: Saopeng, Ova

creator: TeAda Productions.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Property rights reside with the University of California. Literary rights and copyrights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Preferred Citation

Refugee Nation Performance Videorecordings and Promotional Materials. MS-SEA038. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California. Date accessed.

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Ova Saopeng, 2010.

Processing History

Processed by Joanna Lamb, 2010.

Historical Background

Refugee Nation is a two-person theatrical performance written and performed Leilani Chan and Ova Saopeng that explores topics related to Laotian refugee experiences in the United States including assimilation, generational differences, and mental health concerns. Using drama, film, music, and audience interaction, the performance examines the universal themes of change, loss, struggle, healing, and strength of the human spirit by highlighting the young Laos generation's struggle to understand their history.

Ova Saopeng is an actor and writer from Los Angeles. He was born in Savannahket, Laos and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. He received his B.A. in Theater from the University of Southern California and has worked nationally with many theater companies. Saopeng is currently a roster artist with TeAda Productions, a theatrical troupe led by founding artistic director Leilani Chan, who is also his wife. TeAda is a company dedicated to supporting artists of color in the creation of innovative theatrical performances that empower under-served communities.

During the Vietnam War many Laotian families were involved in covert military operations aiding the United States. After the war, families that supported the U.S. were forced to emigrate from their native communities to U.S. soil. Since 1973 more than 240,000 Laotian refugees have settled in the U.S. with the bulk of the population, over 40 percent, settling in California.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Refugee Nation is a national theatre project written and performed by Leilani Chan and Ova Saopeng, based on the stories of Laotian refugees and their descendants living in the United States. This collection includes video recordings (4 DVDs) of *Refugee Nation* performances and interviews, programs, advertisements, clippings, and brochures.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Laotians -- California-- Archives

Political refugees -- Laos -- Archives

Political refugees -- Laos -- Narratives

Refugees -- California -- Archives
Southeast Asian Americans -- California -- Archives
Theater -- United States -- History -- Sources
Theater programs.
Video art -- California -- 21st century
Video recordings -- 21st century

Box 1, Folder 1	Clippings, 2007-2009
Box 1, Folder 2	Programs and promotional materials, 2007-2009 and undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Videorecordings, 2006-2009 and undated
	South East Asian Collective, undated
Box 1, Folder 4, Item D001-A	Archival original, undated General Physical Description note: 1 videodisc (DVD) Access Access to archival original is restricted; researchers must use viewing copy.
Box 1, Folder 3, Item D001-U	Viewing copy, undated General Physical Description note: 1 videodisc (DVD)
Box 1, Folder 4, Item D002-A	Refugee Nation at Berkeley, CA, undated Archival original, undated General Physical Description note: 1 videodisc (DVD),(90 minute version) Access Access to archival original is restricted; researchers must use viewing copy.
Box 1, Folder 3, Item D002-U	Viewing copy, undated General Physical Description note: 1 videodisk (DVD)
Box 1, Folder 4, Item D003-A	Refugee Nation: NATTF, 2006 Archival original, 2006 General Physical Description note: 1 videodisc (DVD) Access Access to archival original is restricted; researchers must use viewing copy.
Box 1, Folder 3, Item D003-U	Viewing copy, 2006 General Physical Description note: 1 videodisc (DVD)
Box 1, Folder 4, Item D004-A	Refugee Nation: San Diego, 2009 April Archival original, 2009 April General Physical Description note: 1 videodisc (DVD) Access Access to archival original is restricted; researchers must use viewing copy.
Box 1, Folder 3, Item D004-U	Viewing copy, 2009 April General Physical Description note: 1 videodisc (DVD)