

Rick Shiomi

**Playwright, Stage Director, Artistic Director, Taiko Artist,
Community Activist**

Current Positions

(2014 to present)

- Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director, Full Circle Theater Company, Minneapolis
- Freelance Stage Director and Playwright

Former Positions:

- Artist Residency at InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia for Doris Duke Foundation Building Demand For The Arts Program, Implementation Round, 2016 - 2018
- Artist Residency at InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia for Doris Duke Foundation Building Demand For The Arts Program, Explorations Round, 2014
- Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Theater Mu/Mu Performing Arts, 1993 - 2013
- Founder, Artistic Director, Performer, Composer, Mu Daiko, Mu Performing Arts, 1997 - 2010
- Staff Story Editor for CTV (Canadian TV) Program ENG, 1991-1992
- Freelance Writer (plays & screenplays) 1982 - 1991
- Coordinator, Powell Street Festival (Vancouver), 1976 - 1981
- Staff, Tonari Gumi (Vancouver), 1975 - 1976
- Teacher, St. Paul's College in Hong Kong, 1973 - 1974

Awards and Recognitions:

- Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award, 2017
- The McKnight Foundation Distinguished Artist Award, 2015
- Barrymore Awards Nomination for "Outstanding Direction" of world premiere of *Caught* at InterAct Theatre, Philadelphia, 2014 (play later won 2015 Obie Award)
- Minnesota State Arts Board Individual Artist Initiative Grant Recipient, to write play based on Xinran's *Message From An Unknown Chinese Mother*, 2014
- Rick Shiomi Archive created by the Library of Congress, Asian American and Pacific Islander Collections, 2013
- Ivey Award for Lifetime Achievement, Minneapolis/St. Paul Theater, 2012
- Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Vision, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 2008

- Powell Street Festival 30th Anniversary Recognition Award, 2006
- Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts, State Council for Asian Pacific Minnesotans, 2002
- Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Collaborations Grant Award, with Cha Yang and SteppingStone Theater for *Tiger Tales: Hmong Folktales*, 2000
- The Playwrights' Center Cultural Collaborations Grant Award with Gao Hong for *Song of the Pipa*, 1999
- Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Collaborations Grant Award for Taiko Drumming Collaboration with Ragamala Music and Dance Theater, 1998
- Ruby Schaar Yoshino Playwriting Award for *Uncle Tadao*, 1990
- Residency, to write *Uncle Tadao*, Banff Playwrights' Colony, 1990
- Commissioned by the Japanese Canadian Redress Implementation Committee to write *Uncle Tadao*, 1989
- Ontario Multicultural Theater Awards for *Yellow Fever*, 1984
- The Bernie Award given by the San Francisco Chronicle for *Yellow Fever*, 1983
- The Bay Area Theater Circle Critics Award for *Yellow Fever*, 1982

Education:

Teaching Diploma

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, 1972

B.A. History

University of Toronto, 1970

STAGE DIRECTION CREDITS

(selected)

- ***Caught*** by Christopher Chen, Full Circle Theater, at Dowling Studio of Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, May/June 2019 (upcoming)
- his adaptation of ***The Mikado***, Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera, Minneapolis, March 2019 (upcoming)
- ***365 Days/365 Plays*** by Suzan Lori Park, Full Circle Theater (directed 16 short plays of 46 total) Penumbra Theatre, St. Paul, 2017
- ***You for Me For You*** by Mia Chung, InterAct Theatre, Philadelphia, 2017
- ***Theater: A Sacred Passage*** by R.A. Shiomi, et al., St. Paul tour by Full Circle Theater, 2016
- ***Theater: A Sacred Passage*** by R.A. Shiomi, et al., Full Circle Theater at Dreamland Arts, St. Paul, 2015
- ***The Language Archive*** by Julia Cho, Park Square Theatre, St. Paul, 2015
- World Premiere of ***Caught*** by Christopher Chen, InterAct Theatre, Philadelphia, 2014

- ***M. Butterfly*** by David Henry Hwang, Theatre Esprit Asia, Denver, 2014
- ***A Little Night Music*** by Sondheim/Wheeler, Mu Performing Arts at Park Square Theater, 2014
- his adaptation of ***The Mikado*** by Gilbert and Sullivan, Mu Performing Arts and Skylark Opera, E.M. Pearson Theater, St. Paul, 2013
- ***Yellow Fever*** by R.A. Shiomi, Mu Performing Arts at the Dowling Studio of the Guthrie Theater, 2013
- ***Into the Woods*** by Stephen Sondheim, Mu Performing Arts at Park Square Theatre, St. Paul, 2012
- ***The King And I*** by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Bloomington Civic Theatre, Bloomington MN, 2010
- ***Yellow Face*** by David Henry Hwang, Mu Performing Arts at the Dowling Studio of the Guthrie Theater, 2010
- ***Flower Drum Song*** by Rodgers and Hammerstein, new book by David Henry Hwang, Mu Performing Arts at the McKnight Theater, Ordway Center for Performing Arts, 2009
- ***Midsummer Night's Dream*** by William Shakespeare, Mu Performing Arts & Southern Theater, 2006
- ***Romeo And Juliet*** by William Shakespeare, co-director, Theater Mu collaboration with Stages Theatre, 2002
- ***Temple of Dreams*** by Marcus Quiniones, Theater Mu & Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, 2002
- ***A Song For A Nisei Fisherman*** by Philip Kan Gotanda, Theater Mu at Old Arizona Studios, Minneapolis, 2001
- ***Tiger Tales: Hmong Folktales*** by Cha Yang and R.A. Shiomi, Theater Mu & SteppingStone Theater, St. Paul, 2001
- ***Maui and the Soul of the Sun*** by Marcus Quiniones, Theater Mu and The Southern Theater, 2000
- ***Song of the Pipa*** by R. A. Shiomi, Theater Mu and the Southern Theater, 2000
- ***Tale of the Dancing Crane***, by R.A. Shiomi, Theater Mu & Intermedia Arts, 1999
- ***The Walleye Kid*** by R.A. Shiomi and Sundraya Kase, Theater Mu & Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, 1998
- ***S.A.M. I Am*** by Garrett H. Omata, Theater Mu at the Hennepin Center for the Arts, 1998
- ***River of Life***, a trilogy about Southeast Asian Immigrants, co-produced by Theater Mu & The Ordway Music Theater, St. Paul 1994
- ***Yankee Dawg You Die*** by Philip Kan Gotanda, Interact Theater in Philadelphia, 1994
- ***Mask Dance*** by R. A. Shiomi, Theater Mu & Southern Theater, 1993
- ***FOB*** by David Henry Hwang, Asian American Theater Company, San Francisco, 1992

PLAYWRITING Credits

2018	<i>Fire In The New World</i> (in development)
2016	<i>Theater: A Sacred Passage</i> (co-author)
2015	<i>Message From An Unknown Chinese Mother</i> (adaptation)
2013	<i>The New Mikado</i> , his adaptation of <i>The Mikado</i> , by Gilbert and Sullivan
2010	<i>Sugami Sunset</i> (not yet produced)
2006	<i>Filipino Hearts</i> (musical/co-author of book)
2005	<i>Walleye Kid: The Musical</i> (co-author of book)
2003	<i>Magic Bus To Asian Folktales</i> (co-author)
2002	<i>Temple of Dreams</i> (co-author)
2001	<i>Tiger Tales: Hmong Folktales</i> (co-author)
2000	<i>Song of the Pipa</i>
1999	<i>Tale of the Dancing Crane</i>
1998	<i>The Walleye Kid</i> (co-author)
1994	<i>River of Life</i> (co-author)
1993	<i>Mask Dance</i>
1993	<i>Eastern Parade</i> (co-author)
1992	<i>Uncle Tadao</i>
1988	<i>Play Ball</i>
1987	<i>Rosie's Café</i>
1987	<i>Prime Time</i>
1986	<i>Jan Ken Po</i> (co-author)
1985	<i>Once Is Never Enough</i> (co-author)
1982	<i>Yellow Fever</i>

PLAY PRODUCTION CREDITS (selected)

2018	<i>Yellow Fever</i> Haisho Theatre Company, Tokyo, Japan
2016	<i>Theater: A Sacred Passage</i> (co-author) Full Circle Theater Company, Dreamland Arts and other St. Paul venues
2015	<i>Theater: A Sacred Passage</i> (co-author) Full Circle Theater at Dreamland Arts, St. Paul.
2015	<i>Message from an Unknown Chinese Mother</i> Dreamland Arts, St. Paul
2013	<i>Yellow Fever</i> Mu Performing Arts at the Dowling Studio of the Guthrie Theater
2011	<i>Rosie's Cafe</i> Haisho Theatre Company, Tokyo, Japan
2011	<i>The Magic Bus to Asian Folktales</i> (co-author) Theater Mu and SteppingStone Theatre For Youth, St. Paul
2009	<i>Tiger Tales: Hmong Folktales</i> (co-author) Theater Mu and SteppingStone Theatre For Youth, St. Paul
2008	<i>Walleye Kid, The Musical</i> (co-author, book & lyrics) Mu Performing Arts at the McKnight Theater The Ordway Center For The Performing Arts, St. Paul
2006	<i>Filipino Hearts</i> (co-author book & lyrics)

2005 Mu Performing Arts at Southern Theater, Minneapolis
The Walleye Kid, The Musical (co-author, book & lyrics)

2004 Mu Performing Arts at Mixed Blood Theater, Minneapolis
Yellow Fever

2003 Ryuzanji Theater Company, Tokyo Japan
The Magic Bus to Asian Folktales (co-author)

2002 Theater Mu and SteppingStone Theatre For Youth, St. Paul
Temple of Dreams (co-author)

2002 Theater Mu & Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis
Yellow Fever

2001 Ryuzanji Theater Company, Tokyo, Japan
Tiger Tales: Hmong Folktales (co-author)

2000 Theater Mu & SteppingStone Theater, St. Paul
Song of the Pipa

1999 Theater Mu & The Southern Theater
Tale of the Dancing Crane

1998 Theater Mu & Intermedia Arts
The Walleye Kid (co-author)

1995 Theater Mu & Intermedia Arts
Mask Dance

1994 Theater Mu & Southern Theater
River of Life (co-author)

1993 Part of trilogy ***River of Dreams***
 Theater Mu & Ordway Music Theater, St. Paul

1993 ***Mask Dance***
 Theater Mu & Southern Theater

1993 ***Eastern Parade*** (annual touring educational show)
 Mixed Blood Theatre--toured the Midwest 1993 - 2004

1992 ***Uncle Tadao***
 East West Players, Los Angeles

1992 ***Uncle Tadao***
 Asian American Theater Company, San Francisco

1991 ***Rosie's Cafe,***
 Vancouver's Firehall Theater National Canadian Tour

1989 ***Rosie's Cafe***
 Pan Asian Repertory Theater's United States Tour

1988 ***Play Ball***
 Pan Asian Repertory, New York City

1988 ***Rosie's Cafe***
 Asian American Theater Company, San Francisco

1987 ***Rosie's Cafe***
 Pan Asian Repertory, New York

1987 ***Prime Time*** (book author)
 AMAS Music Theater, New York City

1986 ***Jan Ken Po*** (co-author)
 Asian American Theater Company, San Francisco

1985 ***Once Is Never Enough*** (co-author)

Asian American Theater Company, San Francisco
 1985 **Once Is Never Enough** (co-author)
 Pan Asian Repertory, New York city
 1983 **Yellow Fever**
 Pan Asian Repertory, NYC (Off Broadway Production)
 1983 **Yellow Fever**
 East West Players, Los Angeles
 1983 **Yellow Fever**
 CanAsian Group, Toronto, Canada
 1982 **Yellow Fever**
 Pan Asian Repertory, New York City
 1982 **Yellow Fever** - Premiere
 Asian American Theater Company, San Francisco

OTHER WRITING CREDITS

1990 - 1992 Story Editor, **ENG**, Canadian Television Dramatic Series
 Produced by CTV Television Network
 1991 Script Writer for **In Love and War** episode of **ENG**
 1992 Script Writer for episode, **Dance to Remember**
 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Inside Stories Anthology Series

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

2005 - Present Founding member of CAATA (Consortium of Asian American
 Theaters and Artists)
 2006 - 2014 Board Member, CAATA
 2014 Plenary Moderator/Panelist, CAATA ConFest, Philadelphia
 2014 Organizer, Play Reading Series for CAATA ConFest Philadelphia
 2005, 2007 - 2011 Participant, Symposia at the Kennedy Center for Minority
 Arts Organizations in the area of Capacity Building
 2008 Member, Host Committee, 2nd National Asian American Theater
 Conference, *Shaping Our Voice and Vision*, the Guthrie Theater
 2008 Panelist, Bear Arts Foundation Emerging Writers
 of Color Program and planning for ColorFest 2010 in Los Angeles
 2008 Served on local Co-Host Committee for 2nd National Asian American
 Theater Conference.
 2006 - 2008 Artistic Director Mentor to Randy Reyes, TCG Future Leaders program,
 2007 Member, National Steering Committee, First National Asian American
 Theater Festival, New York City.
 2006 Member, Ford Foundation Panel for Emerging Writers of Color Project
 2006 Panelist, Presentation by Founding Companies of CAATA,
 discussing the organization of Next Big Bang, the First National
 Asian American Theater Conference, held in Los Angeles
 2005/6 Member of Steering Committee for *Next Big Bang*, First National Asian
 American Theater Conference held in Los Angeles, June 2006

2005	Founding member of CAATA (Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists)
2004	Attendee and participant, Theater Communications Group White Oaks follow up retreat/meeting for theaters of color
2003	Attendee and participant, Theater of Color Convening at White Oaks sponsored by Theater Communications Group
2003-2006 minority	Participant, Kennedy Center Online Chats: Capacity Building for arts organizations
2001	Participant, Ford Foundation Convening of Asian Arts Organizations Seattle, WA

Minnesota Leadership Activities

2009 - 2018	Board of Directors, Minnesota Theater Alliance
2009	Committee for the creation of the Minnesota Theater Alliance
2007 - 2009	Advisory committee, Twin Cities Ivey Awards
2004 - 2005	Co-chair of Minneapolis MOSAIC, a festival celebrating arts and diversity in Minneapolis
2004 -2007	Board of Directors, Minnesota Citizens For The Arts
1997 - 2003	Board of Directors, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
2001	Advisory Committee, COMPAS Writers and Artists in the Schools
1999 - 2001	Steering Committee, Asian Pacific Community/Cultural Center
1998	Founding Member, Many Voices Program, The Playwrights Center, Minneapolis
1998 - 2001	Committee Member, facilitator, Playwrights Center Many Voices Program
1994 – 2001	Core Writer/Member, The Playwrights' Center

Other Memberships:

- Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Advisory Committee
- Ordway Center for the Performing Arts Cultural Advisory Committee

Selected Publications about Rick Shiomi's Life and Work

- Rebecca Gross, "Art Talk with Playwright & Director Rick Shiomi," National Endowment for the Arts, *Art Works Blog*, May 31, 2016, <https://www.arts.gov/art-works/2016/art-talk-playwright-director-rick-shiomi>
- *Rick Shiomi: 2015 Distinguished Artist*, The McKnight Foundation: Commemorative book featuring essays about his local, national, and international influence as a theater artist, director, musician, and mentor; with

chronology of his work and life; currently available on The McKnight Foundation website <https://www.mcknight.org/news-ideas/resource/2105-daa-rick-shiomi/>

- “Rick Shiomi Carving a Space: A Playwright-Turned-Artistic Director Fosters Asian-American Theatre in the Heart of the Prairie,” *American Theatre Magazine*, Vol. 26, No. 1, January, 2009

There are also numerous other chapters or articles about his work as a playwright, artistic director, and stage director in various books, magazines and newspapers. Rick Shiomi has been interviewed countless times over his career for newspapers, magazines, online publications, and radio programs.

PUBLICATIONS (as author or co-editor)

Books

- Lee, Josephine, Don Eitel, R. A. Shiomi, editors, *Asian American Plays for a New Generation*. Temple University Press, 2011 (Six of the seven new plays featured in this anthology were developed and given world premieres under his artistic leadership at Mu Performing Arts)
- Nina Lee Aquino, editor, *Love and RelASIAnships*, Vol. I, Playwrights Canada Press, 2010 (Author of book preface; and this collection includes his play *Yellow Fever*)
- Srikanth, Rajini, and Esther Y. Iwanaga. *Bold Words: A Century of Asian American Writing*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2001 (his play *Mask Dance* included)
- R. A. Shiomi, *Rosie’s Cafe*, Playwrights Union of Canada, 1989
- R. A. Shiomi, *Yellow Fever*, Playwrights Canada, 1984
- R. A. Shiomi, *Yellow Fever*, in *Westcoast Chronicles*, vol. 13, 1984
- Rick Shiomi, co-editor, *Inalienable Rice: A Chinese and Japanese Canadian Anthology*, Powell Street Revue and The Chinese Canadian Writers Workshop, Vancouver, 1979

Online Collection of Asian American Drama

- Josephine D. Lee, Esther S. Kim, Karen Shimakawa, James S. Moy, editorial advisors, the Alexander Street Press Asian American Playwrights Database, includes 14 of his plays

Selected Articles

- Rick Shiomi, “Getting on the Radar in Unexpected Places: The Philadelphia Asian Theater Project,” *Howlround: Theatre Commons*, January 3, 2017
- Rick Shiomi, “Making ‘The Mikado’ without Asian stereotypes,” op ed piece (by invitation) in *The Seattle Times*, July 27, 2014
- Rick Shiomi, “Zen and the Art of Leaving,” *Howlround: Theatre Commons*, July 24, 2013

- Rick Shiomi, Opinion Essay for Diversity Forum, Non-Traditional Casting Project website, New York City, January 2007
- Rick Shiomi, "Voice, Community, Culture, Responsibility and Visible Minority Playwrights: Visible Means of Support," reprinted in *Theatre in British Columbia, Critical Perspectives on Canadian Theatre in English*, Playwrights Canada Press, 2006
- Rick Shiomi, "Voice, Community, Culture, Responsibility and Visible Minority Playwrights: Visible Means of Support," *Theatrum: The Theatre Magazine*, Winter, 1990/91
- Rick Shiomi, "On Playing Ball," *TheaterWeek*, March, 1989
- Rick Shiomi, "Crossing Borders," *Canadian Theatre Review*, volume 56, fall 1988, University of Toronto Press
- Rick Shiomi, "Three for the Road: Chronicle of a Collaborative Writing Experience among Three Asian American Playwrights," *Bridge: Asian American Perspectives*, spring, 1985, vol. 10, number 1

Radio

- Rick Shiomi, Commentary, composed and read for *Pacific Time* Radio Program, KQED Public Media for Northern California, San Francisco, 2007

Grant Review Panels (selections)

National

2011	National Endowment for the Arts, Panel Member, Theater Arts
2008	TCG (Theater Communications Group) Future Leaders Grant
2001	National Endowment for the Arts, Panel Member, Theater Arts
1998	National Endowment For The Arts, Arts Management Panel

Regional

2018	Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Capital Support
2016	Minnesota State Arts Board, Operating Support
2014	Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Grants
2013	VSA Artist Grant Awards (for artists with disabilities)

PANELIST, MODERATOR, SPEAKER (selections)

National / International Conferences

- Panelist, CAATA ConFest breakout session, Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists, "Revolutionary Acts," Chicago, 2018
- Moderator, "Other Spaces" breakout session, CAATA ConFest, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, October 2016
- Speaker discussing *Asian American Plays for a New Generation*, The Library of Congress, Asian Reading Room, Washington DC; and at InterAct Theatre, Philadelphia, July 2011
- Opening Panelist for "Genesis: The First Asian Canadian Theater Conference," Toronto 2010, sponsored by fu-GEN Theatre
- Panelist, "Through The Lens of Culture," Americans for the Arts Conference, Philadelphia, June 2008

- Moderator, "Leadership Transition" panel, Theater Communications Group National Conference, Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, June 2007
- Panelist, "Commissioning Culturally Specific Work" at the ASSITEJ/USA One Theatre World 2007 Rattling Cages Conference, St. Paul (International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People)
- Panelist, "Twin Cities Ingredients," Literary Managers and Dramaturges of America National Conference, 2006
- Speaker, Seminar on Nikkei Theater in North America, the Association of Japan Stage Directors in Tokyo and Osaka 2004
- Speaker, Sixth Annual Ritsumeikan University/ University of British Columbia Seminar held in Kyoto, Japan, 2000
- Guest Speaker, "Write About Now" Conference on visible minority playwrights sponsored by Cahoots Theatre Project, Toronto, 1990
- Panelist, "Asian American Theater," American Theater in Higher Education Conference, Chicago, 1990

Minnesota Conferences/Meetings (selections)

- Panelist, "Coming Full Circle: Diversity in the Decision-Making Process," Minnesota Theater Alliance Statewide Theater Conference, October, 2017
- Panelist, "20 Years of Adoption Theater" breakout session, Sixth Biennial Conference of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption And Culture, Minneapolis October, 2016
- Panelist, "Conversations on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" sponsored by the Guthrie Theater October, 2016
- Speaker, Multicultural Cultural Center for Diversity annual dinner, 2005
- Keynote Speaker, Japanese American Citizens' League, Minnesota Chapter, Annual Heritage Dinner, 2004

OTHER NATIONAL CONFERENCES/FESTIVALS ATTENDED (selected)

- TCG (Theater Communication Group) National Conventions: 2013 (Philadelphia), 2010 (Chicago), 2009 (Baltimore), 2008 (Denver), 2007 (Minneapolis), 2006 (Atlanta), 2005 (Seattle), 2001 (San Francisco), 1999 (Princeton, NJ)
- Colorfest, a National Multicultural Theater Festival, San Diego, 2010
- National Taiko Conferences: 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005
- National Performing Arts Conference (NPAC) and annual Theater Communications Group Conference, Denver, 2008

TAIKO CREDITS

Mu Daiko Stage Director, Performer, Composer:

- 2009 *Taiko Caravan*, Southern Theater
- 2008 *Mu Daiko at the Ritz Theater II*
- 2007 *Mu Daiko at the Ritz Theater I*
- 2006 *Taiko Dreams*, Southern Theater
- 2005 *TenChi Taiko of Mu Daiko*, Southern Theater

- 2004 **Taiko Blizzard**, Southern Theater, Composer, *Kiyomizu Cascade*
2003 **Drums of Fire**, Southern Theater. Composer, *Ariel Kaze*
2003 **Snow Drums of Mu Daiko**, Southern Theater, Composer, *Chrysanthemum Dawn*
2001 **Spirit Drums of Mu Daiko**, Southern Theater, Composer, *Shifting Sands*
2000 **Taiko Storm** at Southern Theater, Composer, *Kumano Ki*
1999 **Pounding Hooves of Mu Daiko**, Southern Theater
1998 **Thunder Drums**, Southern Theater, Composer, *Journey To Toji Temple* and *New Dawn*
1997 **Taiko Concert**, Intermedia Arts, Composer, *Pounding Hooves*

Taiko Performer, Vancouver, San Francisco, New York City, Toronto:

- 1986 - 1988 Member/Performer Wasabi Daiko of Toronto
1982 - 1983 Performed with Soh Daiko of New York
1980 to 82 Member/Performer, San Francisco Taiko Dojo
1979 Original Member/Performer, Katari Taiko of Vancouver