In celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander month, Jude Narita will perform April 11 at 8 p.m. at the Cal Poly Theatre.

Jude Narita, international actor and writer, started writing and performing her own works after becoming frustrated by the lack of available roles and the continual portrayals in the media of demeaning and one-dimensional stereotypes of Asian women without dignity or understanding. Narita is best known for her award-winning, one-woman plays, which celebrates the lives of Asian and Asian American women.

Narita will perform Stories Waiting to be Told," which celebrates Asian and Asian-American women, past and present, some of whom are Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Cambodian, as they redefine themselves within the American dream. The first generation of women remembers their homeland as they build their new lives in America. Other Asian-American women struggle with issues that are not often discussed within their communities or even families. The second and third generations contend with contemporary America - the opportunities and the obstacles.

The women of Stories Waiting to be Told," are compelling in their vulnerability and are brought to life compassionately, with honesty, insight, laughter and love. Narita celebrates the differences and illuminates the universal similarities of us all.

Narita is best known for her award winning one-woman play Coming into Passion/Song for a Sansei" for which she was actor, writer and producer.

Narita has won the Los Angeles Drama Critics' Award, a Drama-Logue Award for Creation and Performance, a James Wong Howe "JIMMIE" from the Association of Asian Pacific American Artists (AAPAA), a VESTA Award from the Women's Building of Los Angeles and a Rockefeller from UCLA Asian American Studies.

All of Narita's plays create honest portrayals of Asian and Asian-American characters, which truly reflect different heritage and culture.

Narita was named one of the "50 Asian Americans Who'll Be Making a Difference" in 1996 by Asian Week, The Voice of Asian American, and one of the "Top 100 Asian Americans in the Nation" by trans-Pacific Magazine.
"It is imperative to our mission of culture and as a university of higher learning that we continue to educate each other about culture and diversity with performers like Jude Narita, who brings a world of experience to her audience," said Elbert E. Hardeman, coordinator of Asian and Pacific Islander month.

This event at the Cal Poly Theatre is sponsored by the Multicultural Center, ASI Events, The College of Liberal Arts, the Ethnic Studies Department, Housing and Residential Life, Student Life & Origination Program, the Women's Center and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

For more information about this event or sponsorship contact Elbert E. Hardeman at Cal Poly's Multicultural Center at 756-1405.

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