-- PRESS RELEASE -- Wing Luke Museum x Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound
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MIPoPS and the Wing Luke Museum working to preserve Seattle's important history as a
center for Asian American Theater - Around 100 performances will be digitized and made
available to the public - Seattle's Northwest Asian American Theatre was one of a small
handful of national theaters dedicated to exploring the Asian American experience

Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound (MIPoPS) and the Wing Luke Museum of
the Asian Pacific American Experience have begun work on an exciting new project:
reformatting the videotapes in the Northwest Asian American Theatre Collection. The Northwest
Asian American Theatre (NWAAT) company was one of the earliest theater companies in the
country to highlight the work of Asian American actors and playwrights. From 1981 until 2004,
this company was an important cultural center for the large population of Asian Americans who
called Seattle home. Funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, this digitization
project will allow for the digitization of 99 videotapes. The material includes experimental dance,
improvisational comedy, musical performances, and, of course, plays such as And the Soul
Shall Dance (by Wakako Yamauchi), F.O.B., Dance and the Railroad (both by M. Butterfly
playwright David Henry Hwang), and more. [M. Butterfly will be returning to Seattle January
24 - February 17th at ArtsWest].

Seattleite Roger W. Tang, considered by many to be the "Godfather" of Asian American
theatre, explained the significance of this project: "I am tremendously pleased that a valuable
piece of our history and heritage has a chance to be preserved to be handed down to
generations coming after us. In talking with younger artists across the country, I constantly am
told that it's too bad that a lot of our early work is not available. If there's a fighting chance that
this can get done, there'll be a lot of excitement not just in Seattle, but across the country, as
NWAAT was, for the longest times, one of just five Asian American theaters keeping the flame
alive."

Once completed, the majority of the collection will be available to the public on the
Internet Archive. Segments from the collection will be shown at the next installment of Moving
History (MIPoPS's quarterly archival screening night series) held at the Northwest Film Forum,
on Sunday, February 10th, from 5:00-6:30 pm.

To learn more about what MIPoPS does, please see this recent article by GeekWire:
vanish/

MIPoPS website: www.MIPoPS.org
Our Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mipopsseattle/
Our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJU1hW2A0vP42bhMbU0085w/playlists

- Libby Hopfauf, left, and Ari Lavigne are audiovisual archivists with Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound, or MIPoPS. (GeekWire Photo / Lisa Stiffler)
Libby_at_Machine_GeekWire - MIPoPS program manager Libby Hopfauf making adjustments to a tape during digitization. (GeekWire Photo / Lisa Stifler)
MIPoPs_Equip_Dec18 - The digitization station at MIPoPS, complete with a stack of video players for obsolete formats like U-Matic, Betacam, and more!