

-- PRESS RELEASE -- Wing Luke Museum x Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound
-- 14 Jan 2019 --

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 nation 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:
<https://www.geekwire.com/2018/nonprofit-battles-magnetic-media-crisis-digitizing-aging-movies-vanish/>

MIPoPS website: www.MIPoPS.org

Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mipopsseattle/>

Our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJU1hW2A0vP42bhMbU0085w/playlists>

Wing Luke Museum website: <https://www.wingluke.org/>



2008.002.091.004 - Screenshot from "To Drift", performed at A-Fest 1999, by Yoko Murao.
From the Wing Luke Museum's collection. Object ID 2008.002.091.004



2008.002.091.004 - Screenshot from "To Drift", performed at A-Fest 1999, by Yoko Murao. From the Wing Luke Museum's collection. Object ID 2008.002.091.004



2008.002.091.005 - Screenshot from "A Peel", performed at A-Fest 1999, by Mew Chang Tsing. From the Wing Luke Museum's collection. Object ID 2008.002.091.005



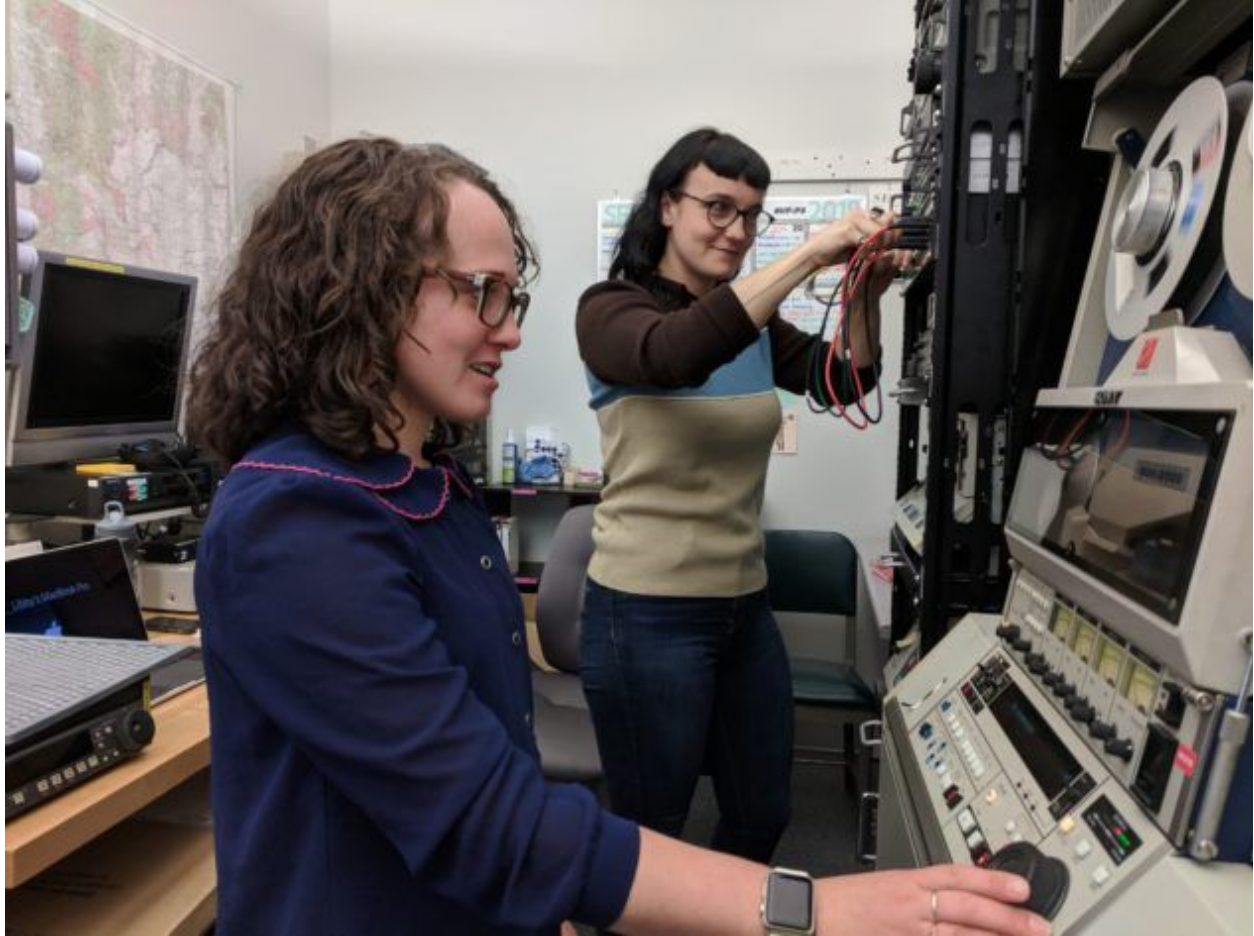
2008.002.091.006 - Screenshot from "Traces", performed at A-Fest 2000, by Mew Chang Tsing and John D. Pai. From the Wing Luke Museum's collection. Object ID 2008.002.091.006



2008.002.091.008 - Screenshot from "And The Soul Shall Dance", written by Wakako Yamauchi, 1993. From the Wing Luke Museum's collection. Object ID 2008.002.091.008



2008.002.091.019 - Screenshot from "Eye of the Coconut", written by Jeannie Barroga, directed by Bea Kiyohara, 1986. From the Wing Luke Museum's collection. Object ID 2008.002.091.019



Ari_and_Libby_Geekwire - 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!