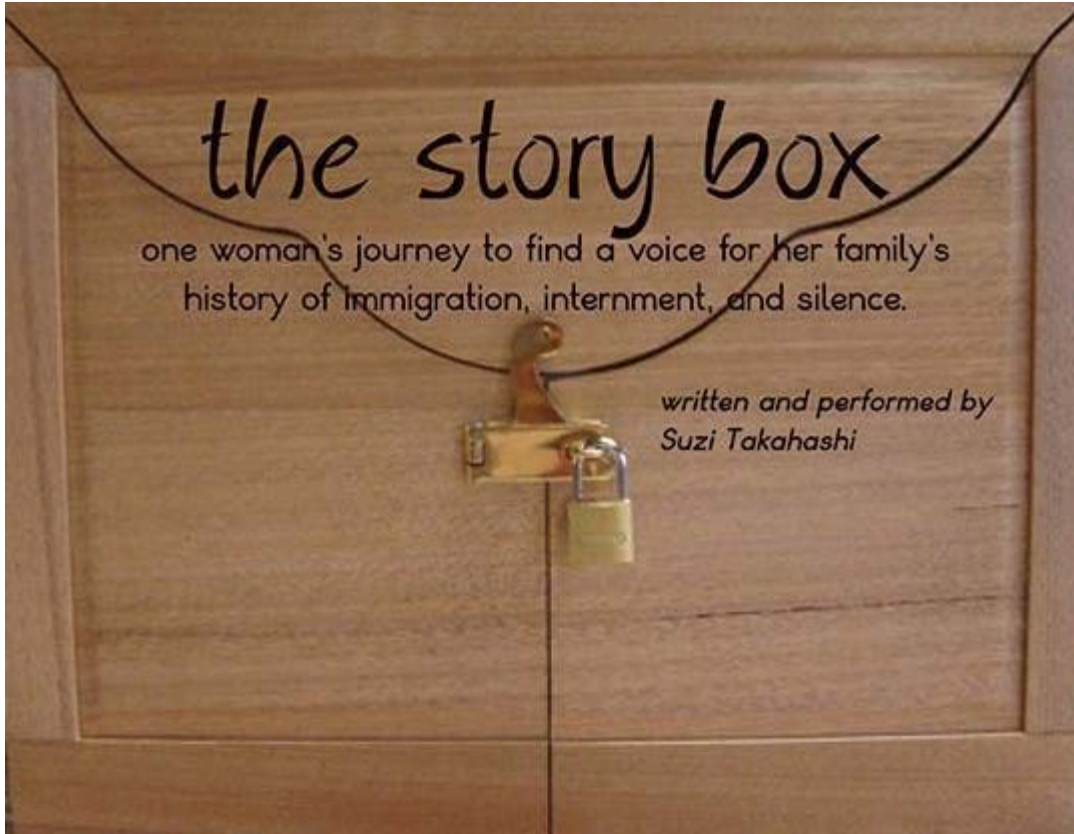


Alfred University to host performance of The Story Box

2/04/19



ALFRED, NY – Alfred University's Division of Performing Arts will present *The Story Box*, a one-woman show by renowned theater maker and actor Suzi Takahashi, on Friday, March 1.

The 50-minute performance, underscored with original music for guitar and shamisen by M. Gomez, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. in C.D. Smith III Theater, Miller Performing Arts Center. The performance is free and open to the public.

Set just after 9/11, *The Story Box* follows the story of a Japanese-American woman who seeks refuge from New York City in the months following the attack by accepting a summer stock job in Upstate New York. While shopping for props in an antique store, the woman finds an old suitcase that contains a mysterious wooden box. The woman discovers that this box is a *kamishibai* – a miniature Japanese picture theater used for traditional storytelling – that has been abandoned by its owner along with a cryptic note.

As the woman learns how the *kamishibai* is used, she finds it hides a secret – the story of its owner, a young Japanese American girl in an internment camp during World War II, separated from her father, who is part of the famous group of political dissenters called the "No-No" boys. As the woman uncovers the mysteries of the box, she is prompted to confront the story of her own family's immigration.

Through a series of personal monologues woven through the main story line, the woman explores her feelings of inclusion and exclusion growing up in America. This play draws strong parallels to our current conversations about immigration and cultural otherness.

Takahashi is an actor, director, teacher and theater maker. As an actor, she has worked with directors like Richard Foreman, Richard Schechner, Darko Tresnjak, Kristin Marting and Nicolas Martin. Most recently, she was a part of Taylor Mac's, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, at St. Ann's Warehouse in New York City. As a director, Takahashi won the 2009 Innovative Theatre Award for Best Director. She has been a Directing Fellow at The New

York Theatre Workshop and a HARP Artists-in-Residence at the [HERE](#).

As a theater maker Takahashi has collaboratively created 15 original works. Most recently, her co-creation, Chang(e), was presented by Boom Arts in Portland, OR. Takahashi teaches movement and devising at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City. She is a long time actor/director at the Bristol Valley Theater in Naples, New York City.

Gomez is a New York City-based musician who has toured extensively with the band Hazmat Modine. The band has been featured on the albums Leave Your Sleep (Natalie Merchant), American Music for Gypsy Souls (Bill Barrett) and Bahamut (Hazmat Modine), as well as on the soundtrack for the Academy Award-nominated documentary Pina. Gomez is a graduate of The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and The New York Studio School, where he studied visual art and was a student of music with Michael Longo.