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**\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\***

## **USAAF 2016 premieres Jason Bayani's new solo show, "Locus of Control"**

**Friday and Saturday, May 27th - 28th, 2016 at 8pm**

***Debut solo show delivers a compelling mix of poetry, storytelling, and performance***

The Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center of San Francisco's 19th annual United States of Asian America Festival is proud to present the world premiere of **Jason Bayani: Locus of Control**, the debut solo show by internationally touring poet and published author, **Jason Bayani**. Directed by award-winning performing artist, **Kat Evasco** (Mommy Queerest), **Locus of Control** explores the history and narrative of the fourth-wave Filipino immigrant through **Bayani's** poems and stories which tackle the writer's struggles with race, mental health, and the idea that displacement is inherent in the lives of immigrants and their children. **Locus of Control runs for only two nights at Bindlestiff Studio in SF on May 27th and May 28th at 8pm.** Presale ticket prices start at \$10, \$12 at the door.

"We've gotten the chance to work with Jason Bayani before as a featured poet and every time we've seen him we've been impressed with how easily he can captivate an audience," says **Melanie Elvena** (APICC Artistic Director) "He can be humorous and charming while moving you through some difficult and deeply personal moments. It very powerful, moving work and we can't wait to see what he does with a full-length show."

**Jason Bayani's** ability to shine as both a writer and performer has garnered him plenty of praise over the years. Tony Award winner, **Beau Sia enthusiastically stated**, "Jason Bayani's poetry brings much needed guts into a world hung up on presentations." In a review of Amulet for **Pank Magazine raves**, "Jason Bayani is an accomplished performer of his poetry and you can tell just by reading them that they cry out to be read aloud. The best poetry shines on both the page and the stage and Bayani's work certainly does just that.". And in a review for **Hyphen Magazine writes**, "In real life, as in his poetry, Jason Bayani's voice fills the room. He starts telling a story in a crowded restaurant, and the whole table, no matter how loud the surrounding noise may be, shuts up to listen."

For **Locus of Control**, **Bayani** has commissioned new work by graphic novelist and illustrator, **Trinidad Escobar**, and neo-soul, electronic duo, **AstraLogik** to be included in the show. The opening sets for each night will spotlight two local, up-and-coming Asian American poets. On May 27th, **Michelle Lin** and **Kazumi Chin** will open the show followed by **Janice Sapigao** and **Jaz Sufi** on May 28th.

**Jason Bayani** is a graduate of Saint Mary's MFA program in Creative Writing. He is a Kundiman fellow and a veteran of the National Poetry Slam scene whose work has been published in Fourteen Hills, Muzzle Magazine, Mascara Review, and other publications. As a member of 7 National Poetry Slam teams, he's been a National Poetry Slam finalist and represented Oakland at the International World Poetry Slam. He is also one of the founding members of the Filipino American Spoken Word troupe, Proletariat Bronze. His first book, "Amulet" was published in 2013 through Write Bloody Publishing and has garnered acclaim in publications such as Zyzzyva, Pank, and Hyphen Magazine. He is currently the program manager for Kearny Street Workshop (the oldest multi-disciplinary Asian Pacific American multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country).

**Kat Evasco** is a writer, stand up comic, and performing artist living and working in San Francisco. She has performed at venues including the Haha Cafe, San Jose Improv, the Purple Onion, Napa Valley Opera House, Logan Center for the Arts, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and FringeArts. Evasco is currently touring her autobiographical one-woman show, Mommy Queerest. This new work chronicles the coming-out process of a lesbian daughter and a closeted lesbian mother, illustrating how the reclaiming of their sexuality challenges and strengthens their relationship. Evasco currently serves as the Managing Director of Guerrilla Rep, an independent theater company that develops and produces new plays in San Francisco. Evasco is a recipient of the Creative Capacity Fund Quick Grant, NextGen Art Professional Development Grant, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation Grant. She holds a BA in Asian American Studies from San Francisco State University

**Michelle Lin** earned her B.A. in creative writing from the U.C. Riverside and her M.F.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. She was a former Gluck Fellow and an editor of the journals Mosaic, B.E. Quarterly, and Hot Metal Bridge. Her latest poems can either be found or are forthcoming in Aster(ix), Quaint magazine, Apogee, and The Journal and her debut book, "A House Made of Water" is forthcoming in 2017 from Sibling Rivalry Press.

**Kazumi Chin** earned his B.A. in creative writing from the U.C. Riverside and his M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Pittsburgh. His most recent work can be found in Twelfth House, Barrelhouse magazine, Wu Wei Fashion Mag, and The Ilanot Review. His debut book, "Having a Coke with Godzilla" is forthcoming in 2017 from Sibling Rivalry Press.

**Janice Lobo Sapigao** is a Pinay poet, writer, and educator born and raised in San José, CA. Her first book microchips for millions will be forthcoming from PAWA, Inc in Fall 2016. She is

also the author of the chapbook *toxic city* (tinder tender press, 2015). Her work has been published in the anthologies *Kuwento for Lost Things* (CarayanPress, 2015), *Anthropocene* (Naropa Press, 2014), *Empire of Funk: Hip Hop and Representation in Filipina/o America* (Cognella Academic Publishing, 2014), and *Verses Typhoon Yolanda: A Storm of Filipino Poets* (Meritage Press, 2014). She is the Associate Editor of TAYO Literary Magazine.

**Jaz Sufi** is a poet, a Bay Area native, and the slammaster of the Berkeley Slam. She represented San Francisco at the 2013 Women of the World Poetry Slam and was a finalist at the 2015 National Poetry Slam as part of Team Berkeley. She was also a featured poet at the 2011 USF Creative Justice Art Show, and has been published in the *Cry of the Nightbird* anthology.

**Trinidad Escobar** is a poet, cartoonist, and educator in Oakland. Her writing and visual art have been featured in various publications such as *Rust & Moth*, *The Womanist*, *The Walrus*, *Red Wheelbarrow*, *Solo Cafe*, *Mythium*, *Tayo*, and more. Trinidad has been a guest artist and speaker for the San Jose Museum of Art, Pilipino Komix Expo, Litquake, and the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco. She is currently working on her graphic memoir *Crushed*. Trinidad has an M.F.A. in comics from California College of the Arts.

**AstraLogik** are an eclectic soul duo residing in San Jose, California. Their music includes tinges of neo-soul, R&B, roots, hip-hop, electronic, world, and indie. AstraLogik have performed for (non-profit) grassroots community organizations, festivals, and events all over the Bay Area and are emerging artists from roots of struggle, growth, love, and awakening. In April 2015, they launched their first EP, called *DREAM AWAKE*.

### **About APICC**

APICC was founded in 1996 by representatives of five nonprofit arts groups: Asian American Dance Performances, First Voice, Asian Improv aRts, the Asian American Theater Company, and Kearny Street Workshop. Since 1998, the center has promoted the artistic and organizational growth of San Francisco's API arts community by organizing and presenting the annual United States of Asian America Festival as well as commissioning contemporary art for and by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

### **Calendar Editors**

**WHO:** Presented by the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center of San Francisco as part of the United States of Asian America Festival 2016. Co-presented by Kearny Street Workshop and Write Bloody Publishing.

Starring Jason Bayani

Directed by Kat Evasco

Featuring work by Trinidad Escobar and AstraLogik

Featuring performances by Michelle Lin, Kazumi Chin, Janice Sapigao, and Jaz Sufi

**WHEN: (Two Performances) Friday, May 27th & Saturday, 28th, 2016 at 8pm**

**WHERE: Bindlestiff Studio 185 6th St. San Francisco, CA 94109**

**TICKETS & INFORMATION:** PRE-SALE: <http://locusofcontrol.bpt.me/> | \$10 General Admission - Presale, \$12 General Admission - Door, \$25 Supporter- Includes signed copy of Amulet: A Collection of Poems by Jason Bayani (Write Bloody Publishing)

**PHOTOS:** Large, high-resolution (300dpi) images available: <http://bit.ly/locpressphotos>

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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