

Christie Zhao 赵元媛

Theatre Director • Producer • Interdisciplinary Artist

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Artist Statement

Christie Zhao (赵元媛) is a Chinese-born theatre director, producer, and interdisciplinary artist creating multilingual, community-engaged, documentary-style theatre. Her work explores migration, labor, memory, and identity through movement, oral history, and experimental form. She is the Founding Artistic Director of [Yun Theatre](#) and the 2024–2025 NYTW 2050 Artistic Fellow in Directing.

Selected Fellowships & Residencies

- **MAKE Residency**, Gecko Theatre (2026)
- **2050 Artistic Fellowship in Directing**, New York Theatre Workshop (2024–2025)
- **Adelphi Residency** for *Machinal AI*, New York Theatre Workshop (2025)
- **Ma-Yi Playground Writer Lab**, Ma-Yi Theatre Company (2025)
- **Director & Playwright Incubator**, The Shattered Glass Project (2023)

Selected Directing Credits

Full Productions

- *The Chinese Lady* by Lloyd Suh - ArtsWest & Yun Theatre (September 2026)
- *Li* by Wei He – Seattle Public Theatre & SIS Productions & Yun Theatre (World Premiere, Jan 2026)
- *Passage* by Christopher Chen – Yun Theatre (Sept 2024)
- *June is the First Fall* by Yilong Liu – Yun Theatre (July 2024)
- *On the Train* by Lisa Price – Shattered Glass Project (World Premiere, May 2024)
- *Young People Social Death Archive* by Siming Lu – Yun Theatre (World Premiere, Feb 2024)
- *In Between, a short play collection* – Yun Theatre (August 2024)
- *Caught* by Christopher Chen – Strawberry Theatre Workshop (Jul 2023)
- *Two Goldfish (Who Become Heroes)* by Olivia Xing & Gefei Liu – Yun Theatre (World Premiere, Dec 2022)
- *Monologues of n Women* – Yun Theatre (Sept 2022)

- *The Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht – UW School of Drama (June 2021)

Readings & New Play Development

- 林场女人 *Sawmill Women* – Yun Theatre (Sept 2026)
- *The Book of Mountains and Seas* – Yun Theatre (Feb 2026)
- *Anna May Wong: Persona* – Abrons Arts Center (Sept 2025)
- *Chop Suey* by Max Yu – American Playwrights Foundation (Aug 2025)
- *Sisters* by Xiaoyan Kang – OOB Short Play Festival (Aug 2025)
- *Machinal AI* (adapted with Ed Mast) – NYTW / Adelphi (June 2025)
- *Sawmill* (adapted with Tianxing Yan, Bindi Kang, Ed Mast) – NYTW (Apr 2025)
- 春香牡丹失魂记 by Ruirun Hu (Feb 2025–Ongoing)
- *Wandering* by Max Yu – Yun Theatre (Mar & July 2025)
- *Brother Brother Brothers* by Rebs Chen – Yun Theatre (Jul 2024)
- *Good Enemy* by Yilong Liu – Pork Filled Productions (Jul 2023)

Festivals & Workshop Production

- *Baby of Color* by Olivia Xing - Edinburgh Theatre Festival (August 2026)
- *To Kill a Pig* by Xiaoyan Kang - Soho Playhouse (May 2026)
- *Instant Noodles: 24-Hour AAPI Theatre Festival* – Pork Filled Productions/SIS/Theatre Off Jackson (Feb 2026 & Mar 2025)
- *14/48: The World's Quickest Theater Festival* – 14/48 Projects (2023, 2024, 2026)

Assistant / Associate Directing

- *Iphigenia 2.0* by Chuck Mee – Dir. Seonjae Kim (May 2025)
- *Unrivaled* by Rosie Narasaki – Seattle Public Theatre & SIS / Dir. Mimi Katano (May 2024)
- *The Stupidest, Scariest Time* – Swim Pony / Dir. Adrienne Mackey (Mar 2023)

Artistic Leadership

Yun Theatre – Founding Artistic Director (2022–Present)

- Founded and led a non-profit bilingual theatre company in Seattle, focusing on immigrant narratives and Asian/Asian American experiences.
- Produced 10+ shows, built a core ensemble, and collaborated with 45+ artists.
- Developed a new play incubation pipeline and community workshop series.
- Oversaw budgets, fundraising, and strategic planning.

Professional Experience

Ping Chong and Company – Operations & Communications Coordinator (Jan 2025 – Aug 2025)

- Managed company operations, donor CRM, and teaching artist payroll.
- Directed digital communications (social media, email, website).
- Streamlined workflows across administrative/artistic teams.

Theatre Off Jackson – Admin & Communications Coordinator (Mar 2023 – Mar 2025)

- Created digital marketing campaigns, handled artist bookings, and supported resident productions.

Education & Training

- **University of Washington**, Seattle – B.A. Drama (Honors), B.S. Computer Science (2017–2021)
- **Yale Summer Session** – 10-Day Directing Workshop (2023)
- **Frantic Assembly** – LA Training Courses (2024)
- **The Pandemonium Studio** – Clown with Christopher Bayes (2025)
- **Ping Chong & Company + New Victory Theatre** – Facilitation Training with Michael Rohd (2025)
- **Tectonic Theatre Project** - Moment Work for Directors and Designers (2026)
- **The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama** - Directing with Katie Mitchell (2026)

Skills

Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

Music: Vocal (C3–A5), Musical Theatre, Piano, Guqin

Media: Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere, OBS, Zoom, Logic Pro X, Audacity

Other Theatre: Stage Management, Light Design, QLab