



**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT**  
For Immediate Release

**EAST WEST PLAYERS AND JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER  
PRESENT LOS ANGELES PREMIERE OF**

***ALLEGIANCE***  
**STARRING GEORGE TAKEI**

**FEBRUARY 21 – APRIL 1, 2018 (OPENING NIGHT FEB. 28)  
AT JACCC'S ARATANI THEATRE IN LOS ANGELES**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [AllegianceMusical.com](http://AllegianceMusical.com)**

**February 1, Los Angeles** – East West Players (EWP) and Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) present the Los Angeles premiere of the Broadway musical *Allegiance* starring stage and screen star **George Takei**, who is joined by Broadway cast members Elena Wang as Kei Kimura, Greg Watanabe as Mike Masaoka, Scott Watanabe as Tatsuo Kimura, and Janelle Dote as Executor.

*Allegiance* will be performed at JACCC's Aratani Theatre in Los Angeles from February 21 to April 1, 2018. Opening Night is February 28. This new production will be directed by East West Players' Producing Artistic Director Snehal Desai. Marc Macalintal is the Music Director, and Rumi Oyama is the Choreographer.

*Allegiance* in Los Angeles will be co-produced by EWP and JACCC by special arrangement with Sing Out, Louise! Productions and ATA.

Takei is known for his founding role as Mr. Sulu in the acclaimed television series *Star Trek* and as an influential social media icon; he will be performing the roles of Sam Kimura and Ojii-Chan that he originated on Broadway. *Allegiance* is inspired from his own family's experiences.

Takei was born in Boyle Heights and spent his childhood in the Rohwer Incarceration Camp in Arkansas and later Tule Lake in Northern California. His story of resilience and hope is the inspiration for this musical, which is being given a new production only in Los Angeles.

With music and lyrics by Jay Kuo and a book by Marc Acito, Jay Kuo, and Lorenzo Thione, *Allegiance* tells the story of the Kimura family, whose lives are upended when they and 120,000 other Japanese Americans are forced to leave their homes following the events of Pearl Harbor. Sam Kimura seeks to prove his patriotism by fighting for his country in the war, but his sister, Kei, fiercely protests the government's treatment of her people. An uplifting testament to the power of the human spirit, *Allegiance* follows the Kimuras as they fight between duty and defiance, custom and change, family bonds and forbidden loves.

*Allegiance* Director Snehal Desai says, "It's hard to believe that this happened only 76 years ago, as it is hard to believe that 120,000 Americans were once evicted from their homes and forced into American incarceration camps. Their crime? They were of Japanese descent."

Families had to leave everything behind - their homes, their land, their belongings - and were forced into makeshift barracks, or in some instances horse stalls at racetracks; and exposed to brutal winters and harsh summers. Their loyalty was questioned, their freedom taken away. But their spirits could never be broken.

JACCC Director of Performing Arts & Community Engagement and Executive Producer of *Allegiance* (Los Angeles) Alison De La Cruz says, "Southern California is home to the largest Japanese American population in the United States, and one of the most vibrant Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the country. The JACCC's Aratani Theatre is in the heart of Little Tokyo -- where only a couple of blocks away, the former Union Church, now the home to East West Players, was a site where incarcerated were rounded up on buses to the camps, with only the suitcases they could carry."

"**All** audiences are struck by that moment in Act One, where the cast assembles with their few possessions to get on a train that would take them to an unthinkable new life. *Allegiance* is a landmark event invigorating discussion about an important chapter in American history that still resonates today – in this climate, where communities of color need to be vigilant and visible."

Previews, at JACCC's Aratani Theatre at 244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, begin on February 21 -- a few days after the 76th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942; the Day of Remembrance is still an impactful date.

Previews are Wednesday, February 21 through Sunday, February 25, 2018, with 8pm shows from Wednesday to Saturday, and a 2pm matinee show on Sunday. Regular performances run from Wednesday to Sunday, with 8pm shows from Wednesday to Saturday, and 2pm matinee shows on Saturday and Sunday. Opening night is Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 8pm. The production runs until April 1, 2018.

For tickets and information, please visit [AllegianceMusical.com](http://AllegianceMusical.com).

The creative team includes Se Hyun Oh (Scenic Design), Karyn Lawrence (Lighting Design), Halei Parker (Costume Design), Cricket Myers (Sound Design), Adam Flemming (Projection Design), and Glenn Michael Baker (Property Design), Cesar Cipriano (Fight Choreographer), and Janelle Dote (Assistant Choreographer).

The cast also includes Ethan Le Phong as Sammy Kimura, Eymard Cabling as Frankie Suzuki, and Natalie Holt MacDonald as Hannah Campbell. The ensemble includes Cesar Cipriano, Jordan Goodsell, Sharline Liu, Miyuki Miyagi, Glenn Shiroma, Chad Takeda, and Grace Yoo.

### **About East West Players**

East West Players (EWP) is the nation's longest-running professional theatre of color in the country and the largest producing organization of Asian American artistic work. Over its remarkable 52-year history, EWP has produced over 230 plays and musicals. EWP's 2017-18 season, *The Company We Keep*, features notable artistic partnerships and co-productions that reflect on and refract a wide range of Asian Pacific Islander (API) experiences as seen through the lens of gender, race, and sexuality. EWP not only ensures that API stories are told, but works to increase access, inclusion, and representation in the economy.

### **About Japanese American Cultural & Community Center**

Founded in 1971, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) is one of the largest ethnic arts and cultural centers of its kind in the United States. A hub for Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture and a community gathering place for the diverse voices it inspires—JACCC connects traditional and contemporary; community participants and creative

professionals; Southern California and the world beyond. JACCC also provides office space in its five-story complex to a wide variety of nonprofit cultural, educational, and community-based organizations in Los Angeles.

### **About *Allegiance***

The original Broadway production of *Allegiance* opened on November 8, 2015 at the Longacre Theater in New York City and was produced by Sing Out, Louise! Productions and ATA with Mark Mugiishi/Hawaii HUI, Hunter Arnold, Ken Davenport, Elliott Masie, Sandi Moran, Mabuhay Productions, Barbara Freitag/Eric & Marsi Gardiner, Valiant Ventures, Wendy Gillespie, David Hiatt Kraft, Norm & Diane Blumenthal, M. Bradley Calobrace, Karen Tanz, Gregory Rae/Mike Karns, in association with Jas Grewal, Peter Landin, and Ron Polson.

### **Calendar information for *Allegiance***

**Where:** JACCC's Aratani Theatre at 244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

**When:** February 21, 2018 to April 1, 2018

**Playing Schedule:** Previews: Wednesday, February 21 at 8 pm; Thursday, February 22 at 8pm  
Friday, February 23 at 8pm; Saturday, February 24 at 8pm;  
Sunday, February 25 at 2pm

Opening Night, Wednesday, February 28 at 7pm

Thereafter – Thursday and Friday Evenings at 8pm;  
Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm; Sundays at 2 pm  
Note: no performance on Sunday, March 18

**Tickets:** For tickets and information, please visit [AllegianceMusical.com](http://AllegianceMusical.com)

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**Link for photos:** <http://bit.ly/2yTVDR7>