

LARRY (with a slight Chinese accent)

Larry Yee, Asian American, male, mid-50s-60s, father of Lauren Yee and head of the Yee Fung Toy Family Association in San Francisco. A businessman, enthusiastic, tells a good story, possesses a “joi de vivre” about him, very likable and proud to be Chinese and American.

well, back in the old days, if your clan fought and lost, the other side would slaughter you. there weren't too many yees back then. we're not like the wongs, we don't just grow on trees, you know. so when we were being slaughtered, the model ancestor knew he had to do something. so he brought us down to southern china, so that nearly a thousand years later, we still exist.

(to us) the model ancestor is the first MOST FAMOUS yee! there are three famous yees you need to know!

you got the model ancestor, you got leland— and my daughter! lauren yee. ho leng ah!
3 THREE! three famous yees. (like the count in sesame street)
ah ah ah.

(to us) my daughter told me to tell you she'll be right back.
she also told me i'm not supposed to tell you anything else, so— (“zip!”)
i gotta go soon anyway, get ready for the dinner, find the doc.
that's leland.

he calls me larry.

i call him the doc.

we're pretty tight.

i remember the first election i did with leland. supervisor's race.

he called me up, night before the election, and he told me, “larry, you gotta go down to the sunset district, take down all those other guys' signs, and put up mine.”

so i said, “okay, doc. don't you worry. (as yogi bear) larry yee is on the case!”

and the next day,

all of 19th avenue, the WHOLE sunset district is just “YEE,”

one after the other.

“YEE”

“YEE”

“YEE.”

i'm not saying i won it for him, but my dad always used to say, having your name up there, that's pretty important.

LAUREN or ACTOR 2 (If auditioning for Actor 2, please perform this a second time with a Chinese accent)

Lauren Yee, Asian American, female, 30, the dramatized version of the playwright Lauren Lee, smart, intelligent, charming, having identified with Western culture and limited exposure to her cultural heritage by choice. Lauren could be characterized by others as an “ABC”, “jook-sing”, or “banana”.

Actor 2, Asian American, female, 20s-40s, a good mover, with a dexterity of performing a variety of characters (with distinct voices including a Chinese accent – preferably Cantonese accent). Also plays Jenny Pang, the first Lion Dance, Betty Yee, the FBI agent, a Lum Elder, the Whiskey Seller

“follow the fortune cookies?” what fortune cookies?
(a cookie drops into her hands from the sky)

you’ve got to be kidding me.
(a flood of cookies continues to fall. she follows them through the audience)

excuse me—
sorry—
i just need to—
ohp—
no, don’t eat that please—
(a large bag of cookies appears on stage)

fortune cookies!
(she arrives in portsmouth square on the stage)

portsmouth square. but where’s the oracle?
(LAUREN cracks open a fortune cookie. the ghostly LUM ELDERS appear)

um, excuse me?
someone said you might be able to help me?

you’re helpful ghosts?
you’re not ghosts...?
then who are you?
oh! the lum elders! my dad told me about you. my dad. larry yee.

uh, larry... yee.

anyway, my dad, i’m trying to find him. he’s on the other side of the doors and i need to—
call to the ancestors to open the doors?
i brought you cookies!
what else do you want?
it’s your grandkids that you care about!

help me find my dad and i can help your grandkids with college applications.
i went to yale. i can get them into wherever they want to go.
the university of california system, that's a start.
you want your grandkids to go to UCLA over yale?
that makes absolutely no sense.
fine, fine: a UC! help me find my father and i'll help them get into a UC.

Actor 1 (As SHRIMP BOY. Please perform this twice. One like a gangster - think Joe Pesci. Another like Bruce Lee.)

Actor 1, Asian American, male, 30s-50s, a good mover, with a dexterity of performing a variety of characters (with distinct voices including a Chinese accent – preferably a Cantonese accent). Also plays Someone, the erhu player, Parke Skelton, Shrimp Boy, a Lum Elder, Sichuan face changer

chinatown, san francisco. back then chinatown is very different. when you pull out a machine gun, shit is kicking off, getting serious. pretty much everyone packing in chinatown. (to LAUREN) we'd go to bed with seven girls. (realizes, turns to DANNY MA instead) we'd go to bed with seven girls. ain't that fun? i mean, can you handle seven girls?

no. but you try!

yeah! (checks watch) i gotta finish my story, inspire you before the FBI come arrest me, try to paint me as the criminal. but they don't know: i got larry's daughter, the great chinese screen movie writer who's gonna help me tell my story!

oh yeah. is very important! first time i go to jail, i do time with charles manson, a good friend of mine. kimball, a serial killer. they say, "raymond, you gotta tell your story, is the most important thing." you don't tell your story, the lo fan— that means "white person." —gonna tell it FOR YOU. make you disappear in your own story! they tell me, "raymond, you gotta make like the jew."

i love the jew. imma big fan of their work!

they just like us!
the hard work
the good food
the can't see
the cheap skate
the mom so loud, always control the son.
the dad bad at sport, cannot throw the ball.
and NOW: the story!

the jew know you gotta stick together, make sure they don't erase you from your own story.

ACTOR 3 (Please perform this twice. One like RuPaul. Another as a hip first generation Chinese in America) (As MODEL ANCESTOR)

Actor 3, Asian American, male, 20s-30s, excellent mover with a dexterity of performing a variety of characters (with distinct voices including a Chinese accent – preferably a Cantonese accent). Also plays Danny Ma, Leland Yee, the Chiropractor, a Lum Elder, the second Lion Dance, the Model Ancestor.

oooh, i hear descendants!
thass right. welcome to the other side.

girl, where you think you come from, if there is no model ancestor?

okay, okay, let's see what you brought your model ancestor—
(the MODEL ANCESTOR puts on his glasses, looks at LAUREN)
aw hell no.

girrrrl, you can't be here. this place is for yees only.
(reaches a hand out, feels her aura) yeah, you ain't a yee.

so shoo. shoo.
(the MODEL ANCESTOR shoos her away)
i see you got that yee attitude, okay.
(the MODEL ANCESTOR grabs the whiskey out of the bundle)

oooh, you got me that good cheap stuff!

so my humble descendant, what can i do for you?
larry yee?
girl, do you see this place?
i got yees up in my yees.

might as well be a fucking wong convention.
you want a larry yee? you gotta be more specific than that.

oh, larry YEE! you're HIS daughter! you the story yee!
he told me all about you. he just came by "trying to get his name back."
yeah, they turn sixty and show up at your door, real chatty.
he ain't here no more, baby.

girl, the sun set hours ago.
you a yee, we always late.
yeah, but before you get you your dad back, there's one more person you gotta face.

larry YEE.

girl, you gotta go back and talk to your dad, instead of talking to your dad. and i know you hear the difference.

you aced every test just as good as larry YEE, and you STILL don't know what you gonna say to your own dad?