

**TRUMP'S RACISM PARALLELS AMERICA'S DARK PAST
HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF IN NEW SHORT FILM**

LOS ANGELES, CA – October 10, 2016

The new experimental short film "Far East of Eden" features notorious performance artist Karen Finley, directed by video artist Bruce Yonemoto, and is narrated by actor and activist George Takei. The film brutally links Donald Trump to a long American history of racial exclusion. The 2016 election has been volatile with many American citizens taken aback by the anti-immigrant rhetoric that has served as the foundation of Donald Trump's run for President. But if Trump's promises of building a wall or banning Muslims from the United States sound unique or new, they're not. America has seen politicians like Trump before, and their words and policies have had dire consequences.

Karen Finley delivers a raw and transgressive performance and wickedly parodies Donald J. Trump. She mashes Senator James D. Phelan's racist rhetoric and Woody Guthrie's classic lyrics "This land is your land. This land is my land. Let's make sure it's not their land."

The film shares George Takei's personal story as a child recounting his family being taken away to the Japanese American internment camps during World War II. "We were ordered out of our home," Takei says in the film. "They couldn't even call us citizens then. We were enemy non-aliens.... We were taken to the horse stables. Thinking back now, I can't imagine how humiliating and degrading it must have been for my parents."

"Far East of Eden" traces a course from the rhetoric of Senator Phelan, an outspoken opponent of Asian immigration at the turn of the last century, through the internment of Japanese-American families during World War II, to Trump's flamboyant promises to build a wall between the United States and Mexico. Phelan, himself the son of an Irish immigrant, was a vocal opponent of immigration from China and Japan who campaigned for office under the slogan, "Keep California White."

"Far East of Eden" will be released online October 11, 2016

PRESS KIT: <http://bryanjacksonfilms.com/fareastofeden/>

YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4Wo_TkcJaw

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Karen Finley is a New York-based artist whose raw and transgressive performances have long provoked controversy and debate. She has presented and performed her visual art, performances, and plays internationally including at Lincoln Center, Guthrie Theater, American Repertory Theatre, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Steppenwolf Theatre, and Theatre Bobino. Her artworks are in several collections and museums including the Pompidou in Paris and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including a Guggenheim Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Art's Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, two Obies, and two Bessies. New York Times art critic Ben Brantley has praised her work saying "here's no denying the genuine rage and pain behind her performance, nor her ability to find voices that reflect those feelings in disturbingly visceral ways."

Bruce Yonemoto has developed a body of work that positions itself within the overlapping intersections of art and commerce, of the gallery world and the cinema screen. As a "hyphenated American" (Japanese-American), he has a special interest in literature (anthropological, fictional, travel) that explores areas where people geographically and historically separated come into contact with each other and establish ongoing relations. These contact zones have been historically rife with coercion, radical inequality, and violent conflict. Yonemoto has been honored with numerous awards and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Film Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Maya Deren Award for Experimental Film and Video. Most recently, his solo installations, photographs, and sculptures have been featured in major one-person shows at the ICC in Tokyo, the ICA in Philadelphia, and the Kemper Museum in Kansas City. The Tate Modern in London will mount a retrospective of Yonemoto's work in 2017. bruceyonemoto.com

George Takei is best known for his portrayal of Mr. Sulu in the acclaimed television and film series Star Trek. He's an actor, social justice activist, social media mega-power, originated the role of Sam Kimura and Ojii-Chan in the Broadway musical Allegiance, and subject of To Be Takei, a documentary on his life and career. Takei's acting career has spanned five decades, with more than 40 feature films and hundreds of television guest-starring roles to his credit. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Actors' Equity Association, and Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. With the outbreak of World War II, Los Angeles, California-born Takei and his family were placed behind the barbed-wire enclosures of United States internment camps along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans. He spent most of his childhood at Camp Rohwer in the swamps of Arkansas and at wind-swept Camp Tule Lake in northern California. At the end of the war, Takei's family returned to their native Los Angeles.