

Disoriented Comedy tour sells out Portland with JAM-packed jokes

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kids, catcalling, and keeping up with her overbearing mother, the audience is given a short glimpse into several generations of Chamorro identity.

Arts & Media Project

The evening was part of APANO's Arts & Media Project's (AMP) MicCheck! series, which highlights the work of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) artists and the issues that impact their immediate communities.

"One of the primary goals of MicCheck! is to illuminate the voices of APIs whose stories are often unheard," Kita said. "Disoriented Comedy specifically uses humor to achieve this goal, and its mostly female lineup simultaneously addresses the intersections of race, gender, and social justice."

According to APANO, the name of the AMP series is derived from the call-and-response protest strategy used heavily during the Occupy Movement, a technique APANO hopes to translate into its own programs to promote community awareness and participation.

In the case of the comedy tour, the response was laughter, and more often than not, an acknowledgement from many in the audience that they too had similar experiences as the comic on stage.

MicCheck!

"To have an event like this, it's like finally, here is someone who I can identify with, here is someone in my community who has made it," 20-year-old Helene Huynh said while waiting for the show to start.

Huynh, who grew up in southeast Portland and works with APANO in voter outreach, explained that growing up in a predominantly white area has made it difficult to find comedy that reflects the API community.

Huynh's outlook was one shared by many who attended the event, as conversations of representation and a general appreciation for the comedians started long before the show and carried on well after it ended.

"Honestly, I feel like what's great about the Asian-American community in Portland is how grateful they are that we come here," Yang said. "I think sometimes they



CHAMORRO COMEDIAN. The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon's Arts & Media Project's MicCheck! series, which highlights the work of Asian and Pacific Islander artists and the issues that impact their immediate communities, continues Friday, October 21 at the Jade/APANO Multicultural Space. Pictured is Seattle-based Chamorro comedian Mona Concepcion, who performed as part of the event held in mid-September. (AR Photo/Ryan Nakano)

express how they feel, they wish things were better for Asians, or that there was more representation, so I definitely feel a strong sense of gratefulness."

She went on to say that it was this kind of space (JAMS) and community that not only allowed her to talk about the issues of misrepresentation in Asian cuisine, but continues to enable tours like Disoriented Comedy to even exist in the first place.

The next MicCheck! event takes place Friday, October 21 from 6:00 to 9:00pm at JAMS, located at the corner of S.E. 82nd Avenue and Division Street. The event features an art installation and opening theater performance with Sabina Haque and Living Stages exploring stories of communities east of 82nd Avenue

To learn more about MicCheck! and APANO, call (971) 340-4861, e-mail, <candace@apano.org>, or visit <www.apano.org/mic-check>.

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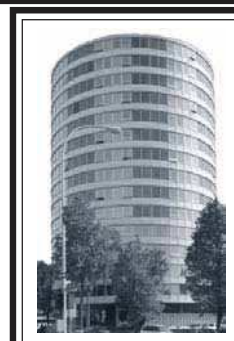


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