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**Nihonjin Face:
75 Years Since Japanese American Incarceration
A Free Community Event on February 19**

Sponsors: Kip Tokuda Memorial Washington Civil Liberties Education Program,
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TACOMA, WASH. – The Broadway Center’s Education Program reaches more than 40,000 students, teachers, and families each year. As part of this program, the Broadway Center produces an annual Civil Rights Legacy Tour and this year’s tour challenges audiences to think about civil rights from a different angle by recalling the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. *Nihonjin Face*, meaning “Japanese Face,” shares the story of 10 year-old Tacoma resident Tomiko Hashimoto and follows her family’s experience during the war and its impact on her future. As the latest in the Civil Rights Legacy Tour suite of originally commissioned works, *Nihonjin Face* challenges audiences to make connections between our South Sound heritage and our own civic engagement today.

The seven-week tour of the play arrives in schools and community centers throughout Washington state and will culminate with a public event on February 19 at 2:00 p.m., marking to the day the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which put into motion the forced removal of Japanese Americans from their homes and businesses and the imprisonment of over 120,000 innocent Americans, three quarters who were U.S. citizens.

The schedule of free community activities on February 19 include:

- 2:00 p.m. History Walk of what was once Tacoma’s Japan Town. The tour will begin at the site of the historic Japanese Language School (now on the University of Washington Tacoma campus) and work its way north toward the Broadway Center.
- 3:00 p.m. A free performance of *Nihonjin Face* at Broadway Center’s Studio 3.
- 4:00 p.m. Panel discussion with the playwrights, historic Tacoma families and Humanities Washington speaker Mayumi Tsutakawa, exploring the history and the lessons we can apply in 2017 at Broadway Center’s Studio 3.
- 5:00 A second free performance of *Nihonjin Face* at Broadway Center’s Studio 3.

The Broadway Center commissioned the *Nihonjin Face* production, written by playwrights Janet Hayakawa, artist and educator currently working for Densho: The Japanese Legacy Project, and Tere Martinez, adjunct professor at Hostos Community College (CUNY) in New York City’s South Bronx.

The two playwrights set the scene in 1942, as the country is engaged in World War II and the US Government incarcerates 120,000 Japanese Americans for alleged “reasons of national security.” The story follows 10-year-old Tomiko Hashimoto and her family as they are forced to leave their home in Tacoma. During three years of incarceration, Tomiko learns the impact of racial discrimination and develops empathy for others experiencing similar civil rights challenges. Years later in life, she shares her experiences with her grandson, who is also navigating the complexities of racial identity in America.

The plot of this production has threads of personal experience, as playwright Hayakawa’s parents and grandparents were among the hundreds of thousands of Japanese Americans to be incarcerated during World War II. Multi-grade [study guides](#) offer lessons and activities for use in school and at home.

Nihonjin Face is a historical experience that honors Tacoma’s Japanese American legacy and shares the importance of connecting the lessons of our shared history to the challenges we face today.

The 3:00 p.m. performance is sold out. To request free tickets for the 5:00 p.m. performance of *Nihonjin Face*, [register online](#) or call the Broadway Center Box Office at 253.591.5894, toll-free 1.800.291.7593, online at BroadwayCenter.org, or in person at 901 Broadway in Tacoma's Theater District.

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