



Written & Directed by  
Steve "Spike" Wong  
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Produced by  
Joan Van Antwerp

Sponsored by  
Soaring Dragon Endeavors  
(soaringdragon.net)

Inspired by the playwright's father, Captain Ernest Wong of the US Army Air Force in WWII, "White Sky, Falling Dragon" explores the emotional and cultural effects of war, the challenges of returning home, and family dynamics within an immigrant family. It is written mostly in English, with some Chinese.

Approximately 20,000 Chinese Americans joined the US military during World War II. They joined to fight for the country that, at the outbreak of the war, severely restricted Chinese immigration via the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943). This ensured an environment of suspicion and racism during their service, and yet, like all military personnel, they knew they had a job to do on behalf of the country. As the main character, Ernie, says in the play,

“Someone had to do it, and that was me!” In 2018, these Chinese American veterans were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to recognize and commemorate their service and sacrifice.

In 2017, I began writing this play by asking a simple question: what was it like for my dad when he walked into the family home in Watsonville, California, after his military service was over? He was discharged with the rank of captain, and yet he rarely told stories related to his service as a US Army Air Force bombardier/navigator on B-17 bombers.

The quest brought me into contact with many other Chinese American families with similar stories. In 2021, I travelled to Washington, D.C. to receive my father’s Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of our family. Every family, indeed every WWII veteran, with whom I interacted there carried pain, longing, and dignity. These qualities informed the play’s sensitivity to cultural environment, the challenges of immigration for Asians, and the effects of war on veterans. The work itself became a necessity to such an extent, and the authenticity demanded such intimate experience, that I decided to personally fund the production myself, no small task for a retired teacher.

Soaring Dragon Endeavors is committed to raising awareness and attendance for this production, which features Chinese and Asian American stage actors. Our intention to produce this work in Mountain View reflects the understanding that the city has a large Asian population, 32% according to current demographics. SDE wants to highlight Asian American stories that are vibrant, important, and necessary to broaden understanding, acceptance, and community involvement across the entire demographic spectrum. There are

commonalities of human experience in “White Sky, Falling Dragon”: family, love, music, food, history, and struggle. While Chinese American in presentation, the play is humanity to the core.

Soaring Dragon Endeavors has reached widely in developing its program, believing that diversity of experience and expression in our cast and play will appeal to many. We have musicians from Beijing and Houston, our actors hail from L.A., San Francisco, and Santa Cruz, and our music composers live in New York City and nomadically. “White Sky, Falling Dragon” has support and endorsements from national and local organizations. We are appealing to Asians, veterans, historians, and immigrant groups to come and experience a unique stage theater production.

And finally, if awarded a fee waiver, Soaring Dragon Endeavors will commit \$5000 toward future development of Asian American work at SecondStage, be they staged play readings, readers’ theater, or short plays in development. I have written, developed, and performed several Chinese American themed plays over the past few years, both locally and in San Francisco, and extending this work to SecondStage is an important part of my creative endeavors.