

# YOUNG JEAN LEE'S ALRIGHT MEANS AND HORRIBLE ENDS

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This talk discusses several recent works by New York-based playwright Young Jean Lee: "Songs of The Dragons Flying To Heaven" (2006), "The Shipment" (2009), and "We're Gonna Die" (2011). Lee's plays take up extremely uncomfortable topics -- racism, self-loathing, betrayal, death -- but rather than work towards tragic catharsis or reconciliation, Young asks audiences to wrestle with their desire for either of those outcomes, and invites them to sustain their discomfort instead. Exploiting the particular characteristics of live performance, Young's performances create spaces in which audiences might gain new insight into how we might be able to gain a better, more critical appreciation of difference -- an alternative to popular mainstream versions of "diversity" that simplify or erase historical, material differences and the political inequalities they produce.

# 5/27

WEDNESDAY

4:50-6:20PM

Collaboration Room 2,  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, Building 18,  
Komaba Campus  
The University of Tokyo



Integrated Human Sciences Program for Cultural Diversity (IHS)  
Project 5 "Cultural Diversity and Imagination"  
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