

David Henry Hwang is one of the most intelligent and original voices in the American theatre.

Detroit News

David Henry Hwang is a true original. A native of Los Angeles, born to immigrant parents, he has one foot on each side of the cultural divide. He knows America — its vernacular, its social landscape, its theatrical traditions. He knows the same about China. In his plays, he manages to mix both of these conflicting cultures until he arrives at a style that is wholly his own. Mr. Hwang's works have the verve of the well-made American stage comedies and yet, with little warning, they bubble over into the mystical rituals of Asian stagecraft. By at once bringing West and East into conflict and unity, this playwright has found the perfect way to dramatize both the pain and humor of the immigrant experience."

Frank Rich, New York Times

Hwang has the potential to become the first important dramatist of American public life since Arthur Miller, and maybe the best of them all.

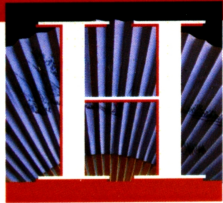
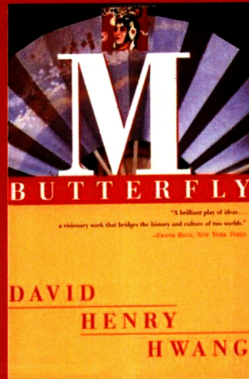
William A. Henry III, Time

Lost *(and Found)* in Translation



How I learned to write
what I don't know

Throughout his career, playwright David Henry Hwang has explored the complexities of forging Eastern and Western cultures in a contemporary America. His extraordinary body of work over the past three decades has been marked by a deep desire to reaffirm the common humanity in all of us.

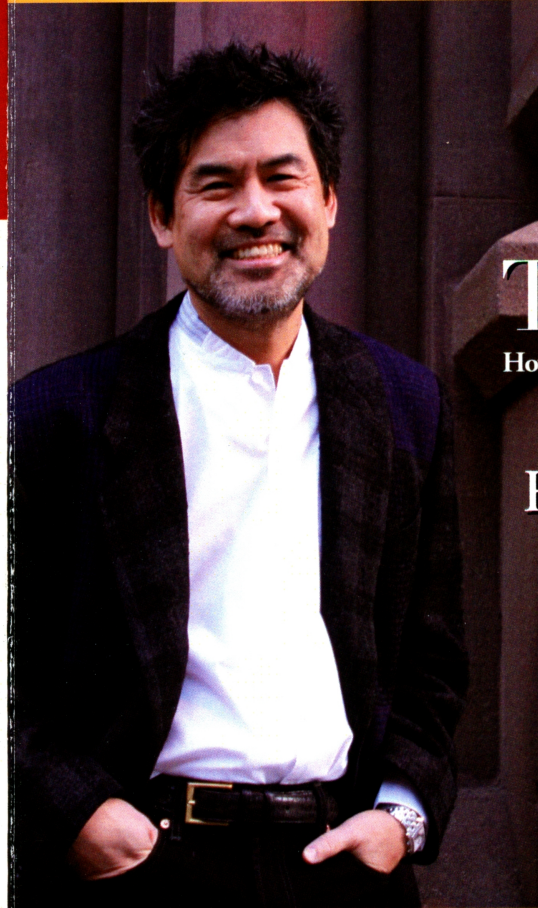


wang is best known as the author of *M. Butterfly*, which ran for two years on Broadway, won the 1988 Tony, Drama Desk and other awards, and was also a finalist for the 1989 Pulitzer Prize. The play enjoyed a one-year run on London's West End and has been produced in over four dozen countries to date. His play *Golden Child* received a 1997 Obie award for playwriting and three 1998 Tony nominations, including best new play, and his play *Yellow Face* won a 2008 Obie award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. His newest play is *Chinglish*, a comedy about an American businessman in China, which premiered at Chicago's Goodman Theatre last summer and opened at the Longacre Theater on Broadway in October to excellent reviews.

Hwang has also written for both opera and film. According to *Opera News*, he is America's most-produced living opera librettist. He has written four works with composer Philip Glass, including *1000 Airplanes on the Roof* and *Icarus at the Edge of Time*. Hwang's *Ainadamar*, with music by Osvaldo Golijov and featuring soprano Dawn Upshaw, won two Grammy Awards in 2006, including Best Opera Recording. Hwang penned the screenplays for *M. Butterfly*, a 1993 Warner Brothers release starring Jeremy Irons and John Lone, directed by David Cronenberg; *Golden Gate* (Samuel Goldwyn Co., 1994), starring Matt Dillon and Joan Chen, directed by John Madden; and *Possession* (co-writer, USA Films, 2002), starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Aaron Eckhart, directed by Neil LaBute. He has also done screenwriting work for Martin Scorsese, Sydney Pollack, and Tim Burton, among others.

A graduate of Stanford University and an alumnus of the Yale School of Drama, Hwang has been the recipient of numerous grants, fellowships, and awards. Most recently he was honored with the 2012 William Inge Distinguished Achievement in the American Theatre Award.

David Henry Hwang



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Thursday,
February 16, 2012

4:30 p.m.

104 Kirby Hall
of Civil Rights

Reception following

photo: Lia Chang

The 2012 John L. Hatfield '67 Lecture
presented by the Friends of Skillman Library