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March 24, 2022

Chan Centre Presents Concludes Season with *Sansei: The Storyteller*

Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia presents *Sansei: The Storyteller* on **April 28** at the **Telus Studio Theatre**, supported by Presenting Sponsor RBC. The acclaimed one-man-show, created by and starring Kunji Mark Ikeda, traces his family's history from feudal Japan to Japanese-Canadian internment during WWII to the present day. Produced by Cloudsway Dance Theatre, *Sansei* has sold out shows across the country. The hit show received four stars from the Calgary Herald which praised Ikeda as a "master storyteller," while the Calgary Fringe Festival named it the Best of the Fest in 2015.

Weaving together dance, narrative, historical audio and family recollections, Ikeda centres much of the show on the treatment that his family and some 22,000 other Japanese descendants endured when the Canadian government declared them enemy aliens after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ikeda connects a direct line between the othering and persecution that Japanese-Canadians faced then with the discrimination faced by people of colour today.

"What happened to Japanese-Canadians during internment and beyond is one of the darkest moments in Canada's recent history," says Kunji Mark Ikeda. "But the way I tell the story doesn't focus on blame or shame. I aim to contextualize in ways that we can accept and build together, through story, through joy, through connection. A line of the work is particularly resonant: 'if we're really lucky, no one else will have to know what forced relocation feels like... Let's remember this feeling.'"

Despite the heavy subject matter, Ikeda tells his story with grace, compassion, and unexpected humour. Forgiveness and reclamation are at the heart of his story as he captivates audiences with hardly anything more than his voice and the effortless movements of his body.

Listing Information

Event:	Sansei: The Storyteller
Location:	Telus Studio Theatre at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts University of British Columbia 6265 Crescent Road Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Date:	April 28, 2022 at 8PM
Ticket Office:	chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697
Price:	From \$15
Website:	chancentre.com

About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts

Since 1997, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts has earned an international reputation for its striking design, stellar acoustics, and exceptional programming. Artists, critics, and patrons alike are unanimous in their praise of the facility, winning it a place among North America's top-rated performing arts spaces. Featuring three unique venues—the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Telus Studio Theatre, and the Royal Bank Cinema—the Chan

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Centre is a vital part of UBC campus and community life where artistic and academic disciplines merge to inspire new perspectives on the world around us. Past performers and speakers include Wynton Marsalis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Renée Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

Link to artist photos

chancentre.com/press-downloads

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For further media information:

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