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## Lane Nishikawa

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**Nishikawa, Lane** (b. Wahiawa, Hawaii, 1956). Asian-American actor, director, and playwright. Nishikawa was relocated to San Diego with his family as a child. His experiences in Hawaii and on the mainland exposed him to cultural resistance towards Asian-American culture from an early age, which featured largely in the content and themes of his later creative works. He attended San Francisco State University and later joined the Asian-American Theatre Workshop, which eventually became the Asian-American Theatre Company (AATC). He worked steadily in the company as a performer and playwright and assumed the position of artistic director in the 1980s. In the latter role, Nishikawa was instrumental in providing opportunities for the development and production of work by other Asian-American playwrights. He directed productions of works by numerous leading authors, including Shiomi's *Yellow Fever* (1983), *Rosie's Café* (1989), and *Uncle Tadao* (1992), Hwang's *Family Devotions* (1987), Laurence Yep's *Pay the Chinaman* (1987), and Gotanda's *Yankee Dawg You Die* (1990) and *The Dream of Kitamura* (1993). As a playwright and performer, Nishikawa's most notable works include a trilogy of one-person shows inspired by his experiences as an Asian-American performer. *Life in the Fast Lane* (1980), *I'm on a Mission from Buddha* (1989), and *Mifune and Me* (1994) all explore the discrimination and prejudice experienced by Asian-American artists in the American entertainment industry. *The Gate of Heaven* (1997) is a realistic play Nishikawa co-authored with Victor Talmage, about the lifelong friendship between a Japanese-American soldier and a Jew.