

The USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions & Culture in conjunction with Playwrights' Arena and True Heart Films presents a staged reading of LIKE THE FLOW OF A RIVER written by Velina Hasu Houston.



## LIKE THE FLOW OF A RIVER

Written by Velina Hasu Houston

Directed by Tamara Ruppert

Houston, a former Japan Foundation fellow, is the only U.S. playwright to amass a body of work that explores the U.S.-Japan relationship through a bilateral, global view of identity. Her play, *Tea*, is the most-produced play about Japanese women in the U.S. A playwright, opera and musical theatre librettist, and essayist, Houston will be in residence at Aoyama Gakuin Daigaku, Tokyo, with a Fulbright project this year. She also is Associate Dean of Faculty Recognition and Development, Director of Dramatic Writing, Resident Playwright, and Professor of Theatre at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. At USC, she co-founded Asian American Studies.

The play, which includes the music of Misora Hibari, is about the impact of nuclear disaster globally as told through the life of Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese adolescent that died of atomic bomb-related illness in Hiroshima in 1955.

**Directed by Tamara Ruppert with Janette Jara as Production Manager, the reading will take place on April 12, 2015, 7 pm, at Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC), 514 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California. Playwrights' Arena's artistic director is Jon Lawrence Rivera and Ruppert is Executive Producer of True Heart Films.**