



# Panelists

## Nina Zoie Lam (MODERATOR)

Nina Zoie Lam is a first generation Chinese American, graduate of Brown University, NY based director, educator, dramaturg and co-founder of National Asian Artists Project. Growing up in New York City's Lower East Side/ Chinatown, Nina's initial career objectives were to become a modern dancer and a doctor. She soon realized that for her, those two career objectives would be a tall order to fill. So, she chose to pursue a career in theater and dance. For the past 35 years, she has enjoyed performing on and off Broadway, touring in the United States and China in shows; directing and teaching. In 2009, alongside co-founders Baayork Lee and Steven Eng, she formed National Asian Artists Project which is a not-for-profit organization that recognizes the need to build bridges between the work of artists of Asian descent, and the many communities that the work can serve. Thank you to George Forbes and Jeffrey Shubart from Lucille Lortel Foundations, Ilene Reid and Michael Heitzman for beautiful, soulful SOLANA and my husband, David and daughter, Julia who every day, challenges me to stay true to myself.

## Dr. Deborah Adamy

Dr. Deborah Adamy received her doctorate (Ph.D.) in Clinical Psychology, her master's degree (LMSW) in Social Work and graduated Magna Cum Lade with a BA in Psychology and Teaching Certification in elementary and special education. She also earned her Massage Therapy License (LMT), incorporating integrative bodywork into her practice. As an innovative psycho/spiritual therapist, Deborah has cultivated a holistic practice, working with children, teenagers, and adults, individuals, couples and families for over 30 years.

Deborah has been committed to her meaningful 38-year career in advocacy, healing and activism. She has advocated for the rights of the most vulnerable, counseled people from all walks of life, developed curriculum, trained social workers and educators, coordinated research projects, ran groups and facilitated workshops. She cares deeply for humanity and believes we are capable of reducing our daily suffering, finding deeper meaning and purpose in our lives, and living more fully into our potential.

Addressing issues related to adoption, immigration and identity have been an integral theme throughout Deborah's career. Deborah began her social work career in the early 80s empowering immigrants and women of color with effective job skills to enter the work force. She worked in school-based drug prevention programs, counseling teenagers and families and later running parenting workshops throughout Brooklyn and Queens. She was hired by Yale University's Consultation Center to direct creative, comprehensive programs in high-risk middle schools. Deborah coordinated a federally funded research project through Hunter College School of Social Work (HCSSW), focused on effective child welfare practices. Following that research project, she became the Director of Training at HCSSW's National Resource Center for Permanency Planning, helping to improve policy and practices in child welfare throughout the country. She was a consultant for Voices of Youth, a non-profit organization giving teens in foster care (the ones who typically are labeled 'un-adoptable') a voice in the child welfare system, impacting the compassion and effectiveness of social workers, administrators and policy makers. Deborah cares deeply about social justice and is currently involved in the Restorative Justice field; providing consultation, group facilitation and counseling to formerly incarcerated people. Deborah hosts a weekly podcast "Enlighten: Uplift & Inspire", where she has casual conversations with everyday people who inspire her. You can find her podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and Google Podcasts. [www.enlighten.nyc](http://www.enlighten.nyc)

### Cristina Cho

Cristina Cho was born Cho Seoyeon in Gunsan, South Korea and raised in Brick, New Jersey, where she currently resides. Cristina is an aspiring playwright. Her first play, PINK LEATHER, was showcased as a staged reading at The Player's Theatre in August of 2018. Recently, she was interviewed by Eboneé Collens for her YouTube talk show, EBONEÉ (<https://youtu.be/UJLsf9Z2X9Y>). Cristina is now working on her second play and studying to speak Korean.

### Ji-In Friess

Ji-In Friess is a senior at Muhlenberg College pursuing a self-designed major in environmental and sustainability studies with minors in innovation and entrepreneurship and studio arts. She was born in Seoul, South Korea and adopted by a Jewish family in Allentown, PA when she was four months old. Like many adoptees, she has many questions about her identity and has always welcomed others to ask her about adoption and diversity. She finds she is continually learning new things about herself and her identity.

Ji-In's passion for environmental innovation has led to the creation of UpCycle Apparel, a small campus startup thrift store in which she hopes to educate and call attention to the harmful effects that fast-fashion textiles have on the environment.

Ji-In is also going to author and illustrate a graphic novel on an experimental research project about 19th century colliers located in Blue Mountains, under a Mellon Foundation grant.

### Nam Holtz

Nam Holtz was born somewhere in S. Korea, found on the streets as an unidentified infant, and adopted to America at 6 months of age. She was raised in the north suburbs of Chicago, IL where she was intensely involved with dance, theater and the trumpet.

Nam graduated cum laude with a BFA from SUNY Purchase and began her professional career on stage in Broadway's "The King & I" as a 14-track singing and dancing swing. After performing in musical theater productions in London's West End, Las Vegas and in US National Tours, Nam began studying on-camera acting in her now home for over 20 years, NYC.

After witnessing and helping with the birth of her niece, Nam began to wonder about her own beginnings and Korean roots. She eventually traveled back to Korea with a small film crew to document the discovery of her culture, and her search for answers to an unknown past. The result of that trip is her award-winning documentary film, "Found in Korea." Nam served for 2 years as the teen mentor facilitator for "All Together Now," an adoptee support group for families in Brooklyn. She is currently obtaining an MSW at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College with the Child Trauma Program (class of 2020) and will continue working with and advocating for children and families in the adoption and foster care constellation. [www.foundinkorea.com](http://www.foundinkorea.com)

### Brian Kim McCormick

Brian Kim McCormick is a Korean Adoptee, NYC based actor, director, writer, and founder of Misfit Dog Productions. A Minnesota native, Brian's initial career trajectory was to be a Criminal Profiler for the CIA so he studied Psychology, Statistics and Pre-Med at St. Olaf College but ultimately followed an artistic vocation after performing at Forestburgh Playhouse. Recent acting credits include *Aubergine* at San Diego Rep and Park Square Theatre, *Labour of Love* at Olney Theatre Center, and *Caught and Fast Company* at The Guthrie Theater. With Misfit Dog, he has produced over a dozen musical readings, creating a space for actors of color to grow in range and storytelling. Misfit Dog also teamed with SMD Productions for the short film, *The Beach House*, which won Brian "Best Actor" at the 2018 Grove Film Festival and has screened additionally in NYC, Boston, and other festivals. Brian also won "Best Director," "Best Actor," and "Best Cinematographer" for his short film, *The Struggle*, for the 2018 Asian American Film Lab. For his upcoming birthday, Brian will be spending a year in South Korea making a documentary about culture and birth family search.

### Mia Panzak

Mia Panzak is a junior at Muhlenberg college, she is double majoring in Film Studies and Media and Communication. Mia was adopted from China and grew up in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. She is passionate about Asian and Asian-American representation in the media and hopes to pursue a career in the film industry.