

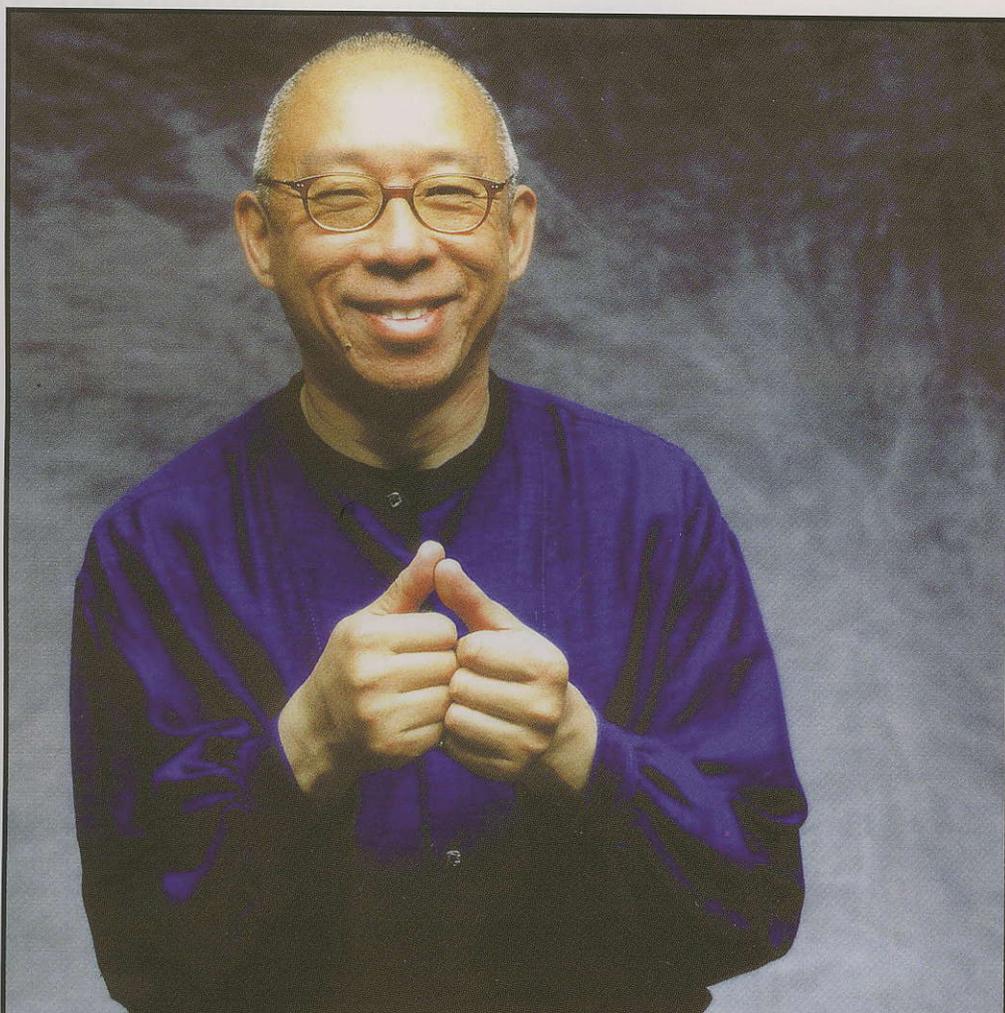
# Native Voices – Secret History

By Sara Zatz, project coordinator, Ping Chong & Company

We came to Lawrence in November 2004 to conduct interviews with potential participants for the upcoming *Native Voices – Secret History* project at the Lied Center. *Native Voices – Secret History* is part of the *Undesirable Elements* series, an ongoing oral history, documentary theater project exploring issues of race, culture and identity in the lives of individuals in American communities. The process includes intensive interviews with individuals who are in some way living between cultures, in this case the intersecting worlds of Lawrence, Kansas; Haskell Indian Nations University; and the individual nations of Native Americans who come to Lawrence to live, study and work. These interviews and additional research will then form the basis of a script — performed by the individuals themselves — that covers both historical and personal narratives and reflects the broad range of experiences of native peoples. As a way to sum up our short but intense experience in Lawrence, we offer this snapshot of our time, by the numbers.

Year of the first *Undesirable Elements* production: 1992  
 Number of productions created since then: 27  
 Days spent in Lawrence: 12  
 Meetings attended: 6  
 Press Interviews: 1  
 Number of potential participants interviewed: 13  
 Ratio of women to men interviewed: 9/4  
 Age range of potential participants: 15 to 64  
 Number of potential participants from same family: 2 (grandmother and granddaughter)  
 Number of potential participants interviewed who are currently Haskell students: 5  
 Number of potential participants interviewed who are currently Haskell staff: 4  
 Number of Native American Tribes represented at Haskell: 152 +  
 Number of Native American Tribes represented in interviews: 14 +  
 Number of States Represented at Haskell: 32 +  
 Number of States represented in interviews: 8 +  
 Hours spent interviewing: 32 +  
 Average length of interview: 2.5 hours

Most number of interviews in a day: 3  
 Number of legal pads filled with interview notes in 12 days: 7  
 Massages donated to interviewers with writer's cramp: 2 (Thanks, Kristii Adrian!)  
 Number of potential participants who were born in Lawrence: 1  
 Number of potential participants who graduated from Lawrence High School: 3  
 Parking Tickets Received: 1  
 Cost of Parking Ticket in Lawrence: \$2  
 Cost of Parking Ticket in New York: \$65  
 Meals eaten at Teller's: 5  
 Free Drinks at Teller's: 2 (Thanks, Teller's!)  
 Meals eaten at Zen Zero: 3  
 Home Football Games held at KU: 2  
 Home Football Games held at Haskell: 1  
 Football Games attended: 0



## Ping Chong: Theatre Artist

Ping Chong is a theatre director, choreographer, video and installation artist. He is the recipient of two Obie Awards, including one for Sustained Achievement in 2000, six National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, Playwrights USA Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a TCG/Pew Charitable Trust National Theatre Artist Residency Program Fellowship, a National Institute for Musical Theatre Award, two "Bessie" Awards for Sustained Creative Achievement and for Outstanding Creative Achievement. Since 1972, he has created more than 50 works for the stage, many of which have been presented at major venues all over the world. 2004 marks Ping Chong's 32nd anniversary as an independent theatre artist.

In 1990, Ping Chong created *Deshima*, the first in a series of works exploring East-West relations past, present and future. *Deshima* was performed at the Lied Center in April 1996. In collaboration with set designer Mitsuru Ishii and puppet artist Jon Ludwig, Ping Chong created *Kwaidan*, a puppet theatre work based on three Japanese ghost stories by Lafcadio Hearn. *Kwaidan* was presented at