

YOUNG JEAN LEE [age 30]

HABITAT Pullman, WA
 P.S. 122, 150 First Avenue
 212-477-5288



HABITS Fascination with awkwardness, minimal settings, transparent acting

IDENTIFICATION Lee, who performs with the National Theatre of the United States of America, continues her untraditional approach to stagecraft. This premiere grew out of a "really crazy text that was very clearly

the result of a diseased mind and not remotely resembling a play." While the subject matter remains mysterious, Lee will reveal that it is a meditation on how to live. She says, "I wanted to make a sort of serious and depressing show and I couldn't do it. It ended up being really retarded and funny."

Birds of a feather

A field guide to the current burgeoning of new playwriting talent

With the arrival of spring, city bird-watchers can catch glimpses of thrushes, warblers, perhaps even a pileated woodpecker. Yet you needn't be an Audubon Society member to enjoy some of the season's choicest sights. March offers anticipated productions by seven of New York's finest emerging playwrights. Dramas, comedies, musicals, solo performances—these works run the stylistic gamut. The subjects (boxing, depression, VH1, genetic inheritance, tabloid journalism) vary just as widely. Some writers prize language, others character, still others the superlative one-liner. But these distinctions aside, the playwrights are all indelibly contemporary. To aid in the identification of these fresh talents, we offer a field guide. Binoculars not required.