



*From us to you: 19 stories from leading playwrights for
people across the UK to record*

CHINESE TAKEAWAYS

By Amy Ng

Cast size: 3

This play is suitable for: Group

STEP 1: REHEARSE

- Make sure you have enough people for each part or maybe you could play multiple parts.
- Try to learn all your character's lines, if possible.
- If you're looking for some guidance, check out our [How To... videos](#). We've brought together a bunch of the best actors and directors to give you their tips and advice on how to make the best film you can.

STEP 2: RECORD

- Use a phone to film your performance or record directly on your Zoom or video chat platform.
- Record your performance in well-lit spaces so we can see you clearly but avoid standing right in front of a window on sunny day, and remember to keep private items out of view.
- Try to cut out all background noise by closing windows and doors.

STEP 3: UPLOAD

- We would love to see your performance. To upload your recording to us, click [here](#).
- Please **do not share** your recording on YouTube or other similar platforms. This is so we can keep all the recordings in the same place and to respect and honour our writers' copyright and publication permissions.
- We will be creating a film of each script from the videos submitted.
- We want this to be something everyone can take part in so please do get in touch if you have any access requirements or if there is anything else we might be able to help with.
- If you are having difficulty uploading your recording, please get in touch with us via email: admin@theatre-centre.co.uk or phone: 020 7729 3066.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

- Recommend to a friend by inviting those you know to rehearse, record and upload their own performance.
- Encourage others by using [#ImagiNation19](#) on your social platforms. State what play you have performed but remember to not share your recording publicly.
- Thank you for being part of ImagiNation.

Characters

JING

DR. CHEN

NICOLE

These scenes can be recorded over any kind of app that allows for video calls between three people, such as Zoom/Skype/Whatsapp/Houseparty.

INVITATION

Fear can transform an otherwise tolerant, civilised society into a hostile place. Although this short piece revolves around the difficulties faced by Chinese people in Britain during the current COVID-19 pandemic, I hope this will resonate universally with anyone who has found themselves stigmatised, scapegoated, and 'other-ed' in times of fear and uncertainty.

Happy performing!

SCENE 1

Evening.

JING, DR CHEN and NICOLE are wearing evening dresses, in their respective living rooms, waiting for "Frankenstein" on the National Theatre at Home platform to start streaming on their TVs.

They clink glasses virtually.

TOGETHER Cheers.

They drink.

NICOLE eats a slice of pizza

JING Looks very low-carb to me.

NICOLE *(defensively)* I'm not apologising for comfort eating in lockdown.

DR CHEN reveals her dinner with a flourish – roast duck, char siu (roast pork) and rice.

JING Wow! How?

DR CHEN I cycled to Chinatown today.

NICOLE Is that even allowed?

DR CHEN *(shrugs)* Cycling is exercise. Food shopping is essential. I found one restaurant there still doing takeaway. Comfort food.

JING Is it safe?

DR CHEN I had a mask. And sunglasses. And a bike helmet. No one could tell I was Chinese.

JING COVID-19 camouflage.

JING adds boiling water to her instant cup noodles.

JING Comfort eating.

NICOLE I'm not judging.

JING I'm broke.

DR CHEN The Chinese government is spraying money at writers who will celebrate the great National Patriotic Victory over COVID-19.

JING I'd rather live on instant noodles.
(beat) The kids love it too.

DR CHEN How's the home schooling?

JING points her phone at the window, where a spoof Ofsted Home School rating 'Bloody Awful' is displayed.



NICOLE Don't be so hard on yourself.

JING I'm glad schools are closed. I was dreading the moment when the kids would be bullied at school for bringing the 'Chinese virus' to Britain.

NICOLE But that didn't happen.

JING It's happened to so many kids.

NICOLE Of course there're still pockets of racism but -

DR CHEN *(incredulously)* "Pockets of racism"?

Awkward silence.

JING It's time!

"Frankenstein" starts

SCENE 2

An hour later.

The sound of the NHS clap.

JING and NICOLE pause the streaming.

JING Shall we?

DR CHEN Whatever for?

NICOLE They're clapping for you! NHS doctor!

DR CHEN Every single day, patients flinch when they see me. The Chinese Typhoid Mary. That clap is not for me.

JING un-pauses the streaming

SCENE 3

An hour later. Applause on their TV screens as "Frankenstein" ends.

NICOLE What did you think?

JING I liked Benedict Cumberbatch better as the Creature.

DR CHEN That's going to be us.

NICOLE What?

DR CHEN The Creature. Hunted. Reviled. Feared. We're heading towards war. America, Britain, China.

NICOLE Oh come on, that's catastrophising.

DR CHEN Can't you feel it?

JING *(beat)* Yeah. It's coming. We'll be interned... like the Japanese Americans.

NICOLE What Japanese Americans?

JING During World War Two. They forced
120,000 Japanese Americans into
internment camps.

DR CHEN Even those who were American citizens?

JING Even second and third generation
Japanese Americans, who had never been
to Japan.

DR CHEN Great. Just great. You know, after
that Wuhan doctor was arrested for
raising the alarm, I thought – that's
it. I'm applying for British
citizenship.

NICOLE That's great! Finally!

DR CHEN I don't know if I'm going to now.

JING Life is full of choices. You could
choose to be jailed in China for being a
dissident, or be jailed here for being
Chinese.

DR CHEN Our lives are just full of
possibilities!

NICOLE Guys, guys...

*JING and DR CHEN laugh. They
top up their glasses.*

JING Cheers.

DR CHEN Cheers.

THE END

ImagiNation is a co-production between Theatre Centre and Theatre503

CHINESE TAKEWAYS © 2020 Amy Ng

ImagiNation pack © 2020 Theatre Centre



@TCLive / @theatre503 / #ImagiNation19

T: 020 7729 3066



@theatrecentre / @theatre503

E: admin@theatre-centre.co.uk



@TheatreCentreUK / @theatre503



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

