



Multi-Talent ANZU LAWSON Bears Her Heart, Breast and Soul in Acclaimed Solo Show 'DEAR YOKO'

'Official Selection' at 2019 Binge Fringe Festival and Solofest 2020

LOS ANGELES (tba) – Multi-talented Japanese-American performer **ANZU LAWSON** bears her heart, breast and soul in a struggle of self-worth and identity starring in her celebrated solo show, **DEAR YOKO**. After debuting to rave reviews in August, Lawson is taking her show to the Binge Fringe Festival on November 9th and then to SoloFest in early 2020.

Based on Lawson's own life, **DEAR YOKO** unveils the personal history of multi-generational racism and non-acceptance as a young Asian girl growing up in white-washed America and patriarchal Japan. This emotionally-charged intimate story reveals how the iconic Japanese-American artist, singer and peace activist, Yoko Ono, lead Lawson to discover how to *finally* live her life authentically.

Directed and developed with award-winning director Jessica Lynn Johnson, this is a tale of domestic violence, suicidal ideations, drug addiction and unreported Hollywood sexual harassment experiences that went on for far too long. A roller-coaster ride from tears to laughter, **DEAR YOKO** shines a light on the need for women to continue claiming their true voice and power with one small "act of self-love" at a time -- even if the world hates you for breaking up a little rock band from Liverpool.

Under her Happy Hapa Films production banner, Lawson developed her solo show as an extension of her original rock movie musical *Dear John, Why Yoko?* The screenplay and stage musical were inspired by John Lennon's controversial and intense love for his wife Yoko Ono, as told for the first time through Yoko's perspective. Lawson received her first Best Actress nomination for her portrayal as Yoko Ono at the 2014 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Today, Lawson continues to focus on creating edgy works that challenge stereotypes and shed light on the untold stories of Asian-American and diverse women throughout history.

Audiences will recognize Lawson from her latest guest recurring TV role as Ashley Kim on Dick Wolf's popular NBC franchise series, *Chicago Med*. The talented actress got her first big break starring opposite Viggo Mortensen in director Frank Cappello's action drama film, *American Yakuza*. Since then, she has built a stellar resume which includes notable roles on *The Blacklist*, *Fuller House*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Ray Donovan*, *CSI: Cyber*, *Mom*, *The Young & the Restless* and many more.

It was after befriending comedian Brad Garrett while working on the FOX comedy *'Til Death*, that Lawson was inspired to explore the world of stand-up comedy. It didn't take long for her no-holds barred joke slinging style to land her gigs at The Comedy Store, The Laugh Factory, Westside Comedy Theatre and The Improv Hollywood/Brea to name a few.

A Southern California native, Lawson first emerged a natural talent in the modeling arena in Tokyo at age 14. While modeling, she met Jon Anderson, lead singer of the English rock band YES, which proved a pivotal moment and the beginning of her singer-songwriter career. By the time she released her third album, Lawson topped the Japanese Billboard charts with a #1 hit on AVEX records and was officially a teen J-Pop star in Japan. Back in LA, she has also lent her voice to numerous soundtracks and was commissioned to write a song for *No Way Back* starring Russell Crowe. Her bold and unique vocal styling can also be heard on many of Hans Zimmer's and Harry Gregson-Williams movie soundtracks, including *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Spygame*, *DaVinci Code* and *Sinbad*.

For more about ANZU LAWSON visit: www.AnzuLawson.com

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