



# Flying high

One-woman show keeps the laughs coming as it tackles issue of depression

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**PREVIEW.** Kristina Wong would like to save the world. She just doesn't want everyone on the planet asking her to save them.

Her new one-woman play, "Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," deals with the high rates of depression and suicide among Asian-American women. So far, the response has been overwhelming — literally.

"Please come to the show and really just watch it, but don't put pressure on me to save you all," Wong says. "Also, don't get mad if it's not all wall-to-wall laughs, because that's what the poster looks like."

**WONG**, of Los Angeles, first realized she had touched a nerve during her research and early previews for the show.

"There were a lot of expectations," Wong says. "I guess lot of expectations from a lot of people who are overly excited about the play, and they're quizzing me and offering stories that I did not solicit. That creates a lot of pressure for me."

Wong should be able to handle it. She's a singular talent whose previous work include "Miss China-

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Wong

town 2nd Runner Up," mail-order bride Web site spoof [www.bigbadchinesemama.com](http://www.bigbadchinesemama.com) and humor for Playgirl magazine.

**IF THERE HASN'T** been a national discussion about the high rates of depression and suicide among Asian-American women, it's about time. Asian-American women between the ages of 15 and 24 had the highest number of suicides among all U.S. women in that age group in 2003, with about 3.5 deaths per 100,000 residents, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported in 2005. Asian-American females also had the second-highest rate of suicide in every other age



Wong's "Cuckoo's Nest" makes its East Coast premiere this weekend at the city's Painted Bride Art Center.

group, according to [www.womensenews.org](http://www.womensenews.org).

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**"Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"**  
Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.  
**Painted Bride Art Center**  
230 Vine St.  
\$10-\$20, 215-925-9914  
[www.paintedbride.org](http://www.paintedbride.org)