INSIDE THE MUSICAL GUIDE

THE 5TH AVENUE THEATRE'S DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP OF

YOKO'S HUSBAND'S KILLER'S JAPANESE WIFE, GLORIA

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Book by Brandy Hoang Collier
Lyrics by Clare Fuyuko Bierman
Music by Erika Ji

Directed by Jéhan Òsanyín
Music Directed by Steven Tran

This "Inside the Musical" Guide offers supplementary curriculum containing educational content, interactive activities, opportunities for reflection, and resources based on the themes of the show *Yoko's Husband's Killer's Japanese Wife, Gloria.* This guide can be utilized before or after experiencing the show. Questions? Reach out to educationprograms@5thavenue.org.

Content Contributors: Beth Pollack, Neen Williams-Teramachi Graphic Design & Illustrations by Christa Fleming

The 5th's "Inside the Musical" Guides are curated and developed by the Education and Engagement team:

Ariel Gomez Bradler - Director of Education and Engagement
Amberlee Joers - Associate Director of Education
Aviona Rodriguez Brown - Associate Director of Engagement
Jessica Ellison - Education & Engagement Programs Manager
Miranda Quintanilla - Education & Engagement Coordinator
Albert Evans - Dramaturg
Beth Pollack - Dramaturg & Curriculum Specialist

2023/24 SEASON SPONSOR
ARTSFUND

2023/24 SEASON RESTAURANT SPONSOR
purple
CAFÉ AND WINE BAR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE SHOW

Synopsis 3
Character Breakdown 4

ARTICLES

Historical Bios 5
- Yoko Ono
- Gloria Abe Chapman
- Mark David Chapman
- John Lennon

Resources to Stop Asian Hate & Support the Local AAPI Community 9

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

..... 11

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

..... 12

WORKS CITED

..... 13

SYNOPSIS

Did Yoko Ono really break up The Beatles? Was Gloria Abe Chapman somehow responsible for John Lennon's murder? Why do all these egotistical white guys marry Asian women? That's weird, right? These are the questions that keep Ruby Okamoto up at night. She needs answers, and she's gonna find them—even if it means summoning Yoko, Gloria, and the rest of Asian America into her insomniatic fever dream.

In *Yoko's Husband's Killer's Japanese Wife, Gloria*, five Asian American women are pulled into Ruby's fantastical dreamscape, where subconscious thoughts manifest as real-life rockstars and movie monsters. They journey, dream, and address the hard-to-define-but-definitely-there connection between Asians in America.

Content Advisory:

Note that this show has mentions of gun violence, racial violence, and sexual assault, as well as sounds of gunshots.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

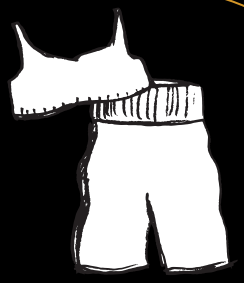


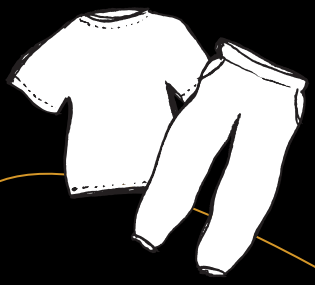
RUBY OKAMOTO (SHE/HER)

A 20-year-old college student of Japanese descent. She hasn't had a full night's sleep in three days but all she cares about tonight is the fact that Yoko Ono was a famous Japanese woman who was married to a guy who was killed by a guy who's married to a Japanese woman named Gloria Abe and what?? Ruby's pajamas are an older-than-shit, pit-stained T-shirt and men's boxers with the elastic worn out. She looks tired.

NICOLE ISHIDA REILLY (SHE/HER)

A 27-year-old of Japanese and Irish descent who worries about good fortunes not lasting long, and is not afraid to "capitalize" on a moment when she can. She has a band and they totally rock and they're totally going to be famous, so keep an eye on her. Nicole's pajamas are an athletic sports bra and basketball shorts hanging off her hips. She looks insanely cool and hot and butch.





GRACE YOON (SHE/HER)

A 29-year-old daughter of Korean immigrants who will soon graduate from Harvard Medical with an MD-PhD in Biomechanical Engineering. Also sometimes she dates girls, but that's not that big a deal right? Like she could tell people but she doesn't have to, right? Whatever, just focus on the doctor thing, okay? Grace's pajamas are an oversized T-shirt and sweatpants. She'd never believe it, but she actually looks cute as a button.

IRIS ZHANG (SHE/HER)

A 46-year-old of Chinese descent who moved to the United States at a young age. She has learned to be outspoken so as not to be talked over and ignored, but people don't always like that. On this particular night, Iris's pajamas are a too-large, shlubby, food-stained men's robe over designer lingerie and expensive-looking stockings. She looks a little confused.





HANA MARIA CANTOR (NEE REYES) (SHE/HER)

A 54-year-old Filipino woman. She has a husband and two beautiful daughters who are the pride of her life. She is extremely happy in her marriage and everything is going amazing! Her life is perfect! Why wouldn't it be? Hana's pajamas are a very sensible matching pajama set, but tonight she has a feather boa, a party hat, and goofy party sunglasses from NYE 2008. She looks unhinged but in a fun way!

CHRISTINA VO (SHE/HER)

A 70-year-old American citizen who came to the United States as a refugee (not an immigrant, that's very important) of the Vietnam war. She has felt lost since the death of her husband, especially with her children grown and out of the house. Christina's pajamas are a floor-length nightgown, but with men's pajama bottoms underneath (for the pockets). In one of her pockets she has a phillips-head screwdriver. She looks ready to go to Taco Bell if someone invited her right now.



All characters double as Gloria Abe Chapman, Yoko Ono, John Lennon, Mark David Chapman, and various other characters from history.

HISTORICAL BIOS

The Ballad of Yoko Ono: "The World's Most Famous Unknown Artist"



Image of Yoko Ono, photo by Eric Koch/Anefo

Ask an average person what they know about Yoko Ono and the likely answer would be that she broke up The Beatles. Others might bring up viral videos of her abstract vocalizations set over pop music, using the contrast to laugh at her experimental art style and performances. If they lived through the breakup of The Beatles, they might also remember the racist reporting and fan reactions that accompanied her increasing association with John Lennon, including article titles that mocked her Japanese accent, offensive caricatures, and the choruses of racial slurs that would greet her public appearances.

Recent reevaluation of the dissolution of The Fab Four questions the quickness with which the public blamed Yoko for the band's breakup. Peter Jackson's documentary series, "Get Back," which examines the making of the 1970 album *Let It Be*, contains footage of Ono merely engaging in benign activities like knitting and reading the newspaper, and she's far from the only family member who visits the studio during the recording sessions.

Her passive, quiet presence seems to belie the toxic "Dragon Lady" stereotype that was eagerly applied to Ono — that she was domineering and seductive, using her wiles to interfere in the band's business and ultimately sowing enough discord to break the personal and business relationships between the members of one of the most popular and successful bands of all time.

However, eagerly accepting this alleged passivity as definitive proof of Ono's blamelessness is also troubling. Leaning too far away from the aggressiveness implied in the "Dragon Lady" stereotype can lead toward embracing other stereotypes about Asian women: namely that they are submissive, meek, and eternally unobtrusive.

Ono adhered to neither of these stereotypes; in fact, she was determinedly and doggedly always herself above all. Frustratingly, for someone so true to their own vision, Ono is continually defined in relation to the famous men around her, and rarely evaluated on her own merits. One must debunk, or at least challenge, the fundamental assumptions about her to even begin to appreciate the other facets of her career and work in the public spotlight.

As a multi-hyphenate creative, Ono has won awards for her work as a musician, multimedia artist, filmmaker, and performance artist. She is also a prolific peace activist and philanthropist, creating the LennonOno Grant for Peace and co-founding Artists Against Fracking. With over 10 solo albums to her name, television and film projects, and several books, Ono has finally begun accruing lifetime achievement and humanitarian awards to match her prolific, cutting edge, and boundary-pushing body of work.



Image of Yoko Ono, photo by Gregor Tatschl, originally posted to Flickr by Bildredaktion Wien at https://flickr.com/photos/86179782@N07/8170166921

Gloria Abe Chapman



Image of Gloria Abe Chapman, photo credit listed in Works Cited

Gloria Abe met Mark David Chapman in 1978 and less than a year later they were married. Eighteen months after that, in December of 1980, John Lennon was dead and Gloria instantly knew exactly who had killed him, even though she was nearly 5,000 miles away in her O'ahu home. After all, in October of the same year, Mark had put a gun in Gloria's hands as he confessed that he had just returned from a trip to New York, where he'd planned to kill John Lennon. Two months later, he told her that he was returning to New York in order to grow up a little and become a better version of himself; the gun was purportedly at the bottom of the ocean and he was on the road to recovering from some of his recent troubling behavior. Still, when a news ticker flashed along the bottom of her TV screen as Gloria was watching *Little House on the Prairie*, she immediately knew that Mark had lied to her.

When Gloria decided to marry Mark, she converted to Christianity and took its principles seriously. Though her family, friends, and Mark himself all encouraged her to divorce him during the process of his arrest, mental evaluation, and trial, she stood firm in her marriage vows. Malachi 2:16 states "'For I hate divorce,' says the Lord," and Gloria has cited that verse as instrumental in her decision to remain married to Mark and forgive him for both the murder of John Lennon and for his transgressions against her safety and wellbeing.

Three years after his sentencing, Mark expressed bitterness toward Gloria, telling reporter Jim Gaines, "I still have deep-seated resentment that she didn't go to somebody, even the police, and say, 'Look, my husband bought a gun, and he said he was going to kill John Lennon.'"

He also asked Gloria to move to New York to be nearer to him in 1982, then reversed his decision less than a year later, telling Gloria to move back to Hawai'i. It was more than a year before she heard from him again and more than three and a half years before she saw him in person. She credits God with improving their relationship over the next several years, and in 1988 they were approved for family reunion visits. Now, Gloria flies from Hawai'i to New York every year to spend 44 hours with her husband. They cook food together, watch TV, and pray. They also run a prison ministry together. The two have been married for 44 years; Mark has been incarcerated for 43 of them.

Mark David Chapman

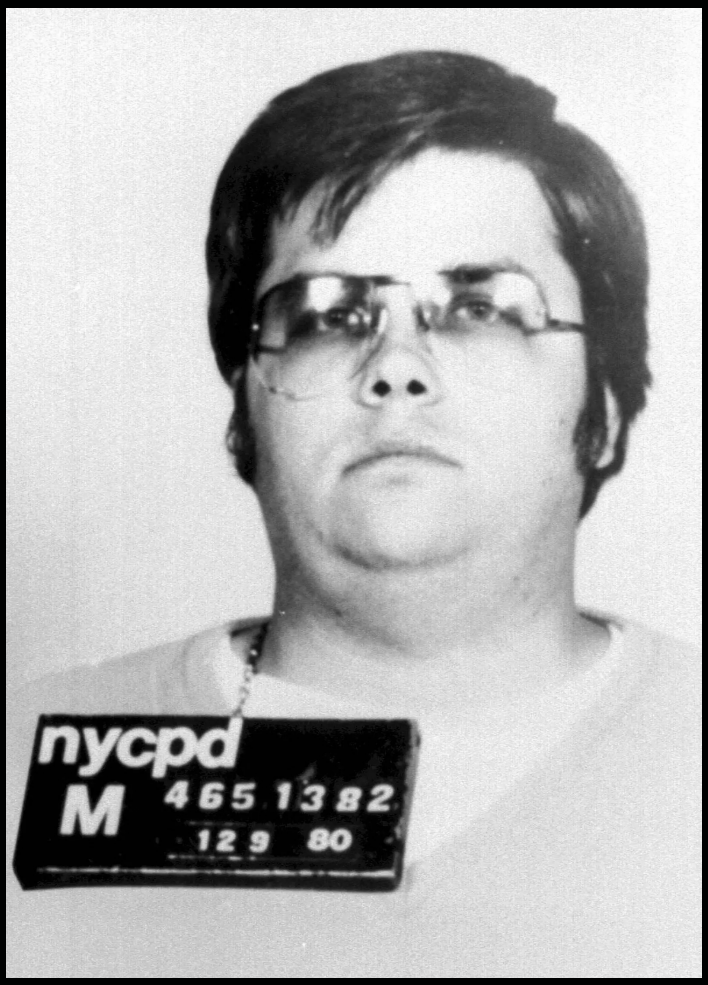


Image of Mark David Chapman, photo provided by the New York Police Department

Mark David Chapman was born in 1955 in Fort Worth, Texas. After growing up in an abusive home environment and having a troubled school experience, he became a born-again Presbyterian and pursued camp counseling and humanitarian aid work, including a stint with World Vision. Chapman met Gloria Abe when she was his travel agent for a 6-week spur-of-the-moment trip around the world, and the two married in 1979 after a 10 month courtship. Chapman struggled with his mental health throughout his life and eventually developed several obsessions, including John Lennon and *The Catcher in the Rye*. After a previous trip to New York, he confided in Gloria Abe that he had planned several times to kill John Lennon.

Mark David Chapman returned to New York in December of 1980 and murdered John Lennon on December 8. He read *The Catcher in the Rye* at the crime scene until the police arrived and arrested him; he later read a passage from the novel at his sentencing hearing. More than a dozen mental health experts evaluated Chapman before his trial and he was ruled to be delusional but competent to stand trial; he insisted on dropping his insanity defense and pleaded guilty because he believed it to be God's will.

Chapman was sentenced to 20 years to life and became eligible for parole in 2000; he has been denied parole 12 times, partially due to Yoko Ono's continued appeals to keep him behind bars. His next parole hearing is scheduled for February of 2024.

John Lennon



Image of John Lennon, photo by Peter Fordham

John Lennon was a musician and peace activist, best known as one-quarter of The Beatles. With The Beatles, a group that he founded as a teenager, Lennon wrote innovative music in partnership with his bandmates; his songwriting collaboration with Paul McCartney is often referred to as the most successful partnership in history. From 1962-1966, Lennon took on a grueling recording, touring, and performance schedule with The Beatles before scaling back public appearances in favor of studio recording and exploration of other cultures and musical styles. The Beatles camaraderie began to suffer due to several factors: the death of their manager, Brian Epstein, the unpredictable fluctuations of their business venture, Apple Corps, and the interpersonal tensions that developed as the members found other interests or developed other strengths that no longer meshed well with their bandmates. Lennon in particular had increased his drug use, gravitated toward more complex lyric writing and collaboration with avant-garde artists, and became infatuated with his new girlfriend, Yoko Ono.

Lennon embarked on a solo career with Ono as a frequent collaborator, but in 1973 they separated and Lennon entered an 18-month period he referred to as his "lost weekend." This time was mostly spent in the company of May Pang, his and Ono's personal assistant. During this time, Lennon began to heal his relationship with his estranged son Julian, reunited with his former bandmates, and unfortunately continued his substance abuse. Ono has confirmed that she arranged Pang and Lennon's romantic relationship during a rough period in her marriage with Lennon; Ono and Lennon reunited in 1975 and their only child, Sean, was born in October of that year. Sean's birth led to Lennon taking a five-year hiatus from music. He emerged in October of 1980 with his single "(Just Like) Starting Over." Two months later, John Lennon was dead, having been shot four times in the archway entrance to the Dakota, his home in New York City.

Resources to Stop Asian Hate and Support the Local AAPI Community

API Chaya

API Chaya empowers survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking to gain safety, connection, and wellness. We build power by educating and mobilizing South Asian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and all immigrant communities to end exploitation, creating a world where all people can heal and thrive.

UTOPIA

United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance Washington (UTOPIA Washington) is a queer and trans people of color-led grassroots organization born out of the struggles, challenges, strength, and resilience of the Queer and Trans Pacific Islander (QTPI - "Q-T-pie") community in South King County. We are actively replacing systems of oppression with ecosystems of care and safety for all our communities through Black and Brown organizing, prioritizing land and bodily autonomy, and reclaiming our cultural narratives.

Kandelia

Kandelia, formerly known as the Vietnamese Friendship Association (VFA), was launched in the 1970s to support Vietnamese immigrants and refugees by responding to short-term resettlement needs. Over the years, we expanded to meet the needs of all immigrant and refugee communities by focusing on youth development, education and whole family support in order to help our communities thrive. Today, we provide direct programs, opportunities, and tools to address systemic inequities so that immigrant and refugee families can flourish without having to compromise their values, heritage or ethnicity.

Chinese Information and Service Center

The Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) helps immigrants throughout King County achieve success in their new community by providing information, referral, advocacy, social, and support services. We support immigrants and their families by creating opportunities for them to succeed, while honoring their heritage.

Resources to Stop Asian Hate and Support the Local AAPI Community

Japanese American Citizens League — Seattle Chapter

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority

The Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) is a community development organization whose mission is to preserve, promote, and develop the Seattle Chinatown International District (CID) as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood. Formed by the community in 1975, SCIDpda works to revitalize and preserve the neighborhood by providing services in three areas: affordable housing and commercial property management, real estate development, and community economic development and community engagement.

Khmer Community of Seattle King County

The Khmer Community of Seattle King County (click here for a pronunciation of the word "Khmer") is a community organization that provides direct services to the local Khmer community of Seattle and South King County. Through community outreach and programming, we are working to provide more access and better opportunities for Khmer and Khmer Americans to build cultural connections and experiences together. The Khmer Community of Seattle King County's mission is to empower the Khmer community by bridging the intergenerational gap between elders and youth, through cultural preservation and promoting well-being.

Wing Luke Museum

The Wing Luke Museum is an art and history museum in Seattle, Washington, United States, which focuses on the culture, art and history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. It is located in Seattle's Chinatown-International District. Established in 1967, the museum is a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and the only pan-Asian Pacific American community-based museum in the United States. We connect everyone to the dynamic history, cultures, and art of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences to advance racial and social equity.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

After you experience the show, reflect on the following questions:

- Which of the six women do you most closely identify with? In what ways do you understand and feel kinship with them? In what ways are their experiences different from your own?
- How do you talk about race with your loved ones? Are any folks in your life — loved ones, colleagues, etc. — whose race is different from your own? Is there anything you're afraid to say when you talk about race? Why?
- Did any songs or conversations in the show make you feel uncomfortable? What made those experiences uncomfortable for you?

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS



Christa Fleming is a graphic designer whose experience spans over 25 years. She has worked with a number of Seattle area organizations, including: The 5th Avenue Theatre, ACT Theatre, Town Hall Seattle, Pratt Fine Arts Center, The Arboretum Foundation, Associated Recreation Council, Pasado's Safe Haven, Cornish, Book-It Repertory Theatre, Northwest Girlchoir, Navos, many independent schools, and more. She also crochets. A lot. You can check out her design work here: christafleming.com.



Beth Pollack (she/her) is a Seattle-based performer, dramaturg, and teaching artist. She is the Dramaturg and Curriculum Specialist at The 5th Avenue Theatre, helping to create supplementary materials to enhance audience experiences, facilitating educational programming development, and generally having a blast. As a dramaturg, Beth has additionally worked with Seattle Shakespeare Company and Dacha Theatre. As an educator, Beth has worked with Seattle's Young Shakespeare Workshop, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Jet City Improv, Book-It Repertory, ACT Theatre, and Seattle Rep's Public Works Program. As an actor, she has performed in classical, contemporary, and devised pieces in New York and Seattle - most recently, you may have seen or heard her work with Village Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Book-It, or Dacha Theatre, where she is a proud company member. Beth graduated magna cum laude from NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study with a degree in Theatre Studies and the Historicization of Dramatic Literature and would be happy to explain what that means. More at beth-pollack.com.



Neen Williams-Teramachi (they/them): Neen manages all things new works at The 5th Avenue Theatre including the development processes of the new musical commissions and special projects, often in collaboration with our Education Department on brand new educational new musicals. The main part of their job is finding ways to support writers to be able to write their own stories without traditional institutional barriers. They put together resources and support writers starting at all different levels of commissions from the beginnings of an idea, like our five teams of First Draft; Raise Your Voice, or our three team collaboration with Village Theatre on Northwest x Northwest which aims to celebrate musical theater writers from the PNW, or supporting the Education department with their Educational Touring Company (ETC). Neen works on the radio musicals that have been part of our digital season and beyond, and they also get to read and meet with writers from all over the world, staying connected with all things New Musicals. In the community, they are a teaching artist, most often with Seattle Rep Public Works. Nationally they are also in leadership roles in NAMT (National Alliance of Musical Theatre) and CAATA (Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists) and is a proud union member of Actors Equity Association.

WORKS CITED

"About KCSKC." Khmer Community of Seattle King County, www.kcskc.org/about-kcskc/. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

"About Us." CISC, https://cisc-seattle.org/about-us/. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

"About Us." Wing Luke Museum, www.wingluke.org/about. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

Amelinckx, Andrew. "John Lennon's Killer Mark David Chapman's Marriage Has Survived 40 Years after the Shooting." Grunge, Grunge, 15 Apr. 2023, www.grunge.com/1255490/john-lennon-killer-mark-david-chapman-marriage-survived/.

Biography.Com, A&E Networks Television, www.biography.com/musicians/did-yoko-ono-break-up-the-beatles. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

Chapman, Gloria. "My Husband Shot John Lennon." News Stories RSS, https://legacy.cmalliance.org/alife/my-husband-shot-john-lennon/. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

Greene, Leonard. "Wife of John Lennon's killer visits him..." New York Post, 17 Dec. 2014, https://nypost.com/2014/12/17/wife-opens-up-about-being-married-to-john-lennons-killer/.

"John Lennon." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Sept. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lennon.

"Mark David Chapman." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 7 Sept. 2023, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_David_Chapman#cite_note-killer-3.

"Mission, Vision, & MANAfesto." UTOPIA Washington, https://utopiawa.org/about/mission-vision-manafesto/. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

"Mission, Vision, Values." API Chaya, www.apichaya.org/mission. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

"Murder of John Lennon." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 23 Aug. 2023, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_of_John_Lennon.

"The Nation's Oldest Asian American Civil and Human Rights Organization." Seattle JACL, www.seattlejacl.org/about/. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

"Our Mission & Values." Kandelia, www.kandelia.org/about/mission/. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

Serrano, Beatriz. "May Pang, the Girlfriend Yoko Ono Chose for John Lennon." EL PAÍS English, 8 Apr. 2023, https://english.elpais.com/culture/2023-04-08/may-pang-the-girlfriend-yoko-ono-chose-for-john-lennon.html.

Sloane, Danielle. "Inside the Mind of John Lennon's Killer." CNN, Cable News Network, 8 Dec. 2015, www.cnn.com/2015/12/08/us/mark-david-chapman-lennon-interviews/index.html.

Vorsino, Mary. "Becoming 'Mrs. Mark David Chapman': A Killer's Wife Explains Why She Stayed." Https://Www.Hawaiinewsnow.Com, 8 Dec. 2020, www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/12/08/becoming-mrs-mark-david-chapman-killers-wife-explains-why-she-stayed/.

"Who We Are." Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation Development Authority, SCIDpda, https://scidpda.org/who-we-are/. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

Yoko Ono Didn't Break up the Beatles. but She Did Help Invent ... - Tidal, https://tidal.com/magazine/article/yoko-ono-89/1-83418. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

"Yoko Ono Was Called 'Dragon Lady,' Blamed for Beatles Breakup. Now, Her Legacy Is Re-Examined." NBCNews.Com, NBCUniversal News Group, www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/yoko-ono-was-called-dragon-lady-blamed-beatles-breakup-now-legacy-re-e-rcna9534. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.

"Yoko Ono." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 Sept. 2023, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoko_Ono.

"'People Will Find out': May Pang on Her Time with John Lennon and Yoko Ono." The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 5 Apr. 2023, www.theguardian.com/film/2023/apr/05/lost-weekend-documentary-john-lennon-yoko-ono.