

NEWS RELEASE
Ford Theatre Foundation

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For release May 16, 2006

**SUMMER PLAY READING SERIES EXPANDS TO
INCLUDE WORKS OF LATINO AND ASIAN-AMERICAN WRITERS**

*Readings of works-in-progress start June 3
and continue through August 26 at [Inside] the Ford.*

For the past three summers, the Ford has presented a play reading series devoted to the work of established and emerging U.S.-based Latino playwrights. The Ford continues its commitment to nurturing Latino theatre in Los Angeles and expands its mission with the 2006 **Summer Play Readings** series which will also include the voices of Asian American writers. The series includes 12 readings, starting June 3 and running through August 26. Readings are at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoons in the Ford's 87-seat indoor space, [Inside] the Ford. After each reading, patrons can participate in a talk back and enjoy live music and complimentary wine and cheese while meeting the artists on the entryway garden plaza.

The plays selected for the 2006 series find inspiration in the bombed and looted archeological digs in Iraq, the landscape of marital love and hate, Japanese-American female identity, child abuse, Bruce Lee, femicide in Ciudad Juarez, the handover of Hong Kong, the American dream/nightmare of a Mexican immigrant, Hiroshima, mystical inter-racial love, and, good old-fashioned American psychosis.

Participating playwrights include multi-media performance artist **Dan Kwong**; **C.Y. Lee**, who wrote the novel on which the musical *Flower Drum Song* is based; internationally recognized award winner **Velina Hasu Houston**; and Chicano iconoclast, **Harry Gamboa Jr.**, a multi-disciplinary artist whose work is currently part of the retrospective of Los Angeles artists at the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Directors of the readings include MacArthur Fellow **Luis Alfaro**, whose *Electricidad* was produced last year at the Mark Taper Forum, and **Jon L. Rivera**, artistic director of Playwrights' Arena.

Tickets cost \$5 per reading or \$36 for a subscription to all 12. To purchase, call 323-461-3673 or visit www.FordAmphitheatre.org.

The Summer Play Reading Series is sponsored by the Ford Theatre Foundation through its Community Participation Initiative. Complete details are as follows:

(The following descriptions can be found online at <http://www.fordamphitheater.org/en/performance/Spr.asp>)

June 3

***When the Tigris Runs Black* by Alana Macias**

Dr. Malone is having interludes with the ancient Sumerian hero Gilgamesh while salvaging her archeological dig from the looting and bombing in former Sumeria, now called Iraq. A mysterious acquaintance from Minneapolis, Rahail, is in the country to compensate for the fact that she wrote a best-selling book about Iraqi reconstruction without ever having been there. Old Hakim, an Iraqi native, sits on the hill that was an ancient city and tries to keep the looters out. Can anything that Gilgamesh built be saved?

Alana Macias grew up in Miami as the daughter of an Irish-American former Maryknoll nun and an exiled Nicaraguan revolutionary.

Luis Alfaro directs.

June 10

***The Little Adolfs* by Cynthia Quimpo Ignacio**

Like a punch in the face, the school bell at Divinity High signals the start of the daily, abusive power-struggle between teachers and students. Student Mitchell Moreau and his gang, the Little Adolfs, rule this brutal arena unchallenged — that is, until an anonymous writer publishes a series of incriminating short stories. Moreau begins a brutal and brilliant mind-game with the writer, in a violent power struggle that ends up unearthing an equally violent passion.

Cynthia Quimpo Ignacio has studied at the David Henry Hwang Writers Institute for the last several years. She wrote *The Little Adolfs*, her first full-length play during the spring 2005 session.

June 17

***The Rise and Fall of TropicAna* by Diana Montané**

Based on a true story, the play explores the death of famed Cuban sculptor Ana Mendieta and her tumultuous marriage to American sculptor Carl Andre.

Diana Montané co-wrote *My Life as a Blonde*, the autobiography of talk-show host Cristina, for Warner Books and, with Univision anchor Teresa Rodríguez, *Death Trail, The Most Massive Serial Killings in the History of Ciudad Juárez*, which will be published by Simon & Schuster in fall 2006.

Jon L. Rivera directs.

June 24

***Land of Enchantment* by Elizabeth Kay Otero**

A comedic love story between an overly defensive African-American man and a manic depressive Latina stranded in the mystical desert of New Mexico.

Elizabeth Kay Otero's first produced work was in the "Big I Comedy Construction Project," a comedy radio show produced in the fall of 2000's "Words Afire Festival," presented by University of New Mexico's Dramatic Writing Program. Her first full-length play, *Gas*, was presented at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

July 8

***Chasing Dad* by traci kato-kiriyama**

Directed/dramaturged by Dan Kwong

Staring into the faces of birth, death and regret, a daughter realizes and discovers her spirit and true power.

traci kato-kiriyama and her partners, Kennedy Kabasares and Edren Sumagaysay, tour the country with their theatrical piece, "zero 3 - stage and spoken word superheroes." A firm believer in art as a means for building community, traci is the founder and producer of the Tuesday Night Cafe Project in Little Tokyo. Traci is a protégé of Dan Kwong.

Dan Kwong directs.

Plus

***Show Me Some Stuff* by Dan Kwong**

How the legendary martial arts star Bruce Lee saves a man's life and nearly gets him killed.

Dan Kwong is an award-winning solo performance artist, writer, teacher, and visual artist who has been presenting his work nationally and internationally since 1989. Hailed by critics as "a master storyteller," Kwong draws upon his own life experiences as well as historical and contemporary material to explore the many facets of identity.

July 15

***Calling Aphrodite* by Velina Hasu Houston**

A Hiroshima bomb victim travels to New York for reconstructive surgery, where she meets a surgeon whose brother was killed in battle during WWII. Their challenging association as victims on opposite sides of the war forces them to reflect on post-war peace and on their faith in humanity.

Velina Hasu Houston's work first appeared Off-Broadway when she was 22. Her plays have been produced at the Manhattan Theatre Club, Pasadena Playhouse, Old Globe Theatre, Smithsonian Institution and many other theatres in the U.S. and abroad.

July 22

***Good Seed • Bad Seed* by Corky Dominguez**

When a child is witness to and suffers from acts of violent behavior, a seed is planted. The adult' processing the germination of this seed struggles with fear, oppression, abuse, denial, control, hate and rage. The drama's themes are played out to the soothing sound of Golden Oldies, a dedication to memory, innocence, and survival.

Corky Dominguez is an Associate Artist with the Cornerstone Theater Company and currently works with the Mark Taper Forum's Performing for Los Angeles Youth (P.L.A.Y.)

July 29

***Atoy, Lady of Joy* by C.Y. Lee**

This is the latest work written by the author of *The Flower Drum Song*, C.Y. Lee.

C.Y Lee has written theatre works such as *The Body and Soul of a Chinese Woman* which was produced at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood. He is also the author of nine novels and two non-fiction books published in English and many European and Asian languages.

August 5

***Braided Sorrow* by Marisela Treviño Orta**

Through a young maquiladora worker, this drama weaves themes of the femicide in Ciudad Juarez and La Llorona — the weeping mother of Latino mythology whose presence foretold the conquest of the Americas.

Poet and playwright **Marisela Treviño Orta** holds an M.F.A. in Writing from the University of San Francisco. *Braided Sorrow* is her first play. She is the Poet Resident of *El Teatro Jornalero!*, a theatre company composed of Latino immigrants based in San Francisco.

August 12

***Happy Valley* by Aurorae Khoo**

Life in Hong Kong for 13-year-old Tuppy and her guardian uncle is a magnificent world of horse racing, chinchillas and make believe. But as the 1997 handover of Hong Kong to mainland China looms, their untraditional family scrambles to devise an exit strategy. This dark comedy explores racism between Asian ethnic groups, the struggles of adolescence, and the life changing nature of emigration.

Aurorae Khoo, originally from Sacramento, California, has written on commission for The Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty Foundation and South Coast Repertory, and written produced episodes of the CBS shows *JAG* and *Walker Texas Ranger*.

August 19

***Passing Judgment* by Jason Ramírez**

A Nuyorican activist, convicted of terrorism while a college student, is ostensibly offered new hope by two young, assimilated Latino lawyers who re-open the case after 18 years.

Jason Ramírez is the Director of Theatre at Bronx Community College of the City University of New York. Jason's plays have been produced at National Public Radio (NPR); La Mama E.T.C.; Theatre for a New City; The Nuyorican Poet's Café; The Henry Street Settlement; Aaron Davis Hall as well as many other theatres and at festivals in Kansas, Connecticut, Chile, Puerto Rico, Colombia and London.

August 26

***Human Debt* by Luis A. Vega**

An immigrant unveils the tragic and absurd contradictions of chasing the mythic American Dream that ultimately consumes him and seals his wretched fate.

Luis A. Vega's performances include *Shoe Laces*, *Disassembling un héroe in Translation*, *El Sereno*, *Human Waste*, and *Unchanged after September*. A graduate of Cal State University Northridge, he lives in Los Angeles and is a mentee of Harry Gamboa Jr.

Plus

***Such a Little Man* by Harry Gamboa Jr.**

A man is confronted with the choice of literally keeping his head or divulging deep secrets while being interrogated by individuals from his past in a one-bedroom apartment that overlooks the Santa Monica Freeway. Bullets fly when secrets are revealed.

Since 1972, **Harry Gamboa Jr.** has been actively creating works in various media (photography, performance, video, fotonovelas, fiction, and installation) that document and interpret the contemporary urban Chicano experience. He is currently a featured artist in the show **Los Angeles: 1955-1985** at the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Programs are subject to change.

THE FACTS

WHAT

Summer Play Reading Series

Works-in-progress by 12 established and emerging U.S.-based Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander playwrights.

All readings in English

WHO

Presented by the **Ford Theatre Foundation** as part of its **Community Participation Initiative**

WHEN

1:00 p.m., Saturdays, June 3 through August 26, 2005

(PLEASE NOTE: There is no reading on Saturday, July 1.)

WHERE

[Inside] the Ford

87-seat indoor theatre in the John Anson Ford Theatres complex located at
2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068

Just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios

TICKET PRICE

\$5 per reading

\$36 subscription for all 12 readings

HOW TO PURCHASE

Online: www.FordAmphitheatre.org

Phone: **323 GO 1-FORD (461-3673)**

In Person: **Ford Box Office, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068**

Box office hours: 12 noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday

PARKING

Free, on-site, for play readings

COMPLETE INFORMATION

www.FordAmphitheatre.org

The Summer Play Reading Series is part of the **Ford Amphitheatre 2006 Summer Season**, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the **Los Angeles County Arts Commission** in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations.