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For Immediate Release

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**“CHING CHONG CHINAMAN”**

**Silk Road Theatre Project’s Al Kasida Staged Readings Series presents  
Lauren Yee’s rip-roaringly funny new comedy  
riffing on Asian American stereotypes and expectations**

**at the Chicago DCA Storefront Theater  
July 24 - 26, 2009**

Silk Road Theatre Project, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, presents three staged readings of **Ching Chong Chinaman** by Chinese American playwright Lauren Yee, directed by Lavina Jadhvani. The readings come to Chicago DCA Theater’s Storefront Theater at 66 E. Randolph Street, on July 24, 25, & 26, 2009. Post-reading discussions with the company and playwright will take place following the Friday and Saturday evening performances. This event is presented in association with “Chinese Cultural Week in Chicago: From the Great Wall to the Great Lakes.”

In **Ching Chong Chinaman** the ultra-assimilated Wong family is as Chinese American as apple pie: teenager Upton dreams of World of Warcraft superstardom; his sister Desi dreams of early admission to Princeton. Unfortunately, Upton’s chores and homework get in the way of his 24/7 videogaming, and Desi’s math grades don’t exactly match the Asian American stereotype. In a stroke of ironic brilliance, Upton arrives at a novel solution for both problems: he acquires a Chinese indentured servant, who harbors an American dream of his own.

The staged readings are on Friday, July 24 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 25 at 7:30pm, and Sunday, July 26 at 3:00pm. Admission is free, but reservations are strongly recommended. Reserve tickets by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting [www.dcatheater.org](http://www.dcatheater.org), or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.; and one hour prior to each performance.

**Ching Chong Chinaman** was a finalist for the 2008 Princess Grace Award and the winner of Kumu Kahua Theatre’s 2007 Pacific Rim Prize. Named one of the top 10 plays of 2008 by the East Bay Express, the play has been produced at Mu Performing Arts in Minneapolis, Impact Theatre in Berkeley, and the New York International Fringe Festival.

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### Playwright

Lauren Yee is a 2009 MacDowell Colony fellow, a 2008/09 Dramatists Guild fellow, a member of the 2009 Public Theater Emerging Writers Group. Yee was a finalist for the Princess Grace Award, the Jerome Fellowship (multi-year), PONY Fellowship, the Djerassi Resident Artist Program, and the Humana Festival’s Heideman Award. She has received commissions from PlayGround, Playwrights Foundation, and the O’Neill Studio at Yale. Other honors include Kumu Kahua Theatre’s Pacific Rim Prize and the Yale Playwrights Festival; fellowships from the American Antiquarian Society, the Byrdcliffe Artist Colony, the Edward F. Albee Foundation, the Hawthornden Castle International Retreat for Writers, and the New York Mills Arts Retreat; and funding from the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation and Theatre Bay Area. Yee is a graduate of Yale University and a member of the Dramatists Guild.

### Cast and Production Team

#### Cast

Danny Bernardo, Gordon Chow, Christine Lin, Nick Shoda, Kimberlee Soo, and Tiffany Villarin

#### Production Team

Jamil Khoury (Artistic Director), Malik Gillani (Executive Director), Lavina Jadhvani (Director), Christine Ferriter (Lights), Tamar Daskin (Scenic/Environment), Stefani Bergquist (Stage Manager), Allie Herryman (Production Manager).

Silk Road Theatre Project showcases playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds, whose works address themes relevant to the peoples of the Silk Road and their Diaspora communities. Through the creation and presentation of outstanding theatre, we aim to promote discourse and dialogue among multi-cultural audiences in Chicago. More information on Silk Road Theatre Project at [www.srtp.org](http://www.srtp.org)

The Storefront Theater and the Studio Theater, its companion theater located in the Chicago Cultural Center at 77 E. Randolph Street, comprise Chicago DCA Theater, an anchor of the downtown theater district. Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging and developing theater companies that call Chicago home. Proposals for creative and innovative productions for the January to June 2010 season are now being accepted until May 15, 2009.

Discounted parking is available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$14 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

For more information about Silk Road Theatre Project’s **Ching Chong Chinaman** and Chicago DCA Theater, visit call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or visit [www.dcatheater.org](http://www.dcatheater.org). The enhanced website features more information about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a blog, photo galleries, and visitor information.