

San Jose Repertory Theatre

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
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A GROUNDBREAKING PANORAMA OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

The Rep invests in Making Tracks with a view to a possible Broadway run

March 19 – April 17, 2005 / Opening Night March 25

SAN JOSE (February 18, 2005)—A compelling look at what it means to be American, San Jose Repertory Theatre, in association with Second Generation (2g), present the Bay Area premiere of a new musical, *Making Tracks*. The story tells the tale of a young Asian American rock musician who journeys through six generations of his family's history to understand his family's long labor to find a voice in America.

First presented as a workshop production in January 1998 at Princeton University and Pace Downtown Theatre, *Making Tracks* was later performed off-Broadway at the Taipei Theatre in 1999. The Rep has been interested in the work for some time, and has made an investment in the production because of its potential for a major Broadway run.

This all-American musical combines the epic scope of *Les Misérables* with the youthful dynamism of *Rent*. Featuring a creative team that includes Broadway luminaries, the show has already been embraced by tens of thousands of people across the U.S. and Taiwan.

"I am thrilled to say that several workshops at the Rep and at 2g have contributed to a newly revised script for *Making Tracks* and it is better than ever," says Rep Artistic Director Timothy Near. "I am so excited for the Rep to be part of the evolution of a musical that speaks to all of us about our family patterns and about our heritage."

In San Jose Rep's groundbreaking production, writers Welly Yang and Brian Yorkey, along with composer Woody Pak, take us on a journey full of tragedy and triumph. A musical about a journey across our nation, *Making Tracks* is guided by ghosts and storytellers and invokes all the richness of our community's collective memory.

The production—which incorporates dance, original songs and music—unfolds in 12 scenes that span the building of the railroads, the grueling experience of Angel Island, the heart-rending stories of the "picture brides," the dazzle of the famed Forbidden City nightclub in San Francisco, the tragedy of the World War II internment camps and the critical role of Asian American engineers in building the high-tech backbone of this country. Weaving these tales together is a narrative about a young person's discovery of the treasures of family, history, and culture that are at the foundation of the second generation Asian American experience.

Best-known for his starring role on Broadway in the musical *Miss Saigon*, Welly Yang founded Second Generation in 1997 to bring Asian American stories to the stage. Woody Pak holds a master's of music degree from Julliard School of Music. He has produced/arranged 12 albums and has scored 18 films that have won 16 international film festival awards including those in Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sundance. Co-author and lyricist Brian Yorkey has authored numerous plays including *The Lion Game* and *Seeing Other People* and wrote the music for another Second Generation musical, *The Wedding Banquet*. Choreographer Joey McKneely's past credits include *Smokey Joe's Café* and *The Life* and the Broadway-hit and multiple Tony Award-winning *The Boy From Oz*, starring Hugh Jackman. The cast features some of Broadway's very best, including star Michael K. Lee (*Pacific Overtures*).

Second Generation Productions is a young and energetic non-profit performing arts company dedicated to nurturing a richer and more daring world culture by infusing it with the vitality of Asian American artists.

See FACT SHEET for details on dates, times, pricing and ticket information.
See ARTISTIC PROFILES for more information on the creative team.

FACT SHEET (use for calendar listings and PSAs)

WHAT: San Jose Repertory Theatre and Second Generation present *Making Tracks*
A rock musical chronicling a journey through the Asian American experience.

WHO: Concept and book by Welly Yang / Book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey
 Music by Woody Pak / Directed by Jeff Steitzer
 Choreography by Joey McKneely / Music Direction by R.J. Tancioco
 Set Design by Blythe Quinlan / Costume Design by Lydia Tanji
 Lighting Design by Lap-Chi Chu / Sound Design by Jeff Mockus
 Stage Manager: Bruce Elsparger

CAST: Marie-France Arcilla (Dottie/Grace) / Marc Delacruz (Frankie/David)
 Joseph Foronda (Grandpa) / Michael K. Lee (Dylan)
 Mimosa (Meg/Miyuki) / Thom Sesma (TJ/Tokashi)
CHORUS: David Albulario, Billy Bustamante, Sala Iwamatsu,
 Jared Lee, Kay Trinidad, Nicole A. Tung and Erwin G. Urbi

DATES, TIMES & PRICES: Previews: Sat., March 19 @ 8PM / Opens: Fri., March 25 @ 8PM
 Closes: Sun., April 17 @ 2PM / Price range: \$11- \$52

Day & Time	Orchestra	Parterre	Balcony
Previews (Wed, Thurs, & Sat @ 8 pm, Sun @ 2 pm & 7 pm) Tues 8 pm; Wed noon	\$32/\$26*	\$26/\$20*	\$22/\$16*
Wed & Thurs @ 8 pm; Saturday @ 3pm Sun @ 2 pm & 7pm	\$42/\$36*	\$36/\$30*	\$32/\$26*
Fri & Sat @ 8 pm	\$52/\$46*	\$46/\$40*	\$42/\$36*

MAKING TRACKS

Saturday, March 19	8pm	Tuesday, April 5	8pm
Sunday, March 20	2pm and 7pm	Wednesday, April 6	8pm
Wednesday, March 23	12pm and 8pm	Thursday, April 7	8pm
Thursday, March 24	8pm	Friday, April 8	8pm
Friday, March 25	8pm	Saturday, April 9	3pm and 8pm
Saturday, March 26	3pm and 8pm	Sunday, April 10	2pm and 7pm
Sunday, March 27	2pm and 7pm	Tuesday, April 12	8pm
Tuesday, March 29	8pm	Wednesday, April 13	8pm
Wednesday, March 30	8pm	Thursday, April; 14	8pm
Thursday, March 31	8pm	Friday, April 15	8pm
Friday, April 1	8pm	Saturday, April 16	3pm and 8pm
Saturday, April 2	3pm and 8pm	Sunday, April 17	2pm
Sunday, April 3	2pm and 7pm		

DISCOUNTS: Students (full-time, with valid ID) - 1/2 off tickets all performances, all seats
 Seniors (65 yrs +) and Teachers - \$6 off tickets all performances, all seats
 ADA discount - \$6 off two tickets
 ASL discount - \$6 off two tickets (April 16 @ 3pm only)
 Subscriber Single Ticket Discounts - \$4 (except seniors and students)
 Rush Ticket Discounts - Balcony price for that night

HOW*: By phone: 408.367.7255 / Online: www.sjrep.com
 By mail: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113
 By fax: 408.367.7236 / In person: Rep Box Office, between South 2nd & 3rd

SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in calendar listings)

WHAT: Ghostlight Forum: A presentation/panel discussion about the artistic process behind *Making Tracks*.
WHEN: Monday, February 21, 2005 @ 7pm
WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between S. 2nd & 3rd
PRICES: Free to the public
HOW: RSVP to the box office at 408.367.7255 or boxoffice@sjrep.com.

WHAT: Opening Night Celebration for *Making Tracks*
WHEN: Friday, March 25, 2005 @ 5:30pm
WHERE: 5:30pm: Reception at Scott's Seafood, 185 Park Ave, downtown SJ
8:00pm: Performance of *Making Tracks* at San Jose Rep, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, downtown SJ
PRICES: Reception tickets are \$50 per person (event ticket does not include ticket to the performance); \$25 of cost is tax-deductible
HOW: For info or to RSVP, contact Aimee D'Anna at aimeed@sjrep.com or 408.36.7261

WHAT: The Scene at the Rep: Young Professionals Night
WHEN: Saturday, March 26, 2005 6:30pm
WHERE: 6:30pm Pre-party @ E & O Trading Company, 96. S. First St, downtown San Jose
8:00pm *Making Tracks* @ San Jose Rep / Post-party @ Stratta Grill & Bar: 71 E. San Fernando St.
PRICES: Orchestra: \$30, Parterre: \$28, Balcony \$26
HOW: the-scene@sjrep.com or 408.367.7297

WHAT: Creative Playshops: Held during each Saturday matinee for kids ages 6 to 12 in the Rep's upstairs studio theatre, these playshops explore the imagination through interactive theatre activities related to the themes of the play. Just drop the kids off before the show, enjoy the performance and pick them up afterward.
WHEN: Saturdays, Mar. 26 – April 16, 2005, 3:00pm
WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between S. 2nd & 3rd
PRICES: \$10 per child per show
HOW: Call the Box Office 408.367.7255 or email boxoffice@sjrep.com for reservations.

WHAT: ASL Interpreted Theatre: Performance plus a signed post-show discussion
WHEN: Saturday, April 16, 2005, 3:00pm
WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between S. 2nd & 3rd
PRICES: \$30 Parterre / \$36 Orchestra (prices good for companion as well)
HOW: Email asl-sjrep.com or TDD users can use the CA State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378).

ARTISTIC PROFILES

SECOND GENERATION (2g) (Co-producer) is dedicated to nurturing a richer and more daring world culture by infusing it with the vitality of Asian American artists. The organization maintains several ongoing programs throughout the year, including New Sounds (a cabaret series at local venues), The Artists Initiative (programs that include readings of new works and workshops for promising creative artists) and The Artists Resource (a resource of resumes and headshots of actors, directors, writers and designers.) Past 2G productions have included *Unfinished Dreams* at the Miller Theatre, *From Chinatown with Love*, a modern dance concert at the Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival, *Chapters*, an original one-act play and *Pennies for Peace*, a musical celebration of artist Lin Shih-Pao's three-ton peace sculpture.

WELLY YANG (Concept/Book) is the Founder/Artistic Director of 2g and the co-writer of their other musical, *The Wedding Banquet*. He began his career over a decade ago starring in the original Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*. Mr. Yang's work has been recognized with awards from CBS Television, the National Arts Club, Columbia University and grants from the NEA, and he is the creative force behind the annual Concert of Excellence, one of the highest profile Asian American arts events in the country.

BRIAN YORKEY (Book/Lyrics) Theatrical credits include book and lyrics for the musical adaptation of Ang Lee's *The Wedding Banquet* and the Jonathan Larson Award-winning *Feeling Electric* (with composer Tom Kitt), among two dozen new musicals and plays. He is Associate Artistic Director at Village Theatre (VA), a national leader in the development of new musicals.

WOODY PAK (Composer) has had an eclectic and award-winning career as a composer for commercials, film, television, documentaries, modern dance, pop music and musical theater. His two musical theater works—*Making Tracks* and Ang Lee's *The Wedding Banquet*—have played with much success to both domestic and international audiences. Award-winning films include *Miss Monday*, *Black Picket Fence*, *e-Dreams* and *The Chinatown Files*.

JEFF STEITZER (Director) previously directed *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at San Jose Rep. In the past 30 years, Mr. Steitzer has directed well over 150 productions, running the gamut from the classics to the contemporary. His productions include the World Premieres of plays by Steven Dietz, Jon Klein, Barbara Field, William Ludel and the American Premieres of plays by David Edgar, Ken and Peter Barnes, among others. He has also directed and acted at regional theaters around the country.

JOEY MCKNEELY (Choreographer) had his Broadway debut as a choreographer with *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Tony Award Nomination, L.A. Ovation Award). Other Broadway work includes: *The Life* (Tony Award Nomination, Outer Critic's Circle Nomination), *Twelfth Night*, *The Wild Party*, *The Boy From Oz* (Outer Critic's Circle Nomination). He has directed and choreographed national tours of *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Crazy For You*, and will direct and choreograph *Thoroughly Modern Millie* later this year. He started as a performer on Broadway in the original casts of *Starlight Express* among others.

MARIE-FRANCE ARCILLA (Dottie/Grace) Credits include: *Miss Saigon* (Kim), *The White Rose* (Traute), *Oliver* (Nancy), *Company* (April), *Aida* (Amneris U/S), *Twelfth Night* (Viola) and *Julius Caesar* (Octavius).

MARC DELACRUZ (Frankie/David) is honored to be a part of this cast after appearing in the Seattle production of *Making Tracks*. He was also seen in 2g's *The Wedding Banquet* (Bob Law) in its premieres in Taiwan, Singapore, Seattle, and subsequent NY readings. Recent credits: world premiere of *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *The Secret Garden* (Fakir), ...*Forum* (Protean), among others.

JOSEPH FORONDA (Grandpa) Graduate of the SJSU School of Music, San Jose Rep debut. Broadway: *Pacific Overtures* 2004 revival, *Miss Saigon* (both National tours/Jeff Award), *James Clavell's Shogun: The Musical*. London: *Pacific Overtures* (2003 Olivier Award – Best Musical Production). Recordings: *June Angela-Sayonara Love Theme*, *Songs from Shogun*...and *Pacific Overtures*.

MICHAEL K. LEE (Dylan) comes directly from the Broadway Revival of *Pacific Overtures*. Other Broadway and National Tour credits include: *Miss Saigon*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rent*. Regional credits: *Making Tracks* (Village Theater); *Pacific Overtures* (TheatreWorks); *Beijing Spring* (East West Players; LA Ovation Award Nomination). Mr. Lee is a graduate of Stanford University.

MIMOSA (Meg/Miyuki) New York credits include *Making Tracks* (Taipei Theatre), *Falsettoland* (NAATCO), *A Visit from the Footbinder* (Lincoln Center Lab), *Shanghai Lil's* (Pan Asian Rep), *The Fall Guy* (Mako Productions). Regional credits: *Sayonara*, *Pacific Overtures*, *A Chorus Line*, numerous productions at East West Players and *The Wedding Banquet* (Village Theatre and tour).

THOM SESMA (TJ/Tokashi) Directing highlights: Michael Healey's *The Drawer Boy* and the first major regional production of Yasmina Reza's *Life (x) 3*. In addition to developing new plays with writers nationwide, Mr. Sesma is the founder and Artistic Director of "The American Project," designed to reinvigorate distinctive American plays. His extensive acting credits on and off-Broadway and in national tours include leading roles in *Miss Saigon*, *Titanic*, *Othello* and most recently, the revival *Man of La Mancha*.

The Chorus includes BILLY BUSTAMANTE, DAVID ALBULARIO, SALA IWAMATSU, JARED LEE, KAY TRINIDAD, NICOLE A. TUN, ERWIN G. URBI.