

On The Scene: May 31

By Gerrye Wong
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A Special Theater Event in San Jose

Only rarely does an exceptional piece of theater come about, and it has arrived in San Jose in the form of Philip Kan Gotanda's LOVE IN AMERICAN TIMES. At opening night of this world premiere, the audience was riveted by the performances of the two leading actors J. Michael Flynn and Linda Park. I loved the theme of the age-old tradition of matchmaking, this time of a 70 year old high powered self-centered CEO to an ambitious, sharp and accomplished 33 year old Japanese/Korean beauty. Directed by San Jose Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director Rick Lombardo, the play and its extremely talented cast bring the characters to life in such high powered drama, the audience is held spellbound until the last exciting moments.

Leading lady Linda Park is a San Jose native best known in the TV series Star Trek: Enterprise, and plays the sharp tongued Scarlett to perfection. Playwright Gotanda has been an important force in bringing the stories of Asian Americans to America's stages, and he has outdone himself with this latest play. The crisp dialogue, the contemporary theme and the development of the plot through its strong characters makes an award winning combination, which I predict will thrill theater audiences wherever shown.

Don't miss this world premiere of Love in American Times, which will play through June 5. Info: 408 367 7255; www.sjrep.com. 101 Paseo de San Antonio, in downtown San Jose. Between south 2nd and 3rd streets.