



GOTANDA Plays San Jose Rep 5/12-6/5

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The age-old tradition of matchmaking takes a contemporary twist in San Jose Repertory Theatre's world premiere of *Love in American Times*, by Philip Kan Gotanda. *Love in American Times* is directed by San Jose Rep's Artistic Director Rick Lombardo, and will run from May 12 through June 5, 2011. Press Opening Night is Wednesday, May 18 at 8 p.m. Proceeds of the company's iconic "Pay What You Will Night" on Thursday, May 12, will benefit victims of the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disasters.

Tickets are available at the San Jose Rep Box Office at 101 Paseo de San Antonio or can be purchased online at www.SJRep.com or by calling 408.367.7255.

The production's featured actress, Linda Park, was raised in San Jose and is best known for her portrayal of communications officer Hoshi Sato in the television series *Star Trek: Enterprise*.

J. Michael Flynn is a well-known stage and television actor who also worked on the *Star Trek* franchise and has had successful appearances on San Jose Repertory Theatre's stage in *Communicating Doors* and *A Flea in Her Ear*.

The age-old tradition of matchmaking takes a contemporary twist when wealthy businessman Jack Heller has a pre-arranged meeting with sharp and accomplished Scarlett Mori-Yang. Sparks aren't the only things flying when these two driven individuals with intractable egos try to one-up each other on what could scarcely be called a "first date." With single-minded practicality and a pre-nuptial that looks more like articles of incorporation, it isn't long before dysfunctional chaos breaks out. Is there room for love when there's no shortage of money or power?

"It was a special joy to work with Philip on his play, and with this remarkable cast to bring these vivid and bold, contemporary characters to life for the first time on our stage," says Lombardo. "We are very grateful to the Edgerton Foundation for selecting this play to receive special funding which allowed us to develop and rehearse this play over a longer period of time - truly an important gift when bringing a new work to the stage."

Over the last two and a half decades, playwright Philip Kan Gotanda has been a major influence in the broadening of our definition of theater in America. In particular, Mr. Gotanda has been a leader in bringing the stories of Asian Americans to the nation's stages.

No stranger to San Jose Rep, *Love in American Times* marks Gotanda's third world premiere with the company. *The Wind Cries Many* was commissioned and performed by the company during their 2002-2003 season and *Sisters Matsumoto* was produced during the 1998-1999 season. One of the Bay Area's best-known playwrights, Gotanda is also a filmmaker.

First Preview May 12, 2011
Opening Night May 18, 2011
Closing Night June 5, 2011

The cast of *Love in American Times*

Arwen Anderson (Sophie/Assistant Evelyn*)
J. Michael Flynn (Jack Heller)
Zarah Mahler (Lyonee/Jazz Singer/Mrs. Stein*)
Gabriel Marin (Cheese Master/Mr. Stein/Hector*/Understudy Edward)
Craig Marker (Edward/Assistant Calvin Worth*)
Linda Park (Scarlett Mori-Yang)
Rosina Reynolds (Abby/Mrs. Green/Sommelier Desiree*)
Vanessa Alvarez (Understudy Sophie & Female Ensemble)
Jason Kapoor (Understudy Male Ensemble)

*Tentative, subject to change

Artistic Collaborators

Rick Lombardo (Director)
Robin Roberts (Scenic Design)
Cathleen Edwards (Costume Design)
David Lee Cuthbert (Lighting and Media Design)
Tamara Roberts (Sound Design)
Stephanie Schliemann (Stage Manager)
Kathleen J. Parsons (Assistant Stage Manager)
Ana-Catrina Buchser (Assistant to the Director)
Amelia Bostrom (Stage Management/Script Intern)

About the Rep:

San Jose Rep is the premier non-profit, professional theatre company in the South Bay, presenting six main stage productions each year. Now in its 30th year as a major contributor to the South Bay's cultural community, San Jose Rep's mission is to engage, entertain and inspire people. San Jose Rep produces innovative theatrical performances that offer fresh perspectives into the human condition, educational programs that promote life-long learning, and outreach initiatives that benefit our diverse community. For more information, visit www.SJRep.com.