

To: Theatre Editor
For Immediate Release

**APRIL 6 IS THE OPENING NIGHT GALA FOR LODESTONE THEATRE ENSEMBLE'S
WORLD PREMIERE OF**

laughter joy and loneliness & sex & sex & sex & sex
A comedy/drama about love, loneliness and the search to find your soulmate

The Lodestone Theatre Ensemble's world premiere of **laughter joy & loneliness & sex & sex & sex & sex**, by Philip W. Chung, kicks off with a gala opening night performance and reception on Thursday, April 6. Corporate and individual sponsors include AsianAvenue.com, Director Brett Ratner/Rat Entertainment (*Rush Hour* and the upcoming *Family Man*), Hong Kong superstar Jackie Chan, CFW Enterprises, Director Stanley Tong (*Rumble in the Bronx*, *Martial Law*), Budweiser and Seagrams. This will be Lodestone's follow-up to their highly successful inaugural run of **TEXAS**. The show will run at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, located at 514 S. Spring Street in downtown Los Angeles from April 6-30, 2000. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Eric Byler (*Kenji's Faith*, *Better Than Sex*), **laughter joy & loneliness & sex & sex & sex & sex** runs four weeks, opening on April 6 and closing on April 30.

A Korean American philosophy teacher finds himself in the middle of a tangled triangle: an illicit romance with a teenaged student...a secret love for his best friend...and no idea what to do! Enter the original Gangsta of Love, CUPID, and the Goddess of the Soul, PSYCHE, who match powers and styles in their attempts to help him find his one true soulmate -- before time runs out.

The cast for **laughter joy & loneliness & sex & sex & sex & sex** includes Bokyun Chun (*Helium*, *JAG*, *Another World* regular), Julie Neumark (recurring role on Lifetime's *Oh Baby*), Kipp Shiotani (*ER*, *Frasier*, *JAG*), Tuan Tran (Paramount's *Rules of Engagement*, *X-FILES*), Ogie Zulueta (*Hamlet*, *One West Waikiki* regular), Yuria Kim (*City of Angels*, *Caroline in the City*), and Ryun Yu (*Sisters Matsumoto*, *TEXAS*) the first Korean American to graduate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Sets are designed by Academy Award winning filmmaker Chris Tashima -- who has also won Drama-Logue and Ovation Awards for his set designing (*Into The Woods* & *Sweeney Todd*, respectively) -- costumes by Cindy Nam (*TEXAS*), lighting by Gerry Linsangan (resident artist at Playwright's Arena, Here And Now, Lodestone), and sound design by Ovation Award nominee Miles Ono (*Sweeney Todd*, *The Legend* -- a James Ingram/Debbie Allen project, *Heading East*).

Philip W. Chung has written for numerous publications, theatre and television. His plays have been performed at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, East West Players, the Los Angeles Theatre Center, the Unity Arts Center and the UNESCO Congress and Theatre of Nations Festival in Seoul, Korea. His writing credits include the play *Yellow Face* and the television series *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*. Philip is one of the co-founders of the Society of Heritage Performers/Lodestone Theatre Ensemble. He is currently leading a playwriting workshop for the Asian American Writers Workshop. Director Eric Byler states, "If there's one thing that draws me to Philip's writing, it's his honesty-- his uncompromising willingness to reveal."

According to Lodestone co-founder, Pyong Chil Kong, "**laughter joy & loneliness & sex & sex & sex & sex** is a remarkable personal play about relationships and the discovery of how we seek and need and love. It is this tackling of difficult emotions that makes this play a perfect selection for our first production in the year 2000."

Performances for **laughter joy & loneliness & sex & sex & sex & sex** are April 6-30, Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. General ticket prices are \$13. Senior and student ticket prices are \$11. Group ticket prices (10 or more) are \$10. At Los Angeles Theatre Center, 514 S. Spring St., downtown L.A. For tickets call the LATC box office at 213/485-1681. For general info call the SHP/Lodestone Theatre Ensemble hotline at 323/993-7245, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Los Angeles Theatre Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Dept.