

**To: Theatre Editor**  
For Immediate Release

**TEXAS**  
**A DARK COMIC RIDE TO HELL**  
**THE INAUGURAL EVENT FOR THE LODESTONE THEATRE ENSEMBLE**  
**Critically Acclaimed Society of Heritage Performers Re-emerges with a New Focus**  
**for the Next Century**

The Lodestone Theatre Ensemble, formerly known as the Society of Heritage Performers, sets the cast and designers for the world premiere of **TEXAS**, by Judy Soo Hoo. The show--which will serve as the inaugural event for a newly revamped company--will run at The Secret Rose Theatre, located at 11246 Magnolia Boulevard in the No Ho district of North Hollywood. Directed by Jeff Liu, **TEXAS** runs three weeks, opening on Thursday, September 30 and closing on Sunday, October 17, 1999.

**TEXAS** is a dark comic look at a college freshman whose "student housing" turns out to be in a cramped trailer with two wacked-out brothers on the flats of Texas. Through a series of vicious psychological and physical games one long night, he learns the truth about them and their awful secrets. Pitbulls, a butcher and a tall glass of lemonade...need more be said? The cast for **TEXAS** includes Roger Fan (New Line's *Rush Hour*, Fox's *Party of Five*), Eddie Mui (Touchstone's *Gone In Sixty Seconds*, Fox's *Beverly Hills, 90210*) and Ryun Yu (the first Korean American to train at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London).

Soo Hoo was one of the collaborators in the show *29 DREAMS: WOMEN WALKING THROUGH WALLS* and the author of *TWICE-TOLD CHRISTMAS TALES*, both produced at East West Players. Her play *REFRIGERATORS* was a winner in the East West Players/AT&T New Voices Playwriting Competition and is anthologized in a compilation of Asian American play excerpts--edited by David Henry Hwang and published by APA Journal--as well as being published in *BEST STAGE SCENES*, 1997. Judy is the recipient of the 1998 APEX Scholarship, sponsored by East West Players and APEX, and the 1999 UCLA Extension Writer's Program Community Access Scholarship. She has chosen the Lodestone Theatre Ensemble to produce **TEXAS** because she feels, "Art should be scary. It should contain an unsayable truth. I feel that Lodestone is a young dynamic company that is committed to presenting work that has the power of transforming the way we think of Asian American Drama."

**TEXAS** was developed in the David Henry Hwang Writing Institute at East West Players, the Asian Theatre Workshop at the Mark Taper Forum, and is the winner of the 1999 Yukon New Play Award at the Edward Albee Theatre Conference.

The Lodestone Theatre Ensemble's mission is to develop, create, promote and present compelling and impassioned works that bridge communities through truthful and entertaining artistry. Writer and co-founder of the Society of Heritage Performers, Philip W. Chung (ABC's *Lois & Clark*), proudly states, "It's due to the vision, commitment and work of Soon-Tek Oh that we've been able to get to this point. Our goal is to fulfill his vision and create an Asian American theatre that is truly multicultural, rooted in our community and artistically challenging."

Artistic Director, Soon-Tek Oh (Disney's *Mulan*, Sony/TriStar's *Beverly Hills Ninja*, *M\*A\*S\*H\**), says simply, "I want to make theatre accessible to everyone, particularly to those who traditionally have not been theatre-goers--Asian Americans, students and young people, those who aren't wealthy...the 'non-cultural elite. I also want to develop in the public's imagination the contributions and potential of Asian American performers...especially during this time of such little diversity in the mass media."

Performances for **TEXAS** are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8pm and Sunday matinees at 1pm. General ticket prices are \$12. Senior and student ticket prices are \$10. Group ticket prices (10 or more) are \$8. Patrons can make reservations by calling the Society of Heritage Performers/Lodestone Theatre Ensemble Hotline at 323/993-7245, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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