



THEATRE ENSEMBLE
LODESTONE
PLAYS WITHOUT RULES

under the artistic direction of:
PHILIP W. CHUNG
CHIL KONG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LODESTONE THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
AMERICAN MONSTERS 2

Five playwrights turn to classic tales to frame modern-day morality battles

LOS ANGELES, CA – Lodestone Theatre Ensemble proudly presents the world premiere of *American Monsters 2*, running October 29-November 27, 2005 at the GTC Burbank (1111-B West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506). Writer and produced by Corinne Chooy, Isaac Ho, Angela Kang, Oanh Ly and Judy Soo Hoo, produced by Jeff Liu and directed by Miranda Yousef, *American Monsters 2* stars Peggy Ahn, Feodor Chin, Ren Hanámi, Michael Kuya, David J. Lee, Dom Magwili, Freda Foh Shen, Linda Shing and Jennie Yee.

American Monsters 2, which kicks off the sixth season of work by the acclaimed Asian American theater company, continues the provocative and often darkly humorous examination of the underbelly of American culture started in the highly successful production *American Monsters* in 2000. The newest incarnation of this series is an omnibus of five original one-act plays loosely based on Grimm's fairy tales. Each of these modern adaptations lifts and twists an original dark element from the classic morality tales.

"Sometimes the old stories are the best stories," comments Playwright Isaac Ho. "American culture, in relative terms, is still in its infancy. The Grimm fairy tales echo our not-so-distant primal past when life and death choices were daily occurrences, and remind us what horrors await us when we give in to our demons."

Isaac Ho's plays include *Claim to Fame* and *Along for the Ride* (SF Weekly Black Box Award for Best Play). He is a recipient of the AT&T/Asian American Arts Foundation Grant for Theater, and is currently pursuing his MFA in Screenwriting at UCLA. Corinne Chooy is a past participant in Fox Television's Diversity Writer's Program, and currently writes for several Asian American comedy groups, including *Cold Tofu* and *OPM*. Angela Kang's plays include *When Tigers Smoked Long Pipes* (LA Weekly Award nominee for Best Adaptation), *Pinko Commie Freaks!*, *Match Girl* and *The Girl Without Hands*. Oanh Ly graduated from the University of Texas as a James Michener Fellow in Playwriting, and serves as the Associate Editor of the Vietnamese American magazine *Nha* ("House"). Judy Soo Hoo's plays include *29 1/2 Dreams: Women Walking Through Walls* (Co-Collaborator), *Twice-Told Christmas Tales*, *Refrigerators*, *Texas*, *Beastly Beauties of American Monsters* and *Solve for X*. She is a recipient of the EWP/AT&T New Voices Play Award and a PEN/WEST Emerging Voices Fellowship.

"In *American Monsters 2*, I'm drawn to the theme of the expectations that society places upon women, and the tragic lengths to which some people will go to achieve an artificial ideal of perfection," says Director Miranda Yousef. "The plays delve into unsettling issues of vanity, voyeurism, extremism, and so on, that I hope will leave audience members thinking as they leave the theater. I'm very proud to be directing the premiere of this work."

Miranda Yousef is currently completing her MFA in Film Directing at UCLA. Her recent film and theater directing credits include *Holy War and the Headless Horseman*, *The Delivery* and *Messenger*. Miranda received the Mary Pickford Award for her documentary film *Family Photograph*.

American Monsters 2 will run Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm (added performance Oct. 31, no performance Nov. 24). Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$13 for students and seniors. Group rates of \$11 each are available for reservations of ten or more. Tickets for the October 29th Opening Night Gala with a post-show reception are \$25. 2-for-1 tickets are available Oct. 31st, Nov. 3rd, 10th and 17th. For more information, call the Lodestone Theatre Ensemble hotline at (323) 993-7245 or visit www.lodestonetheatre.org.

Lodestone Theatre Ensemble is an Asian American theatre company with a mission to develop, create, promote, and present edgy, compelling, and impassioned works that bridge communities through truthful and entertaining artistry. Lodestone Theatre Ensemble is a Company-in-Residence at GTC Burbank.

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