



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

The Golden Hour

Produced by: Stephanie Chang & Christina Nayve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LODESTONE THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

The Golden Hour

A new play explores the possibility of faith in our modern age

LOS ANGELES, CA – Lodestone Theatre Ensemble presents the world premiere of *The Golden Hour*, running April 15- May 21, 2006 at the GTC Burbank (1111-B West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506) located inside George Izay Park. The award winning theatre company presents the second production of its seventh season with an original play by Co-Artistic Director Philip W. Chung and directed by Lodestone's resident director Jeff Liu.

"What does it take to maintain faith in a world seemingly without hope?" *The Golden Hour* explores that question through the story of Laura Park, a young Korean American woman who appears to be on the cusp of a promising future. But after suffering a near-death experience and unable to shake the haunting memory of a stranger's prayer, Laura is forced to examine that question for the first time as she embarks on a journey that will challenge her fundamental beliefs.

"Everywhere we turn, we're bombarded by tragedies -- war, violence, terrorism, catastrophic natural disasters," says playwright Chung. "We're living in a time when people are feeling anxious about the world around them. Writing this play was my attempt to explore the question of: can things like hope and faith exist under such conditions?"

According to Director Jeff Liu, "This is a play which confronts modern despair head-on, yet comes out of it with a profound, hard-earned, optimism. I think we could all use more of that these days. I'm also especially pleased to work on this production because I finally get to premiere a Philip W. Chung play! He's the one who recruited me for Lodestone way back when, so it's like going full circle."

Playwright Philip W. Chung is one of the founders and current Co-Artistic Director of Lodestone Theatre. As a writer, his credits encompass theater, film and television including the TV series *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* and Lodestone's production of *laughter joy & loneliness & sex & sex & sex & sex* which played to SRO audiences. Upcoming projects include co-producing a documentary about Charlie Chaplin's Japanese American valet--Toraichi Kono, the screenplay adaptation of Gail Tsukiyama's acclaimed novel *The Samurai's Garden* and writing/directing the next Lodestone main stage production, *One Nation, Under God*, which will have its world premiere this summer.

Director Jeff Liu received his MFA from UCLA and is Resident Director at Lodestone where his previous directing credits include *Texas, Murderabilia* (from *American Monsters*), *Terminus Americana* (Ovation Award nominee for Best World Premiere) and *Solve for X*. A feature he co-wrote, *Charlotte Sometimes*, was nominated for two IFP Spirit Awards and he also directed two short films, *Qi Lime Pie* and Lodestone's *Great Moments in Asian American History*. He is the new Literary Manager at East West Players.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 3 pm., April 15 – May 21, with special low-priced previews on April 13 and 14. 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 April 15th Opening Night Gala with a post-show reception are \$25. For more information, call the Lodestone Theatre Ensemble hotline at (323) 993-7245 or visit www.lodestonetheatre.org.

Founded in 1999 by Philip W. Chung, Alexandra Chun, Chil Kong and Tim Lounibos, Lodestone is committed to providing a forum for Asian American artists in all aspects of the theatre arts. The Ensemble seeks to challenge limited perceptions of Asian Americans through the creation of original theatrical productions as well as a fresh retelling of established works.

Lodestone Theatre Ensemble is a Company-in-Residence at GTC Burbank.

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