

whitelands whitelands whitelands

whitelands

an intimate epic about living, loving and longing
in three parts
PART I - PORCELAIN
PART II - A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN
PART III - HALF LIVES

by Chay Yew
Director **Tim Dang**

Set Designer **Akeime Mitterlehner**
Light Designer **Lisa Hashimoto**
Costume Designer **Emily Ruiz**
Sound Designer **Gerry Linsangan**
Assistant Director **Deborah Nishimura**
Fight Choreographer **Christopher Villa**
Dramaturg **Bruce E. Whitacre**
Stage Manager **Rick Figueroa**

This production of WHITELANDS is presented in honor of **Haing S. Ngor** for his trail-blazing work in the entertainment industry and for his unwavering & selfless commitment to the needs of the Asian American community. EWP and the Asian American community will passionately continue to embrace the valiant work that Dr. Ngor has begun.

PLAYWRIGHTS' ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HALF LIVES is written for, and dedicated to, Tim Dang and Sonja Piper. HALF LIVES would not have been a reality without the following individuals: Bruce Whitacre, Shem Briteman and Lisa Peterson for being great sounding boards and for always asking questions; Deborah Nishimura and Renee Rosenfeld for their research and help; my second family at the Mark Taper Forum for their support and encouragement; Ron Menard for being extremely understanding, a very courageous cast, its director, the production and administrative staff of East West Players for their tremendous patience, talent and belief, and finally to many valuable trees which have been sacrificed for the play.

Deepest thanks also to the incredible casts of PORCELAIN and LANGUAGE for breathing life into my words.

EWP

porcelain

Cast
John Lee
Voice 1
Voice 2
Voice 3
Voice 4

Understudies
John Cho*
William Peden

PORCELAIN is performed without an intermission.
A half-hour break will follow PORCELAIN at marathon performances before A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN.

a language of their own

Cast
Eric Steinberg*
Steve Park*
Ben Shepard*
Radmar Agana Jao*

Understudies
Art Desuyo*
Merv Maruyama*
Thomas Weber
Ray Chang

A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN premiered at The New York Shakespeare Festival in April, 1995.
George C. Wolfe, Producer.
A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN will have one fifteen-minute intermission.

A two-hour dinner break will follow A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN at marathon performances before HALF LIVES.

half lives

Cast
Son Woman
Man

Understudies
Jeanne Sakata*

HALF LIVES is performed without an intermission.

BIOGRAPHIES

CAST

RAY CHANG (Liu's Daniel) was born and raised in China. He was last seen in the one-hour MERLIN at the Road Theatre and television and film credits include *Melrose Place*, *Murphy Brown*, *NYPD Blue*, *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*, and *Strange Days* to name a few. He is also directing *BEACH BALLS at the Complex*. Thanks to Sonja Sanchez, Sonja and his supportive friends and family.

TSAI CHEN (Shem) Born in China, Ms. Chen was trained at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and holds a Master's degree in Dramatic Art from Tufts University, Massachusetts. The bulk of her acting work was done in England and she has directed many European classics in China and Hong Kong. She now lives and works in L.A. Her last stage appearance was *THE WOMAN WARRIOR* at the Occidental Theatre for which she earned a L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award nomination for Best Featured Performance. She has also written an internationally successful autobiography *Daughter of Shanghai*.

JOHN CHO (Liu's John Lee) is pleased to make his first appearance at EWP. He is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley. He was most recently seen in *ELPHANT* at the Theatre of Yugen in San Francisco. He also appeared in the Berkeley, Boston and the Los Angeles runs of *THE WOMAN WARRIOR*, in addition to various staged readings as such venues as the Mark Taper Forum, the Magic Theatre in San Francisco, and the San Jose Repertory Theatre.

ART DESUYO (Liu's Ming) who trained in San Francisco at the American Conservatory Theater and the Asian American Theatre was last seen at EWP when he stepped in as Sir Andrew Waha in *TWELF NITE C/WATERS*. An recently trained Ming in *ARTS* production of *A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN* which closed last month. In Los Angeles, he has been with the L.A. Connection Comedy Troupe for two years and performed in Elizabeth Wong's *LETTERS TO A STUDENT REVOLUTIONARY* at EWP. Other credits include *Richard in Thick Descriptions*, *TIM DINES* which earned him a Drama League Award.

TOM DONALDSON (Voice 2) has performed on Broadway, off Broadway with the Hartford Stage Company, Long Wharf Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Los Angeles Actors Theatre, John Houseman's Acting Company, and East West Players. Film and TV credits include *Michael Cimino's Heaven's Gate*, *Walker, Texas Rangers*, *Babylon 5* and *NYPD Blue*.

TOM JAMISON (Voice 1) Tom graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts in 1989 with a B.F.A. in drama. He came direct to Los Angeles where he has worked with the Grove Shakespeare Festival, The Pointe, A Noise Within, the Theatre of Botany and as the host of the nationally syndicated rock radio show *Night Flight*. Tom spent last summer at the Summer

Repertory theatre in his home town of Santa Rosa, California where he directed the roles of Arthur in *THE SECRET GARDEN*, Jim Cato in *THE GRAPES OF WRATH* and Pilate in *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR*.

RADMAR AGANA JAO (Radmar) Radmar is honored to be part of the production of *A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN* as well as proud to be back at EWP where he was last seen as Sir Andy Waha in *TWELF NITE C/WATERS* and where his performance as Tobias in *SWEENEY TODD* earned him the 1995 Drama Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical. He will be seen in *see* for *Persepolis* at the Occidental Theatre. Other credits include *E/R Beverly Hills 90210*, *Young and the Restless*, *Playa*, *The Magic Flute*, *DRAGONWINGS INTO THE WOODS* among many others.

DANA LEE (Man) One of East West Players' "old guards," Dana was last seen here as Arthur in the award-winning *ARTHUR AND LEILA*. He's honored to return to the world premiere of *HALF LIVES* an actor of more than twenty years, his new-look credits are numerous. They include *Metrick* and a recurring role as *Cal Mowbray* in *Dynasty*. Among his feature credits are *Barbie and Return of the Living Dead II*. He was recently seen in *THE WOMAN WARRIOR* at the Occidental Theatre.

ALEC MAPI (John Lee, Son) Alec is making his EWP debut in *WHITELANDS*. His Broadway credits include *M. BUTTERFLY* (Broadway) and the National Touring Company, *LITTLE HOTEL ON THE CORNER* and *TIMON OF ATHENS*. Off Broadway credits include *THE WOMAN WARRIOR* at the Occidental Theatre, *Boyz n the Bay* at the Mark Taper Forum, *Boyz n the Bay* at the Mark Taper Forum, *Boyz n the Bay* at the Mark Taper Forum, *Boyz n the Bay* at the Mark Taper Forum, *Boyz n the Bay* at the Mark Taper Forum.

PHIL OAKLEY (Voice 1) is delighted to be making his first appearance with EWP and to be re-united with Tim Dang, his former USC classmate. He recently received a Drama League Award for his second role in *NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH* at the Fullerton Civic Light Opera and just finished a successful run in *ALIBY HOUSEWIVES* with the Long Beach State Theatre. He and his beautiful wife of six years, Melissa Swift, share their household with their four fabulous children Grace, George, Bailey and Phoebe.

STEVE PARK (Oscar) Steve started his career as a stand-up comedian in New York City, then worked extensively with the Asian Repertory Theatre before landing his first movie role in *Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing*. He has performed on numerous television shows and has a regular role member on the Fox series in *Living Color*. His other film credits include *Top Gun*, *Down*, *Kufl*, *Quick Change*, *Kidnapping* and he can be seen in the upcoming *See* and *Dean Cain's* *7th* as well as in *See* *Bill* with Steve Martin & Alan Arkin. Steve was last seen at EWP in *COME BACK LITTLE SHEBA* and *DOUGHBALL*.

* Appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association. This production is made possible by a grant from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

WILLIAM FEEDEN (U.S. Voice 1 & Voice 4) graduated from USC's School of Theatre in 1994 with a B.A. in Acting. After spending a summer on the Edinburgh Fringe festival he returned to Los Angeles to pursue his career. This is his first show with East West Players.

JEANNI SAKARA (U.S. Woman) Jeanni recently performed at the Mark Taper Forum (RICHARD 1), TEMPTATION, New York Shakespeare Festival (MACBETH), Berkeley Repertory Theatre (LAST OF THE SUMMER WICK), Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Arizona Theatre Company (M. BUTTERFLY), Syracuse Stage (TAL), and Seattle's A Contemporary Theatre (FISH HEAD SOUP). AGNES SMILEY. She is delighted to return to EWP where she won a 1994 Drama League Award for Outstanding Performance in THE MAIDS. Her TV and film credits include L.A. Law, Knots Landing, Hoopla, Out of the Ashes and Posion Ivy.

BEN SHEPARD (Robert) is thrilled to be working with East West Players. He has performed extensively in New York City as well as regionally and abroad. He appeared in URBAN FOLK TALES at the Mark Taper New Works Festival and starred in the film (Gap) which recently premiered in Los Angeles. He shot a pilot last season. As seen on TV with Jeff Altman and recently completed work on the soon to be released film DreamFactory. He goes thanks to his family and friends who help keep his head above water — no easy feat.

ERIC STEINBERG (Ming) is an actor and performance artist from Washington D.C. Recent favorite roles include GHODI IN THE MACHINE and THE BALLAD OF YACHIO at South Coast Repertory, Mexico in Jon Jory's ROMEO AND JULIET at Actors Theatre of Louisville and various roles at the Sundance Playwrights Lab. Recent performance credits include THE UNDERSEGE STORES with the Hennes Empire at M.O.C.A., the Walker Art Center/Pilbury House Theatre and the on-going GOOD, BAD, UGLY (based on L.A. production) in late spring. Film & TV credits include The Living Road, Babylon 5 and the upcoming Return.

THOMAS WEBER (Voice 4, U.S. Robert) This is Tom's first stage production since returning from Chicago's notable theater Tom is originally from Livonia, Michigan and graduated with a B.A. in Theatre from Columbia College in Chicago. Some of his favorite roles have been Tarzan in MURPHY, Actor One in GREATER TUNAL, Louis in NOISE OFF, and Joseph in JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNI-COLOR DREAMCOAT. Since his arrival in L.A., Tom has landed his first "very small, but very essential" role in the film Meet Wally Sparks due out later this year. Tom would like to thank EWP for making him feel like a part of their family.

PRODUCTION
CHAY YEW (Playwright) Chay Yew's plays include AS IN THE HEADS, PORCELAIN (London Fringe Award for Best Play), A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN (1995 George and Ethelbert Merton Playwriting Award, 1995 GLAAD Media Award for Best Play), HALF LIVES, VOICES, FALLING, and ODE TO WOMAN. His plays have been presented at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Royal Court Theatre (London), Palace Theatre New York, Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Theatre, Illinois Theatre, Woody Mann Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center and TheatreWorks (Suzhou).

His present projects include a commissioned play, FLAME OF THE FOREST, from the Public Theatre and a text-based dance entitled COTNAM. His work is published by HarperCollins' Signet Gay Lives, Smith and Kraus, Best Selves from Plays of 1995 and Best Monologues from Plays of 1995. Performing Arts Journal, Central Park, and the upcoming A Storm is Blowing from Paradise. A member of the Dramatists Guild, Mr. Yew is also a Resident Artist and the Director of the Asian Theatre Workshop at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

TIM DANG (Director) Tim is artistic director of EWP. His directorial credits include SWEENEY TODD (EWP), A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN (Celebration Theatre), INTO THE WOODS (EWP), BITTER CANE (West Coast Ensemble), the Galt's adaptation of THE GRAPES OF WRATH (Pewenance Theatre in Alaska) and GANTON JAZZ CLUB (EWP). Tim is a recipient of numerous awards for outstanding achievement including six Drama-Logue awards and two Theatre LA Ovation awards. Tim would like to thank Chay for his talent and the challenge. Deb for all her support, Lorie for keeping EWP together and Danel for his patience and understanding.

AKEME MITCHELLER (Set Designer) is very proud to be designing for EWP. Some things that have kept her busy prior to WHITELANDS are shows such as THIS IS L.A. at Gloria Studios, THE KING OF LA for Cornerstone/Pratt Company, and workshops for the Taper New Works Festival. She also ventured into television and served as Art Director on Fox TV's Culture Clash. When not designing, she mostly works for Cornerstone Theatre Group as a Prop Coordinator and Design Assistant. She sometimes plays hockey from CTG to go off with the Animators at Walt Disney Feature Animation on wide reference shoots.

LISA HAHMOTTO (Light Designer) is presently a member of the design team at LACC Theatre Academy. Ms. Hahmotto is currently designing sets for TARSITY at the Center Theatre, OTHELLO at the Laguna Playhouse, MACBETH at Shakespeare Orange County, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF at LACC, as well as the lighting for SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR. Drama-Logue winning designs include HAMLET, SONG OF SHAGPORE, MERLIN, TAPESTRY and CRYANO DE BERGAMO. She received her B.A. from Pennsylvania State University and her M.F.A. from CSULB.

EMILY RUIZ (Costume Designer) Originally from New York City, Ms. Ruiz is a graduate from New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Since moving to Los Angeles, she has worked on such shows as ROCK EYES and CANEED GOODDS and received critical acclaim for FEET DON'T TALK ME NOW at the Open Air Theatre. Her film credits include Henry Boy Friend and The Way WhiteLANDS is proud to her first production for East West Players.

CHRISTOPHER VILLA (Fight Choreographer) Christopher is a Fight Master with the Society of American Fight Directors. He has choreographed and staged fights for over 110 productions at theatres such as the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, San Diego Rep., South Coast Rep., L.A. Music Center Opera, and the Eugene Ballet Company. He is currently a teacher at UC Irvine in their M.F.A. Acting program. Christopher is the author of eight children's plays as well as being a poet and an artist.

DEBORAH NISHIMURA (Assistant Director) recently seen on stage. Issues another behind-the-scenes approach having just finished work on the critically acclaimed AND THE SOUL SHALL DANCE at EWP. Ms. Nishimura has assistant directed EWP's THE MAIDS and has directed new work-in-progress for the David Henry Hwang Writers Institute and scenes for the Actors Network Showcase. She was recently seen as Mary Flynn in EWP's MERRY WE ROLL ALONG and in A GAY '90S MUSICAL at the Celebration Theatre which is off-Broadway bound. Deborah was most recently seen in the STAGE AIDS benefit at the Doublet Theatre.

BRUCE E. WHITACRE (Dramaturg) has been a rehearsal producer and dramaturg since coming to Los Angeles last fall. For over five seasons, he was Literary Manager then Associate Director of Play Development at New York's Manhattan Theatre Club, where he was dramaturg on such plays as Anne Mearys AFTER PLAY and Arthur Laurents' THE RADICAL MYSTIQUE. He has taught playwriting and textual analysis at New York University from which he holds an M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing. His plays have been read or produced at Ensemble Studio Theatre, Alice's Fourth Floor and the Ohio Theatre, all in New York.

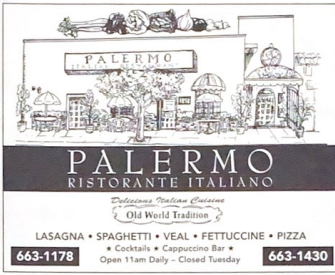
RICK FIGUEROA (Stage Manager) This is Rick's second EWP production having been Stage Manager for the last presentation of AND THE SOUL SHALL DANCE. Other credits include LACC KENTUCKY CYCLE and PCPA Theaterfest's production of THE MUSIC MAN and PRIVATE OF PENZANCE in which he also performed. He has also received two nominations in the American College Theater Festival for Sound and Lighting Design. Aside from EWP, Rick is also a founding partner with the newly-created Plaster Line Scene Design & Construction which plans to meet the scenery needs for different theatre groups throughout Southern California.

WHITELANDS PRODUCTION STAFF

Kristine Kuriova, Jesse Estrada
ASSISTANT TO ART DIRECTOR
Christopher Komuro
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Gary Kowahara
THE PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHER
Shane Sato
PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHER
Serena Tipi
PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHER
K. James King
NEWSLETTER DESIGNER
Ramon Miranda
NEWSLETTER DESIGNER
Loise Hopkins
ASSISTANT TO LIGHT DESIGNER
Loise Hopkins
LIGHTING MANAGER
Carolea Beasley, Deborah Fleming,
LOISE HOPKINS
LIGHTING MANAGERS
Al Choy, Jacqueline Hodgins,
NINA LUKE, SUSAN WONG
BOX OFFICE STAFF
Kathina Kiang, Michael Kuriova
CONCESSIONS STAFF

Set Construction: Richard Crawford, Tom Donaldson, Edward E. Hayes Jr., Louise Hopkins, Akame Mitcheller, Janet Song
Lighting Installation: Alfonso Aceves, Richard Crawford, Jacob Dawid, Tom Donaldson, Jesse Estrada, Lisa Hahmotto, Loise Hopkins, K. James King, Gerry Longridge, Akame Mitcheller, Jeannette Serrano
Special Thanks to: Fujita Market, Michael Jung & Center Theatre Group, L.A. City College Theatre Academy, the Los Angeles City & Endow Services Center, L.A. Shores, Tom Ma, and Pennsylvania Builders Supply
Thanks to: Fritz Friedman, Chis Lee and Sana Piper for their help with this production.
We thank those whose names are not listed due to time constraints.

Complete Terminals & Pest Control
WESTERN EXTERMINATOR COMPANY
Since 1921
JIM HUGHES
Sales/Service Supervisor
Los Angeles (213) 382-8151
W. Los Angeles (310) 474-5380
Beverly Hills (310) 274-9244
Culver City (310) 837-8065



PALERMO
RISTORANTE ITALIANO
Professionista Italian Cuisine
Old World Tradition
LASAGNA • SPAGHETTI • VEAL • FETTUCCINE • PIZZA
• Cocktails • Cappuccino Bar •
663-1178 Open 11am Daily - Closed Tuesday 663-1430

FRIENDS OF EAST WEST PLAYERS

Ambassador: Brian & Lynn Arthur, Shirley Cham, Frank Roy & Joy, Lisa Lee, David L. Mauss
Patron: Stephen A. Kanter, M.D., Wayne Matsuyama, Don, Marsha & Tom Nakahara

Sponsor: William G. Boden & Roy H. Waband, Al Choy & Diane Garlock, Craig A. Martens, Kathie Okamoto/A Stamp in the Hand

Friends: Wendy Fujiwara Anderson, Loretta Chan, Tim Dang, An & Mary Endo, Dale & Sharon Flanagan, John Fujika & Jerry Lettice, Jane Gates, Kaka & Thom Gorn, Roy T. Iwata, Japanese American Hospital Society of Southern California, Edwin Kurematsu, Frank & Marilyn Kawasaki, John & Sarah Kobara, Brigitte Kuipers, Yoshio & Mowaki, Evan & Miy Oyakawa, Dr. Geoffrey Parnell, Frank & Marla Sato Takashi Shida, Tami Sugimoto, Calvin Tujima, Tom Toyama, Margery K. Woodruff, Gal' Vitanabie, G. Michael Wood, Ron & Yuen Yuenak

General: Randall & Louise Arentsen, T. Rood Baruch, Helen Chen, Richard E. Eshelman, Dorothy Iwara, Toy Kariage, Hitsumi & Kazuo Kitani, Victor Matsunaga, Lilian T. Neebo, Mitsunori & Emelina Nishikawa, Bernadette Nishimura, Steven C. Palomino, Patty Ting, Ho-Kwan Tai, Jean E. Tumekeawa Lung Wang, Benton Wong, Dr. Joe & Maria Yonaguchi, Mrs. Yutaka, Yukiko Nakamoto, Elizabeth Zell, Annette Zellner

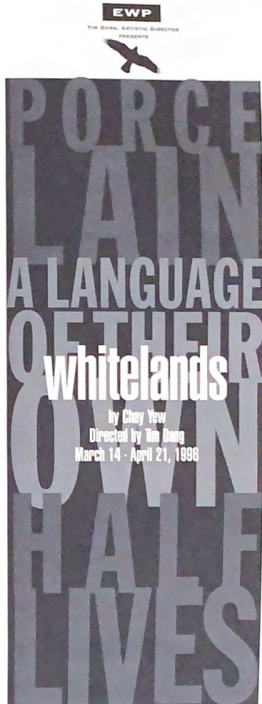
We thank those who made contributions after the program deadline.

EWP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn F. Arthur/David L. Mauss
CO-PRESIDENTS
Craig A. Martens
VICE PRESIDENT
Edwin Kanemaru
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Janie Yaguchi Gates
SECRETARY
Loretta M. Chan **Tim Dang**
David Flores **Katherine Heard**
Carrie Hyun **John E. Kobara**
Daniel Mayeda **G. Michael Wood**
Ronald W. Wong

EWP STAFF

Tim Dang
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Luisa Cariga
ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
Al Choy
MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Joyce Maddox
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Daniel Cariga
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Richard Crawford & Tom Donaldson
TECHNICAL DIRECTORS
Benjamin Lum
ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE
Ken Narasaki
LIBRARY MANAGER
Saachika & Dom Magwall
LIBRARY MANAGER
Glen Chin & Jim Ishida
THEATRE FOR YOUTH
Rafael Agana Jao & Ray Chung
ACTORS NETWORK

EWP
THE EAST WEST PLAYERS
PRESENTS
A LANGUAGE OF OTHER PEOPLE
by Chay Yew
Directed by Tim Dang
March 14 - April 21, 1999