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a Jolla Playhouse proudly presents the world premiere of *Wonderland*, a compelling new drama by one of the country's most acclaimed young playwrights, Chay Yew. *Wonderland* is about an Asian American family's attempt to capture the American dream, and the unexpected developments that threaten this dream.



La Jolla Playhouse is supported, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the City of San Diego, under a program managed by the Commission for Arts and Culture, the County of San Diego, The James S. Doherty Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Herold and Mimi Shesberg Charitable Trust, and the Pew Charitable Trusts, administered by Theatre Communications Group.

A bold new play for mature audiences, *Wonderland* brings together four superb actors: Tsai Chin, who starred in the motion picture *The Joy Luck Club*; Joel de la Fuente, a series regular on *Space: Above and Beyond*; Alec Mapa, who captivated Playhouse audiences in *Dogeaters* and New York audiences in the Tony Award-winning *M. Butterfly*; and Sab Shimono, who won critical praise in the original Broadway productions of *Pacific Overtures* and *Mame*.

*Wonderland* is directed by Lisa Peterson, whose past Playhouse achievements include *The Good Person of Setzuan*, *Arms and the Man* and *Triumph of Love*.



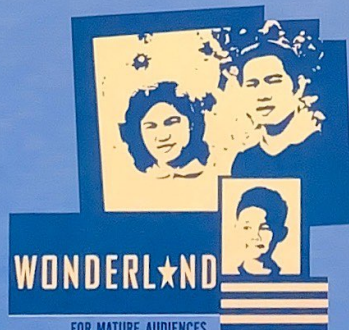
(Clockwise from left) Sab Shimono, Alec Mapa, Joel de la Fuente and Tsai Chin. Photo: John Johnson

# WONDERLAND

THE WORLD PREMIERE OF A NEW PLAY

“Chay Yew is  
the very  
picture of a  
promising young  
playwright.”

-The New York Times



FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

SEPT 14 - OCT 17

WRITTEN BY  
CHAY YEW  
DIRECTED BY  
LISA PETERSON



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presents the asian premiere of a new play by award winning playwright chay yew

a  
story  
of  
running  
free  
and  
shattered  
dreams.

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**R(A)**

RESTRICTED TO AUDIENCES AGE 15 AND ABOVE

# HALF LIVES

“I WANT TO LIVE  
A FULL LIFE  
A COMPLETE LIFE  
NOT SOME HALF LIFE  
A FULL LIFE  
OR NOTHING AT ALL”

WRITTEN BY CHAY YEW DIRECTED BY LIM KAY SIU

An absent father  
A determined mother  
A wilful son  
Journey into the American heartland.

*Half Lives* is a series of vivid snapshots of a Singaporean woman, an Asian American man and their son. An emotional and provocative drama of a family in pursuit of the great American dream, liberation and a place to call home.

*"He is model minority  
Always polite  
Quiet*

*Mister don't-rock-boat  
Like he's guest in someone's home*

*Don't understand  
His family in America  
Four Generations  
All working  
In Columbus  
Ohio*

*Doctor lawyer engineer architect  
But whole family the same  
All weak  
All model people*

*I will not be  
Like him*

*Model minority  
I will not be*

*Visitor in this country  
I will become owner  
A part of this America"*

Singaporean Chay Yew's plays include *As If He Hears*, *Porcelain*, *A Language of their Own* and *Red*. His works have been presented throughout the world, including productions at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Royal Court Theatre (London), Mark Taper Forum, Tarragon Theatre (Toronto) and TheatreWorks (Singapore) to name a few.

For his plays, Chay is the recipient of the London Fringe Award, George and Elisabeth Marton Playwriting Award and the APGF Community Visibility Award.

Currently, he is the first Singaporean celebrated in full time professional theatre in the United States. Today he is resident director of the Asian Theatre Workshop at the Mark Taper Forum, the largest theatre company in Los Angeles. He has just received a Pew Grant to be Resident Director at the East-West Players and a National Endowment of Arts Grant to develop new work with Chinese American communities. His newest play, *Red*, will be presented in New York at the prestigious Manhattan Theatre Club in 1998.

The Asian premiere of *Half Lives* is Chay Yew's first play in Singapore since the ground breaking *As If He Hears* for TheatreWorks' doublebill on Aids, *Safe Sex* in 1989. TheatreWorks is proud to welcome Chay Yew home with his new play.

TICKETS at \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35 & \$15 (concession tickets for full-time students & NSF) available at all SISTIC outlets or call SISTIC at 3485555 \* GALA FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1997 AT 8PM IN AID OF THEATREWORKS. DONATION TICKETS AT \$100 (INCLUSIVE OF POST SHOW COCKTAIL RECEPTION) AVAILABLE FROM THEATREWORKS HOTLINE AT 3386735.

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