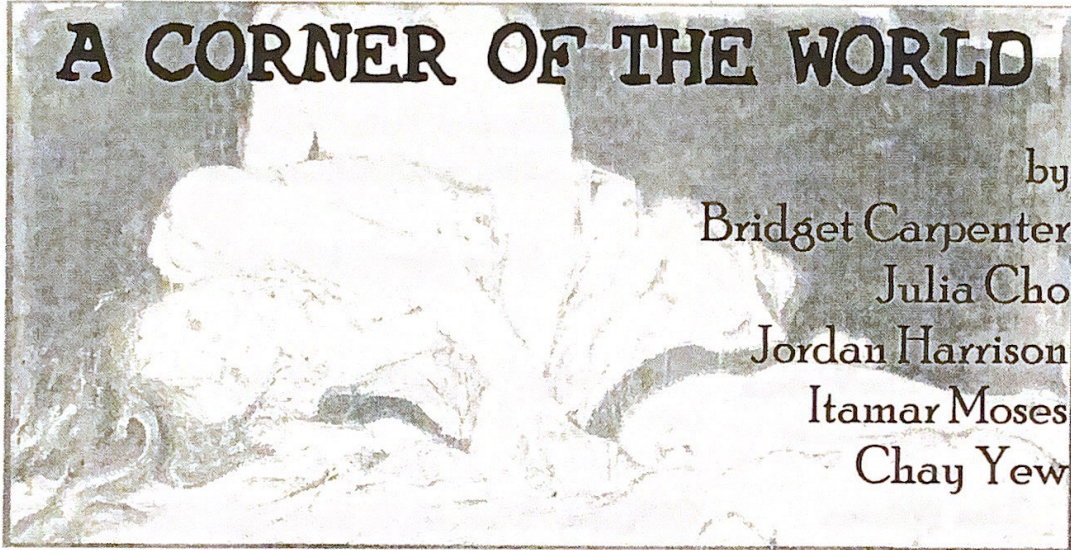




Emigrant Theater
presents

A CORNER OF THE WORLD



by
Bridget Carpenter
Julia Cho
Jordan Harrison
Itamar Moses
Chay Yew

September 15 - October 1, 2005

The Playwrights' Center

directed by Jessica Finney

Untitled03 painted by Ben Olson

Jessica Finney, Liz Engelman, Adam Greenfield,
James LL Morrison, Carrie Ryan, Mary Resing

A CORNER OF THE WORLD

by
Bridget Carpenter, Julia Cho, Jordan Harrison,
Itamar Moses and Chay Yew

CAST

Sasha Andreev	Asep/George Clooney/Tessa
Katie Leo	Mongkut/Sunny/Felix/Ted/Oldest Living Bird in All of Indonesia
Erik Pearson	Umar/Jim/Moderator
Kendyl Joi Watson	Molly/Vicki/Mrs. McPherson
Lina Wiksten	OldGlory/Sandrine/Christopher Walken/ Alex/Playwright

PRODUCTION

Director	Jessica Finney
Dramaturg	Carrie Ryan
Scenic Designer	Jason Brown
Lighting Designer	Geoff Wold
Stage Manager	Carolyn Blomberg

*The performance runs 70 minutes with no intermission.
The production contains brief cigarette smoking.*

On my most recent trip to the region, I visited the Jantho camp for displaced people in Aceh, where I met a woman who had lost nine of her 10 children. As one of the camp leaders, she introduced me to the youngest camp member: a 2-day-old boy. She said the child's mother wanted me to give him a name. I asked if there was an appropriate Indonesian word for "new beginning" and was told that there was: "dawn," which in their language is a boy's name. I think a lot about that little boy, and our obligation to give him a new dawn.

President Bill Clinton, *NY Times*, June 22, 2005

Comes the tsunami and we realize to our horror that Nature has merely to shrug, to flick a finger, as it were, and hundreds of thousands of us are broken, entire nations thrown into chaos and grief. It is the ultimate reminder of our common fragility, of just how precarious our species' ridiculously brief sojourn on this earth really is.

Charles Krauthammer, *Time*, January 25, 2005

I'm sitting here with nothing— no passport, no money, no anything, in shorts that somebody gave me... the bottom line is, we desperately need help here.

Nate Berkus,
interior designer &
frequent *Oprah Winfrey*
Show guest, *CNN*,
December 26, 2004

Emigrant Theater is a nonprofit company based in Minneapolis and devoted to exploring perspectives of the American identity, fostering the ingenuity of the American voice and championing living playwrights.

www.emigranttheater.org

Jason Brown, Matt Di Cintio, Jessica Finney
Producing Directors
Stacey Parshall
President, Board of Directors

Board of Advisors

Freddie Ashley, Liz Engelman, Adam Greenfield,
James LL Morrison, Carrie Ryan, Mary Resing

The Playwrights

Bridget Carpenter is a member of New Dramatists. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Princess Grace Award and a residency at London's Royal National Theatre. Her play *Fall* was the recipient of the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and *The Faculty Room* won the Kesselring Prize. Other plays, which include *Up*, *The Death of the Father of Psychoanalysis (& Anna)*, *Tiny* and *Typhoid Mary* have been produced in theatres across the country. She holds an MFA from Brown University and has taught writing workshops in grammar school, high school, college and prison. This past January, Bridget was a writer for the NBC television event *Tsunami Aid: A Concert of Hope*.

Julia Cho's plays include *Durango* (O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Ojai Playwrights Conference), *BFE* (Long Wharf Theater and Playwrights Horizons), *Bay and the Spectacles of Doom* (La Jolla Playhouse's POP Tour), *99 Histories* (Theater Mu), *The Architecture of Loss* (New York Theatre Workshop), *The Winchester House* and *How to Be a Good Son*. Awards and grants include New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the 2004 L. Arnold Weissberger Award. Educated at NYU's graduate Dramatic Writing Program and the Juilliard School and currently a member of New Dramatists, Julia's plays are available from Dramatists Play Service and www.playscripts.com.

Jordan Harrison's *Kid Simple* premiered in the 2004 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and his *Finn in the Underworld* will premiere this fall at Berkeley Repertory. His other plays, including *The Museum Play* and *Act a Lady*, have been developed at Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep, Portland Center Stage, Signature Theatre Company and the Illusion, among others. Jordan is the recipient of the Heideman Award, two Jerome Fellowships and a McKnight Grant from the Playwrights' Center, and the NEA/TCG Playwright-in-Residence Grant. Locally, he has written for the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre, Thirst Theater, Commonweal and Theatre de la Jeune Lune. A graduate of the Brown MFA Playwriting program, Jordan is a resident playwright at New Dramatists.

Itamar Moses's plays include the full-lengths *Outrage*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Celebrity Row* and *The Four of Us*, the one-acts *Authorial Intent* and *Idea*, and the book for the musical *The Hook*. Venues include Wilma Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Hangar Theatre, Florida Stage, A Contemporary Theatre, Portland Center Stage, American Conservatory Theatre and McCarter Theatre, regionally, and Manhattan Theatre Club, Underwood Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, HERE and La Mama Etc in New York. Itamar is currently at work on new play commissions from Playwrights Horizons, Berkeley Rep, the Wilma and Manhattan Theatre Club. He holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU and has taught playwriting at Yale and NYU, he is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect. Born in 1977 in Berkeley, California, he now lives in Brooklyn.

Chay Yew's plays (including *Beautiful Country*, *Here and Now*, *A Language of Their Own*, *Porcelaine*, *Red*, *Snapshot* and *Wonderland*) have been produced by New York Shakespeare Festival, Royal Court Theatre (London), Manhattan Theatre Club, Mark Taper Forum, Long Wharf Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Cornerstone Theatre Company, East West Players and TheatreWorks in Singapore, among others. For his work, he has received the London Fringe Award, George & Elisabeth Marton Playwriting Award, GLAAD Media Award, APGF Community Visibility Award, Drama-Logue Award, Robert Chesley Award, McKnight Fellowship and the TCG/Pew National Residency Program. Chay's work is published by Grove Press and appear in numerous anthologies. He has served as Director of the Taper's Asian Theatre Workshop and is Resident Director at East West Players in Los Angeles.

UP FOR A SPIRITED DEBATE

With the mission to employ living playwrights in the examination of the American identity, we wanted to explore how human nature is affected by both minute and cataclysmic events, in other words, the tsunami of last December. We first gathered our team of playwrights and gave them the following:

The tsunami of last December was an exceptional event: a natural disaster for which political factions and antipathetic governments set aside historical differences. The American response invites thoughts of an idealized world, where racial and ethnic boundaries are blurred for the sake of humanitarian relief.

We gave them parameters:

There are five actors available, though you should not feel obligated to use all five in your scene. The actors have been chosen for their versatility, so feel encouraged to write characters of all ages and genders and from diverse backgrounds of race, geographic origin and physical ability. Subsequent writers must carry over from the previous scene at least one character but no more than two. The play will be written in order by scene.

Itamar Moses started us off before passing to Chay Yew. Chay then passed both scenes to Bridget Carpenter, who passed everything along to Jordan Harrison. Julia Cho finished the play with her fifth scene. Rehearsals began three days after. A month later, we thank you for becoming a part of this unique collaboration, and hope you take as much away from this exploration as we have.

—Jessica Finney, Producing Director