

**EAST WEST
PLAYERS**

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Mako (d.)
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EWP

For Immediate Release
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**East West Players' THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE Partners with
Kaya Press and Libros Schmibros Lending Library & Bookshop**

East West Players (EWP), the nation's largest producing organization of Asian American artistic work *and* the longest-running professional theatre of color in the country, continues its 46th Anniversary season, themed *Languages of Love*, with the Los Angeles premiere of THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE by Julia Cho. East West Players presents THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE in association Kaya Press and Libros Schmibros Lending Library & Bookshop. This poignant yet hilarious comedy is directed by Jessica Kubzansky. The cast of the production will feature artists of various Asian backgrounds: Jennifer Chang, Kimiko Gelman, Nelson Mashita, Jeanne Sakata, and Ryun Yu. Generous support for this production is provided by The S. Mark Taper Foundation Endowment for East West Players.

Meet George, a linguist, a master of languages, who cannot express his love for his wife--and ends up losing her. Follow this whimsical and heartbreaking look at love and language that asks, "How do we save what is dying?" Winner of the 2010 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

"East West Players is proud to partner with community partners Kaya Press Libros Schmibros Lending Library & Bookshop. Because this play is about language and the way we communicate, it is a perfect choice to work with groups that promote literacy and literature," says Tim Dang, East West Players Producing Artistic Director.

Kaya Press is an independent not-for-profit publisher of Asian and Pacific Islander diasporic literature. They are dedicated to the publication of new and innovative fiction, poetry, critical essays, art, and culture, and the recovery of important and overlooked work from the Pacific Rim and the API diaspora. They aim to expand the range of outstanding API literature available to the public by publishing works of excellent literary merit, including works in translation. They are proud to present books that feature unique voices; new and alternative perspectives; accomplished experimental

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writing; and beautiful, thoughtful book design.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with East West Players on this innovative production of Julia Cho's latest play. As an independent literary publisher of Asian diasporic literature, we're constantly exploring many of the same issues brought up by the play about language and its ability or inability to communicate and preserve identity and relationships -- as well as, of course, the transformative potential of art-making. East West Players has long been a pioneer of doing this kind of work, and we're happy to celebrate our recent move to Los Angeles with what we hope will be the beginning of a long and fruitful collaboration," says Sunyoung Lee, Publisher, Kaya Press.

Libros Schmibros is a lending library and bookstore in historic Boyle Heights. Much like natural selection, Libros Schmibros takes the generously bestowed book bounty of the city and chooses titles that best fit their holdings. It is important that the right books come to them, and that they combine with their library in ways that make sense. Books they cannot use are re-donated.

"Ever since I saw their production of Sondheim's 'Passion'," says Libros Schmibros founder David Kipen, "I've admired EWP's work enormously. Partnering with the company on Julia Cho's lovely, funny play about dying languages -- especially for an outfit like Libros Schmibros, with a name half-borrowed from a language that came back from the dead -- feels just right."

The design team consists of set designer Francois-Pierre Couture, lighting designer Jeremy Pivnick, costumer designer E.B. Brooks, original music and sound designer Bruno Louchouarn, and property master Michael O' Hara. The stage manager is Katherine E. Haan.

THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE is presented by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc., New York. Additional support for this production is provided by the California Community Foundation, Shubert Foundation, LA County Board of Supervisors through the LA County Arts Commission, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and Bank of America.

All performances of THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE will be staged at the David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts at 120 Judge John Aiso St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE opens Wednesday, November 9, 2011 and closes on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Opening night will be accompanied by a pre-performance cocktail reception and a post show reception with the cast and creative

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team. Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm. Previews are Thursday - Saturday November 3 - 5, at 8pm and Sunday, November 6 at 2pm. The Pay-What-You-Can Performance will be held Wednesday, November 23 at 8 pm with a suggested \$5 minimum donation. There is no performance on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. Performances will resume on Friday, November 25.

General Admission Tickets range from \$31 - \$41. Preview tickets are \$20 for all seats. Please call theatre for opening night ticket availability and special event pricing. For ticket purchases or more information, please call East West Players at (213) 625-7000 or visit www.eastwestplayers.org. Senior, student and group discounts are available. Dates, prices, and details are subject to change.