

**EAST WEST
PLAYERS**

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East West Players Announces 45th Anniversary Season *Shake It Up*

East West Players (EWP), the nation's premiere Asian American theater, announces its 45th Anniversary Season which include works about two boys who share a dark secret, eccentric sisters navigating through life, an elderly porn star trying to make it big, and a hip-hop dance battle for respect, honor, and love. This season, themed *Shake It Up* includes **MYSTERIOUS SKIN** by Prince Gomolvilas based on the novel by Scott Heim, **CRIMES OF THE HEART** by Beth Henley, **WRINKLES** by Paul Kikuchi, and **KRUNK FU BATTLE BATTLE** with book by Qui Nguyen, lyrics by Beau Sia and vocal music by Marc Macalintal.

"East West Players is entering its 45th year, a milestone achievement for any arts organization. As the nation's longest running professional theatre of color in operation today, we want to let the community know we're relevant, contemporary and vital. So we want to *Shake It Up*," says Tim Dang, EWP Producing Artistic Director. "And we can still do it with style, artistic integrity and the production quality that EWP has been known for all these years. The plays we have chosen for this season will capture an audience that is looking for an experience with a bit more adventure, edge, and power. We tackle many issues in this season's line up and are proud to present a season of thought-provoking, entertaining, and provocative plays."

MYSTERIOUS SKIN: This searing drama follows the story of a boy who believes he was once abducted by aliens. All roads lead back to a childhood classmate, now a hustler, who holds the key to the terrifying and heart-breaking truth. (Mature audiences only.) Written by Prince Gomolvilas, based on the novel by Scott Heim, directed by Tim Dang. MYSTERIOUS SKIN will run September 9 – October 10, 2010. Los Angeles Premiere.

Prince Gomolvilas's plays include **BIG HUNK O' BURNIN' LOVE** and **THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING**, which received their world premieres at East West Players. He received the PEN Center USA Literary Award for Drama; Julie Harris/Janet and Maxwell Salter Playwright Award; International Herald Tribune/SRT Playwriting Award; EWP's Made in America Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement for the Asian Pacific Islander

(more)

Community; grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation; and a screenwriting fellowship from The Chesterfield Writer's Film Project, a program sponsored by Paramount Pictures. He teaches in the Master of Professional Writing Program at the University of Southern California and in the David Henry Hwang Writers Institute at EWP.

CRIMES OF THE HEART: Meet three delightfully dysfunctional sisters: Babe has just shot her husband, Meg is fresh from the loony bin, and Lenny celebrates her birthday alone by sticking a candle in a cookie. This Southern classic gets a unique Asian American twist in an unforgettable night of laughter and tears. (Rights Pending.) Written by Beth Henley, directed by Leslie Ishii. CRIMES OF THE HEART will run November 4 – December 5, 2010. Pulitzer prize winning play.

Beth Henley was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Drama and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play for CRIMES OF THE HEART. Smith and Kraus published a two volume collection of 12 of her plays including THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST, THE WAKE OF JAMEY FOSTER, THE DEBUTANTE BALL, THE LUCKY SPOT, ABUNDANCE, SIGNATURE, CONTROL FREAKS and IMPOSSIBLE MARRIAGE. Beth wrote the screenplay for the film version of CRIMES OF THE HEART, for which she was nominated for an Academy Award. She also wrote the screenplays for THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST, NOBODY'S FOOL, TRYING TIMES and TRUE STORIES. Ms. Henley is the Presidential Professor of Theatre Arts at LMU/LA.

WRINKLES: Unbeknownst to his daughter and grandson, 73 year-old Nisei Harry Fukutani is an internet sensation! But to view his work, you'd have to turn off the parental filter and have a valid credit card. A sticky comedy about sex, lies, and Tiger Balm. Written by Paul Kikuchi, directed by Jeff Liu. WRINKLES will run February 10 – March 13, 2011. World Premiere play developed in the EWP David Henry Hwang Writers Institute. Generous support for this production is provided by the S. Mark Taper Foundation Endowment for East West Players.

Born and raised in Pasadena, California, playwright/screenwriter/substitute teacher Paul Kikuchi is a third generation Japanese American. He attended UC Santa Barbara where he received a BA in English literature. Paul has written six screenplays which have landed him three different agents, two options and a cup of Winchell's coffee. Paul's first play, IXNAY, had its world premiere at East West Players in 2009. Paul lives with his wife, two daughters and dog in their cluttered house in South Pasadena.

KRUNK FU BATTLE BATTLE: Under the guidance of Sir Master Cert, young Norman Lee battles the baddest b-boy crew at Sunset Park High for respect, honor, and the heart of sweet Cindy Chang. A hip-hop musical extravaganza! Book by Qui Nguyen, lyrics by Beau Sia, vocal music by Marc Macalintal, directed by Tim Dang. KRUNK FU BATTLE BATTLE will run May 12 – June 26, 2011. World Premiere Musical. Generous support for this production is provided by the S. Mark Taper Foundation Endowment for East West Players.

Originally from Arkansas, Qui Nguyen is a Brooklyn-based Writer and Fight Director. As Co-Artistic Director/Co-founder of Vampire Cowboys productions in NY, his scripts include the critically acclaimed SOUL SAMURAI; FIGHT GIRL WORLD BATTLE (nominated for Best Full Length Script by the 2008 NY Innovative Theatre

Awards); MEN OF STEEL (Cited as 2007's Best Adaptation of Comics into Other Media by ComicCritique.com). Qui is a member of New Dramatists, a co-director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, an alumnus of Youngblood, and the stage combat instructor for Columbia University.

Beau Sia is a Chinese-American poet from Oklahoma City. Beau has been featured in the award-winning film *Slam* and the documentary *Slam Nation*. As an author, Beau wrote the poetry book, *A Night Without Armor II: The Revenge*. A few of the anthologies his work appears in, include, *Def Poetry Jam on Broadway...* and more, *Why Freedom Matters*, and *Spoken Word Revolution*. Beau has two spoken word CD's, *Attack! Attack! Go!* and *Dope and Wack*. His one man show, *Fish Out of Water* won the 2004 Jury Prize for Best Alternative Show at the HBO Comedy Festival in Aspen, Colorado.

Marc Macalintal's musical direction credits include: GUYS AND DOLLS, YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN, HMS PINAFORE, A JIVE BOMBERS CHRISTMAS, and East West Players' PIPPIN. Marc is the artistic director of *Room To Improv*, an Asian American improv group in Studio City, California.

Additional funding is provided by the California Community Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the LA County Arts Commission and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

All performances 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. Season Subscriptions are available with General Subscriptions starting at \$125. Wednesday, Thursday, Student, and Senior Subscriptions are discounted to \$110. Preview Subscriptions are \$85. Opening Night subscriptions include pre-show cocktails and a post-show reception and are \$200. Season Subscription purchases and additional information can be found at www.EastWestPlayers.org or by calling 213-625-7000. All plays and dates subject to change.