



NEWS

Press Contacts:
Richard Hillman | richard@richardhillmanpr.com | (646) 234-5716
Philip Carrubba | philip@richardhillmanpr.com | (917) 523-8849
Pan Asian Rep | info@panasianrep.org | (212) 868-4030

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

**PAN ASIAN REPERTORY THEATRE
LAUNCHES 44TH MILESTONE SEASON
WITH THE REVIVAL OF THE FILM NOIR INFUSED THRILLER
FILM CHINOIS
A RE-ENVISIONED RADIO PLAY ADAPTATION
WRITTEN BY DAMON CHUA
DIRECTED BY KAIPO SCHWAB**

**FEATURING MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL 2015 PAN ASIAN CAST
ROSANNE MA WITH JEAN BRASSARD, DINH JAMES DOAN,
KATIE LEE HILL, AND BENJAMIN JONES**

**A TWO-PART SERIES
AVAILABLE ONLINE JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

New York, NY (January 7, 2021) - **Pan Asian Repertory Theatre** (Tisa Chang, Founding Artistic Producing Director) launches its 44th Milestone Season with the virtual revival presentation of the film noir infused thriller *Film Chinois*, a re-envisioned radio play adaptation written by **Damon Chua** (*The Emperors Nightingale*). Director **Kaipo Schwab** reunites the five-member 2015 Pan Asian cast that will feature **Rosanne Ma** as China Doll with **Jean Brassard** as The Ambassador, **Dinh James Doan** as The Man, **Katie Lee Hill** as Simone, **Benjamin Jones** as Randolph. "Pan Asian Rep enters a brave new world to re-imagine theater with the audio version of *Film Chinois* as radio play about a time of cat and mouse global tensions where the individual is but a pawn," stated **Tisa Chang**, founding Pan Asian Repertory Theatre Artistic Director.

Film Chinois will premiere in two-parts beginning Monday, January 25, 2021 and will be available to view through Sunday, February 7, 2021. Tickets are priced at **\$20**. For reservations, please visit <https://panasian-filmchinois.eventbrite.com>

Film Chinois is a film noir infused thriller of spy-versus-spy intrigue and dangerous romantic liaisons in the vein of Hollywood's classic films such as *The Maltese Falcon*. Re-envisioned as a radio play, the thriller takes us back to 1947 Peking, an uneasy time between WWII and the imminent Communist takeover two years later. The story centers around China Doll, a Maoist femme fatale, and Randolph, a fresh-faced American operative on a secret mission, and a mysterious man. Further complicating matters is the Ambassador who seems to know Peking all too well and his current flame, Simone, a songstress with something up her sleeve. As Randolph plunges deeper and deeper into the heart of darkness, he finds his life imperiled, as he begins to unravel the mystery of a piece of old homemade film.

Film Chinois made its East Coast Premiere with Pan Asian Rep in January 2015 at The Beckett Theater at Theater Row. The New York Times called the performance "an exercise in noir styling and political intrigue, identities can be fluid and motivations suspect."

Playwright **Damon Chua** stated "Working again on *Film Chinois* reminds me of how much I love film noir - the femme fatale; covert meetings in dark alleys; the haunted mood. The characters are alive with desperate hope and deadly missions."

Kaipo Schwab, director, stated "I've always been a fan of film noir. To be back with the original cast in Damon's adaptation of his wonderful play in a radio performance will allow us to find fresh new ways to re-interpret and deliver the film noir experience for theatrical fans as well as radio buffs."

The creative team includes Sound Design by **Ian Wehrle**, Voiceovers by **Kaipo Schwab**, and Stage Manager **Kristine Schlachter**.

For additional information, please visit the website at www.panasianrep.org

The Cast



Rosanne Ma
"China Doll"



Jean Brassard
"The Ambassador"



Dinh James Doan
"The Man"



Katie Lee Hill
"Simone"



Benjamin Jones
"Randolph"

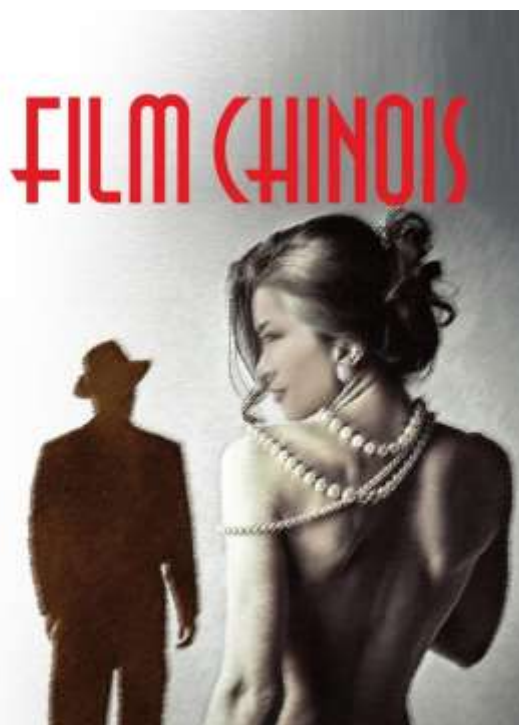
About the Artists

Damon Chua (*Playwright*) is the recipient of an Ovation Award (Best World Premiere Play) for *Film Chinois*, which made its Off-Broadway debut with Pan Asian Repertory Theatre. Other Off-Broadway plays include *The Emperor's Nightingale* and *Incident At Hidden Temple*. His short play *Steamy Session in a Singapore Spa*, dealing with climate change, had been on a worldwide rollout with Climate Change Theater Action's partners in Canada, China, India, Jamaica, Germany, the Philippines, and Singapore. A National Endowment for the Arts, Dramatists Guild Fund and Durfee Foundation grant recipient, Damon's plays are published by Samuel French, Smith & Kraus, and Plays for Young Audiences. He is also a published poet and short story writer, and recently created the TV series "Devoted" in Malaysia. www.damonchua.com

Kaipo Schwab (*Director*) is an actor/director born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. For Pan Asian Rep, he has directed *Mango Tree*, *Monster*, *Film Chinois*, and *Incident At Hidden Temple*, as well as played the title role in their 2008 revival of *Shogun Macbeth*. He has appeared in numerous television series and films but is best known for playing Igme Dimaguiba on 4 seasons of "Orange is the New Black."

Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, celebrating its 44 th Milestone Season, is the most veteran Asian American theatre company on the East Coast. Tisa Chang founded Pan Asian Rep in 1977 at Ellen Stewart's La Mama ETC with the vision to promote equity and access that Asian Americans artists can equally follow, focusing on stories of probing social justice issues with distinctive Off-Broadway Productions, Tours, National Outreach, and Community Service. Mel Gussow of The New York Times described it as "A Stage for All the World of Asian –Americans" and wrote that "Before Pan Asian Rep, Asian Americans had severely limited opportunities in the theater..." The company has nurtured thousands of artists and is a "who-is-who" of Asian American theatre history, with notable alumni/ae: Ako, Ernest Abuba, Tina Chen, Philip Gotanda, Wai Ching Ho, David Henry Hwang, Daniel Dae Kim, Lucy Liu, Ron Nakahara, R.A. Shiomi, Lauren Yee, and Henry Yuk.

Pan Asian Rep Programs are made possible, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; City Council member Margaret Chin; and major support from Howard Gilman Foundation, Shubert Foundation, NY Community Trust COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund, Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels, Lucille Lortel Foundations; and many generous individuals.



####

www.panasianrep.org

Twitter & Instagram: @PanAsianRep

www.facebook.com/panasianrep/

www.richardhillmanpr.com