

## People and Events

### San Francisco communities of color come together to support the performing arts

**S**AN FRANCISCO—In a uniquely San Francisco multi-cultural collaboration, the Asian American Theater Company (AATC), Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (LHT), AsianWeek, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) are pleased to announce an exciting collaboration to promote the performing arts. The Asian American Theater and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre will assist each other in casting plays, and will co-promote to both theatre's audiences. This effort is also being supported and promoted by AsianWeek and the NAACP-SF. Lorraine Hansberry shows will be presented at the PG&E auditorium.

In February of 2009, LHT will present *Waitin' 2 End Hell*, African American playwright William A. Parker's comedy drama about marriage and relationships which features an Asian American female character; and in 2009 AATC will mount the World Premiere of Aurorae Khoo's dark comedy *Fayette-Nam* about a young African American army private who goes AWOL on the eve of being shipped to Iraq, and confronts his hopes and fears with the help of the Lee family, who own the Chinese restaurant and donut shop



he has holed up in.

LHT's *Waitin' 2 End Hell* will be presented at PG&E Auditorium, at 77 Beale Street in San Francisco's financial district and Fayette-Nam, underwritten by a generous grant from the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, will be presented at the Thick House in Potrero Hill, San Francisco.

"We look forward to working with Asian American Theater Company as we complete our casting for *Waitin' 2 End Hell*, and assist in their casting of *Fayette-Nam*; and we anticipate a lively interaction between our two audiences as we encourage them to attend both productions," said LHT artistic director Stanley Williams. "And a very special thanks to PG&E for the use of their auditorium which makes this collaboration with Asian American Theater possible."

"This is an exciting opportunity to further the ties between

our two artistic communities, and builds on the momentum created with Jeannie Barroga's *Walls*, which had 3 major African American roles and which AATC produced at the African American Art & Culture Complex in 2006," said AATC's interim executive director Darryl Chiang. "We are thrilled to be working with LHT this coming year and beyond."

AsianWeek and the NAACP express their strong support of this collaboration between these organizations of color.

"I applaud the efforts of AsianWeek, Lorraine Hansberry Theater, and the organizations involved to create a cultural base that transcends any social divisiveness through performing arts," said Amos Brown, president of the San Francisco NAACP. "The NAACP is based on the philosophy and principles that are committed to the advancement of all cultures and ethnic groups of

this nation."

"San Francisco leads the country in diversity," said Ted Fang, editor and publisher of AsianWeek. "This important multicultural collaboration for the performing arts is a shining example. African Americans and Asian Americans not only enrich our culture but are also an affluent and untapped market that are prime audiences and customers."

"PG&E is very pleased to provide our auditorium at 77 Beale Street to Lorraine Hansberry Theatre," said Nancy McFadden, senior vice president of public affairs for PG&E. "We are committed to helping the theatre achieve its mission as one of the leading African-American arts organizations in the region. We are confident that Lorraine Hansberry Theatre will have a successful season and PG&E is happy to be a small part of that success." ■

### Film festival celebrates history of Filipino American community

**V**ALLEJO, CA—The Filipino American National Historical Society and Seafood City will celebrate October as Filipino American History Month with a two-day film festival highlighting films about the Filipino American experience. The festival will take place on Saturday, October 18, and Sunday, October 19, from 3 pm to 6 pm each day, at the Bayanihan Center. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

The featured film on October 18 will be *Little Manila: Filipinos in California's Heartland*. Produced and directed by Emmy Award winning filmmaker, Marissa Aroy, *Little Manila* was the area in Stockton notoriously called, Skid Row, but it was also the closest thing Filipinos had to a hometown. In its heyday in the '30s, this lively area had the largest population of Filipinos outside of the Philippines. Narrated by famed Filipino American producer Dean Devlin, (*Independence Day*, *The Patriot*), this documentary tells the story as Filipinos experienced it.

The other featured film to be shown will be *Strange Land*, produced and directed by Emmy Award winning filmmaker Stephanie Castillo. The film tells the story of her mother who was a Filipino War Bride after WWII.

Featured short films to be shown include: *Broken Promises*, by Kabataang Maka-Bayan USA. It is a film about the plight of Filipino WWII veterans and the impact of the US Government's Recession Act.

*Arkiteknik* is a film about emerging Filipino American fashion and design by Anthony Legarda; and *Balikbayan (Homebound)*, by Larilyn Sanchez and Riza Manalo is about one woman's last journey back home to the Philippines.

The festival continues on Sunday with *The Gift of Barong: A Journey from Within* by Dan Moreno and Benito Bautista. The film is about two generations of Filipino-American surfers from the Bay Area who traveled to the Philippines to immerse themselves in the culture, surf the islands and rediscover their Filipino roots. It won Best Cinematography at the New York International Film Festival.

The second featured film will be *The Great Pinoy Boxing Era*, directed and produced by Corky Pasquil. The documentary is a journey back to the days of great Pinoy boxers and world champs before WWII. They galvanized the Filipino community much like Manny Pacquiao does today.

The third featured film will be the award-winning film, *The Fall of the I-Hotel*, by Curtis Choy. The film chronicles the events of the spirited resistance to the razing of the last vestige of San Francisco's Manilatown in the mid-1970s.

Featured short films will include: *Lolo's Present*, by local filmmaker Eli Africa, and *Little Brown Man*, by Howie Severino.

October is celebrated as Filipino American History month because the first recorded landing of a Filipino in American occurred on October 18, 1587, in Morro Bay, CA.

The Bayanihan Center is located inside the Seafood City Mall at Vallejo Plaza, 3495 Sonoma Blvd. For more information, please call (707) 477-1159. ■

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