

People and Events

'Marry Me A Little' and 'The Last Five Years' extends for two weeks, until June 21

EAST West Players (EWP), the Nation's Premier Asian American Theatre, has extended its two one-act musicals by two of the best musical theatre composers of our time to June 21, 2009. This musical theatre event continues EWP's tradition of producing Stephen Sondheim musicals with *Marry Me A Little* and explores new ground with Jason Robert Brown's *The Last Five Years*.

"It was not an accident that we choose to juxtapose these two shows in one evening," said Producing Artistic Director Tim Dang, "East West Players has become renowned for doing Stephen Sondheim's work well and we wanted to continue that tradition. Having produced several of the shows that the songs from *Marry Me A Little* contains, such as Follies and Company, we thought it would be real treat for our Sondheim enthusiasts to hear those songs that never made it to the final production. At the same time we continue to usher in a new generation of musical theatre artists and their work. *The Last Five Years* is a prime example of exceptional talent, as its composer Jason Robert Brown won his first Tony Award at age 28. Although the two productions have some similarities, they have two distinctly different styles in composition and direction. We hope fans of either composer will seize this as an opportunity to experience something new and that is why we felt

it was important to present them together in one evening."

All performances of *Marry Me A Little* and *The Last Five Years* 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. *Marry Me A Little* and *The Last Five Years* open Wednesday, May 13, 2009 and closes on Sunday, June 21, 2009. Opening night will be accompanied by a pre-performance cocktail reception and a post show reception with the cast and creative team. Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. Previews continue Thursday - Saturday, May 7 - 9 at 8pm and Sunday, May 10 at 2pm. The Pay-What-You-Can Performances will be held Thursday, May 14 at 8pm and Wednesday June 3, 2009. An American Sign Language-interpreted performance is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 2pm.

General ticket prices are \$50 in the orchestra and \$45 in the balcony. Preview tickets (May 7 - 10) are \$25 for all seats. Opening night tickets are \$70 for all seats. Tickets are currently on sale. 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 and details are subject to change. ■

RE-UNION

Filipino-American Associations in America

Searching for a kababata from your hometown, a college buddy or a Pinoy colleague? Your search is finally over. The Asian Journal brings you Re:Union, Filipino American Associations in America -- your link to a network of kababayan associations here in the United States. As your Filipino-American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes your need to nourish and maintain ties with the people and the culture you were born with. This is our way of connecting our kababayans to the past, of creating new opportunities for the present and of inspiring you to pay it forward by becoming active members of your association and the FilAm community at large in the future.

Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV)

ALYANSA Ng Komunidad (AK) formed in 1993, through the December 7 Movement began to sow the seeds of the veterans campaign about 20 years ago. When the December 7 Movement folded in 1997, the JFAV was formed.

These efforts evolved into Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV), organized in December 16, 1998 under People's CORE. It undertook campaign to win tactical victories such as benefits for Filipino World War II veterans since 2000.

Most prominent in its modest gain is the \$15,000 lump sum for Filipino veterans won this year. Although small the JFAV still advocates for benefits for veterans, widows and rightful heirs of relatives of more than 46,000 still living veterans both in the Philippines and here in the United States.

In 2006, the JFAV held its first conference in UCLA with the help of the Samahang Pilipino and People's CORE. It has a network of 67 student, youth, community and veterans organization in Southern California.

In November 2008, the JFAV as an alliance based in California- made a bold step to form

the organization nationwide with chapters in San Francisco, Chicago, New York and Washington DC.

The current leadership of JFAV are the following:

- National Coordinator- Arturo P. Garcia
- Steering Committee:
- Mass Movement Coordinator- Mike Nailat
- Finance - Ernest Tamayo
- Emily Chan
- Joy Alonica Bautista
- Paulo Espiritu
- Jerry Esguerra
- Jack Vergara
- Peping Baclig
- Emily Bautista
- Jenilyn Umipig
- Jaimie Carlos

It has also formed the widows organization - the AWARE. JFAV continues to organize and mobilize the Filipino WWII veterans and the larger community to advocate for the rights and recognition of the WWII veterans.

To contact JFAV please call (213)241-0995 or (213) 382-1819 or visit our site at myspace-jfav-la.com ■

Makati holds Mega Job Fair on May 15 more than 60 companies participating

THE city government of Makati through its Public Employment Services Office (Makati PESO) in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will hold a Mega Job Fair on May 15, 2009 from 8 am to 4pm at the City Hall Quadrangle.

With the theme "Trabaho: Sagot sa Krisis ng Mundo," the event is part of the city's month-long celebration leading up to the 339th "Araw ng Makati" on June 1.

Mayor Jejomar C. Binay said the mega job fair is one of the city's ways of showing its continuing commitment to provide employment opportunities not only to Makati residents, but also to non-Makati residents, including job seekers ages 40 to 45, persons with disabilities, self-supporting students and out-of-school youth.

Binay likewise acknowledged and thanked the support and co-

operation of more than 60 companies and employment agencies that have confirmed their participation in the event.

"On behalf of the city government and the people of Makati, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the business sector for continuously supporting our programs and projects on labor and employment," Binay said.

Among the establishments that will take part in the event are SM Department Store, SM HomeWorld, Rustan's Department Store and Supermarket, Goldilocks Bakeshop, Waffle Time, Teledevelopment, APAC Customer Services, NCO, Sykes Asia, Healthy Options, Shakey's, Max's Restaurant, Ceramic Plaza, and other companies coming from different industries such as retail, services, outsourcing, and local employment agencies, among others.

Applicants are advised to bring their resumés with recent

picture. Meanwhile, Ms. Vissia Marie Aldon, city personnel officer and PESO manager, said that the upcoming mega job fair of Makati will be different from previous mega job fairs of the city. During the said event, pre-employment services such as SSS membership, NBI Clearance, PAG-IBIG membership and Medicare membership, among others, will likewise be made available.

"As an added feature, we have made these pre-employment services available in the Mega Job Fair to make it more easy and accessible to all the jobseekers who will take part in the event. We hope that this forthcoming job fair of the city will surpass our previous mega job fairs in terms of the number of participating companies, turnout of applicants and hiring rate, particularly those who will be hired on the spot," Aldon said. ■

Lessons from the...

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them in my neighbors' gardens with a southeast orientation.

My journey to self-discovery has been made easier by understanding the process of nature, the seasons and the nature of things: of why a seed no matter how good cannot grow in a certain type of soil; or how a young tree cannot grow in the shadow of a mighty oak; or of how much light a plant needs to burst with flowers, of the impeccable timing and the cycle of the seasons that are in God's perfect divine order like a well rehearsed dance or a Beethoven symphony; of why you must resist moving a plant from a place where it is growing so well to another place simply to satisfy a whim or a feng shui decorating principle; when and where to prune, of knowing when to water by sticking a finger in the soil or noting the droop of the leaves; or the merits of clay pots and plas-

tic pots; of when to re-pot or top dress; even how to propagate. The most important lesson perhaps is learning when to leave well enough alone and letting go; of accepting death as part of life. I make it a point to take pictures when the flowers are in full bloom, knowing that no matter how pretty they are, their beauty is fleeting. I am left with beautiful images and pleasant memories.

The irony of it all is that the more I know, the more I realize how little I know. I guess that is the paradox of all lifelong learning. I now appreciate more clearly the delicate balance on which our planet depends for it to sustain life — of how vastly critical it is for everyone to do their part to ensure that life continues. One can see life's longing for itself in the perennial grass that grows. There is great wisdom in gardening. If you dig in the garden long enough, you will find an infinite

variety of the parallel laws that govern all life with unsurpassed clarity. Gardening has taught me a zen-like passive skill of enjoying quiet solitude, of observing what works and what won't, of doing what needs to get done with very little struggle and ultimately, of accepting and of simply letting go when all I have done is all I can do.

Oftentimes in the past, my next-door neighbor has told me that I have grown my garden well. I wanted to tell her that she was partly right. The truth is, the garden grew me more than I grew it.

Nota Bene: To ask questions, send feedback and requests as well as to inquire about advertising in any or all of the 6 print editions of Asian Journal in California, Nevada and New York/New Jersey and/or advertising in the Print Edition Online of Asian Journal, e-mail monette.majlaya@asianjournalinc.com THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE FEEDBACK.

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