

# Ching Chong Chinaman by Lauren Yee

By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on Behalf of Samuel French A Concord Theatricals Company

Playwright **Lauren Yee**

Director & Producer **Tiffany Wong**

Stage Manager **Valerie Lam**

Associate Director & Costume Designer **Simone Wang**

Associate Producer **Davina Oh**

Lighting Designer **Kate Baldwin**

Sound Designer & Composer **Sam Cheng**

Choreographer **Alex Gonzalez**

Creative Consultant **Jonathan Chan**

Accent Coach **Kento David**

Production Photography **Callum Murray, Stephen Wong, and Sunny Zhang**

Videographer **Jeremy Budiman**

With

**Jico Avedillo, Tony Goh, Grace Ho, Alex Plenge Chan, Tiffany Wong & Frank Yang**

Thank you to

Lucy Clements, Alan Fang, Alex Liang, Saro Lusty-Cavallari, Isabella Milkovitsch, Aaron Ronalds, and The Wong Family

# SLANTED THEATRE CHING CHONG CHINAMAN



BY LAUREN YEE

14-23 JAN · CHIPPEN ST THEATRE

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## Artistic Director's Note

I established Slanted Theatre with the purpose of supporting Asian-Australian theatre-makers. But along this journey, I have discovered how meaningful it can be to get to, for the first time ever, work alongside an all-Asian cast and crew.

There are countless stories of POC having to become a 'representative' of a culture when they're the only POC in the room and theatre is no different. This production, however, has been a chance to immerse myself in the diversity that exists in the Asian-Australian community, although this play particularly focuses on the diasporic Chinese experience, I'd like to continue exploring the diversity of this group.

In fact, while I'd like Slanted Theatre to explore works by other Asian artists, I'm also interested in producing works by non-Asian writers with an Asian cast and crew. What would a 'classic' Australian play look like if everyone were Asian? What would an all-Asian production of a Shakespearean work reveal about the original play? What would a work traditionally performed in yellow face set in China look like if the actors were actually Chinese?

Hopefully, we will get to answer some of these questions over the coming years. And if you are an emerging Asian theatre-maker of any kind, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us. We promise not to tell your parents you've given up on being a doctor - discretion and confidentiality is assured upon request.

## Acknowledgment of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.



### Desdemona Wong - **Tiffany Wong**



2017.

Tiffany Wong is an actor in Sydney who completed the Actors Residency at NIDA. Acting credits include *Animal Farm* (New Theatre); and *Uz: The Town* (Sydney Fringe); rehearsed readings including for *The Lab Report* (KXT bAKEHOUSE & Montague Basement); *Writers Onstage* (Australian Theatre for Young People & National Education Standards Authority); and developments for *Tiny Universe* (Milk Crate Theatre & Shopfront Arts Co-op). For the screen, her latest web-series, *We Kill Clowns*, is part of the official selection of Sydney Web Fest. Tiffany has been a proud member of Actors Equity since

### Jinqiang or "J" – **Frank Yang**

Frank Yang is an actor in Sydney, currently studying a Bachelor of Arts (Art History & Film Studies) at the University of Sydney. Previous acting credits include *Macbeth* as Macbeth, *Rhinoceros in Love*, *Younger & Smaller* (Sydney University Dramatic Society); and *The Boys*, and *The Real Inspector Hound* (The University of New South Wales Theatrical Society). This is his independent theatre debut.



### The Chinese Woman – **Alex Plenge Chan**



Alex Plenge Chan is a recent graduate of Excelsia College's Bachelor of Dramatic Arts. Her acting credits include *Realism Is Dead*, *When the Bells Ring*, *Lost Boys*, *Something*, *Clinchfield*, and *The Gift* (Excelsia College). She is also a prolific stage manager, and her credits for this include *Distorted* (Fixed Foot Production); *Love Burns* and *Dido & Aeneas* (The Other Theatre and The Flying Nun at Brand X). This is her first independent theatre production as an actor.

## CAST



Ed Wong - **Tony Goh**

Tony Goh is a Sydney-based actor. His acting credits include *Noli Me Tangere - The Musical* (McFadden Music and Riverside National Theatre); and *The Seagull* directed by Anthony Skuse (Secret House). Tony has acted in various TV films and commercials including the US feature films; *House of the Rising Sun* and *Caught In The Crossfire*.

Grace Wong – **Grace Ho**

Grace Ho is a graduate of Sydney Theatre School. Her acting credits include *God of Carnage*, *Otherwise Engaged* (Sydney Theatre School); and *Random Sh!t* (StageFive and Sydney Fringe) which she co-created and co-produced. Grace also holds various Finance qualifications, and presents technical and motivational talks, as well as corporate videos.



Upton Wong – **Jico Avedillo**

Jico Avedillo is an experienced stage and screen performer who moved to Australia to pursue his acting career. He has since appeared in many films. For stage, his credits include *Musical Island: A Silent Spell* (Magic Sounds Production and Sydney Fringe).

## CREATIVES

Playwright – **Lauren Yee**

Lauren Yee's many plays have been performed in theatres & productions across the USA and Canada, including *Cambodia Rock Band*, *The Great Leap*, *King of the Yees*, *The Hatmaker's Wife*, *Hookah*, *In A Word*, *Samsara*, *The Song of Summer*, and *The Tiger Among Us*. *Ching Chong Chinaman* has been performed by Pan Asian Rep, and Mu Performing Arts. She is the winner of the Doris Duke Artist Award, the Steinberg Playwright Award, the Horton Foote Prize, the Kesselring Prize, the ATCA/Steinberg Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters literature award, and the Francesca Primus Prize. Her plays were the #1 and #2 plays on the 2017 Kilroys List.

Director & Producer – **Tiffany Wong**

Tiffany Wong is the Artistic Director of Slanted Theatre and an emerging director in Sydney. Graduating from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts (Languages) in Performance Studies, Music, and Chinese studies, she also completed a Diploma of Language Studies in French and Francophone Studies. Directing credits include a development reading for *Intersection: Unleashed* (Australian Theatre for Young People & Sydney University Dramatic Society); and Assistant Director to Lucy Clements, *Iphigenia In Splott* (New Ghosts Theatre Company). This is her directorial debut.



Associate Director & Costume Designer – **Simone Wang**



Simone Wang is a current Bachelor of Arts (Performance Studies & Sociology) student at the University of Sydney. Her production credits include Production Manager for *A Deal* (Flying House Assembly); Assistant Director to Lillian Smith, *Rhinoceros in Love*, and Producer for *1984! The Musical* (Sydney University Dramatic Society).



## CREATIVES



Stage Manager – **Valerie Lam**

Valerie is an emerging Stage and Events Manager in live entertainment across performing arts, concerts/festivals, and events. She earned her BFA in Technical Theatre and Stage Management at NIDA and was part of Sydney Dance Company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season one production, HANDA Opera Australia, and Fourth Wall major events. Stage Manager credits include for the National Institute of Dramatic Arts: *Robert Zucco* as Production Stage Manager, *Ex Machina* and *De Profundis* as Deputy Stage Manager, and *Eurydike + Orpheus* as Assistant Stage Manager.

Associate Producer – **Davina Oh**

Davina Oh is an emerging theatre maker and is currently studying a double degree of Bachelor of Arts and Education (English & History) at the University of Sydney. Her more recent production credits include many such as Stage Manager for *Orlando* (Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras & Sydney University Dramatic Society), Assistant Producer for *Shelf Life*, and Producer for *Alan Turing*, *Joan of Arc*, and *Vincent Van Gogh Walk into a Bar* (Sydney University of Dramatic Society). In 2016, her award-winning debut film, *Amelia*, was part of Short Stuff Youth Film Festival.



Sound Designer & Composer – **Sam Cheng**

Samantha Cheng is an emerging Australian composer, sound designer, and current Composition student at the Conservatorium of Music. For theatre she was the Band Director and Composer for *Orlando* (Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras & Sydney University Dramatic Society), Composer for *Kill Climate Derniers*, and Sound Designer for *Constellations* (Sydney University Dramatic Society).



Lighting Designer - **Kate Baldwin**

Kate Baldwin is an emerging Asian-Australian Lighting Designer. In 2019, she lighting designed for *House on Boundary Road*, Liverpool (directed by Jess Arthur), completed a Secondment with Paul Jackson on *Beauty Queen of Leenane* (directed by Paige Rattray), and designed for *Blue Christmas* - a double bill at KXT with the Ignite Collective. She has now completed her Technical Theatre BFA at NIDA and is excited to continue working on new Australian and CALD work - she is committed to working with companies that are openly working towards antiracism. Kate is excited to see how the industry begins to tackle the lack of BIPOC representation and opportunity.



Choreographer - **Alex Gonzalez**

Alex Gonzalez graduated from Brent Street with a Diploma in Music Theatre in 2019 and is now midway through studying a Bachelor of Media (PR & Advertising) at the University of New South Wales. In 2020, Alex choreographed the graduating recitals for students at the Australian Institute of Music, as well as branching into film pursuits. Her performance credits include *1984: The Musical* (McLeod/Reid/McCullagh), *Damn Yankees* (Brent Street), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (The Sydney University Musical Theatre Ensemble), *Inner West Side: The Musical* (UltraCult & Sydney Fringe) and *Popstars: The 90s Musical* (Musical Makers Club). Alex will return to Chippen St Theatre to perform in *No: Intermision's Girl Shut Your Mouth* with Theatre Travels.



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