



By Special Arrangement With
DPS
Dramatist Play Service

THE CHINESE LADY

WRITTEN BY
LLOYD SUH

STARRING



MIRLA CRISTE



CHAD HSU

JUNE 8TH-18TH, 2023

THURSDAY-SATURDAY 7:30PM | SUNDAY MATINEE 3PM
IN THE RUTH & BUCKY STEIN STUDIO THEATRE AT HISTORIC THALIAN HALL
BIGDAWGPRODUCTIONS.ORG

Big Dawg Productions

is proud to present

The Chinese Lady

By Lloyd Suh

Inspired by a true story, 14-year-old Afong May is brought to America in 1834, the first Chinese woman to set foot on U.S. soil. She is put on display for the paying public, who are mesmerized by her exotic ways, and unnerved by her bound feet. As the decades wear on, her celebrated sideshow comes to define and challenge her very sense of identity. *The Chinese Lady* is a dark, poetic, yet whimsical portrait of America, unearthing our hidden history with humor and insight

Setting:

The United States, from 1834 to the present

CAST

Afong Moy - Mirla Criste

Atung - Chad Hsu

CREW

Director - Terri Hsu

Stage Manager - Grace Tomasino

Set Design and Build - Terry Collins

Light Design - Jeff Loy

Sound and Visuals Design - Chad Hsu

Costume Design - Stephanie Scheu Aman

Properties Manager and Scenic Painter - Bridgette Tran

Board Operators - Grace Tomasino, Naomi Nason

Running Crew - Neily Carroll

Publicity - Jen Ingulli, Mirla Criste, Zach Peschl

BIOS

Mirla Criste (Afong Moy) has written, directed, choreographed, vocal-coached, produced, designed, composed for and performed in years (and years) of professional film, television, concert dance, and the dramatic and musical stage. ILM theatre-goers might remember her as Jinx Jenkins in Big Dawg's 2021 production of "The Savannah Sipping Society," Bloody Mary in 2017's "South Pacific," Ariel in 2016's "The Tempest" or Cassandra in 2015's "Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike." Her portfolio can be found at MirlaCriste.com. Mirla owes profound thanks to Steve Vernon for this gift—this singular opportunity to make the deepest dive into the evolution of a character that she has ever made in all of her theatrical career. May has been a month of terror, exhilaration, epiphany and madness. Thanks as well to the inimitable Hsus, her partners in crime, for caring for this character so completely. And especially thanks to Afong Moy, for having lived the astonishing life that led to this important piece of theatre.

Chad Hsu (Atung) is humbled and grateful to perform this, very necessary, play with Big Dawg. He has been a part of many productions over the years, but this show covers a very important topic that hits close to his heart. He hopes that you enjoy the performance and that it inspires thought. He would like to thank Steve Vernon for the opportunity, Mirla Criste for sharing her incredible talent, and mostly his wife Terri for her vision and always being supportive and sharing in the passion of theater.

Terri Hsu (Director) Terri is deeply honored to be able to help bring the story of Afong Moy to life in this important piece. The Chinese Lady is Terri's directorial debut in Wilmington, but she has previously been involved in nearly every aspect of the theatre, including stage management, directing and performing in Savannah, GA, Memphis, TN, and Dothan AL. In Wilmington, Terri has worked on several shows, including Big Dawg's *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, *Always a Bridesmaid*, and *Airness*". She has also worked with other local companies as Stage Manager of many recent productions. Terri would like to thank Steve Vernon for his vision and support during the production process. Additionally, Terri expresses much gratitude to Mirla Criste for contributing her talent and vision to *The Chinese Lady*. Finally, Terri would like to express deepest appreciation to her husband, Chad for agreeing to work on this project, sharing her passion for theatre, and providing never ending support in all things.

Grace Tomasino (Stage Manager/Board Operator) is a senior at UNCW majoring in Secondary Education with a focus in English. This is her first show stage managing and she is so excited to be given this amazing opportunity. This is her second show with Big Dawg Productions and she is very happy to work with them again. Grace would like to thank her amazing director Terri Hsu and Steve Vernon for helping her along the way and welcoming her into this position.

Bridgette Tran (Properties Manager, Scenic Painter) is ecstatic and grateful to be a part of her first production in Wilmington and with Big Dawg Productions! Currently, she is an undergraduate scene design student at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and her first production as a scene designer at the school,

Lydia, will open in September. Bridgette prioritizes inclusivity and diversity in her art and enjoys creating work that strikes a balance between whimsical and meaningful. She feels so lucky to have had the opportunity to have worked on this beautiful show and looks forward to working with Big Dawg again on future productions! You can view more of her portfolio or reach out to chat via BridgetteTran.com or on Instagram @bridgettetrantart

Naomi (omi) (Board Operator) is immensely grateful to be joining the crew for this production. They have worked in theatre in many capacities such as hair, makeup, costumes, acting, and more recently lighting. While this is their first time working on a Big Dawg production, they have worked with many local groups including Acting Up, Opera House, Pineapple Shaped Lamps, and TACT. Enjoy the show!

Special Thanks:

Joseph H Hou and Szechuan 132, Lula's A Pub, James Bowling, Debbie Scheu, Dori Nason, Donna Troy, the Staff and Volunteers of Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, and YOU.

Extra Special Thanks to All of our family members, friends, employers, pets, creditors, responsibilities, financial obligations and significant others for allowing us time and space to create and play.

Big Dawg's Mission

To produce entertaining, thought-provoking, and socially responsible theater, with an emphasis on involving youth and the community in the performing arts.

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Get Involved

If you are interested in becoming a board member of Big Dawg Productions send a message to BigDawgPro@gmail.com

A BIG THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Big Dawg Productions extends its sincere thanks to all those who donated to us this season.

Director's Circle (\$500 and above)

Griffin & Rowan Davis, Dawg Lovers - a group of dedicated followers, Lorraine O. Hiester, Michael Lauricella & Andy McVey, Nancy Nail, Steve Rassin

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AND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the various government and non-governmental agencies for their grants and loans that helped sustain us through the pandemic.



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More Information



BIG DAWG PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY ANNOUNCES OUR 2023 SEASON!

All productions will take place here, in The Ruth & Bucky Stein Studio Theatre, at Historic Thalian Hall. All plays and dates subject to change.

THE DOG LOGS

by CJ Johnson

August 10-13 and 17-20

From a tough Rottweiler with neighbor problems to an aging mongrel who discovers love late in life, this collection of hilarious and heartbreaking monologues examines the lives of dogs from every breed, age, and situation. Telling stories of friendship, romance, and revenge, *THE DOG LOGS* is a refreshing take on canine life that is touching and surprisingly human.

****All dogs will be portrayed by humans. No actual dogs will be forced to get jobs waiting tables or made to disappoint their parents by entering the Arts.**

WAITING FOR GODOT

by Samuel Beckett

October 12-15 and 19-22

The story revolves around two seemingly homeless men waiting for someone—or something—named Godot. Vladimir and Estragon wait near a tree, inhabiting a drama spun of their own consciousness. The result is a comical wordplay of poetry, dreamscapes, and nonsense, which has been interpreted as mankind's inexhaustible search for meaning. Beckett's language pioneered an expressionistic minimalism that captured the existential post-World War II Europe. His play remains one of the most magical and beautiful allegories of our time.

BAD JEWS

A comedy about the complexities of faith, family and cultural identity.

by Joshua Harmon

December 7-10 and 14-17

Set in Manhattan, the night after their grandfather's funeral, a family's younger generation battles over a precious heirloom, with intense debates over who is most deserving of the inheritance. Will it be volatile and self-assured Daphna, who considers herself a "real" Jew, with an Israeli boyfriend to prove it; or cousin Liam, who Daphna calls a "bad" Jew, with his secular ways and non-Jewish girlfriend? Stuck in the middle is Liam's brother, Jonah, who desperately tries to stay out of the fray. The vicious and occasionally hilarious brawl over family, faith and legacy is must-see theater.



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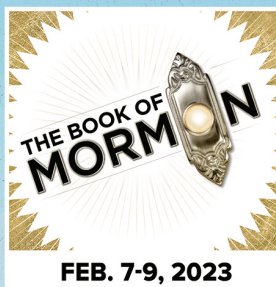
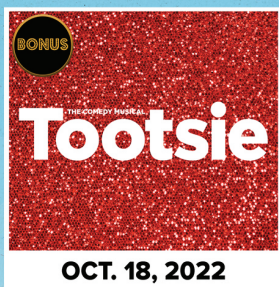
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