



**Silk Road Theatre Project's
Al Kasida Staged Reading Series**

proudly presents

CHINA DOLL

**by Elizabeth Wong
Directed by Jay Paul Skelton**

**A Staged Reading Followed by a
Discussion with Playwright Elizabeth Wong**

**Sunday, August 14, 2005 at
The Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church**

**Artistic Director, Jamil Khoury ❖ Executive Director, Malik Gillani
www.srtp.org ❖ 312-236-6881**

SPECIAL THANKS

We at Silk Road Theatre Project extend our utmost appreciation to our gracious hosts at The Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church, and in particular to Rev. Philip Blackwell and Terri Johnson.

Big thanks to Joyce Jeng and the Asian Social Network.



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Elizabeth Wong graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, with an MFA in dramatic writing. Her award-winning play *China Doll*, about the sensual and glamorous life of America's first Chinese-American movie star Anna May Wong, premiered Off-Broadway at the West End Theatre this April. Her other plays include: *Letters to a Student Revolutionary*, *Kimchee & Chitlins*, *The Love Life of a Eunuch*, and *Dating & Mating in Modern Times*. Her work has been produced by Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis, Denver Center Theatre for the Performing Arts, Omaha Magic Theatre, Orphan Girl Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse In the Park, Honolulu Theatre For Youth, Actors Theatre of Louisville, to name a few. The Kennedy Center commissioned her to write an opera libretto from her adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*, with Grammy Award-winning composer Michael Silversher. Wong was a Disney Writing Fellow, and writer on ABC's ground-breaking sitcom with Margaret Cho, *All-American Girl*. She is a member of PEN, Dramatist Guild, ASSITEJ, and the Writers Guild of America, West. Her website is www.elizabethwong.net

CAST

Anna May Wong.....	LISA TEJERO*
Marlene Dietrich, Blonde Actress, Studio Head, Chinese Audience.....	VANESSA GREENWAY
Anna May's mother.....	CHERYL HAMADA*
Gary Cooper, Irving Thalberg, Douglas Fairbanks, Fu Manchu, Chinese Audience, Stagehand, Basil Rathbone, Studio Head....	JAMES FOSTER
Krasner, the Elocution Teacher; Max the Makeup Artist, Samuel Goldwyn, Fu Manchu, Chinese Audience, Auctioneer, Stagehand.....	DEREK CZAPLEWSKI
Anna May's Father, Clive Brook, Louis B. Mayer, Chinese Translator, Stagehand.....	MARC RITA
Conrad The Tenant; Christopher "Fuzzy" Harkis, Paul Muni, Fu Manchu, Chinese Audience, Stagehand.....	STEVEN GILPIN
Nicholai Brandt, Warner Oland, Karl The Photographer, Fu Manchu, Chinese Audience, Script Assistant, Stagehand.....	DOUG MACKECHNIE*
Stage Directions.....	AMBRA ANIE

* The Actor is appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Jay Paul Skelton is pleased to work with SRTP once again having directed the Al Kasida staged reading of Chay Yew's *A Language of Their Own*. Recent professional credits include *Ikke Ikke Ikke Nye Nye* for Eclipse Theatre, Ravel's opera *The Bewitched Child* for the Chicago Cultural Center and the Jeff Award-nominated world premiere musical *Camp Nimrod for Girls* for Live Bait Theatre. Other Chicago credits include working with such theatres as TimeLine, Pegasus, Goodman, Lifeline, Hell in a Handbag, Mary-Arrchie, Next, Opera Theatre North, About Face, Organic, CollaborAction, Circle, Chicago Dramatists and Theatre on the Lake. A native of Massachusetts, Jay received his M.F.A. in Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University. He is on the teaching staff of Act One Studios in Chicago and is Assistant Professor of Shakespeare at the University of Notre Dame.

Silk Road Theatre Project showcases playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds, whose works address themes relevant to the peoples of the Silk Road and their Diaspora communities. Through the creation and presentation of outstanding theatre, we aim to promote discourse and dialogue among multi-cultural audiences in Chicago.

Al Kasida Staged Reading Series. In Arabic, al-kasida means “the ode.” Al Kasida Staged Reading Series is Chicagoland’s first and only staged reading series dedicated to showcasing Silk Road playwrights from the U.S. and around the world. In the tradition of the great epic poems and oral narratives that defined cultural values in the lands of the ancient Silk Road, Al Kasida Staged Reading Series promises to illuminate for Chicago audiences the contemporary treasures of a part of the world that is vast and diverse, and yet sorely misunderstood. The 2004-2005 Al Kasida Staged Readings Series is supported by a grant from The Joyce Foundation.

Jamil Khoury is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Silk Road Theatre Project, a position to which he brings extensive experience as a producer, playwright, and cross-cultural consultant. He is honored to be promoting the artistic production of Silk Road peoples and to be fostering the exchange of ideas within Chicago’s theatre community. Khoury’s vocation as a playwright lends a valuable currency to fulfilling our mission as a playwright driven theatre. His plays focus on Middle Eastern themes and questions of Diaspora. He is particularly interested in the intersections of culture, national identity, sexuality, and class. Khoury holds a M.A. degree from The University of Chicago Divinity School and a B.S. degree from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. Khoury’s play *Precious Stones* won Gay Chicago Magazine’s 2003 After Dark Award for Outstanding New Work and has been performed in ten cities across the U.S.

Malik Gillani is Co-Founder and Executive Director of Silk Road Theatre Project, a position to which he brings extensive experience in producing, management, and business development. He is thrilled to be promoting both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road artists. He studied at The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and earned a Bachelor’s in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. Gillani has ten years experience operating technology consulting firms where at various points in his career he was responsible for sales, marketing, negotiations, contract management, and human resources. Gillani is the recipient of the 2003 IBM Business and Technology Leadership Award.

To learn more about Silk Road Theatre Project, please visit our website
at: <http://www.srtp.org>

To keep abreast of our activities & events, please sign up for our Monthly
E-Newsletter at: <http://srtp.org/contact.html>