

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
COMMEMORATING THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

*Through the
Voices of Women
Question 27, Question 28*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2005
2-4:30 PM

DePaul University Student Center
2250 North Sheffield, Chicago, IL



QUESTION 27, QUESTION 28

Question 27: Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty wherever ordered? [Men]

Question 27: If the opportunity presents itself and you are found qualified, would you be willing to volunteer for the Army Nurse Corps or the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps)? [Women]

Question 28: Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?

During World War II, the U.S. War Department and the War Relocation Authority administered a loyalty questionnaire to all adults of Japanese ancestry held in the ten U.S. internment camps. "Yes" answers made them eligible either for military service or for release from camp to resettle outside of the West Coast exclusion zone. However, the way the U.S. Government structured the questions was troublesome, and the way it administered the questionnaire was very confusing to both resident aliens and U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry.

For Japanese American citizens, answering "Yes" to Question 28 implied that they once had allegiance to the Japanese emperor. Those who gave "No" answers were isolated and incarcerated for additional time after the war. For Japanese resident aliens, answering "Yes" to Question 28 left them stateless, as they were legally barred from naturalizing as U.S. citizens, while answering "No" meant they would be deported.

This is the dilemma that thousands of ordinary people faced some sixty years ago. Many were to feel the consequences of their decisions long after the war had ended.



DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Proudly Presents

QUESTION 27, QUESTION 28

**By Chay Yew
Directed by Julieanne Ehre**

**A Staged Reading Followed by a
Discussion with Playwright Chay Yew**

**Sunday, February 13, 2005 at 2:00 pm at
DePaul University Student Center**

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

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Every second Sunday in February, the Japanese American community gathers for its annual *Day of Remembrance*. The event commemorates the 63rd anniversary of the date when President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which allowed the government to forcibly incarcerate over 120,00 Japanese Americans during World War II. Silk Road Theatre Project is honored to be a part of this year's commemoration.



CO-SPONSORS

Day of Remembrance is co-sponsored by the following organizations: **Chicago Japanese American Council, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, De Paul University Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and Delta Phi Lambda Asian Interest Sorority, Japanese American Citizens League, Chicago Chapter, and Japanese American Service Committee.** Silk Road Theatre Project extends its heartfelt appreciation to our above-mentioned partners, and especially to **Debbie Mieko Burns** for all her assistance, kindness, and support.



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

CHAY YEW'S plays include *Porcelain, A Language of Their Own, Red, A Beautiful Country, Wonderland, Question 27, Question 28* and *Malaya*. His adaptations include *A Winter People* (based on Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*) and Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*. His work has been produced at the Joseph Papp Public Theatre, Royal Court Theatre (London), Mark Taper Forum, Manhattan Theatre Club, Wilma Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, Portland Center Stage, East West Players, Cornerstone Theatre Company, Dad's Garage, Singapore Repertory Theatre and TheatreWorks Singapore. He is also the recipient of the London Fringe Award for Best Playwright and Best Play, George and Elisabeth Marton Playwriting Award, GLAAD Media Award, APGF Community Visibility Award, Made in America Award, AEA/SAG/AFTRA 2004 Diversity Honor, and Robert Chesley Award; he has also received grants from the McKnight Foundation and the TCG/Pew National Residency Program. His plays are published by Grove Press. His new musical *The Long Season* will premiere at Perseverance Theatre, and his new play *A Distant Shore* will premiere at the Mark Taper Forum this spring. A member of New Dramatists, he is also an Associate Artist and the Director of the Asian Theatre Workshop at the Taper. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group.



CAST

Dian.....Mary Ann de la Cruz

Emily.....Cheryl Hamada

Tamlyn.....Stephanie Gaddy

Shannon.....Elaine Robinson

BIOS

Mary Ann de la Cruz (Dian) was very recently seen playing Lue Ming in Prop Thtr's production of *In the Heart of America*. Other credits include *Antigone* with greasy joan & co., the critically acclaimed SRTP midwest premiere of *Tea*, and *seep* with sprung theatre. She has also worked at The Goodman and Chicago Dramatists. She is pleased to have this wonderful opportunity of working with Silk Road once again.

Stephanie Gaddy (Tamlyn) is thrilled to be making her Chicago debut with Silk Road Theatre and *Question 27, Question 28*. Her past roles have included Hannah in *Arcadia* and Leah in *Prelude to a Kiss*. She would like to thank God for all he has given her and she sends her love to her best friend Jason for being a constant source of love and motivation. Seriously.

Cheryl Hamada * (Emily) is delighted to be working with Silk Road on this project. Most recently, she appeared on stage in Lookingglass Theatre's acclaimed production of *Race*, directed by David Schwimmer. TV work includes roles on *Early Edition*, *Chicago Hope*, *Unsolved Mysteries*, and *Chicago Story*. Film work includes roles in *Above the Law*, *Chain Reaction*, *Losing Isaiah*, and most recently, *About Schmidt*.

Elaine Robinson (Shannon) is thrilled to be a part of Silk Road Theatre Project's staged reading series! She was most recently seen in Redmoon's *Winter Pageant*. Other Chicago credits include *Nickel & Dime*, *Enter Alice* and *why they invented dancing*, *Abingdon Square*, *Clowns and Cotton Candy* and *Cats and Dogs and Other Tailss*, and understudying *I Never Sang for My Father* at Steppenwolf.

Julianne Ehre (Director) is the Artistic Director of greasy joan & co. where she most recently directed *Antigone*. She also directed *The Lady From the Sea*, *Dreams of Desire: Classic Short Stories* and *Marisol* for the company. She has directed for Lincoln Center Theatre's Directors Lab, Victory Gardens, Curious Theatre Branch, Chicago Dramatists Workshop, among others. She is currently adapting/directing *The Nose* by Nikolai Gogol for greasy joan opening in April. Ehre holds an M.F.A. in Directing from Northwestern University and is part-time faculty at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Kyle Gorden (Dramaturg) previously served as dramaturg for Silk Road's production of *Tea* and staged reading of *36 Views*. He also translated and adapted *The Gempei War*, which Silk Road produced in a staged reading at the Japanese Consulate at Chicago, and helped bring their production of *Precious Stones* to the Hyde Park - University of Chicago Arts Fest. He holds a bachelor's degree in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the U of C and is currently a Vilar Fellow studying arts management at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

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

Silk Road Theatre Project was created to showcase playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds, whose works address themes relevant to the peoples of the Silk Road and their Diaspora communities. Maintaining that theatre should entertain as well as educate and promote critical thinking, SRTP is committed to theatre that elevates human consciousness, expands representation, and challenges prevailing stereotypes. In giving voice to cultures and experiences long absent on the American stage, we aim to integrate those voices within the cannon of American theatre.

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 Reading Series is primarily funded by **The Joyce Foundation**.

Jamil Khoury, Artistic Director, is co-founder of Silk Road Theatre Project. In the company’s two and a half years of existence, Khoury has overseen the world premiere of his play *Precious Stones* in 2003 and the Midwest premiere of Velina Hasu Houston’s play *Tea* in 2004. He also created and developed the Al Kasida Staged Reading Series, and is presently marketing and managing the national college tour of *Precious Stones*. In his “spare time,” Khoury works as a cross cultural and diversity trainer/consultant. Khoury wishes to thank his life partner Malik for his continued love, encouragement, and support.

Malik Gillani, Executive Director, is co-founder of Silk Road Theatre Project, a capacity to which he brings extensive experience in management, development, and fundraising. Gillani served as Managing Producer and Director of Marketing for the productions of *Precious Stones* and *Tea*. He is thrilled to be promoting both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road artists. When not focused on theatre, Gillani is the Senior Account Executive for the Falkor Group, a technology service firm. Gillani wishes to thank his life partner Jamil for opening up such an exciting new world to him.

**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>**

Through the Voices of Women Question 27, Question 28

This year's Day of Remembrance program focuses on the internment experience as it impacted the lives of Japanese American women. *Question 27, Question 28*, a play written by Chay Yew and presented by the Silk Road Theatre Project, draws on testimonials, interviews, and historical documents to tell the story of the World War II-era internment of Japanese Americans as witnessed and experienced by dozens of ordinary women.

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Chiye Tomihiro

Board Member, Chicago Chapter of the
Japanese American Citizens League

WELCOME

Jean Mishima

President, Chicago Japanese American
Historical Society

READING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

Rebecca Ozaki

Student, St. Philip Lutheran School

INTRODUCTION OF STAGED READING

Jamil Khoury

Artistic Director, Silk Road Theatre Project

QUESTION 27, QUESTION 28

Cheryl Hamada

Mary Ann de la Cruz

Stephanie Gaddy

Elaine Robinson

BRIEF INTERMISSION

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Chay Yew

Playwright

Question 27, Question 28 Bibliography

California State University, Fullerton Oral History Program, Japanese American Project; *Prisoners Without Trial* by Roger Daniels; *The Evacuation Diary of Hatsuye Egami* by Hatsuye Egami; *Japanese American Internment Camps* edited by Byron J. Grapes; *Last Witness* edited by Erica Harth; *Only What We Could Carry* edited by Lawson Fusao Inada; *Starting Over: Japanese Americans After the War* from KCSM-TV; *Young Women's Everyday Resistance: Heart Mountain* by Susan McKay; *Japanese American Women* by Mei T. Nakano; *Japanese American Internment During World War II* by Wendy Ng; National Japanese American Historical Society; *Citizen 13660* by Mine Okubo; Oral History Project of Japanese American Women's Exhibit; Regenerations Oral History Project; *A Teacher in Topaz* by Eleanor Gerard Sckerak; *Nisei Daughter* by Monica Sone; *Strangers from a Different Shore* by Ronald Takaki; *The Hood River Issei* by Linda Tamura; *We the People* by Mary Tsukamoto and Elizabeth Pinkerton; *And Justice for All* by John Tateishi; and *Desert Exile* by Yoshiko Uchida.

COMMITTEE

Debbie Mieko Burns

Mary Doi

Laurel Fujisawa

Jean Fujiu

Sharon Harada

Jean Mishima

Josina Morita

Sam Ozaki

Chiye Tomihiro

Kiyo Yoshimura

Bill Yoshino

Pat Yuzawa-Rubin

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Chicago Japanese American Council

Chicago Japanese American Historical Society

847.988.8101; <http://www.cjahs.org>

DePaul University, Delta Phi Lambda Asian Interest Sorority

DePaul University, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

773.325.7325; <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/multiculturalstudentaffair.html>

Japanese American Citizens League, Chicago Chapter

773.728.7171

Japanese American Service Committee

773.275.0097; <http://www.jasc-chicago.org>

Silk Road Theatre Project

312.236.6881; <http://www.srtp.org>