



E N E R I SM
COMMUNICATIONS

Energy Upon Impact 

April 9, 2010

CHICAGO, IL - - ENERI Communications is thrilled to be working with the team on outreach for Chicago Dramatists world premiere of “**JADE HEART**” by Will Cooper and starring Christine Bunuan as Jade. (See press release next page.)

Please note the **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Kickoff/Special Opening Performance of Saturday, May 1, 2010** will include a reception sponsored by dining partner **Pronto 'Za**.

For Friends of ENERI ticket rates, more info on the **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Kickoff/Special Opening Performance on Saturday, May 1, 2010**, dining partner **Pronto 'Za**, or **May 8th Appearance Sponsor UNI-MART**, please contact **ENERI Communications at info@enericom.net or 312.635.0888**.

Non-media tickets for the Saturday, May 1, 2010 8 p.m. Performance are \$30 each. Limited seating, early reservation recommended.

For the **UNI-MART Celebrity Appearance on Saturday, May 8, 2010 (which will include a Reception)** please RSVP to ENERI at **info@enericom.net by May 5, 2010**.

This release posted on www.enericom.net/blog and www.enericom.net/privatejadeheart
Images available upon request.

EXTRA EXTRA! On Saturday, May 8, 2010, UNI-MART celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a Special Celebrity Appearance by Actress CHRISTINE BUNUAN, with Playwright WILL COOPER and Chicago Dramatists Managing Director BRIAN LOEVNER scheduled to appear at UNI-MART's Chicago location, 5845 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. RSVP to ENERI Communications at info@enericom.net by May 5, 2010. For more info visit www.unimartonestop.com .

Attachment:

Chicago Dramatists Press Release/"JADE HEART"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CHICAGO DRAMATISTS KICKS OFF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF JADE HEART BY WILL COOPER

Special reception will follow the dramatic journey of self exploration and identity on stage

CHICAGO—**Chicago Dramatists**, 1105 W. Chicago Avenue, is proud present the world premiere of *Jade Heart*, the spellbinding new play by Senior Network Playwright Will Cooper. **Chicago Dramatists'** Artistic Director Russ Tutterow will direct. The production will open May 1 in conjunction with the start of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and run through May 30. A special reception sponsored by Pronto 'Za will follow the 8 p.m. performance.

Abandoned as an infant on a pile of vegetables, a Chinese girl is adopted by an unmarried American woman and grows up in a white, middle-class American home with only half a jade heart as a clue to her identity. In this dramatic piece, Jade McCullough questions whether she is Chinese, American, or Chinese-American? Through dreams and memories, Jade seeks to find out why she was denied the life she was born to, and how she can become fully herself. *Jade Heart* poses the ageless question: "Who am I?"

The play explores not only the personal journey of its title character, but the affects of China's one-child policy, established in 1979 to limit population growth. Fines, pressure to abort, and even forced sterilizations accompany second or subsequent pregnancies. This rule has caused a disdain for female infants and the preference for sons over daughters, as sons carry on the family name, work the farms, and take care of elderly parents, while girls marry and move away.

Previous work by Will Cooper includes the play *Book of Leaves*, a finalist at the Ashland New Plays Festival, produced in 2006 at Village Players Theatre. An Honors English Literature major at Kenyon College, he attended graduate school in English Literature at the University of Chicago, and has studied playwriting at **Chicago Dramatists** and Victory Gardens Theater. Several of Cooper's plays have been developed and workshopped at **Chicago Dramatists**, including *Book of Leaves*, *Jade Heart*, and *Shadows of Athens*.

Director Russ Tutterow has been the Artistic Director of **Chicago Dramatists** since 1986. At **Chicago Dramatists**, he has directed countless new play readings, and nurtured the art and careers of hundreds of playwrights, including Rebecca Gilman, Tina Fey, Sarah Ruhl, Rick Cleveland, David Barr, and Mia McCullough, to name just a few. Most recently, he directed **Chicago Dramatists'** productions of *A Steady Rain* by Keith Huff, *Water* by Alice Austen (Jeff Award nomination for New Work), *Voyeurs de Venus* by Lydia R. Diamond (Jeff Award for New Work), *Heat* by Marsha Estell (Jeff Award nomination for New Work), and *Drawing War* by Brett Neveu. He also directed Prop Thtr's acclaimed production of *Rosemary* by Jim O'Connor (2002 Jeff Citation for New Work).

Jade Heart stars Christine Timbol Bunuan as "Jade." Christine Bunuan was in the Chicago company and the first national tour of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Her other credits include "Setsuko" & "Young Miss Saeke" in *Kafka on the Shore* (Steppenwolf Theatre), "Ching" in *The Mistress Cycle* (Apple Tree and Auditorium Theater), "Ghost of Christmas Past" in *A Christmas Carol* (The Goodman Theater), "Jasmine" in *Aladdin* (Marriott Theater Lincolnshire), and "Tinkerbell" in *Peter Pan The Musical* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). She is a graduate of the Theatre School at DePaul University.

The cast of *Jade Heart* also features Eliza Shin (Shin Sueme 신수미) as Mu Chang, Ginger Lee McDermott as Brenda, Gordon Chow (曹健華 Cao Jian Wah) as Duan and Melissa Canciller as Mei.

The design team includes Tom Burch (set design), Jeff Pines (lighting design), Michael Griggs (sound design), Samantha Jones (costume design), and Jenniffer Thusing (props design and stage management.)

The performance schedule for *Jade Heart* is Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Regular tickets are \$25 for Thursday and Sunday performances and \$30 for performances on Friday and Saturday. Student and Industry tickets are available for \$10 on Thursday and Sunday performances. Group discounts are also available. For tickets, call **Chicago Dramatists** at 312.633.0630 or visit www.chicagodramatists.org for more information.

About Pronto 'Za

Pronto 'Za, 1234 N. Halsted, serves delicious New York style specialty thin crust pizzas, Za'lads, Za'ndwiches and Wrapz. The venue, along with serving traditional pizzas, specializes in gourmet ones like Eggplant Parmesan, Chicken Toscana and even Crabcake. Delivery and catering are available at 312.302.9988. Order online at www.prontoza.com. Pronto 'Za is open daily 11a.m. – 10 p.m. Monday – Friday and 12 p.m. – 10 p.m. Saturday – Sunday with delivery service available 10:45 a.m. - 10:45 p.m. on weekdays, and 11:45 a.m. - 10:45 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information and menu items, visit www.prontoza.com.

About Chicago Dramatists

In the fall of 1979, four playwrights came together to hear their work read aloud and to hone their craft. Today, **Chicago Dramatists'** amazing record of achievement has landed them an invaluable place in the artistic community as a vital source of inspiration to 40 resident playwrights, 160 associate playwrights, 60 associate artists, and thousands of audience members. Over the past three decades, **Chicago Dramatists** has worked with over a thousand playwrights, produced and developed thousands of plays and stayed true to its mission to nurture compelling, challenging and diverse plays that move on to productions, earn awards, and define the American theatre. **Chicago Dramatists** has worked with hundreds of award winning playwrights and screenwriters, including Tina Fey (30 Rock), Rick Cleveland (Mad Men) Rebecca Gilman (Spinning into Butter), and Keith Huff (A Steady Rain). Each season Chicago Dramatists presents three world premiere productions and the signature Saturday Series, weekly staged readings of plays in progress. The theatre also conducts educational outreach to at-risk students at Chicago Public Schools, awakening the possibility of self-expression by writing for the theatre. Through passionate dedication, personal nurture and careful exposure, **Chicago Dramatists** carries on its thirty-one-year-old mission of developing new plays and playwrights for the next generation of theatre.

Chicago Dramatists is located just minutes from the Loop at 1105 W. Chicago Avenue, at the 24-hour Chicago Avenue stop of the Blue Line subway, and is just off the Ogden and Augusta exits of the Kennedy Expressway. There is street parking available and free reserved parking with ticket purchase. For more information visit www.chicagodramatists.org.

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