

JAKE SUNG-GUK SULLIVAN

DIRECTING PORTFOLIO

WWW.JSGSULLIVAN.COM



CONTENTS

BIO ... pg. 3

DIRECTING WORK SAMPLES ... pg. 4

ASSISTANT / ASSOCIATE DIRECTING
WORK SAMPLES ... pg. 20

ARTISTIC STATEMENT ... pg. 24



**Jake
Sung-Guk
Sullivan**

BIO

JAKE SUNG-GUK SULLIVAN is a multidisciplinary theatre artist and educator who engages in all-ages theatre, musicals, and new works. In his focus as a director, Jake has worked with such companies as Lyric Arts Main Street Stage ([title of show], The Wedding Singer, The Pavilion), Stages Theatre Company & Theatre Mu (The Name Jar, A Different Pond), CLIMB Theatre (Relative Location), Lakeshore Players Theatre (Disney's The Little Mermaid), Anoka Community Theatre (Ken Ludwig's Sherwood), and serves as the co-artistic director of [un]qualified theatre, helming their productions of H.G. Wells' THE INVISIBLE MAN, which garnered a Best of Fringe 2023 from Cherry & Spoon, as well as [un]qualified's Fall 2024 production of The Lady Demands Satisfaction. He has served as associate director for Cambodian Rock Band with Theatre Mu / The Jungle Theatre, for which he was a Fellow in the inaugural Ordway Center / Knight Fellowship for Emerging BIPOC Directors, as well as assistant director for The Heart Sellers at The Guthrie Theatre. He also works as a actor, designer, and composer, in addition to his work as an educator. Jake is a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. He is passionate about modern examinations of canon texts, new work that highlights diverse perspectives, and physical theatre that reflects on the "creative How".

www.jsgsullivan.com

SELECTED DIRECTING WORK

The Name Jar, - Pak, 2024

The Pavilion - Wright, 2023

H.G. Wells' The Invisible Man - Sullivan, 2023

The Wedding Singer - Beguelin / Herlihy / Sklar, 2023

A Different Pond - Pelletier, 2022

[title of show] - Bell / Bowen, 2022



The Name Jar

By Susan H. Pak

Based on the book by Yangsook Choi

Mar. 22 - April 14, 2024

Theatre Mu & Stages Theatre Company

World Premiere

Synopsis

Unhei has moved from Korea to America with her family and has started a new school. When the kids struggle with her name, she wonders if she should choose a new one to fit in. Her classmates decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from, but will any of them fit? The Name Jar is a celebration of culture, family and what's in a name.

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIALECT COACH - Patrick Chew

LANGUAGE & CULTURAL CONSULTANT- Aerin Park

SET DESIGNER - Sarah Brandner

LIGHTING DESIGNER - Alice Endo

COSTUME & MAKE-UP DESIGNER - Samantha Fromm Haddow

SOUND DESIGNER - Gretchen Katt

COMPOSER - Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan

PROPS DESIGNER - Kenji Shoemaker

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - Jim Hibbeler

PRODUCTION MANAGER - Melanie Salmon-Peterson

STAGE MANAGER - Emily Carey

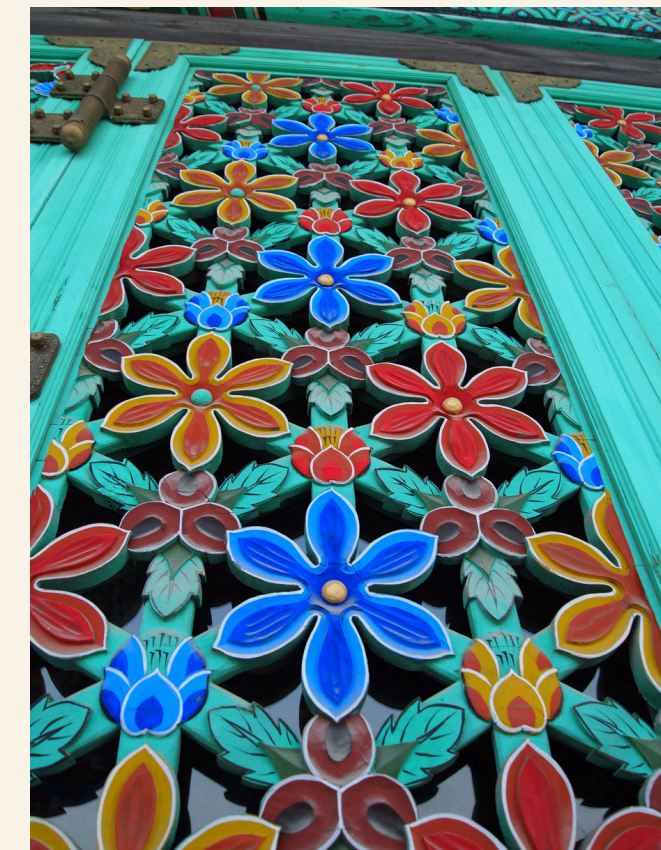
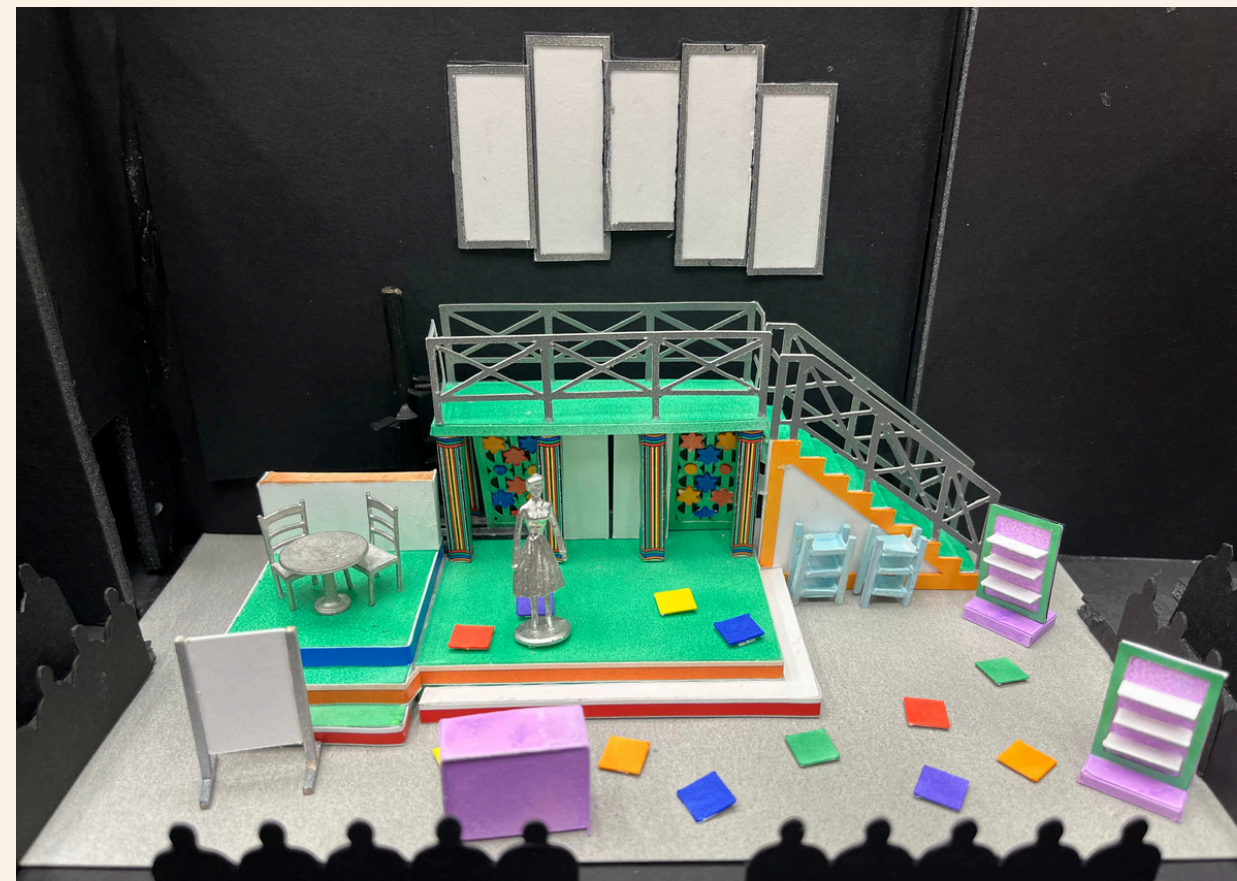
[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

CONCEPT

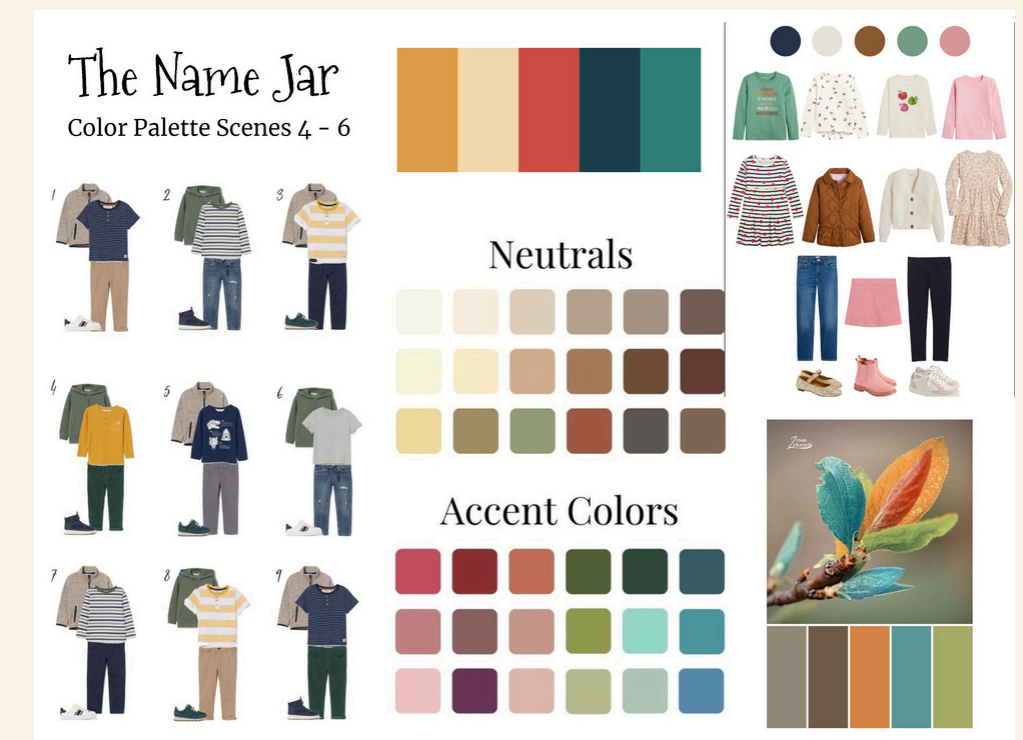
Unhei, the young protagonist of *The Name Jar*, comes to America and is immediately forced to make tough decisions dealing with assimilation, culture, and identity. I wanted to approach this show through Unhei's eyes, a child's perspective, as many of our young audience members would.

Visually, we wanted to portray Unhei's world in bold colors, bright new experiences - perhaps just overstimulating at times - but still colored by the past. We took inspiration in pallet and form from the traditional Korean art form of *dancheong*, reflected in deliberate color choices as well as lotus motifs occurring in the set. The costumes, too, reflect this pallet - and juxtapose it with the American students' costumes. As they come to accept Unhei for who she is, their pallets brightened.

In performance, we strove for outsized yet grounded characters. After all, to a kindergartner, a twenty-five year old is ancient, and a spring shower is torrential. Additionally, Unhei's active imagination was represented through interactive projections and lively underscore, as well as movement and audience interaction.



Scenic Design and research image by Sarah Bradner, Costume Design by Samantha Fromm-Haddow



[Click here for a LINK TO FULL CONCEPT & RESEARCH PRESENTATION](#)





The Pavilion

By Craig Wright

Oct. 13-29, 2023

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage

Featured in Cherry & Spoon's Best Plays of 2023

Synopsis

THE PAVILION is a poignant and thought-provoking play that explores the complexities of love, loss, and regret. Set in a small town in Minnesota, the story follows Peter and Kari, former high school sweethearts who are reunited at their 20-year class reunion. As they reminisce about their past, Peter desperately tries to win back Kari's love, while Kari grapples with the painful memories and circumstances that led to their eventual breakup.

As the night progresses, both Peter and Kari are led, through their interactions with a host of characters all played by a virtuosic Narrator, to confront the consequences of choices made long ago and to face life with newfound strength and bittersweet resolve. Written by Craig Wright, THE PAVILION is a timeless exploration of the human heart and the power of memory.

PRODUCTION TEAM

JOE BLACK, Stage Manager

KYIA BRITTS, Lighting Assistant

VICKY ERICKSON, Props Designer

JUSTIN HOOPER, Scenic Designer

EMILY LUDEWIG, Sound Designer

JAMIE NGUYEN, Costume Designer

ANDREW NORFOLK, Lighting Designer

MADDIE RONNING, Assistant Stage Manager

CAST

MICHAEL TERRELL BROWN: Narrator

AUDREY JOHNSON: Kari

CHRIS PAULSON: Peter

STEVEN RAMIREZ: Guitarist

DANIELLE BIRMINGHAM: U/S Narrator

MICHAEL QUADROZZI: U/S Peter

CALLIE BAACK: U/S Kari

[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

CONCEPT

I started our team off with a quote from author Andrej Sapkowski: “I mistook the stars reflected in the pond at night for those in the sky”. This quote, a meditation on our perceptions and actions, served as a focal point for all areas of the production.

The concept approach for THE PAVILION revolved around three core tenets: The Fog of Time, Small Town Qualities, and Water/Light/Gems. So much of the text is focused on past perceptions of people and situations, but human memory is far from infallible. I wanted the team to explore the erosion of memory as physically onstage as the characters were experiencing it.

Further, textual allusions to water, gems, and light, three deeply interconnected elemental notions, were to inform our shape and pallet on stage, sonically and visually. Gem tones, aural water, and gem-faced sets fleshed out the world of the stage.

Finally, within this abstract “momentary sphere” of The Pavilion, I wanted to create hyper-realistic totems, literal connections to the past that would be universally evocative to audience and character alike. This location is so evocative, especially in the Midwest and specifically Minnesota, with its strong history of rural dance halls serving as community landmarks. Despite its curation of reality, I wanted the production to showcase something equally indicative and evocative.

The text is oft lauded as an examination of time, but I wanted the team to approach it as an examination of the *perception* of time, and how the ripples of our perception shape our current realities.



Scenic Design by Justin Hooper

[Click here for a LINK TO FULL CONCEPT & RESEARCH PRESENTATION](#)



REVIEWS

“Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan has proven himself to be as good of a director as he is an actor, and once again brings out all of the humor, poignancy, and playfulness in this script, balancing the grounded reality of the dialogue and situations with the ethereal language and themes...The Pavilion is a story that feels familiar, but told in a fresh and innovative way... don't let this quiet treasure get lost. “ - *Cherry & Spoon*

[LINK TO FULL REVIEW](#)

“ There is a longing at the center of this play that resonates with all who have loved... the play is directed by Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan who clearly has an affinity for shows in which actors portray multiple roles ... Here he shows his clear understanding of how to utilize the technique effectively. He has a skill for creating moments of connection that bath the later scenes between Peter and Kari with yearning.” - *Stages of MN*

[LINK TO FULL REVIEW](#)





H.G. Wells' THE INVISIBLE MAN

Written and Directed by Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan

MN Fringe 2023

Featured in Cherry & Spoon's Best of Fringe 2023

Synopsis

It's H.G. Wells' THE INVISIBLE MAN - like you've never seen him before! Witness the story of Griffin, the Invisible Man, in a new physical, farcical adaptation featuring a madcap cast of four!

CAST

Doni Marinos, Tucker Brewster Schuster, Brendan Veerman, & Courtney VonVett

REVIEWS

"Director Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan uses the ingenious set, props, and costumes to suggest everything from a staircase ascent to a montage of reports of sightings non-sightings of the invisible man. A great script, inventive direction, and wonderful comic performances from the ensemble cast make this a must see show." - *Stages of MN*

"The physical work, costumes, sound and lighting design, and use of props is so fun, playful, and clever. One particularly delightful recurring gag is going up and down stairs, another highlight is Brendan, a gifted physical comedic actor with a rubber face, in a fight scene with the invisible man, throwing himself all across the stage. This super fun and clever creation is a must-see." - *Cherry & Spoon*

[LINK TO AUDIENCE REVIEWS](#)





The Wedding Singer

Book by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy

Music by Matthew Sklar

Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based upon the New Line Cinema film
written by Tim Herlihy

Synopsis

THE WEDDING SINGER centers around Robbie Hart, New Jersey's number one wedding singer and the life of the party. That is until his own fiancée strands him at the altar. Shot through the heart, bitter and broken, Robbie begins to make every wedding as disastrous as his own until a warm-hearted waitress named Julia intervenes. When feelings become involved, trouble brews as Julia's about to be—you guessed it—married! But her Wall Street shark of a fiancé may not be the happily ever after Julia's always dreamed of... When she announces their plan to elope, Robbie must pull off the performance of the decade or risk losing the girl of his dreams forever.

Step back in time to when hair was big and the collars were up! Based on the Hollywood film starring Adam Sandler, THE WEDDING SINGER celebrates all the fun, love, and ridiculousness of the 80's. With an electric soundtrack that gives nod to nostalgic hits, THE WEDDING SINGER will have you dancing down the aisle while eagerly saying "I DO!"

PRODUCTION TEAM

WESLEY FRYE, Music Director
MICHAEL TERRELL BROWN, Choreographer
CALLIE AHO, Intimacy & Fight Director
LEA BRUCKER, Sound Technician
EMILY CAREY, Props Designer
PAUL A. ESTBY, Sound Designer
LUCAS GRANHOLM, Lighting Designer
CASSI HENNING, Stage Manager
JUSTIN HOOPER, Scenic Designer
EMMA KRAVIG, Costume Designer
EMILY LUDEWIG, Assistant Stage Manager
JESSICA MOORE, Costume Assistant
LEITA RO STREI, Assistant Stage Manager

CAST

CHRIS PAULSON as Robbie Hart
HALEY METHNER as Julia
CRIS SANCHEZ as George
JUSTIN MICHAEL as Sammy
AUDREY JOHNSON as Holly
JACLYN McDONALD as Linda
JOEY BRUESKE as Glenn
SHER U-F as Grandma Rosie

ENSEMBLE:

HANNAH BAKKE, LATANYA BOONE,
ANN BRUMMER, CODY DAHLSON, MEGAN
ENGELHARD, CAITLIN FEATHERSTONE, CARTER
HOFFER, MADELINE KADLEC,
MORGAN KEMPTON, MAX KILE,
DONI MARINOS, TOMMY McCARTHY,
ABILENE OLSON, BRANDON OSERO,
FRANCE A. ROBERTS, ALEX STOKES,
COURTNEY VONVETT,

[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

CONCEPT & RESEARCH

[Click here for a LINK TO FULL CONCEPT & RESEARCH PRESENTATION](#)



Scenic Rendering by Justin Hooper



REVIEWS

“*The Wedding Singer* might be just what you need to bring a little light and joy into these last dregs of winter. Director Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan manages this cast of over two dozen, keeping the energy up and the story moving, utilizing all parts of the set and stage. Even the scene transitions are fast and fun, with set pieces appearing and disappearing in hidden compartments.” - *Cherry & Spoon*

[LINK TO FULL REVIEW](#)

“Director Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan and Choreographer Michael Terrell Brown fill the stage with energy and creativity...” - *Stages of MN*





A Different Pond

By Jessica Luu Pelletier

Based on the book by Bao Phi

Sept. 30 - Oct. 23, 2022

Theatre Mu & Stages Theatre Co

World Premiere

Theatre

Synopsis

Based on Bao Phi's beloved children's book, a young Vietnamese boy and his dad fish for food on the pre-dawn shores of a Minneapolis lake, unfurling a tale about immigration, straddling cultures old and new, and a family facing daily struggles together. This unforgettable story based on the Caldecott-honored book is perfect for all ages.

PRODUCTION TEAM

MARC BERG Properties Designer

ALICE ENDO Lighting Assistant

AARON GABRIEL Composer & Sound Designer

JIM HIBBELER Technical Director

GRETCHEN KATT Sound - Technical

CHRISTA LUDWIG Wardrobe Supervisor

KARIN OLSON Lighting Designer

STACEY PALMER Costume & Make Up Designer

MELANIE SALMON-PETERSON Production Manager

JOE STANLEY Set Designer

GABRIEL PEÑALOZA-HERNANDEZ Stage Manager

AMY HORN Assistant Stage Manager

AUDIENCE REVIEWS

"Incredibly significant ... for my elementary-aged kids to see not only Asian Americans on stage, but a production that critically engages in Asian American themes and histories." —Audience Member

"Maybe ... you didn't grow up in a Vietnamese family, but I know you'll recognize the touches of humanity weaving throughout." —Audience Member

"The story was funny, sweet, at times sad and painful, but also hopeful." —Audience Member

"For a play with a small cast, they did a lot to tell a rich story." —Audience Member

[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

[LINK TO
RESEARCH /
CONCEPT
PRESENTATION](#)





[title of show]

Music and Lyrics by Jeff Bowen

Book by Hunter Bell

January 14–February 6, 2022

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage

Synopsis

Jeff and Hunter are two self-described nobodies who decide that writing an original musical and submitting it to a new works festival seems like a perfect idea. The only catch? The deadline is in three weeks. With the help of their friends and favorite accompanist, Larry, on the keys, these friends decide to write about what they know best: writing a musical. As the deadline looms closer, insecurities creep in and jealousies flare. Will the team succeed in writing their musical? Could it even win a Tony?! And what the heck should they even call their new musical anyway? In this intelligent, playful, lovable new musical, the audience is treated to an inside look at the tough work of being a creative artist. Frequently hilarious, occasionally heartbreaking, and thoroughly inspiring, [TITLE OF SHOW] is a love story celebrating individuality and creativity.

PRODUCTION TEAM

CALLIE AHO, Intimacy Director

BRADLEY BEAHEN, Music Director

EMILY CAREY, Assistant Stage Manager

ELLEN DEYOUNG, Stage Manager

JIM EISCHEN, Lighting Designer

PAUL ETSBY, Assistant Sound Designer

SAMANTHA FROMM HADDOW, Costume Designer

NICKIE KROMMINGA HILL, Choreographer

CORY SKOLD, Scenic Designer

KAT WALKER, Props Designer

DALLAS WILLIAMS, Assistant Stage Manager

JULIE ZUMSTEG, Sound Designer

CAST

BRADLEY BEAHEN as Larry

BRADLEY JOHNSON as Jeff

ALICE MCGLAVE as Heidi

LUX MORTENSON as Susan

BRENDAN NELSON FINN as Hunter

[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

[LINK TO INITIAL AESTHETIC
CONCEPT PRESENTATION](#)



**ASSISTANT /
ASSOCIATE
DIRECTING
WORK**

The Heart Sellers

Cambodian Rock Band



Cambodian Rock Band

By Lauren Yee

Music by Dengue Fever

Jun. 11-Jul.31, 2022

Theatre Mu / The Jungle Fever

Directed by Lily Tung Crystal

Synopsis

A Khmer Rouge survivor returns to Cambodia for the first time in 30 years as his daughter prepares to prosecute one of the country's most infamous war criminals. Backed by a live band of actor-musicians playing contemporary Dengue Fever hits and classic Cambodian oldies, this thrilling story toggles back and forth in time as father and daughter face the music of the past.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Music Director Mandric Tan
Scenic & Projection Designer Mina Kinukawa
Costume Designer Khamphian Vang
Costume Director Sarah Bahr
Wig, Hair, and Makeup Designer Emma Gustafson
Lighting Co-Designer Amy Adelaide Nguyen
Lighting Co-Designer Karin Olson
Sound Designer Sean Healey
Fight Choreographer Annie Enneking
Stage Manager/Properties Designer John Novak
Cultural and Language Consultant Mongkol Teng
Dramaturgy Fellow Cody Kour
Production Manager Matthew Earley
Technical Director Matthew Erkel

CAST

Pou/Karaoke Host/S21: Guard Mayda Miller
Rom/Journalist: Shawn Mouacheupao
Ted/Leng: Christopher Thomas Pow
Duch: Eric Sharp*
Neary/Sothea: Danielle Troiano
Chum: Greg Watanabe*
Acting Fellow: Karaoke Host/ Journalist/S21
Guard Deryck Hak

[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

Role / Duties

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Duties included:

- Acting coaching for understudy / two non-actor musicians
- Sightline observation
- Blocking notes
- Design and technical feedback
- Fight director liason



The Heart Sellers

By Lloyd Suh

Dec. 14, 2024 - Jan. 25, 2025

The Guthrie Theatre

Directed by May Adrales

Synopsis

When Luna and Jane run into each other at the supermarket on Thanksgiving Day, they discover they have much in common — they're both new to America and spending the holiday alone while their medical-resident husbands work the night away. Longing for connection, the two homesick women return to Luna's apartment for the evening. Over a bottle of wine (or two), they attempt to make a traditional Thanksgiving meal while sharing their stories and dreams. Set eight years after the Hart-Celler Act of 1965 overhauled the U.S. immigration system, this poignant comedy illuminates the Asian immigrant experience and asks, "Would you give up your heart to make a new home?"

CAST

LUNA: Jenna Agbayani

JANE: Juyeon Song

[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Designer: Wilson Chin

Costume Designer: Junghyun Georgia Lee

Lighting Designer: Kat C. Zhou

Sound Designer / Composer: Fabian Obispo

Dramaturg: Christine Mok

Vocal Coach: Keely Wolter

Stage Manager: Lori Lundquist

Assistant Stage Manager: Olivia Louise Tree Plath

Dialect Coach: Joy Lanceta Coronel

Role / Duties

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

- Duties included spacing observation & notes, actor and design note-taking, rehearsal blocking tracking, and some auxiliary production communication on behalf of director

ARTISTIC STATEMENT





As a director, I am deeply invested in heightened theatricality as a means to create more resonant emotional experiences. Whether through evocative physicality, bold visual design, or vibrant musical theatre, I aim to craft works that illuminate underrepresented perspectives and challenge familiar narratives. By reexamining canonical texts through modern lenses, I seek to make the familiar feel novel, and offer audiences a fresh encounter with the stories they think they know. For me, physicality and musicality are not just stylistic choices; they are essential tools for reaching the emotional core of the audience, drawing them into a world where the boundaries of everyday life are transcended. These elements allow me to communicate in ways that words alone cannot—engaging audiences in visceral, transformative experiences.

A FEW SHOWS I AM EAGER TO DIRECT:

- *The Aeneid*, Kemeid
- *You Stupid Darkness*, Steiner
- *Ragtime*, Ahrens, Flaherty, & McNally
- *Vietgone*, Nguyen
- *Cowboy vs Samaurai*, Golmaco
- *Cyrano de Bergerac*, adaptations by Posner or Crimp
- *A Monster Calls*, Ness et al.
- *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, Puig
- *Argonautika*, Zimmerman
- *Henry IV Part 1*, Shakespeare
- *Fair Maid of the West*, Heywood & McArthur
- *The Spitfire Grill*, by Alley and Valcq
- *The Old Man and the Old Moon*, by Pigpen Theatre
- *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Lloyd Weber
- *...Great Comet*, Malloy
- *See What I Wanna See*, LaChuisa
- *Wild Party*, Lippa
- *Trojan Women*, Euripides
- *A View from the Bridge*, Miller
- *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Menken, Schwartz
- *After the Autumn*, Burgos
- *Twelfth Night*, Kwei-Armah and Taub