

The CATS' Newsletter!

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Artistic Director / President's Message

"A Hundred Million Miracles", "I Enjoy Being a Girl," "Chop Suey," and "You are Beautiful" are just some of the memorable songs from Rodgers and Hammerstein's **FLOWER DRUM SONG** -- Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra's (CATS) upcoming January 22 to February 14, 2009 show.

Since making the decision to bring this fabulous 2002 **David Henry Hwang** musical version to the Nevada Theatre stage, each step towards our Grand Opening Night (Saturday, January 24, 2009) has been a delight. We have the "Dream Team" of directors and designers, and a cast of 22 - some familiar faces and some new!

Multi-Elly award winner **Michael Baranowski** will be our director. In addition to directing, Michael is also an accomplished actor, choreographer, and set designer. **Ken Hardin**, Artistic Director for the Twin Cities Concert Association, is our music director, and he will conduct our live orchestra - what a treat! **George Jayne**, of the Sierra Dance Institute, and another Elly Award winner, is choreographer. Additional Elly award winners on our distinguished team include **Sovahn LeBlanc** as costumer, and **Chris Goetzke** as lighting designer. **Dennis Duesing** is set designer, whose simple, but powerful set, made its debut with **CATS** in our 2007 production of "Tea." Last, but not least, **Sara Quay**, who has been designing for **CATS** since 1994, (LA Times reviewed her work with a thumbs up!) will continue to create exquisite looks with hair and makeup.

Some of you may remember that many of the current **CATS** board members were cast in the late **Nelda Honey's** Gold Country Production of the original version of "Flower Drum Song" in 1992. **Patty Lum-Ohmann** was Mei Li, **Lisa Moon** was Linda Low, **Virgil Wong** was Ta, **Jeannie Wood** was Helen Chow and **Allison Chan** was one of the "other generation" children. Well, it is now years later and we are all (surprise!!) older and are taking different roles and functions in this new production. Our principals in the cast are amazing! **Lyra Dominguez** is Mei Li, **Lorraine De Arco** is Linda Low, **Brian Earl Warrensford** is Wang, **Yukiko Ohse** is Madame Liang, **Vann Dart** is Chin and **John Fisher** is Harvard.

We can't wait to share this beautiful show with you. The Rodgers and Hammerstein original songs are the same; the story has been updated in 2002 to reflect changing times and current sensibilities. You are in for a real treat!

New for 2009 We will have two preview shows on Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 pm and Friday, January 23rd at 8:00 pm. Look for our Grand Opening Night with food and a sake reception on Saturday, January 24th at 8:00 pm.

FYI, our student matinee on Friday, January 30 at 10:00 am is SOLD OUT. All public performance tickets will be available for purchase starting December 1st.

Pssst - for a real ticket bargain ... 2 tickets for \$25 on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1st. Get your tickets early. They make great holiday gifts.

~Lisa Moon

Artistic Director & President -1-

Coming January 2009 Flower Drum Song



Photo Credit: Tommy Gleason

L-R: Lorraine De Arco, Brian Earl Warrensford, Lyra Dominguez

CATS Wins 2 Elly Awards for Golden Child!

On September 28, 2008 the Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance (SARTA) honored **CATS** with two Elly Awards for **Golden Child**, our January and February 2008 production. Best Set Designer in the Drama Category went to **Michael Baranowski** and Best Costume Designer



Photo Credit: Lisa Moon

L-R: Sovahn LeBlanc, Michael Baranowski

went to **Sovahn LeBlanc**. **Tom Taylor** was a nominee for Best Lighting Designer. There were 40 plays judged in this category from the Sacramento region. **CATS** is proud of our winners and nominee. *Congratulations!*

Mission Statement

The Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) is dedicated to promoting cultural diversity through quality multicultural theater, events, and workshops. Through these avenues, **CATS** seeks to enrich the cultural climate of the Sierra Foothills, Nevada County, Sacramento County, and other regional communities in northern California with works on Asian-based themes. Its mission is artistic and educational. **CATS** seeks to expand the study of multiculturalism in the schools and to be a resource on Asian culture and history. **CATS** welcomes participation from Asians and non-Asians alike whose interest is in ethnic theater and multicultural arts and activities.