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Islands

December 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1989

Islands

Scripted and Directed by **Gary L. Balfantz**

Assisted by **Linda Yara**

Scenic Design by **Joseph D. Dodd**

Lighting Design and Technical Direction by **Mark Boyd**

Costume Design by **Sandra Finney**

Music Composed and Designed by **Ralph Forsland**

The Ensemble

LAURA Y. CHEE

KIMBERLY M. CHIN

THERESA M. DREW

NATHAN K. LEE

MATT MORISAKI

The Lion Dancers

CRAIG H. NISHIO

PAUL OGATA

CHAD TAMASHIRO

CHARLES YARA

There will be one intermission

NOTICE: Please remember that smoking, photography and recordings are not permitted in the auditorium during the performance.

COVER ART: *Study of a Han Dynasty Circus* by Liu Dan.

In honor of the 200th Anniversary of the Chinese Immigration to Hawaii, the University of Hawaii Bookstore has a selection of books for your enrichment-

STRANGERS FROM A DIFFERENT SHORE by Ronald Takaki

SAILING FOR THE SUN THE CHINESE IN HAWAII 1789-1989 Editor Arlene Lum

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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SAT 8:15 AM - 11:45 AM

The Script

Islands has been adapted from these and additional works by the following artists:

Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel

Island 1910-1940, (HOC DOI Project, 1980) by

Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim, Judy Yung including the personal stories of:

Mrs. Chan, Mrs. Chin, Mrs. Fong, Mr. Gin, Mrs. Jew, Mr. Lee, Mr. Ma, Mr. Poon, Mr. Tong, and Mr. Yip

Ten Thousand Wishes (Bamboo Ridge Press, 1978)

by Eric Chock

Expounding The Doubtful Points (Bamboo Ridge Press, 1987)

by Wing Tek Lum

Sun (Bamboo Ridge Press, 1980) by Darrell H. Y. Lum

Picture Bride (W.W. Norton and Company, 1982)

by Cathy Song

Winter Place (Kearny Street Workshop Press, 1989)

by Genny Lim

Poems by Eric Chock:

Ancestry, Chinese New Year, Farmers, The Pilgrim, Manoa Cemetery, Driving Around the Island, Poem for My Father

Poems by Genny Lim:

Yellow Woman, ABC's, Grandmother's Portrait, Children are Color-Blind, Walkin Blues

Short Stories by

Darrell H. Y. Lum:

Yahk Fahn Auntie, The Moilili Bag Man, Revolution

Poems by

Wing Tek Lum:

Minority Poem, To my Father, A Picture of my Mother's Family, At Chinaman's Grave, The Devout Christian, Local Sensibilities, Urban Love Songs, My Mother Really Knew, Coloring a Rainbow, What I Want, My Dream of America

Poems by Cathy Song:

Chinatown, Lost Sister, Untouched Photograph of Passenger

About the Theatrical Experience

Islands is a highly theatrical piece but not in the traditional sense of the word. The script is an adaptation of works by several authors, writers and poets combined with the vision of director Gary L. Balfantz. The style of tonight's performance promises to be something an audience can experience rather than simply view.

Dr. Balfantz's work in performance studies and theatre has led him to specialize in the performance of non-dramatic literature: novels, poetry, short fiction, diaries, oral histories, and non-literary forms. The process of adapting, scripting and directing this type of material presents exciting challenges and opportunities for creating and producing groundbreaking non-traditional theatre.

Islands does not follow the traditional two-act, scene by scene format but rather incorporates short stories, poems, music, drama and the Chinese Lion Folk Dance to create a total theatrical experience. The performance ebbs and flows as visions and impressions take shape before your eyes. In a sense the work represents 'inner emotions' as they would be performed on stage if the thoughts of the authors could materialize.

It is the director's belief that the performance of literature makes available to the performer, as well as the audience, a unique view and perception of the 'other', in this case the Chinese-American. It is hoped that through this shared experience, one may learn who he or she is in relationship to the 'other'; that one becomes less prejudiced, less fearful of that person which is perhaps different in some way. In the universal themes explored in *Islands* the audience can view not only the 'other' but themselves. In *Islands* we can see that we as Americans are indeed very much the same - we are all human beings.

About the Artists

ERIC CHOCK (Writer) - is a local poet and editor of Bamboo Ridge Press. He has been editor for such works as *Talk Story: An Anthology of Hawaii's Local Writers*, *Hawaii Review*, and *Haku Mele O Hawaii*, an anthology of children's poetry. Eric is also the coordinator of the long running Hawaii's Poets-In-The-Schools program.

HIM MARK LAI (Writer) - is an historian and author of books and articles on Chinese American History. He was a past president of the Chinese Historical Society of the American and Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco as well as a former lecturer in Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University and University of California at Berkeley. Mr. Lai also was formerly an archivist and consultant for the Asian American Studies Library at University of California at Berkeley.

GENNY LIM (Writer) - is a native of San Francisco. She is the author of *Paper Angels*, a prize-winning drama about Chinese immigrants detained on Angel Island, which aired on American Playhouse in 1985. Other of her plays include *Bitter Cane*, set in the sugarcane fields of Hawaii near the turn of the century, *XX*, a multi-disciplinary performance play, and *Winter Place*, a poetry performance piece, combining bunraku, three-dimensional narrative wall reliefs and jazz. Lim is also co-author of *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*, the winner of an American Book Award and

(Continued on page 10)

a 1988 recipient of a New Genre fellowship from the California Arts Council. Her first book of poems, *Winter Place*, was recently released on Kearny Street Workshop Press. She teaches theatre at The New College and poetry at the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco.

DARRELL H.Y. LUM (Writer) - was the first local Chinese writer to publish a collection of short fiction and drama. His *Beer Can Hat* has been performed as an Artists-in-the-Schools dramatic production touring public schools and *Primo Doesn't Take Back Bottles Anymore* has been circulated and taught in college and high school classes. Darrell himself has continually been asked to perform his own unique renditions of these and other pieces. In support of other local writers, Darrell also serves as an editor for Bamboo Ridge Press.

WING TEK LUM (Writer) - is a Honolulu businessman and poet whose first book of poems, *Expounding the Doubtful Points*, was published by Bamboo Ridge Press.

CATHY SONG (Writer) - was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1955, and maintains a permanent home here with her husband and children. Her first book, *Picture Bride*, was chosen by Richard Hugo for the Tales Series of Younger Poets (1982). Her book *Frameless Windows, Squares of Light* (1988) also has received wide acclaim.

GARY L. BALFANTZ, Ph.D. (Guest Director and Author) - is in his fourth year as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As director of the Interpretation Studies Program he coordinates the Literature In Performance Series sponsored by the Department of Speech. He is currently Vice-President of the Hawaii Literary Arts Council and a former board member of the Storytelling Association of Hawaii. Originally from Rush Run, Ohio, he came to UHM from the University of Illinois at Urbana where he directed *Transformations*, an original adaptation of poetry by author Ann Sexton and Silver Voices based on Carl Sandburg's *Chicago Poems* and Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. Dr. Balfantz has also staged original adaptations of *The Jungle* and *Winesburg Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson. His work in Hawaii has included *Poetic Images in Motion*, a performance of selected poetry by contemporary writer Denise Levertov, *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, and *Canadian Gothic*, a one act play by Joanna M. Glass. His most recent production, *Hiroshima* by John Hershey, toured throughout the outer islands with partial funding from the Peace Institute of UHM, the College of Arts and Humanities, and the Department of Speech. Plans are now underway for his next project, an adaptation of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 'pidgin' set in a coastal fishing village somewhere in Hawaii at the turn of the century.

About the Ensemble

LAURA Y. CHEE "LYChee" - is a third generation Chinese with Hakka and Cantonese ancestry. Laura has a degree in Business Management from UH and is currently in the Continuing Education program with an emphasis in Theatre and Dance. Laura also has found the time to work on radio and television as an on-air news personality as well as doing commercial voice-overs.

KIMBERLY M. CHIN - is a Junior Liberal Studies major who is on a one year exchange from Fresno, California. She says she enjoys Hawaii so much that her stay may become permanent. While at the Cal State Fresno Kim appeared in the *Merchant of Venice* which was also filmed for the local Cable station. Kim loves nature and getting to know people.

THERESA M. DREW - is a Senior in the Department of Speech and has participated in many Speech department productions such as *Literature Alive*, *Storyfest*, and last semester's *Couch*

Potato T.V. She is a avid reader of short stories and poetry, and enjoys scripting as well as performing. As an independent study, she also scripted and directed a short story for performance last semester. She likes movies, chocolate, friends and stress.

NATHAN K. LEE - is a second year Chemistry major. He was born in Oregon, lived in Southern California and eventually graduated from Milliani High School. He was a member of the Tri-School Thespian Group playing the Tin Man in *The Wiz* and he also was a member of Honolulu Boys' Choir. Nathan has also worked on set construction for UH productions of *Mother Hicks*, *Monkey Magic* and *The Tempest*. Nathan enjoys theatre, photography and chemistry.

MATT MORISAKI - was born and raised in Los Angeles, California where he graduated from Beverly Hills High School. He enjoys playing all types of sports from surfing to golf. His other interests include nature, and writing and reading poetry. Having just appeared as the Bosun in *The Tempest*, Matt says he enjoys acting, theatre and drama, and intends to do it for a long time. Matt also likes to make people laugh and smile.

CRAIG H. NISHIO - is now a Senior majoring in Agriculture Resource Economics, although he has also won many speech awards in high school for Poetry Reading. Some of his other interests include writing poetry and donating his time toward church activities. He hopes one day he'll be able to contribute something special to the world.

PAUL OGATA - hails from Pearl City and is currently a Junior here at UH in pursuit of a Business degree. Aside from this academic side of Paul's life, he also spends his time as a stand-up comic. He can frequently be seen performing at the Honolulu Comedy Club.

CHAD TAMASHIRO - is a Junior planning to major in Theatre. Chad's first appearance at Kennedy was playing "Joey" in the LAB Theatre production of *The Indian Wants The Bronx*. Since then, Chad has appeared in Kennedy Theatre's *The Oresteia*, Hawaii Theatre's *13 Daughters* and HCT's production of *Guys and Dolls*. In 1987, Chad was able to tour to New York, Washington D.C. and Philadelphia as a singer/musician with *We the People*.

CHARLES YARA - originally born on Lanai, received a Bachelor of Arts from UH some years ago and he has now returned to school for a professional diploma in Elementary Education. Charles played a role in Gary Balfantz's narrative theatre production of *Hiroshima* based on the book by John Hershey. Charles and his wife now call Honolulu home.

About the Student Production Staff

LINDA YARA (Assistant Director) - has a Bachelor degree in Japanese as well as a degree in Special Education both from UH. Currently Linda is a Graduate student pursuing theatre studies in design. She had the wonderful opportunity to work with Gary Balfantz as Assistant Director in the narrative theatre production of *Hiroshima* by John Hershey in Spring 1988. Here at Kennedy Theatre she served as a musician for the Fall production of *Monkey Magic*.

ELIZABETH P. CASPER (Production Stage Manager) - after completing her Bachelor of Arts at Carleton College in Minnesota, has escaped from the cold to do her Graduate work in fairer weather. Her design and stage managing credits include college productions of Euripides' *Elektra*, original plays, *Success* and *Butterfly Dream* and others. She also recently was the sound operator for *Monkey Magic* here at Kennedy Theatre. Summer employment in the drama program of Girl Scout National Center West has sparked her interest in working with high school students.

Production Staff for Islands

Production Stage Manager: Elizabeth P. Casper
Assistant Stage Manager: Nathan K. Lee
Lion Dance Consultant: Patrick Hodges
Associate Technical Director: Gerald Kawaoka
Light Board Operator: Shawn Forsythe
Sound Board Operator: Robert Monden
Property Master: Chad Tamashiro
Set Construction: Beth Casper, Alan Hunley,
 Jian Hong Kuo, Nathan Lee, Lawrence Lessard,
 Tony Rizzi, Members of Theatre 101 and 240
Costume Shop Manager/Cutter: Mary Thompson
Costume Construction: Holly Blumner, Hugh Hanson,
 Charlotte Hare, Janet Mikealson, Members of
 Theatre 101, 240 and 200C
Dressers: Pam Saepae, James White
Publicity Director: Matt Daly
Publicity Staff: Heather Carter, David McDowell,
 Members of Theatre 200E
Poster Design: Robert Santiago
Poster and Program Consultant: Billie Ikeda, Center
 for Instructional Support
Original Season Artwork: Liu Dan
Season Brochure: Mike Tamaru
Graphic Designer: Kevin Wilson
Photographers: Stephen Clear, James Giles
Box Office Coordinators: Geri Amparo, Michelle Kono
Box Office Staff: Dan Cahill, R. Kevin Doyle,
 Kimo Pokini, Jay Tamarabuchi
House Manager/Program Coordinator: Erny Figueroa
Assistant House Manager: Heather Carter
Head Usher: Kristin L. Lieb
Ushers: Farrington High School NHS, Maryknoll High
 School Theatre Group, Moanalua High School
 Speech and Drama, Punahou School Drama
 Club, Waianae High School NHS
Office Assistants: Mimi Wisnosky, Linda Yara
Custodians: Lindsey Garcia, Makiko Swanson

Special Thanks:

Gary Lau
 Robert Santiago
 The Artists: Eric Chock, Genny Lim, Darrell H.Y. Lum,
 Wing Tek Lum, Cathy Song
 Warren S. Nishimoto: Director, Center for Oral History,
 University of Hawaii at Manoa
 Geraldine Dulick
 The Secretarial Staff of the Department of Speech
 Joseph Stanton: Director of the Center of Arts &
 Humanities
 Hawaii Literary Arts Council
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 Culture Club
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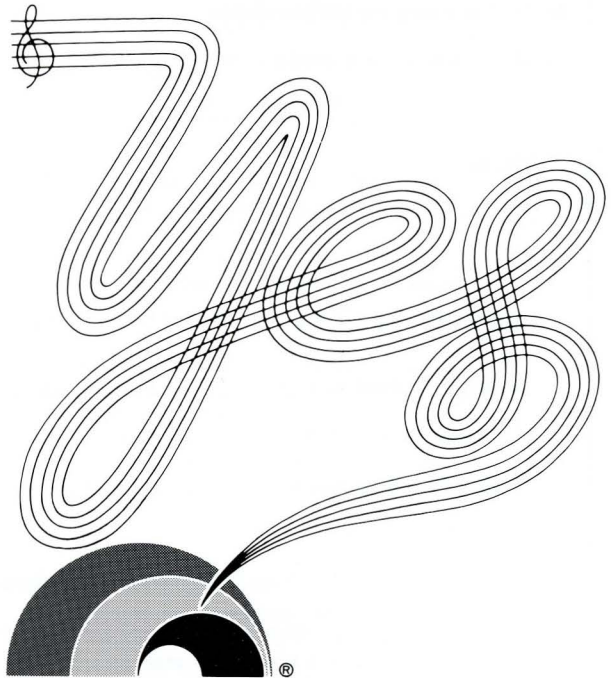
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Department of Theatre and Dance College of Arts and Humanities University of Hawaii at Manoa

Faculty

Roger A. Long, Chair, Asian Theatre, Acting
Judy Allen, Director of Dance, Modern Dance,
Dance Composition
Mark Boyd, Technical Theatre, Lighting
James Brandon, Asian Theatre
Glenn Cannon, Acting, Directing, TV/Film
Dennis Carroll, Film, Playwriting Theory
Joseph D. Dodd, Production Coordinator, Scenic Design
Sandra Finney, Costume Design
Peggy Gaither, Modern Dance, Dance Composition
Sandra Hammond, Ballet, Dance History
Tamara Hunt, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of
Children's Theatre, Creative Drama, Puppetry
Terence Knapp, Acting, Directing, Voice
Edward A. Langhans, Professor Emeritus,
Theatre History, Research
David Landis, Visiting Faculty, Modern Dance and
Composition
Youlan Liu, Visiting Faculty, Chinese Dance
Olava M. Menczkowski, Modern Dance
Fuqing Shen, Visiting Faculty, Music Beijing Opera
Techniques
Xiaomei Shen, Visiting Faculty, Beijing Opera
Techniques
Judy Van Zile, Dance Ethnology
Juli Thompson, Dramatic Literature, Theory, Directing
Elizabeth Wichmann, Director of Asian Theatre,
Asian Theatre
Hongfa Zhu, Visiting Faculty, Beijing Opera Techniques

Staff:

Gerald R. Kawaoka, Theatre Technician
Marty Myers, Theatre Manager
Terri Roberts, Stenographer
Nancy Takei, Secretary
Mary T. Thompson, Costume Shop Manager

Lecturers:

Allen Cole, Acting; **Harriet Glass**, Dance;
Alaine Haubert, Dance; **Steven Kenney**, Dance
Accompanist; **Takashi Koshi**, Dance;
Wayne H. Medoza, Dance; **Bob Myers**, Dance
Accompanist; **Gertrude Y. Tsutsumi**, Dance;
Eric Shank, Dance Accompanist; **Marcia T. Wong**,
Dance

Graduate and Special Assistants:

Holly Blumner, **Cornelius Carter**, **Giorgio Colli**,
Phil Couch, **Matt Daly**, **Erny Figueroa**, **Hugh Hanson**,
Charlotte Hare, **Sherwood Xuehua Hu**, **Alan J. Hunley**,
Jian Hong Kuo, **Lawrence Lessard**, **Cathleen J. Mang**,
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