

THEATREWORKS

presents the asian premiere of a new play by award winning playwright chay yew

a
story
of
running
free
and
shattered
dreams.

DECEMBER 4-14 8PM
THE DRAMA CENTRE

R(A)

RESTRICTED TO AUDIENCES AGE 15 AND ABOVE

HALF LIVES

“I WANT TO LIVE
A FULL LIFE
A COMPLETE LIFE
NOT SOME HALF LIFE
A FULL LIFE
OR NOTHING AT ALL”

WRITTEN BY CHAY YEW DIRECTED BY LIM KAY SIU

An absent father
A determined mother
A willful son
Journey into the American heartland.

Half Lives is a series of vivid snapshots of a Singaporean woman, an Asian American man and their son. An emotional and provocative drama of a family in pursuit of the great American dream, liberation and a place to call home.

*"He is model minority
Always polite
Quiet"*

*Mister don't rock-boat
Like he's guest in someone's home*

*Don't understand
His family in America
Four Generations
All working
In Columbus
Ohio*

*Doctor lawyer engineer architect
But whole family the same
All weak
All model people*

*I will not be
Like him
Model minority
I will not be
Visitor in this country
I will become owner
A part of this America"*

Singaporean Chay Yew's plays include *As If He Hears*, *Porcelain*, *A Language of Their Own* and *Red*. His works have been presented throughout the world, including productions at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Royal Court Theatre (London), Mark Taper Forum, Tarragon Theatre (Toronto) and TheatreWorks (Singapore) to name a few.

For his plays, Chay is the recipient of the London Fringe Award, George and Elisabeth Marton Playwriting Award and the APGF Community Visibility Award.

Currently, he is the first Singaporean celebrated in full time professional theatre in the United States. Today he is resident director of the Asian Theatre Workshop at the Mark Taper Forum, the largest theatre company in Los Angeles. He has just received a Pew Grant to be Resident Director at the East-West Players and a National Endowment of Arts Grant to develop new work with Chinese American communities. His newest play, *Red*, will be presented in New York at the prestigious Manhattan Theatre Club in 1998.

The Asian premiere of *Half Lives* is Chay Yew's first play in Singapore since the ground breaking *As If He Hears* for TheatreWorks' doublebill on AIDS, Safe Sex in 1989. TheatreWorks is proud to welcome Chay Yew home with his new play.

TICKETS at \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35 & \$45 (concession tickets for full-time students & NSF) available at all SISTIC outlets or call SISTIC at 3485555 • GALA FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1997 AT 8PM IN AID OF THEATREWORKS. DONATION TICKETS AT \$100 (INCLUSIVE OF POST SHOW COCKTAIL RECEPTION) AVAILABLE FROM THEATREWORKS. HOTLINE AT 3386735

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