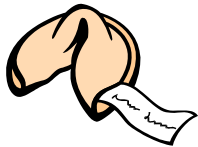


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Press Release

A Multi-racial "Revival of Dreams" in New Adaptation of "Paint Your Wagon"

Los Angeles, CA—December 3, 2004

Asian-American actor Ian Shen is performing as the token Chinese miner in the world premiere Geffen Playhouse staging of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's *Paint Your Wagon* in a new adaptation by David Rambo (*God's Man in Texas*). The revised revival directed by Geffen producing director Gilbert Cates (*Academy Awards*) runs at the Brentwood Theatre, November 23, 2004-January 9, 2005. The show officially opened on December 1st.

Lerner and Loewe's classic musical set during the California Gold Rush, *Paint Your Wagon*, comes to life anew in this revival. *Paint Your Wagon* tells the story of widowed Ben Rumson (Tom Wilson, *Back to the Future*) who has come out West to find his fortune. When he strikes gold, people come from all over to join the strike including Ah-Wah (Ian Shen) from China, others from Russia, Spain and France. When Ben's 16-year old daughter Jennifer falls in love with Julio Valveras, a Mexican in search of his own American dream, love becomes more important than money. The Rumson family is faced with choosing between gold and each other.

Son of a former Miss Hongkong, Ian Shen—a Chinese-American actor who played the Dentist in East West Player's successful *Little Shop of Horrors* and Sakini in the Pulitzer & Tony Prizes-winning play *The Teahouse of the August Moon* (Secret Rose)—is one in a talented multi-racial cast that includes Erika Amato, Robert Alan Clink, Janelle Dote, Joe Garcia, Steven Hack, David Jennings, Rob Kahn, Sharon Lawrence (*NYPD Blue*), Daniel Lujan, Alex Mendoza, Harry S. Murphy, Tracy Powell, Morgan Rusler, Jessica Rush, Andy Umberger and Tom Wilson.

"The California Gold Rush embodies the pursuit of our dreams—not unlike the dream of a young Chinese-American actor who ventures to Hollywood from Smalltown, Illinois, to pursue a life in entertainment where Asians Americans still vie for visibility and recognition," says Shen, "The story is incomplete without the journey of the Chinese miner who sacrifices home and family in hopes of striking riches in a foreign land, only later to find himself unable to return home and resolved to make life work here. Yet what are dreams if one has no courage to pursue them?"

The musical, featuring a book and lyrics by Lerner with music by Loewe, debuted on Broadway in 1951 with James Barton, Olga San Juan and James Mitchell. The work was later adapted for film in 1969 by Paddy Chayefsky starring Lee Marvin, Jean Seberg and Clint Eastwood. Lerner and Loewe also went on to create the musicals *Brigadoon*, *My Fair Lady*, *Gigi* and *Camelot*. The freshly arranged and orchestrated score features songs such as "I'm On My Way," "I Still See Elisa," "They Call The Wind Maria," "There's A Coach Comin' In," "Whoop-Ti-Ay!," "I Talk to the Trees" and "Wand'rin' Star." *Paint Your Wagon* will feature choreography by Kay Cole. Musical director Steve Orich provides arrangements and orchestrations. The design team for features Daniel Ionazzi (scenic and lighting), David Kay Mickleleson (costume) and Phil Allen (sound). Grayson Merritt serves as production stage manager.

For more information, visit Ian Shen's website at <http://www.Ian.Shen.com>. Ian Shen is repped by Kristene Wallis of the Wallis Agency, (818) 953-4848.

Tickets to *Paint Your Wagon*, at the Brentwood Theatre, 11301 Wilshire Boulevard, (on the campus of the Veterans Administration) in Brentwood, CA, are available by calling (310) 208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

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