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**Cast and Creative Team Announced for ACT and The 5th Avenue Theatre's Co-Production of Lauren Yee's**  
***CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND***

*On stage at ACT Contemporary Theatre September 29 – November 5, 2023 - tickets on sale now at [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org)*

SEATTLE, WA (August 10, 2023) — ACT Contemporary Theatre and The 5th Avenue Theatre today announced the complete cast and creative team for their 11th annual co-production: the electric, darkly funny hit play with music, ***Cambodian Rock Band***. Written by prolific award-winning American playwright **Lauren Yee** (*King of the Yees*; *The Great Leap*) and backed by a live band playing contemporary **Dengue Fever** hits and other classic Cambodian oldies, ***Cambodian Rock Band*** tickets are on sale now and are available for purchase at [ACTtheatre.org](http://ACTtheatre.org) or by calling the ACT Box Office at (206) 292-7676.

*Cambodian Rock Band* tells the story of a Khmer Rouge survivor returning to Cambodia for the first time in thirty years, as his daughter prepares to prosecute one of Cambodia's most infamous war criminals. This thrilling theatrical adventure toggles back and forth in time as father and daughter face the music of the past. Lauren Yee brings us an intimate rock epic about family secrets set against a dark chapter of Cambodian history.

***Cambodian Rock Band*** will feature **Phil Wong** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival: *Revenge Song*) as Duch ; **Abraham Kim** (Music: National and International tours with Run River North, DANakaDAN and Magnetic North & Taiyo Na) as Rom; **Jane Lui** (East West Players: *Vieitgone*) as Pou; **Joe Ngo** (ACT: *King of the Yees*) as Chum; **Brooke Ishibashi** (The Public Theater: *The Good Person of Szechwan*) as Neary & Sothea; and **Tim Liu** (American Conservatory Theatre: *The Great Leap*) as Ted, Cadre, & Leng.

The co-production, led by director **Chay Yew** (The Public Theater: *Mojada*, *Oedipus el Rey*, *Durango*), music supervisors and co-music directors **Jane Lui** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival: *All's Well That Ends Well*) and **Matt MacNelly** (La Jolla Playhouse: *Our Town*) with associate director **Graham Schmidt**, will feature scenic design by **Takeshi Kata** (Alley Theatre: *Quixote Nuevo*); costume design by **Linda Cho** (Broadway: *POTUS*; *Summer 1976*); lighting design by **David Weiner** (Broadway: *The Great Society*; *The Price*); sound design by **Mikhail Fiksel** (Tony Award Best Sound Design: *Dana H.*) and **Megumi Katayama** (Off-Broadway/NYC: *The Light in*

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*the Piazza; For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf*); wig design by **Tom Watson** (Broadway: *Wicked; Rock of Ages*), and projection design by **Luke Norby** (Portland Center Stage: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*).

"It is such an honor to welcome Lauren Yee back to our theatre with her modern epic *Cambodian Rock Band*. We have been fortunate to have had a front row seat to Lauren's artistry, having workshopped and produced other works from the Yee canon." said **ACT Contemporary Theatre Artistic Director John Langs**. "*Cambodian Rock Band* is truly event theatre – equal parts rock concert, historical excavation, and familial revelation, told with the brash wit and theatrical daring that is the trademark of this great storyteller. To see this show bursting at the seams of our intimate theatre will be a wildly unique experience and one we are so excited to share with Seattle."

"We are absolutely thrilled to partner with ACT Contemporary Theatre to bring *Cambodian Rock Band* to life for Seattle audiences," said **The 5th Avenue Theatre Artistic Director Bill Berry**. "With its poignant narrative of resilience and the invincible spirit of music, it not only captivates but also illuminates the remarkable ability to transcend some of history's darkest chapters. Between the live performances and the emotional depths of this story, this will be a transformative theater experience for all who attend."

**Director Chay Yew** said, "*Cambodian Rock Band* is a unique dramaturgical hybrid of its own: fusing history, politics, rock concert, family drama fashioning into a potent work of art. Lauren Yee's play also breathes life to the timely issues in our divided nation: immigration, race, genocide and human rights abuses; the rights of refugees and emigres; the consequences of apathy when a country shifts under a brutal regime; and the destruction of freedom of expression in the midst of political transitions and upheavals."

## MEET THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

### ABOUT THE CAST

*Cambodian Rock Band* features performances by: **Phil Wong** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival: *Revenge Song*) as Duch; **Abraham Kim** (Music: National and International tours with Run River North, DANakaDAN and Magnetic North & Taiyo Na) as Rom; **Jane Lui** (East West Players: *Vieitgone*) as Pou; **Joe Ngo** (ACT: *King of the Yees*) as Chum; **Brooke Ishibashi** (The Public Theater: *The Good Person of Szechwan*) as Neary & Sothea; and **Tim Liu** (American Conservatory Theatre: *The Great Leap*) as Ted, Cadre, & Leng.

The cast also includes understudies **Kelsey Angel Baehrens**, **Alex Lydon**, and **Vi Tran**.

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### ABOUT LAUREN YEE (Playwright)

*Cambodian Rock Band* premiered at South Coast Repertory, subsequent productions at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, City Theatre, Merrimack Rep, Signature Theatre, Victory Gardens, and Jungle Theatre/Theater Mu. Her play *The Great Leap* has been produced at the Denver Center, Steppenwolf, Seattle Repertory, Atlantic Theatre, the Guthrie Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Arts Club, InterAct Theatre, Portland Center Stage, and Asolo Rep. Honors include the Doris Duke Artists Award, Whiting Award, Steinberg/ATCA Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters literature award, Horton Foote Prize, Kesselring Prize, Primus Prize, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton, and the #1 and #2 plays on the 2017 Kilroys List. She's a Residency 5 playwright at Signature Theatre, New Dramatists member, Ma-Yi Writers' Lab member, and Playwrights Realm alumni playwright. Current commissions include Arena Stage/Second Stage, Geffen Playhouse, and South Coast Repertory. TV credits: *Pachinko* (Apple), *Soundtrack* (Netflix), *Interior Chinatown* (Hulu), *Billions* (Showtime), *The Sterling Affairs* (FX). She is currently developing pilots for Netflix and Apple. BA: Yale. MFA: UCSD.

### ABOUT CHAY YEW (Director)

His New York credits include the Public Theater, Playwrights Horizon, New York Theatre Workshop, Signature Theatre, Playwrights Realm, Audible Theatre, Rattlestick, Ensemble Studio Theatre, National Asian American Theatre, and Ma Yi. Regionally, he directed for the Humana Festival, Goodman Theatre, Kennedy Center, American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Hartford Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Huntington Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Rep, Woolly Mammoth, Center Theatre Group, Long Wharf, Alley Theatre, Hartford Stage, Denver Theatre Center, Portland Center Stage, Round House Theatre, Singapore Repertory Theatre, amongst others. His opera credits include the world premieres of Osvaldo Golijov's and David Henry Hwang's *Ainadamar* (co-production with Tanglewood Music Center, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and Los Angeles Philharmonic) and Rob Zuidam's *Rage D'Amors* (Tanglewood). He is a recipient of the OBIE Award for Direction. From 2011 to 2020, he was the Artistic Director of Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago.

### ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team features **Chay Yew** (Director); **Graham Schmidt** (Associate Director); **Matt MacNelly** (Music Supervisor & Co-Music Director); **Jane Lui** (Music Supervisor & Co-Music Director); **Takeshi Kata** (Scenic Design); **Linda Cho** (Costume Design); **David Weiner** (Lighting Design); **Mikhail Fiksel** (Co-Sound Design); **Megumi Katayama** (Co-Sound Design); **Tom Watson** (Wig Design); **Luke Norby** (Projection Design); **Charles M. Turner III** (Production Consultant); **Merrick A.B. Williams** (Stage Manager); and **Quy Ton** (Assistant Stage Manager).

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**FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS:**

**WHAT:**

An ACT and The 5th Avenue Theatre co-production of  
A Signature Theatre Production  
in association with Alley Theatre, Arena Stage, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre

***Cambodian Rock Band***

By Lauren Yee

Featuring Songs by Dengue Fever

Directed by Chay Yew

Guitars tuned. Mic checked. Get ready to rock! This darkly funny hit play with music tells the story of a Khmer Rouge survivor returning to Cambodia for the first time in thirty years, as his daughter prepares to prosecute one of Cambodia's most infamous war criminals. Backed by a live band 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.

**WHEN:**

**September 29 - November 5, 2023**

Performances run Wednesday – Friday at 7:30pm, Saturday-Sunday at 2:00pm & 7:30pm, with select Tuesdays at 7:30pm, and select Thursday matinees at 2:00pm

Run time is approximately 2 hours 30 minutes, with one 15-minute intermission

**Key Dates:**

- Show Talks: September 30, at 4:30pm
- Tix for Teachers: September 30, at 7:30pm
- Global Majority Night: October 4 at 7:30pm
- Opening Night: Thursday, October 5 at 7:30pm
- Community Day performance: October 7 in-between , 2:00pm and 7:30pm performance starting at 4:30pm
- Audio Described Performance: October 21 at 2:00pm
- ASL performance: October 22 at 2:00pm
- Fridays @ The 5th: October 27 at 3:30pm

**WHERE:**

**ACT Contemporary Theatre's Falls Theatre**, located at 700 Union Street in Downtown Seattle.

**TICKETS:**

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**Tickets start at \$39.** We are proud to offer a range of ticket prices for all our plays, including pay what you choose tickets for each performance, making theatre affordable for everyone.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://acttheatre.org>

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

Production images will become available in the coming weeks. For available pre-production images or artwork, [please visit our Press Room online >>](#)

### CONNECT ON SOCIAL:

[acttheatre.org](https://acttheatre.org)

Facebook - [/ACTtheatreSeattle](#)

Instagram - [@ACTtheatre](#)

[5thavenue.org](https://5thavenue.org)

Facebook - [/5thave](#)

Instagram - [@the5thavenuetheatre](#)

Show tags: #ACTtheatre #CRBSeattle

### ABOUT ACT - A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 55 years, ACT has been the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 47 world premieres. Led by Artistic Director John Langs and Managing Director Anita Shah, ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit [ACTTheatre.org](https://ACTTheatre.org).

### ABOUT THE 5th AVENUE THEATRE

The 5th Avenue Theatre is one of America's leading musical theater companies. We enrich the community we love with the art form we love—giving the Pacific Northwest a front-row seat to original powerhouse productions that go on to light up marquees and audiences all the way to Broadway. From the page to the stage, we bring passion and epic scale to every musical we create with big talent and bigger-than-life productions. As a nonprofit theater company and one of our region's largest performing arts employers, we spread the joy of great musicals with

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people of all ages across our region and state. Each year, we reach 30,000 young people through our nationally acclaimed education programs. Programs designed to develop new musicals ensure that the next generation of great musicals will be there to tell the stories that captivate tomorrow's audiences. On the national stage, we are a leading voice for the power of this art form to lift the human spirit.

For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org).

*Thank you to ACT Contemporary Theatre's Theatre and Season Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, ArtsWA, Bowery Valuation, The Grousemont Foundation, The Norcliffe Foundation, The Sunderland Foundation, and Katharyn Alvord Gerlich.*

*Thank you to The 5th Avenue Theatre Sponsors: Purple Café and Wine Bar, and Cortina.*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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