

Sierra Madre Playhouse

Announces Auditions for

THE JOY LUCK CLUB

By Susan Kim

Adapted from the novel by Amy Tan

Directed by Tim Dang

Produced by Christian Lebano

The Sierra Madre Playhouse (SMP), located in Sierra Madre, California 91024 will produce THE JOY LUCK CLUB using the AEA 99 Seat Agreement and will cast a mix of AEA and non-AEA actors. SMP strives to make the experience of performing at our theater one which is fulfilling, satisfying, and pleasurable.

Four Chinese-American mothers, four American-born daughters, and the rich complexities of family ties and history as the eight women reach across a seemingly unbridgeable divide. This classic mother-daughter story encompasses many universal themes: family, hope, love, sacrifice, strength, and wishes for a better life, while it weaves in and out of its characters' lives.

“Blending hilarity and heartbreak, the play has moments both side-splitting and shattering.”---L.A. Times

DATES

PREVIEW: Friday, August 23, 2019 at 8:00 PM

OPENS: Saturday, August 24, 2019 at 8:00 PM

CLOSES: Saturday, October 5 at 8:00 PM (there is a possibility of added shows but no extension)

26 Performance dates:

August: 23E (preview), 24E, 25M, 30E, 31E

September: 1M, 6E, 7M&E, 8M, 13E, 14M&E, 15M, 20E, 21M&E, 22M, 27E, 28M&E, 29M, 30E(pwyc)

October: 4E, 5M&E

First Auditions are Tuesday, June 4 and Wednesday, June with additional auditions by arrangement. Callbacks, Monday, June 10. All auditions will take place in Sierra Madre. Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, and will be Tuesday through Friday Evenings, Saturday & Sunday days, at our rehearsal space or in the theater in Sierra Madre. Rehearsal times are flexible. Final rehearsal schedule will be arranged after the show is cast. No reasonable conflicts should keep actors from submitting. Tech week and dress rehearsals will begin on Friday, August 16 and continue through Thursday, August 22. Actors must be completely available during that period.

SUBMISSIONS

Email your headshot and resume to JoyLuckSMP@gmail.com and indicate the role you are interested in or submit through Actors Access or Backstage. AEA and non-AEA actors will be considered. This is an ensemble show with eleven performers playing various roles. No personal deliveries.

PLOT

The Joy Luck Club contains interwoven stories from the present and the past about conflicts between Chinese immigrant mothers and their American-raised daughters. Jing-mei has taken her mother's place playing mahjong in a weekly gathering her mother had organized in China and revived in San Francisco: the Joy Luck Club. The club's other members—Lindo, Ying-ying, and An-mei—are three of her mother's oldest friends and fellow immigrants. They tell Jing-mei that just before her mother Suyuan died, she had finally succeeded in locating the address of her lost daughters, Jing-mei's half sisters. The three women repeatedly urge Jing-mei to travel to China and tell her sisters about their mother's life. But Jing-mei wonders whether she is capable of telling her mother's story, and the three older women fear that Jing-mei's doubts may be justified. They fear that their own daughters (Waverly, Rose, and Lena) like Jing-mei, may not know or appreciate the stories of their mothers' lives.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Jing-Mei Woo: Asian, female, 20s-early 30s; her story serve as a bridge between the two generations; her fears echo those of her peers, the other daughters of the Joy Luck Club members; believes that her mother's constant criticism bespeaks a lack of affection. This actor also plays a Servant and Second Wife.

Su-yuan Woo: Asian, female, 40s-50s; a strong and willful woman; struggles to create happiness and success where she finds it lacking; founder of the original Joy Luck Club. This actor also plays the Matchmaker.

An-mei Hsu: Asian, female, 40s-50s stoic, swallows her tears, conceals her pain, and distrusts others, fears that she has handed down a certain passivity to her daughter Rose. This actor also plays Huang Taitai.

Rose Hsu Jordan: Asian, female, 20s-early 30s; unable to assert her opinion, stand up for herself, or make decisions. This actor also plays Amah and Chwan Yu Wang.

Lindo Jong: Asian, female, 40s-50s; has the powers of "invisible strength"; strong willed; believes in one's inner force. This actor also plays the Mother of An Mei.

Waverly Jong: Asian, female, 20s-early 30s ; inherits mother's "invisible strength", not entirely self-centered, nor is she without insecurities; fears her mother's criticism. This actor also plays Popo and Yan Chang.

Ying-ying St. Clair: Asian, female, 40s-50s; profound belief in fate and her personal destiny led to a policy of passivity and even listlessness; always listening to omens and signs; never pays attention to her inner feelings. This actor also plays An Mei's Auntie.

Lena St. Clair: Asian, female, 20s-early 30s; caught in an unhappy marriage; inherited her mother's belief in superstition; deems herself incapable of reversing what is "fated" to happen. This actor also plays Mr. Chong and Chwan Hwa Wang.

Tyan Yu, Moon Lady, Watermelon Man, Tin Jong – Asian male, mid-20s-mid 30s to play a range of roles. Must be nimble in various voices and Chinese accents.

Canning Woo, Lau Po, Master Archer, Wu Tsing – Asian male, mid-40s-50s to play a wide range of roles. Must be nimble in character voices and Chinese accents.

Clifford St. Clair, Harold Livotny, Ted Jordan, Rick Shields – Caucasian male, late 20-30s to play a wide range of roles. Must be nimble in various voices.

Other ensemble roles will be assigned during the rehearsal process among those cast.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Please bring a picture and resume to your audition; Prepare one contemporary monologue (memorized) no longer than two minutes that shows emotional range and your ability to tell a story.

Callbacks will be sides from THE JOY LUCK CLUB play by Susan Kim.

THE DIRECTOR: TIM DANG is the recipient of the Society of Directors and Choreographers' Zelda Fichandler Award for transforming the regional theatre arts landscape through theatre. He is Co-Chair of the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII) for the LA County Board of Supervisors and an LA County Arts Commissioner for Supervisorial District One. He is producing artistic director emeritus of East West Players (EWP), the longest running professional theatre of color in the United States having lead the organization for 23-years through 2016. Tim has produced and directed over 100 plays and musicals at EWP including familiar plays such as INTO THE WOODS, CABARET, EQUUS, F.O.B and new works such as IMELDA, a musical based on the former First Lady of the Philippines and MYSTERIOUS SKIN, based on the best selling novel. Tim is an adjunct lecturer teaching directing and dramaturgy at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. Last year, he directed NOTHING IS THE SAME for Sierra Madre Playhouse's Theater for Young Audiences and recently directed THE EMPEROR'S NIGHTINGALE at Mainstreet Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga.