THE HATMAKER’S WIFE

BY LAUREN YEE

Directed by Joel Sass

Feb 9 – March 17
THE HATMAKER’S WIFE
BY LAUREN YEE  DIRECTED BY JOEL SASS

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Pedro Bayon* .......................................................... Meckel
Michelle de Joya ....................................................... Voice
Tyson Forbes* .......................................................... Wall, Golem
Jim Lichtscheidl* ....................................................... Hetchman
Clay Man Soo* .......................................................... Gabe
Kimberly Richardson* ............................................. Hetchman’s Wife

*APPEARING THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THIS THEATRE AND ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright .............................................................. Lauren Yee
Director/Scenic Designer ............................................ Joel Sass
Music Director .......................................................... Katherine Fried
Costume Designer ..................................................... Sonya Berlovitz
Dramaturg ............................................................... Isabella Dawis
Stage Manager ......................................................... Matthew Meeks
Scenic/Props Artisan .................................................. Noah Sommers Haas
Production Manager ................................................ Ryan Volna-Rich
Artistic Director ....................................................... Marcela Lorca
Graphic Designer ..................................................... Holly Welch
Photographer .......................................................... Tom Wallace
Audio-Describer ....................................................... Laurie Pape Hadley
ASL Interpreters ...................................................... Air Rhymes Theatrical Interpreting

PERFORMANCE VENUES:
Avalon School, Project Success, Wayside Recovery Center, Northeast Contemporary Services, St Paul Opportunity Center, Episcopal Homes – Carty Heights, North Hennepin Community College, St Peter Regional Treatment Center, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, Cora McCorvey Center, Harmony Adult Learning Center, Ramsey County Correctional Facility, St Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, MSS, Open Book, MN Correctional Facility – Shakopee, New Beginnings at East Creek Family Center, Dellwood Gardens

THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIPS:
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SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Open Eye Theater and Karen Wiese-Thompson for props, The Moving Company (MOCO) and Park Square Theater for costume assistance, and Bronson Talcott - Costume Assistant

TEN THOUSAND THINGS ARTIST CORE:
Sarah Agnew, Brian Bose, Aimee Bryant, Sun Mee Chomet, Cristina Florencia Castro, Tyson Forbes, H. Adam Harris, Jo Holcomb, George Keller, Elise Langer, Tracey Maloney, Kira Obolensky, Greta Oglesby, Mo Perry, T. Mychael Rambo, Kimberly Richardson, Will Sturdivant and Regina Marie Williams

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STAFF:
Marcela Lorca, Artistic Director; Stephanie Thompson, Managing Director; Amy Tang, Development & Marketing Director; Ryan Volna-Rich, Production Manager; Peter Vitale, Resident Music Director; Catherine Hennessy Wolter, Development Officer; Ashawnti Sakina Ford, Community Programs Associate; Kathy Graves and Brigitte Parenteau, Communications
DIRECTORS’ NOTES:

Collaborating with this wonderful group of artists to bring Lauren Yee’s play to life in a uniquely “TTT way” has been like gathering around a warm campfire in winter: each day we discovered new insight and wisdom in this fairytale for grown-ups, with characters inhabiting a world in which walls can talk, golems walk, and hats make music.

Like the best fables and fairytales, The Hatmaker’s Wife is about many things at once as it bends time and space to redefine the idea of family, home, and true love itself. The great gift of a fable or fairytale is that it contains many meanings, and what each of us takes away at the end can be unique.

This play is for all of us who have at some point “felt a little floaty”, disconnected from friends or family, uncertain that we are worthy of being loved or even capable of offering love ourselves.

I hope the show inspires everyone to honor with gratitude the people in our lives who have “loved us to the ground”, and to remember how essential it is that we risk being open to accepting that love when it is offered … and to recognize that others are relying on us to “ground” them in return.

— Joel Sass

DRAMATURG’S NOTES:

“I find relationships as they age simultaneously disconcerting, hilarious, and beautiful.” — Lauren Yee, playwright

The world of The Hatmaker’s Wife is not our own world. Expect, in Lauren Yee’s words, “a little bit of the impossible.” A young woman, struggling to define herself, is transported inside a magical tale where memories are kept in jars and love is as forceful as gravity. She learns what binds together families, partners, and friends — and she finds the intense feelings of joy and regret that are too often kept hidden behind walls. We invite you to travel with her, and remember that whenever you step into a story, you never know how much of yourself you’ll find along the way.

— Isabella Davis

WHY DO THEATER?

PEDRO BAYÓN
(Meckel) He/Him/El

“For the experience of sharing a story, an idea, an emotion. Theater tells stories that perhaps you don’t see in the history books, but are real and human, nonetheless. It’s an intimate medium, a shared experience like no other. If I make you laugh, cry, cringe, feel empathy, inform you, change your mind, make you feel SOMETHING, then I’ve done my job, and I feel alive!”

Pedro was born and raised in Puerto Rico and has been seen on the stages of Mixed Blood Theatre, History Theatre, Children’s Theatre, Frank Theatre, Teatro del Pueblo, Pangea World Theatre, and Ordway Center, among many others.

MICHELLE DE JOYA
(Voice) They/She

“I started my onstage career because I feel that I possess an understanding and empathetic mind, paired with a hyper-able and versatile vessel; when this exists through the lens of an Asian-American femme, it creates the opportunity to not only portray new narratives that some may not be commonly exposed to but it also can inspire those who do see themselves in me to feel validated, nuanced, and motivated.”

Michelle is a Filipino-American Twin Cities based Performer, Playwright, and Teaching Artist. Past acting credits include: Kung Fu Zombies SAGA (Theater Mu), Vietgone (The Guthrie Theater), Bina’s Six Apples (Children’s Theater Company), Chicago (Theater Latte Da), The Brothers’ Paranormal (Penumbra & Theater Mu), The Wolves: The Courtroom (The Jungle Theater), Passing Strange; Sherwood (YellowTree Theater) and more. Michelle is also excited to be the ‘23-’24 Many Voices Mentee at the Playwrights Center. You can keep up with other acting and writing projects at facebook.com/dejoya.michelle

TYSON FORBES
(Wall, Golem) He/Him/His

“Because it offers us a space to see and be seen. To experience presence and join in the collective imagining of storytelling. Great theater asks its audience to dive off their seat and explore the sheer abundance of the imagination which resides in us all.”
TYSON

Tyson is an actor, creator and producer. He is the Co-Artistic Artistic Director of TigerLion Arts which has created and produced national tours of The Buddha Prince and Nature. Tyson has helped create numerous new works including Super Monkey, The Dragons are Singing Tonight, and Nice Fish. He has performed multiple roles at the Guthrie, Jungle and Ordway. He teaches physical theater at Circus Juventas and is the proud parent of two young lads along with his wife and artistic partner, Markell Kiefer. When he’s not performing, he is designing and building homes with Whole Builders.

JIM LICHTSCHEIDL

(Hetchman) He/Him/His

“I do theater for that moment of complete unity during the performance; when the play and the audience become one – whether it be a laugh or a gasp or a few seconds of pin-drop quiet. No matter what our own personal story is, this moment is humbling. It is the genesis of common ground between strangers.”

Jim has worked with TTT in several different ways: as a performer in eleven productions including Little Shop Of Horrors and Stones In His Pockets, as a choreographer for seven productions including The Music Man and My Fair Lady, as an artist core member, and as director/collaborator for the production Huh? which toured to non-English speaking audiences. Jim’s other credits include the Jungle Theater, Pillsbury House Theater, Harold Pinter Theater in London’s West End, St. Ann’s Warehouse, and several other local and regional theaters. Jim is a 2019 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow at the Playwright’s Center.

CLAY MAN SOO

(Gabe) He/Him/His

“Because if we’ve learned anything from living through a global pandemic, human connection is essential to the human experience. You’re connected with someone or something bigger than yourself. And Theater is the place where we can do just that: breathe together, be seen together, and share in the story of our collective humanity.”

Clay has performed with the Guthrie Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Children’s Theatre Company, Alliance Theatre, Theater Mu, Pillsbury House + Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Park Square Theatre, Playwright’s Center, TigerLion Arts, Pangea World Theater, Theatre Coup D’Etat, SD Shakespeare Festival, and Guthrie Dowling Studio, among others.

TEACHING: Pillsbury House + Theatre, Upstream Arts, Theater Mu, On Stage MN, History Theater, Park Square Theatre, Children’s Theatre Company. TRAINING: B.A. Gustavus Adolphus College, GRSF Actor Apprenticeship, Theater Mu Institute, Penumbra Summer Institute Internship, Guthrie Education, Art in Arms, Remedios Creative, and Encompass Collective NYC from Yale School of Drama.

www.claymansoo.com

KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

(Ching Chong Chinaman) She/Her/Hers

“I do theater because it is live – it depends on presence and connection, things we pined for in the Covid shut down and need more of now in our isolating world. Plus, I’m shy in real life. This is my favorite way to talk to strangers.”

Kimberly is an actor, choreographer and theater-maker with 23 years on the Twin Cities performance scene. She has worked with Ten Thousand Things since 2008 in productions including Dirt Sticks, Othello, As You Like It, and most recently Emilia. The Hatmaker’s Wife is Kimberly’s 15th TTT production. Other performing highlights include: The Red Shoes and To the Moon at Open Eye Theater, Cinderella at Children’s Theater, and Please Don’t Blow Up Mr Boban with Live Action Set. Kimberly was awarded a 2006 Sage award for dance performance, and a 2016-2017 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellowship.

LAUREN YEE

(Playwright)

Lauren is a playwright, screenwriter, and TV writer whose work has been seen on such stages as the Guthrie Theater, South Coast Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, Victory Gardens, City Theatre, Merrimack Rep, Signature Theatre, Denver Center, Seattle Rep, and more. In addition to The Hatmaker’s Wife, her plays include Cambodian Rock Band, The Great Leap, King of the Yees, Ching Chong Chinaman, Samsara, and The Tiger Among Us. She is the winner of the Kesselring Prize, ATCA/Steinberg Award, Whiting Award, and Francesca Primus Prize. She has been a writer on Pachinko (Apple TV+), Soundtrack (Netflix), and an upcoming FX limited series.

JOEL SASS

(Director/Scenic Designer) He/Him/His

“Why not? As a storyteller from childhood, it’s the perfect vocation in which to exercise my interests in design, character and narrative. Plus, telling stories, from as many different traditions and points of view as possible, stimulates understanding and empathy – virtues that will always be necessary for a healthy society.”

Joel is a producer, stage director, designer and adapter, specializing in the creation of new multi-disciplinary work for the stage and devising imaginative reinterpretations of classic texts. He also serves as Open Eye Theatre’s Producing Artistic Director, after having first joined the company as Associate Producer in 2017. He has been based in the Twin Cities since 1991, working at the Guthrie, the Jungle, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Pillsbury House, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Theatre Company, and CalShakes. He is a McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow, and the recipient of the Alan Schneider Director Award from Theatre Communications Group (TCG).
KATHERINE FRIED
(Music Director) She/Her/Hers
“We are all meaning-makers. Narrative and story help us make sense of the groundless spaces in life and offer us a safe place for investigation. Through theatre, we, as artists and audience members, are invited to question our values and beliefs, encounter truths, discover our belonging and interconnectedness with the world, and learn the listening language of compassion.”

Katherine’s credits include: REGIONAL: Iphigenia at Aulis, Ten Thousand Voices (Ten Thousand Things); Assassins, Into the Woods, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Snow Queen, Once (Arden Theatre Company); Wait Until Dark, Once (The Fulton Theatre); The Parchman Hour, A Christmas Carol, King Lear (Guthrie Theater); Shakespeare in Love, Henry V (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); Montana Shakespeare in the Parks; Kansas Repertory Theatre; Bozeman Actors Theatre; WLDNSS. READINGS/WORKSHOPS: The Playwrights’ Center, Mixed Blood Theatre, Jungle Theater. TRAINING: University of Minnesota, Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program.

SONYA BERLOVITZ
(Costume Designer) She/Her/Hers
“I feel most alive and most at home in theatre.”

This is Sonya’s 13th show with TTT. Previously she designed costumes for more than 55 productions at Theatre de la Jeune Lune. Since 2009 she has been designing costumes for The Moving Company, touring with them to South Coast Repertory Theater, Playmaker’s Repertory Theatre and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Productions elsewhere have included Children’s Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse; locally The Jungle Theatre, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre. Next up: The Cradle Will Rock with An Opera Theatre and Johnny Skeeky at Theatre Latte Da.

ISABELLA DAWIS
(Dramaturg) She/Her/Hers
“Theater, more than anything else, makes me feel entirely alive.”

Isabella served as composer and music director for TTT’s recent Twelfth Night. As a bookwriter/lyricist, she is the recipient of the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship, the Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre, the Fred Ebb Award, and the Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award. Recent stage credits as an actor include 5 (Jungle Theater/Trademark Theater), A Christmas Carol (Guthrie), and Peerless (Theater Mu). Isabella has collaborated with the Minnesota Chorale, the Center for Contemporary Opera, the New York Philharmonic, the National Asian American Theatre Company, the O’Neill Center, the Kurt Weill Foundation, the American Theatre Wing, the American Opera Project, and many more. Her creative work has been supported locally by Theater Mu’s New Eyes Festival, Tofte Lake Center, Theater Latté Da’s NEXT Festival, and the Coalition of Asian American Leaders – as well as nationwide and beyond, in New York, Seattle, Atlanta, Boston, Knoxville, Berkeley, and Toronto. isabelladawis.com

MATTHEW MEEKS
(Stage Manager) He/Him/His
“Theatre allows the cast, crew, and audience to experience a shared story together. This connectedness is what excites Matthew about working in theatre and supporting all those that help create this wonderful art form.”

Matthew is excited about returning to Ten Thousand Things after working on Mlima’s Tale. He works with The Guthrie Theater (The Importance of Being Earnest, Into the Woods, A Christmas Carol, SITI Company’s The Bacchae, As You Like It), American Players Theatre (Three seasons in the woods, most recently: Hamlet, The River Bride, and Stones in His Pockets), Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (Yuletide Celebration), Minnesota Orchestra (Home for the Holidays), and Skylark Opera (Cosi Fan Tutte). Thanks to you for supporting and celebrating live art! All my love to Hannah and the family.

NOAH SOMMERS HAAS
Sets/Props Artisan) He/Him

Noah is a local builder and performer that has been engaged in the theatre community for over 20 years. Find him in the castle at Adventures in Cardboard and occasionally helping move a ladder at Open Eye Theatre. Thinks the magic of theatre is a place for all people to play and explore and share which is inspiring to him.

RYAN VOLNA-RICH
(Production Manager) He/Him

“Theatre is more than just a story, it’s an experience. You experience the sorrow, the laughter, the joy all together with your fellow audience members, you empathize as a group. I think our world could use more empathy, more group stories.”

Throughout his career, Ryan has made an effort to highlight and support the work of others. He is excited to bring this passion and his skills to work at Ten Thousand Things, helping to support the world-class story tellers as they captivate audiences.
“We do theater to connect with and understand each other through stories that inspire, move, delight and make us wonder. Nowadays, I can’t think of anything better than coming together, however we can, to explore and celebrate the diverse stories that ignite our imaginations.”

Marcela’s directing credits for TTT include Twelfth Night, Emilia, Iphigenia at Aulis, The Comedy of Errors, Thunder Knocking on the Door, The Winter’s Tale, Into the Woods and The Sins of Sor Juana. She has directed and choreographed work for the Minnesota Orchestra, TheaterWorks in CA, the Guthrie Theater, McCarter Theater, Children’s Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Mixed Blood, Goodman Theater, Shakespeare Theater in DC and Juilliard Drama School and others. Previously, she was Director of Company Development and Movement Director for the Guthrie. Marcela is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Zelda Fichandler Award.

ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION (“Equity”), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks
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Music and Book by James Valcq / Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley
Based on the Film by Lee David Zlotoff

Directed by Marcela Lorca and Michelle O’Neill
Music Directed by Peter Vitale

Featuring Michelle Barber, Katie Bradley, Tyson Forbes,
Katherine Fried, George Keller, Tom Reed and Dominic Schiro

Percy Talbot has just been released from a five-year prison sentence. In search of a fresh start, she travels to the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin and gets a job at Hannah’s Spitfire Grill. This inspiring musical celebrates fresh starts and the power of what one person can do.

APRIL 25 – JUNE 9

Interested in exploring more about The Hatmaker’s Wife?
Visit the “After the Show” section on our website for questions, quotes and more.

EMAIL: contact@tenthousandthings.org  WEBSITE: tenthousandthings.org
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