

**School Matinees for Grades 6-12 in November 2011**  
**All Performances at 11:00am, only \$12 for students!**



Book & Lyrics by **Lilah Kan**  
Music by **Louis Stewart**  
Directed by **Tisa Chang**  
Choreographed by **Susan Ancheta**

**School Matinees Nov 15, 21 and 22 at 11:00am**

A musical that *The New York Times* says “...takes the old let’s-put-on-a-show idea with *Carmen Miranda* numbers and a *Groucho-like* master of ceremonies, then puts intelligence to work!”

Set in San Francisco Chinatown’s nightclub circuit shortly before and after Pearl Harbor, song and dance bring history to life.

Teachers receive a **study guide (exerpts attached)** developed in accordance with the NYC Arts Learning blueprints that will help students **interpret the elements of drama**, and think critically about **historical events, such as Japanese Internment and Asian Exclusion Laws**, and activities that **combat bullying** and **develop social emotional skills**.

**At the WEST END THEATER, 263 W 86<sup>th</sup> Street, btw Broadway and West End Avenue**

**Call Abby Felder at 212-868-4030 or email [info@panasianrep.org](mailto:info@panasianrep.org) to reserve tickets to SHANGHAI LIL'S, or for more information!**

**School Matinee Tickets \$12**

Includes:

- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- Study Guide – designed to help students meet NYC Arts Learning Blue Prints
- Post-show discussion or workshop with cast

**\*\* All School Matinees subject to availability**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>November 2011</b>					4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 7:30	12 2:30 7:30
13 2:30	14 7:30	15 School Matinee 11:00am	16 7:00	17	18 7:30	19 2:30 7:30
20 2:30	21 School Matinee 11:00am	22 School Matinee 11:00am	23 2:30	24 Thanksgiving	25 Holiday	26 2:30 7:30
27 2:30	28	29	30			

## STUDY GUIDE EXCERPTS

### Tisa Chang director's notes

**SHANGHAI LIL'S** is Pan Asian Rep's tribute to that quintessential American theatrical form -the musical- and to Asian American pioneers on the cabaret circuit. With **SHANGHAI LIL'S** we pay homage to the enduring strength of Japanese American internees and to all who saw action in diverse military campaigns during WWII (continued...)

### Elements of drama

Drama is a display of life, emotions, tension and relationships. It sketches different personalities and represents a wide variety of emotions through different characters. Generally speaking there are six elements in drama: theme, plot, characters, dialogue, music and visual elements. You should keep these in mind when reviewing and critiquing the play (continued...)

### "Chop Suey Circuit"

During the early decades of the 20th century, the variety shows of **vaudeville**, a theatre genre structured like a variety show made of comedians, singers, plate-spinners, ventriloquists, dancers, musicians, acrobats, animal trainers, and anyone who could keep an audience's interest for more than three minutes, were standard entertainment across the United States. In the late '30s and early '40s Chinese restaurants and nightclubs put on all-Asian revues for white audiences. Singers, tap dancers, fan dancers, and musicians performed nightly at the China Doll, Shangri-la, Kubla Khan, and perhaps the most famous Chinese nightclub of all, Forbidden City. **SHANGHAI LIL'S** is the fictional story of these performers who made the rounds at these clubs referred to as the "Chop Suey Circuit," a derogatory allusion to other vaudeville circuits such as (continued...)

### Japanese-American internment

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which permitted the military to circumvent the constitutional rights of American citizens in the name of national defense.

The order set into motion the exclusion from certain areas, and the evacuation and mass incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, most of whom were U.S. citizens or legal permanent resident aliens.

These Japanese Americans, half of whom were children, were incarcerated for up to 4 years, without due process of law or any factual basis, in bleak, remote camps surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards (continued...)

## TIMELINE OF WORLD WAR II

YEAR	DESCRIPTION
1939	August: The Russians and the Germans sign a non-aggression pact. <u>Adolf Hitler</u> and Stalin agree not to invade each other's borders. The two leaders secretly plan to divide Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe between them. September: Germany invades Poland. Polish military forces are unprepared for the ferocity of Germany's attack when efforts to negotiate a withdrawal fail, Britain and France declare war on Germany. World War II begins (Continued...)

### Essay or Discussion Questions

1. What is a theme? Name one theme the playwright explores in the play. How is this theme expressed and why do you think it is important?
2. Did your family immigrate to the United States? If so when, and why? If possible, interview a relative about their immigration experience (continued...)