
Internationally Acclaimed Comedy Tackles Inter-Racial Dating and Identity

***Cowboy Versus Samurai* by Michael Golanco**

The wild, wild west will never look at Asians the same way again.

Calgary, AB – Chromatic Theatre is proud to present the Alberta premiere of *Cowboy Versus Samurai* by Michael Golanco. Featuring Betty Mitchell award winning **Mike Tan** in the role of Travis, this show is a modern-day romantic comedy that navigates the treacherous grounds of race and stereotype. Chromatic Theatre is a new Calgary theatre company dedicated to increasing the representation of diverse artists in our city. *Cowboy Versus Samurai* is the first show in Chromatic Theatre’s inaugural season, and runs in MOTEL in the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts from **November 13th through November 22nd, 2014.**

Cowboy Versus Samurai follows Travis Park (**Mike Tan**), the only Korean American in the dusty prairie town of Breakneck, Wyoming. When the beautiful and clever Veronica Lee (**Carmela Sison**) moves to town to fill the post of science teacher, he is immediately smitten. That is, until she reveals that she only dates white men. Travis must choose whether to ally with the “cowboy”: handsome gym teacher Del (**Mat Glessing**); or the “samurai”: best friend and militant Asian of unknown origin, Chester (**Richard Lee Hsi**). He must choose between the Asian and the American within himself in a pursuit for love that may only be as real as the love letters he writes for someone else.

For many Calgarians, growing up as a racial minority in a small prairie town is very familiar. “This script resonated with me the first time I read it”, says **Jenna Rodgers**, Artistic Director of Chromatic Theatre. “It asks all of the questions we’re often afraid to ask ourselves, and it provides an incredible opportunity for Asian Canadian actors. When is the last time we’ve seen an Asian male in the leading role of a romantic comedy?”

In Calgary, more than 30% of the population identifies as a visible minority – a percentage that is not reflected on our stages. “‘Diversity’ is buzzword we’ve been hearing a lot lately,” explains Jenna Rodgers. “We are very good at acknowledging the need for more diversity in the arts, but addressing this need is often easier said than done. With Chromatic Theatre, we hope to create a home for artists across the diversity spectrum: gender, sexuality, race, culture, ability, etc. Producing *Cowboy Versus*



MEDIA RELEASE**For Immediate Release:** October 22, 2014**Media Contact:** Alyssa Bradac, Artistic Associate**Phone:** 403.891.4448**Email:** alyssabradac@gmail.com**www.chromatictheatre.ca**

Samurai presents us with an exciting opportunity to showcase a fraction of diverse talent that exists in this city”.

Cowboy Versus Samurai is supported by **InvestYYC**, a City of Calgary crowdfunding initiative, and the **Canada Council for the Arts**. Both organizations support excellence in the arts and represent a local and national need for our creative endeavour. We are working to reduce barriers to accessing the arts by offering a special Pay-What-You-Can matinee on November 16th at 2:30pm. Student tickets are available throughout the run at a reduced price.

QUICK FACTS

WHEN: **November 13 – 22, 2014**
 Opening Night – Thursday, November 13 at 8:00pm
 November 13-15, 18-22 at 8:00pm
 November 16 and 22 at 2:30pm

WHERE: MOTEL in the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts (205 8th Ave SE)

WHO: **Produced by Chromatic Theatre**
 Direction by Jenna Rodgers
 Production Stage Management by Olivia Brooks
 Set and Costume Design by Jennifer Lee Arsenault
 Lighting Design by Ian McFarlane
 Sound Design by Kyle Hinton

Cast:
Mike Tan *Travis*
Richard Lee Hsi* *Chester*
Carmela Sison* *Veronica*
Mat Glessing *Del*
**Member of the Canadian Actors Equity Association*

TICKETS: \$15-25

BOX OFFICE: Epcor Centre Box Office (403-294-9494)
 chromatictheatre.ca OR at the door