

LA BOITE THEATRE, SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY,
AND SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE
PRESENT A WORLD PREMIERE



**LA
BOITE**

**A SHOW OF
TRANSFORMATION
AND HOPE**

**CONGRATULATIONS,
GET RICH! (恭喜发财, 人日快乐)**

BY MERLYNN TONG

DIRECTED BY COURTNEY STEWART

SYDNEY
THEATRE
CO

SRT Singapore
Repertory
Theatre

In association with
**BRISBANE
FESTIVAL**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

At La Boite Theatre, we acknowledge the country on which we work and the traditional custodians of this land – the Turrbal and Jagera people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose lands, winds and waters we all now share and their ancient and enduring cultures. This country was the home of storytelling long before La Boite existed, and we are privileged and grateful to share our stories here today.



Proudly supported by



**Queensland
Government**

La Boite Theatre is supported by the
Queensland Government through Arts Queensland



Australian Government

La Boite Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through
Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



**Creative
Australia**

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SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENT A WORLD PREMIERE

CONGRATULATIONS, GET RICH! (恭喜发财, 人日快乐)

BY MERLYNN TONG
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DATES

4 - 20 SEP

DURATION

APPROX.
90 MINUTES
(no interval)

CONTENT ADVISORIES

Contains coarse
language, references to
suicide, inter-generational
trauma, death and dying.
Suitable for ages 15+.

CAST

Mandy	Merlynn Tong
Mum	Seong Hui Xuan
Gma	Kimie Tsukakoshi
Xavier	Zac Boulton

CREATIVES

Playwright	Merlynn Tong
Director	Courtney Stewart
Set & Costume Designer	James Lew
Sound Designer & Composer	Guy Webster
Lighting Designer	Gabriel Chan
Music Director	Alex Van den Broek
Fight & Intimacy Director	NJ Price
Dramaturg	Jules Orcullo

PRODUCTION

Production Manager	Teegan Kranenburg
Stage Manager	Peter Sutherland
Assistant Stage Manager	Briana Clark
Lighting Programmer	Riley Silk
Lighting Operator	George Pitt
Sound Operator	Douglas Carr
Set Builders	Andrew Mills Lee Stretton
Scenic Art	Shaun Caulfield

Director Observers Buddy Malbasias & Jazz Zhao

A portrait of Courtney Stewart, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a denim shirt and skirt, standing against a brick wall. The text 'COURTNEY STEWART CO-DIRECTOR' is overlaid vertically on the left side of the image.

COURTNEY STEWART CO-DIRECTOR

Ghost stories have, quite unexpectedly, become a central thread in my life's work. There's something profoundly human about confronting the past, interrogating it, choosing what to hold on to and what to release in order to grow. In La Boite's 100th year, this feels especially poignant. Our season is powered by stories of transformation, legacy, and hope, and Merlynn Tong's *Congratulations, Get Rich!* delivers all of this and more.

Working with Merlynn has been one of the great privileges of my career. Together we've created works such as *White Pearl* and *The Poison of Polygamy* that have defined me as an artist. Our shared love of big stories, big laughs, and even bigger heart continues to be a source of joy.

This production has also been a remarkable collaboration. To bring together Kimie, Huish, Zac, James, Gabriel, Guy, Alex, NJ, Pete, Bri, Jules, our colleagues at Singapore Repertory Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company, and of course, the extraordinary La Boite team, has been an experience I will treasure. It is rare for a brand-new work to launch with an international tour built into its premiere season. To share this story across Brisbane, Singapore, and Sydney is both a privilege and a triumph.

At the centre of it all is Merlynn's extraordinary generosity as a storyteller. She has gifted us a play brimming with heart, one that has transformed everyone involved.

Congratulations, Get Rich! dares us to look closely at the stories etched into our souls and to wonder: what if their endings could change?

I can't wait for you to step inside Money Money Karaoke and discover the riches that wait within.

COURTNEY STEWART

(she/her)

DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO
LA BOITE THEATRE



MERLYNN TONG PLAYWRIGHT

I grew up in my parents' lush and decadent Karaoke bars. I remember going to visit them in the late afternoons, right before the doors opened. The air would still hold memories of last night's smoke, sweat and spilled liquor. I loved running from mysterious room to room, each holding portals to entire universes of thundering love songs, dusty destinies and unquenched yearnings. I would often lay on the black and white tiled dance floor and imagine the lights, music and laughter when the doors would open and the whole of Singapore would spill in.

But my Karaoke fantasies would soon slip away from me. By the time I was 6-years-old, my father would pass from a fast and aggressive cancer. My mother tried her best to keep the business afloat but it was an impossible task for her and her immense grief to undertake. Grief and other miseries would keep pursuing her and by the time I was 14-years-old, she would take her own life.

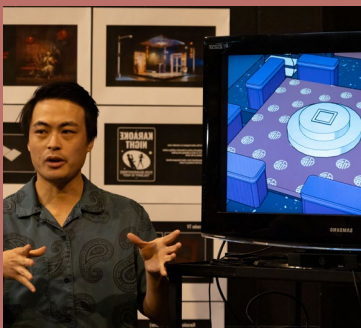
This show is a portal to my joys and heartaches, rememberings and reckonings. Ancestors are conjured, unspoken rules are broken, and of course, outrageous ballads shall be sung and eternal questions must be confronted: What do we inherit? Who's weight do we carry? Can we break free?

When I am backstage these days, in the wings as an actor, waiting to go on stage, I am often reminded of the Karaoke I grew up in. Perhaps in this play I will finally get to revisit the Karaoke of my childhood. Perhaps tonight, I will finally get to hold my mother again.

This would not have been possible without the love, brilliance and support of a sea of most incredible humans. To each and everyone of you, thank you, thank you, thank you.

MERLYNN TONG
(she/her)

PLAYWRIGHT





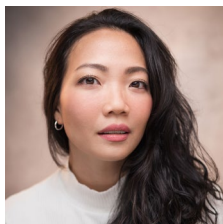
CAST



ZAC BOULTON (he/him)
XAVIER

This is Zac's mainstage debut...and it's at La Boite Theatre. HECK YES PEOPLES! Zac has worked at La Boite in various capacities including as a Teaching Artist and Performer/Actor in multiple independent productions.

Most recently Zac has worked with Theatre Companies including Shock Therapy Arts, White Rabbit Theatre and PlayLab. Zac's recent TV credits include *Good Cop Bad Cop* on Stan (2025), *Security Guard* in *Monarch* on Apple TV (2025), *Young Officer* in *Nautilus* (Disney, 2023). Zac would like you to know he is an Earth Dragon and that he watches far too much UFC.



SEONG HUI XUAN (she/her)
MUM

Hui Xuan is thrilled to be working with La Boite Theatre for the first time. She has performed and choreographed extensively with many major companies in her native Singapore as well as in several other countries internationally. She has previously been seen in Australia in *The Little*

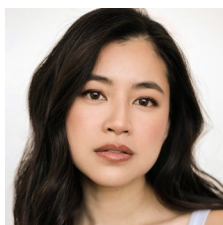
Nests (Papermoon Puppet Theatre) as part of the Melbourne Fringe and OzAsia Festivals in 2023, and *Especially on Birthdays* (The PaperBoats) as part of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Other professional performance credits include: *Rent*, *Urinetown*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Rabbit Hole*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Twelfth Night*, *Spring Awakening*, *Into the Woods*, and *Company*.





MERLYNN TONG (she/her)
MANDY

Merlynn likes cats, a lot. She is also an actor and a playwright. Her first mainstage performance was with La Boite Theatre in *Straight White Men* by Young Jean Lee. She has since performed across Australia, ran away with the circus to Taiwan, wrote about gangsters from Singapore and directed dinosaurs in China. Merlynn was one of La Boite's resident playwrights in 2022. Her stories often grapple with family, inheritance, loss, longing, delicious food and sometimes, cats. She travelled to Athens where she got to pet many cats. Next time, she will bring cat food—so she can pet more cats.



KIMIE TSUKAKOSHI (she/her)
GMA

Kimie Tsukakoshi is an actress of Singaporean-Chinese/Japanese background and a recipient of the CGA Rising Star Award. On stage, she appeared in Trent Dalton's *Love Stories* (winning a Matilda Award for her performance), *The Poison of Polygamy*, *Top Coat*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Mystery of the Valkyrie*, *Nearer the Gods*, *Hanako*, *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek* and *PUFFS*, amongst others. Kimie is best known for starring in the lead role of 'Kyra' in the television series *The Bureau of Magical Things*. Other screen credits include *Family Law*, *NCIS Sydney*, *Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries*, *Secret City* and *Great White*.



CREATIVE TEAM



COURTNEY STEWART (she/her) **DIRECTOR**

Courtney Stewart is an acclaimed director, dramaturg, actor and teaching artist with a deep passion for intercultural works and multicultural dramaturgies. She is the current Artistic Director and CEO of La Boite Theatre.

A proud Queenslander, Courtney started her professional career as an actor before honing her talents as an artistic leader, diversity advocate and change maker for some of the country's most prolific companies and organisations including Sydney Theatre Company (as Directing Associate and Richard Wherrett Fellow), Belvoir and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (as Artistic Associate).

Courtney was previously Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee, a delegate to the National Performers Committee, and a former board member for Contemporary Asian Australian Performance. She is currently a board member for Creative Australia.

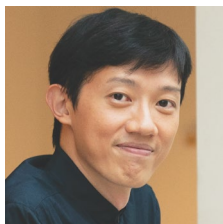
Courtney has worked on acclaimed productions such as Maxine Beneba Clarke's *The Hate Race*, *The Poison of Polygamy* by Anchuli Felicia King *Miss Peony*, *Top Coat*, and *Single Asian Female* by Michelle Law.



JAMES LEW (he/him) **SET & COSTUME DESIGNER**

James is a Chinese-Australian designer originally from Melbourne, but now based in Sydney. This is his third time at La Boite Theatre (beginning with *The Poison of Polygamy* in 2023), and he is excited to return to the Roundhouse with many familiar faces from that team, in a work with a

very different story, energy and form. Recent design credits include: *Yoga Play* (La Boite), *The Bugalugs Bum Thief* (Red Line Productions), *American Signs* (Sydney Theatre Company), *earth.voice.body* (Sydney Chamber Opera), *The Poison of Polygamy* (La Boite), *Top Coat* (Sydney Theatre Company), and *Daddy* (YIRRAMBOI and Liveworks Festival).



GABRIEL CHAN (he/him)
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Gabriel is an acclaimed lighting designer based in Singapore. Graduating from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with First Class Honours in Lighting Design, supported by the NAC Overseas Bursary and the Strand Lighting Scholarship, he was conferred the Young Artist

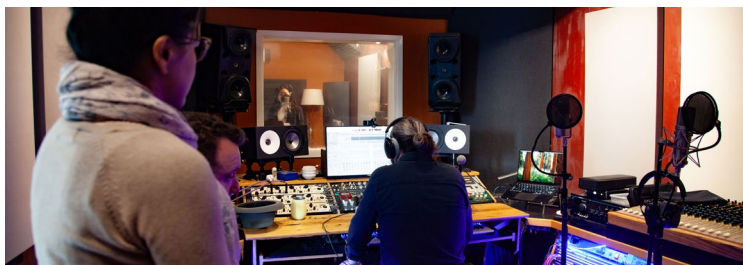
Award in 2019 for his artistic excellence and contribution to Singapore's performing arts scene. A chameleon of a designer, Gabriel is well versed in lighting for the theatre, dance, music concerts, sporting and live national broadcast events. Gabriel also goes by the moniker Linesmith (www.linesmith.net) authorised directly by Vectorworks Headquarters based in Washington for conducting training of the Vectorworks software, the leading drafting solution for Entertainment and Performing Arts technical design.



GUY WEBSTER (he/him)
SOUND DESIGNER & COMPOSER

Working across the mediums of theatre, dance, circus, sound art, installation and new media, Guy developed his practice as a sound artist during his early career as a dancer and choreographer. His work has since featured in

theatres, festivals and galleries throughout Australia, Japan, Europe, UK, USA and China and his live performances have shared the stage with the likes of Beth Orton, Ed Harcourt, Powderfinger, The Cruel Sea, Mad Professor and Sarah Blasko. Guy has created music and sound for theatre and dance works with Queensland Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company, La Boite Theatre, Shake & Stir Theatre, Dance North, Brisbane Festival, Bleach Festival, Lisa Wilson Projects and many others.



CREATIVE TEAM



ALEX VAN DEN BROEK (she/her) **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Alex is thrilled to return to La Boite Theatre as a music director after working on the premiere of Rachel Burke's *Fancy Long Legs* last year. She's a versatile vocalist, arranger and conductor working on various theatrical productions, television programmes and music releases. Alex

works closely with The Little Red Company orchestrating for their many stage shows and Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols broadcasts, as well as directing the Little Red Choir. When she's not arranging for stage, she's often found running music workshops for students across Brisbane, or on many corners of the internet singing to her broad online following.



NJ PRICE (she/her) **FIGHT & INTIMACY DIRECTOR**

NJ is thrilled to be returning to La Boite Theatre in her role as a Fight and Intimacy Director! Past shows she has worked on for La Boite include *Macbeth*, *WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!*, *Naked and Screaming*, *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek* and *Single Asian Female*. NJ has worked with

many companies in Queensland and internationally for over 25 years, including Queensland Theatre, Opera Queensland, Shake & Stir, Brisbane Festival, Dragspeare, many independent and touring theatre companies and several films. She is also an accomplished actor and singer having trained at Mountview in London and with the BADC and British Academy of Fencing.





PETER SUTHERLAND (he/him)
STAGE MANAGER

Pete has been a freelance stage manager for almost 30 years, and has worked with most significant theatre companies in Australia, most recently with Bangarra Dance Theatre, Queensland Theatre, Moogahlin Performing Arts, La Boite Theatre and Sydney Theatre

Company in 2024. Pete is also very proud to have spent 15 years stage managing for John Bell at the Bell Shakespeare Company. Some stage management highlights of Pete's career at La Boite include: *Macbeth*, *Closer*, *Single Asian Female*, *The Village*, *Lysa* and *the Freeborn Dames*, *Blackrock*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Mathematics of Longing*.



BRIANA CLARK (she/her)
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Briana Clark is a Matilda-nominated Asian Australian Lighting Designer and Stage Manager based in Magandjin, where she graduated from QUT with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Technical Production. Her practice is grounded in creating community and culturally safe theatre, with a

specific interest in centering Asian, BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ storytelling. Stage Management credits include: Production Manager for *The Last Princess of Lebanon* (Nadia Milford, BEMAC), Stage Manager for *River Pride Parade* (Melt Festival), Assistant Stage Manager for *Love Stories* (Brisbane Festival), *Room On The Broom* (CDP Productions), *8/8/8:REST* (Rising Festival), *Stunt Double* (The Farm), *Hide The Dog* (Performing Lines).







THE COMPANY

LA BOITE THEATRE

BOARD

Adam Brunes (Chair)
Hannah Barr
Gresham Congoo
Amanda Jolly
Grace Loyden
Sarah McAree
John Saunders
Jessica Simpon
Sarah Townsend

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Artistic Director & CEO

Courtney Stewart

General Manager

Ian Prowse

Head of Marketing & Audience Development

Jacqueline Bawtree

AT THE HEART OF LA BOITE THEATRE

Senior Artistic Producer

Jess Bunz

Production Manager

Teegan Kranenburg

Workshop Manager

Andrew Mills

Venue & Operations Manager

Garry Wilson

Venue & Ticketing Coordinator

Kathryn Collins

Technical Coordinator

George Pitt

Artistic Administrator

Chelsea August

Marketing Coordinator

Siluni Kumarapperuma

Graphic Designer

Ella Mars

Finance Officer

Julia Beckitt

FRONT OF HOUSE

Espresso Bar & Café Barista

Annabel Gilbert

Front of House Supervisors

Cassidy Cahill, Marie David, Sophia Harris, Claire Holland and Aimee Sheather

Front of House & La Boite Espresso Bar & Café Staff

Will Carseldine, Courtney Cavallaro, Jo Craddy, Pierson Downey, Fletcher Dunn, Billy Fogarty, Emma Hanson, Peter Keavy, Peta Kishawi, Grace Lashbrook, Mia Lierich, Jiordie Lobwein, Harry Maynard, Georgia McKenzie, Sami Rety, Carys Walsh, Lily Williams, Grace Wilson, Presley Woods and Flynn Young

PRODUCTION

Casual Technicians

Kelsey Booth, Emma Burchell, Riley Camejo, Douglas Carr, Winter Chapman, Briana Clark, Tia-Hanee Cleary, Morgan Cole-Jones, Tim Gawne, Sam Gehrke, Charlie Graham, Regan Henry, Tommi Hirvonen, Erin O'Shea, Abigail Taylor, Carys Walsh, Sophie Watkins

Photography

David Kelly (Hero)
Stephen Henry (Rehearsal)
Jacqueline Bawtree (First Read/ Studio)

Video Trailer

PixelFrame

SPECIAL THANKS

Andy Geppart (La Boite Season Creative Design and Direction)
Dead Puppet Society
Tracie Filmer, Jeanda St James, and Anna Yen

THE COMPANY

SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

Founded in 1993, Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) is one of the leading English-language theatre producers and presenters in Asia. In addition to its repertoire of original musicals such as *Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress*, the company has produced critically acclaimed plays including *Disgraced* and *2:22 – A Ghost Story*. Also known for its innovative dinner theatre experiences, SRT has enjoyed tremendous success with sold-out runs of *Por Por's Big Fat Surprise Wedding*.

SRT's international collaborations include the Royal Shakespeare Company's *King Lear* and *The Seagull* starring Sir Ian McKellen, Oscar-winning Sam Mendes' *The Bridge Project* (2009–2011), as well as *3 Titans of Theatre* – a season of works directed by Simon McBurney, Yukio Ninagawa and Peter Brook. Most recently, SRT presented the award-winning National Theatre production *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in Singapore.

SRT also produces the very successful *Shakespeare in the Park* season and is one of the biggest producers of children's theatre in Southeast Asia, with beloved titles such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Three Little Pigs*.

Beyond the stage, SRT actively contributes to the local community. Through its Centre for Creative Learning, programmes reach thousands of young learners and educators, strengthening audience growth and talent development across Singapore's theatre industry.

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.SRT.COM.SG

***Congratulations, Get Rich!* Singapore season runs 29 Oct - 9 Nov 2025**

SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY

One of the world's largest not-for-profit theatre producers, Sydney Theatre Company is at the heart of Australia's cultural landscape. It owes its world-class creative pedigree to a history of ground-breaking productions.

Since 1978, the Company has produced work that is – in the words of founding Artistic Director Richard Wherrett – “grand, vulgar, intelligent, challenging, and fun”. A paradox as playful as our city.

We are proud that over the years Sydney Theatre Company has produced work with some of Australia's – and the world's – most exciting performers, writers, directors and creative teams; and that we continue to invest in the artistic legends of the future.

FIND OUT MORE AT SYDNEYTHEATRE.COM.AU

***Congratulations, Get Rich!* Sydney season runs 21 Nov - 14 Dec 2025**



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Thanks for your patience with the construction in both our terminals while we build an even better Brisbane Airport.

bne.com.au/futurebne



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LA BOITE THEATRE PRESENTS A
GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

WHITEFELLA YELLA TREE

A SHOW OF
YOUNG LOVE
AND SURVIVAL

23 OCT - 8 NOV

BY DYLAN VAN DEN BERG

CO-DIRECTED BY DECLAN GREENE & AMY SOLE

**LA
BOITE**

GRIFFIN
THEATRE
COMPANY

In association with



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