

SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

BY MICHELLE LAW



TUESDAY 1 JULY



Welcome to the reading of another Epic Play from the Archive

SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

By Michelle Law Directed by Claire Christian



Emily Burton Patrick Jhanur Alex Lee Tatum Mottin Courtney Stewart Hsiao-Ling Tang

The Golden Phoenix, a restaurant on the Sunshine Coast. The last customers have left for the night, and Pearl can unwind. She's the quintessential matriarch – balancing family, business, and her love of karaoke.

Enter her daughters: Zoe, in the throes of online dating, making big life decisions. And Mei, a teenager, grappling with her identity in modern Australia. Of course they see the world differently to their mother.

Pearl is the classic (hilarious) onslaught of embarrassing observations, constantly questioning her Westernised children. Tonight she reveals a secret that threatens to tear their family apart.

Debuting at La Boite in 2017 and returning in 2019, touring nationally and internationally, Michelle Law's *Single Asian Female* was a watershed moment for Asian-Australian voices, inspiring a new generation of artists.



I was so very spoilt having *Single Asian Female* developed and staged by La Boite back in 2017. As a first-time playwright, I received so much support and guidance from the company and was consulted every step of the way – something that was crucial for a play about a marginalised, migrant community.

I loved that La Boite embraced and actively reached out to new audiences and did so in such inclusive and creative ways. I'm also grateful that Todd MacDonald, La Boite's Artistic Director at the time, match-made me with the inimitable Claire Christian. Claire assembled a dream cast and crew, many of whom have become my lifelong friends (including La Boite's current Artistic Director, Courtney Stewart)!

Single Asian Female went on to lead many lives and have many productions – in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Auckland – and is currently part of the NSW high school drama curriculum. It's a work that now sits outside of myself and represents many things to many people, particularly historically excluded audiences who had previously never felt welcome at the theatre. The Roundhouse made them feel welcome.

It's an immense privilege and joy to have the original team returning for an encore reading of *Single Asian Female*. It's a group of artists who have genuine love and respect for each other. I believe it's that mutual adoration the team had for one another that made the original production such a delight to watch. How lucky that we get to witness it all again.

MICHELLE LAW 羅敏儀 WRITER



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