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MICHELLE LAW IS BACK!

SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

PROGRAM

Presented by La Boite
By Michelle Law

Production Partner
Single Asian Female



PHILIP BACON
GALLERIES



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SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

Presented by La Boite

By **MICHELLE LAW**

16 FEB — 9 MAR 2019
2 HOURS

CAST

ZOE Michelle Law
MEI Courtney Stewart
PEARL Hsiao-Ling Tang
KATIE Emily Burton
LANA Tatum Mottin
PAUL Patrick Jhanur

CREATIVES

WRITER Michelle Law
DIRECTOR Claire Christian
SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER Moe Assaad
LIGHTING DESIGNER Keith Clark
ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER Glenn Hughes
SOUND DESIGNER Wil Hughes
ASSISTANT CREATIVE Emma Black
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER NJ Price
CHOREOGRAPHER Courtney Stewart

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER Canada White
TECHNICAL COORDINATOR/LIGHTING OPERATOR Brandon Duncan
WORKSHOP COORDINATOR Andrew Mills
STAGE MANAGER Peter Sutherland
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Peter Rhoades
DESIGN CONSULTANT Raymond Milner
SET BUILDER Jamie Bowman
SCENIC ARTIST Shaun Caulfield
COSTUME ALTERATIONS Oscar Clark
CREW Bailey McIntosh, Emma Healy, Mikayla Bishop, Beth Scott, Jacob Wall.

FRONT OF HOUSE

SUPERVISORS Jess Bunz, Rory Killen, Jaime Ng and Nick Seery
STAFF Ethan Barlow, Kayla Cahill, Natalie Callaghan, James Gatling, Maddie Little, Jessie Men, Bronte Mew, Cillian McDonald, Nathan Mills, Charlotte Moutrey, Steve Pirie

This work was developed with the assistance of the Lotus Playwriting Project, an initiative of Playwriting Australia, and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (formerly Performance 4a).



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

At La Boite we acknowledge the country on which we work, and the traditional custodians of this land - the Turrbal and Jagera people. We give our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

We honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and their ancient and enduring cultures. This country was the home of story-telling long before La Boite existed, and we are privileged and grateful to share our stories here today.

VOLUNTEERS

Lewe Atkinson, Linda Bulloch, Megan Burnett, Cath Carkeet, Kerrel Casey, Paula Chiverall, Tony Cole, Rebecca Day, Gayle Duncan, Rebecca Faleiro, Bruce Finlayson, Leonie Flood, Owen Green, Tahlya Grennan, Greg Johnson, Jeannie Lloyd-Apjohn, Alex Macdonald, Shirley Markie, Mary Massey, Janetta Mcdiarmid, Helen Musgrove, Dylan Nyerges, Miles O'Leary, Jenny Owen, Jane Paterson, Brooke Reilly, Jenny Rough, Evey Skinner, Molly St Mosse, Werner Stur, Jean Woodyatt

COVER IMAGE Daniel Boud
SEASON 2019 PHOTOGRAPHY & REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHY Dylan Evans
SEASON 2019 GRAPHIC DESIGN Gangplank
PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY Stephen Henry
OPENING NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY RDW Photography
VIDEO TRAILER Optikal Bloc

SPECIAL THANKS

Jing-Xuan Chan, Nat Ryner

Production Partner


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NOTES DIRECTORS

"THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GETTING TO ONCE AGAIN BRING THE GOLDEN PHOENIX TO LIFE IS NOT LOST ON ME."

New work in this country is very rarely supported and received in ways that provide it with more than one life. It's a gift that I feel deeply grateful for. With each year that has passed, and each production, we've gotten to hone, go deeper, nurture, play and make, what we believe, is the best possible production it can be.

Single Asian Female is a reminder to me of all of the things I love about theatre; telling good, heartfelt, funny stories that are accessible, and that represent people who very rarely see their stories be told. Stories that are meaningful and entertaining, while privileging the talent of the (AMAZING) writer, the (SENSATIONAL) actors and the (INCREDIBLE) artists who bring it to life. I love this play. I love this creative team. I love this journey that we have been on together. My deepest and most heartfelt thanks to La Boite, my truly brilliant team and my beloved Michelle Law. So. Much. Love.

My whole heart, Michelle's whole heart, our actors and creative teams whole hearts are in this production. We are a family, and the Golden Phoenix is our home. So, welcome. I hope you will enjoy it with your whole heart too. Oh, and in this house we sing along. Got it?

CLAIRE CHRISTIAN

NOTES WRITERS

WHEN I WROTE SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE, I NEVER ANTICIPATED THAT IT WOULD HAVE THIS KIND OF LONGEVITY...

...but perhaps I'm shortchanging the work. And I say that I'm shortchanging the work, and not myself, because this work is now bigger than myself and no longer solely belongs to me. It belongs to audiences: to the families sharing knowing giggles amongst themselves; to the Asian-Australian student who saw the show alone after school, lugging her backpack around the foyer; and to the countless people who contacted me saying that seeing themselves on stage changed the way they viewed their lives and what theatre had the potential to be.

Single Asian Female is dedicated to them, as well as the real people who inspired the Wong family—all of them generous, assertive, resilient women of colour who hold the world on their shoulders. It's also a shout-out to those creatives who choose to tell stories in which minority characters are sidelined, ridiculed, despised and undeveloped. Your work can be better, and, more often than not, it can be done by someone else. Yes, there's anger in this play (although you'd be surprised by how the rage within it is often lost on the willfully ignorant), but there's boundless joy, too. Karaoke, even.

My ongoing and deep thanks go to Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) without whom this work wouldn't exist, Playwriting Australia, and La Boite Theatre. Thank you to our beloved cast and crew, my second family, and the best people you'll ever meet. I'm so grateful to work alongside you and learn from you every day. And of course, our director Claire Christian—you bloody ripper. You make everything feel possible, and I think you're now legally bound to me when it comes to all future theatrical works. Thank you.

MICHELLE LAW



MICHELLE LAW
Writer/Zoe

Michelle Law is a writer working across film, TV, theatre and print. Her work has appeared in numerous Australian literary journals and she is a regular contributor to Frankie magazine. She has been a recipient of the Queensland Premier's Young Publishers Award, Australian Writers Guild AWGIE awards and Melbourne Webfest awards. Michelle graduated with a Bachelor of Creative Writing from the Queensland University of Technology, and has also studied sketch writing and improvisation at The Second City in Chicago and the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York, as well as studying under Joan Scheckel in Los Angeles. Her debut stage play *Single Asian Female* was performed at La Boite Theatre Company and Belvoir St Theatre to sold out audiences. *Homecoming Queens*, a web series that she co-created, co-wrote and stars in aired on SBS in 2018 and was recently nominated for an AACTA award.



CLAIRE CHRISTIAN
Director

Claire Christian is a storyteller - a writer, youth arts facilitator and theatre maker. In 2016 she won the Text Publishing Text Prize for her debut Young Adult Novel *Beautiful Mess* which was released in August 2017. It has been both short listed and long listed for awards in Australia and been published internationally. Claire is a passionate youth arts and community cultural development facilitator who has worked with young people for over fourteen years. She was the lead artist on Queensland Theatre's Logan Youth Ensemble project TRACTION from 2014-2017. In 2017 she directed Michelle Law's acclaimed season of *Single Asian Female* at La Boite Theatre Company and in 2018 she directed the Belvoir Street Theatre remount in Sydney. As a playwright Claire has been recognised both nationally and internationally including being shortlisted for the Griffin Theatre Award (2009) and studying at the Royal Court Theatre Young Writers Program (2009). Her play *Lysa* and *the Freeborn Dames* was staged at La Boite in July 2018. Her plays *Hedonism's Second Album*, *The Landmine is Me* (both with David Burton) and *Talking to Brick Walls* are available through Playlab.

She has a Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing [QUT], a Graduate Diploma in Experiential Arts Therapy [MIECAT], and a Bachelor of Education [Griffith University]. In 2013 she was selected as one of the YWCA Queensland's 125 Leading Women.



MOE ASSAAD

Set and Costume Designer

Moe Assaad is a passionate Scenographer and Interior Architect. He was born in Beirut during the civil war period, which had a lasting impact on his career trajectory. Moe Assaad graduated with a Bachelors and Masters degree in Interior Architecture from the Lebanese University before pursuing his second Masters in Scenography when the program first opened in 2009.

He was one of ten graduates representing the first cohort of Scenographers in Lebanon. He then moved to the United States where he designed sets for classic and contemporary plays for proscenium, thrust and theatre-in-the-round stages. Some of the productions he worked on for the 2nd Story Theatre and Brown University Theatre Department include, *Twelfth Night*, *Amadeus*, *Le Dindon or the Dupe*, and *Sons of the Prophet* among others.

In August 2015 Moe moved to Australia and started working for La Boite Theatre Company shortly thereafter. He is the Scenographer for *The Village* and *Single Asian Female* 2017 La Boite Theatre production, and the redesign for *Single Asian Female* 2018 remount at Belvoir Theatre in Sydney. Beyond theatre, Moe Assaad is interested in TV, Opera and Film productions.



KEITH CLARK

Lighting Designer

Keith Clark's lighting design work includes *Single Asian Female* (La Boite Theatre Company), *Boy Girl Wall* and *Packed* (The Escapists), *Handle with Care* (Joymas Creative), *De-Generator*, *Opposite of Prompt*, *Angel-Monster*, and *The Machine that Carries the Soul* (Phluxus Dance Collective), *Moon Spirit Feasting* (Elision Music Ensemble), *Juice* (The Crash Collective), *Kazka* and *Legend* (Lehenda Dance Company), *Laramie Project* (Forward Movement), *Wind in the Willows* (La Boite Theatre Company) and *Tarnished* (La La Palour).

His designs for various productions have toured nationally and internationally to Europe and America. Keith Clark is also a member of the award winning independent theatre group The Escapists.



GLENN HUGHES

Associate Lighting Designer

In a career spanning over 40 years Glenn has worked as a Lighting Designer for many companies including the Melbourne, Sydney and Queensland Theatre Companies, Playbox, Malthouse, Victorian Arts Centre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Ballet, Sydney Opera House, Creative Regions, Real TV, QUT, Barking Gecko, Jute, La Boite and Bangarra Dance Theatre.

He has toured extensively with Bangarra Dance Theatre throughout Australia and internationally and has taught lighting design at WAAPA, RMIT and QUT. Previous productions at La Boite include *The Conjurors* and *The Glass Menagerie*.



WIL HUGHES

Sound Designer

Wil's credits as a composer, songwriter and sound designer for theatre have ranged from contemporary ballet to musicals, and include *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek*, *The Village*, *Single Asian Female*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Wind in the Willows* (La Boite Theatre Company); *Elizabeth I* (Monsters Appear/Wonderland Festival); *Rice* (Queensland Theatre); *Sonder*, *Bespoke* (Queensland Ballet); *Propel* (Expressions Dance Company); *We Will Not Kiss/Touch/Frighten You in the Dark*, *Caligula* (The Danger Ensemble); *The Theory of Everything* (Brisbane Festival/Metro Arts); *Dust Covered Butterfly* (Metro Arts); *Tiptoe* (Pentimento Productions); *Unnatural Selection*, *Allan* (Gold Coast Arts Centre/Awkward Productions); *Blak Electric* (Aboriginal Centre of Performing Arts); *Sweet Meniscus* (Anywhere Theatre Festival) and *Legends* (Storyshare International Ltd.).

As a freelance theatre professional he has worked extensively with companies including La Boite Theatre Company, Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Global Creatures and Expressions Dance Company.

Wil is also an internationally acclaimed composer for film, television and other media, and in 2018 was awarded Composer of the Year by the California Independent Film Festival. His film and media work includes *Theo & Celeste*, *Spaceman Jones* (dir. Hannah Dougherty); *Admonition* (dir. Alexander Mattingly); *Viral* (dir. Sam Van Grinsven), *Freudian Slip* (dir. Clare Sladden), *The Feed* (SBS), as well as advertising campaigns for companies such as Bonds, Supré, Forever New and Windsor.



EMILY BURTON

Katie

Emily Burton is an Actress, Theatre-Maker, and Teaching Artist. Past production credits include: La Boite Theatre Company/Belvoir: *Single Asian Female*. La Boite Theatre Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *A Tribute of Sorts* (with Monster's Appear). Queensland Theatre: *The Seagull*, *Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *The Fledglings*, *Riley Valentine* and *A Tribute of Sorts* (with Monster's Appear). Queensland Theatre/Sydney Festival/Dead Puppets Society: *The Wider Earth*. Since graduating Emily has also worked and toured nationally with numerous acclaimed Independent Theatre groups including: Dead Puppets Society, The Harbinger; Imaginary Theatre Company; and Grin and Tonic Theatre Troupe. Awards include: Matilda Award for Best Actress in a Lead Role for Juniper in *A Tribute of Sorts*; Emily was a 2017 recipient of Queensland Theatre Independents Resources funding to develop new work; In 2018 Emily was a proud participant in the Playlab Incubator program to write a new play.

Emily has worked as a teaching artist across Australia with numerous companies and organisations and is passionate about bringing the arts to regional areas of Australia. In 2019 Emily looks forward to developing new work as an Artist in Residence at La Boite Theatre Company and performing in the Queensland Theatre/Melbourne Theatre Company production of *Storm Boy*.



PATRICK JHANUR

Paul

Patrick Jhanur is a stage and screen actor based in Sydney. Born and raised in Brisbane, Patrick is a 2015 graduate from QUT with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting). Prior to studying at QUT, Patrick's TV credits include *Sea Patrol Series 2* (Channel 9) and *Magic Garden* (Singapore). Patrick made his professional main stage theatre debut with the La Boite Theatre Company in the 2017 season of *Single Asian Female*, a role that he reprised in the 2018 Belvoir Street Theatre season. Patrick's theatre credits include; *Terrestrial* (State Theatre Co. South Australia), *Leviathan* (Griffin Theatre Scratch 2018), *It Doesn't Snow Here* (Sydney Fringe Festival), *Siti Rubiyah* (Sydney Festival/CAAP). Patrick's screen credits include; *Riot*, *The Checkout*, *Diary of an Uber Driver* (ABC); *I Am Woman* (Goalpost Pictures)

Later in 2019, Patrick will make his Sydney Theatre Company debut in *Banging Denmark* at the Sydney Opera House.



TATUM MOTTIN

Lana

Tatum Mottin has just graduated from the QUT Acting course with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Before studying at QUT, she was a member of the Queensland Theatre Youth Ensemble, where she studied and performed with various professionals. Performance credits include: *The Land Mine is Me* (Queensland Theatre), *Mad Forest* (QUT), *Enemies* (QUT), *Breaking the Code* (QUT), *The Winter's Tale* (QUT), *3 Winters* (QUT), *Good People* (QUT) and *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* (La Boite Theatre Company). Tatum is very excited to be back on the La Boite stage.



COURTNEY STEWART

Mei/Dance Choreographer

Courtney Stewart is a Actor, Director, Dancer and Teaching Artist. She has worked on a number of productions and developments of new Australian work such as *Hamlet- Prince of Skidmark* for STC, *Neon Tiger* by Julia-Rose Lewis and *Single Asian Female* by Michelle Law for La Boite and Belvoir St Theatre, *A Ghost in My Suitcase* by Vanessa Bates, *Australian Graffiti* by Disapol Savetsila for STC, *This Witch* by Shari Indriani, *Siti Rubiyah* by Katrina Irawati Graham, *Barbaric Truth* by Jordan Shea, *Meat Eaters* by Lewis Treston, *How To Rule The World* by Nakkiah Lui and *White Pearl* by Anchuli Felicia King. She has also performed for Queensland Theatre, Imaginary Theatre and in South Korea for LATT Children's Theatre Company.

Courtney was also the Assistant Performance Director for the City of Sydney 2016 Chinese New Year Lunar Lantern Festival. She is also a participant of the current CAAP Directors Initiative in partnership with STC. As a dedicated Teaching Artist, Courtney has worked with Sydney Theatre Company, NIDA, ATYP and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, specializing in producing and facilitating creative, EdTech and special access workshops in the areas of drama, film-making & editing, music, coding, Virtual and Augmented reality, robots for space exploration and physical computing.

Later this year, Courtney will work as a Dramaturg on the production of *White Pearl* for STC.

Courtney is a proud member of MEAA and is the Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee and a delegate to the National Performer's Committee.



HSIAO-LING TANG

Pearl

Hsiao-Ling is so pleased to be back at La Boite for *Single Asian Female*.

Her past theatre credits include *First Asylum*, *Single Asian Female* and *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* for La Boite Theatre, the new David Williamson play *Nearer The Gods* for Queensland Theatre; *Rice*, a Queensland Theatre and Griffin Theatre co-production, which won the QLD Premier's Drama Award. *Professor Burton's Travelling Federation Show* for QLD Arts Council Touring; *After China*, *Single Asian Female* (2018) for Belvoir and *Shattered Jade* at the Seymour Centre.

She has also voiced characters for the ABC children's cartoon *Bluey*, an ABC radio play and presented numerous corporate videos. On TV she has guested on *All Saints*, *H2O Just Add Water* and *Sea Patrol*. She's performed in the film *Postcard Bandit* and the US-produced *Tempted* co-starring Virginia Madsen and Jason Momoa.

She has been involved in the development of *Squint Witch* and *White China* through Playlab, *Single Asian Female* via the La Boite HWY series, an early development of *Nearer the Gods* with Queensland Theatre and was part of the inaugural Lotus playwriting workshops with Playwriting Australia and CAAP. Hsiao-Ling is a graduate from QUT's BA Drama – Acting course.



EMMA BLACK

Assistant Creative

Emma Black is a Brisbane-based actor, director and producer. She graduated from USQ with a Bachelor of Creative Arts (theatre/acting) in 2014 and has since been busy working with her theatre company Share House Theatre Company. Emma directed shows at Short+Sweet in 2016 and 2017 as well as one half of Share House's *Masculinity Double Bill* at Anywhere Theatre Festival in 2017. In 2018 she played the title role of Kel in their production of *Jane and Kel go to Hell* at Metro Arts and was a member of La Boite's Young Artist Company developing and performing in *Define: Adult* in the roundhouse theatre. Emma is currently co-directing Share House's production of *Squad Goals*, a new work by local playwright Alex Bayliss. Emma seeks to create exciting and bold work that challenges audiences. She is passionate about feminism and wants to support opportunities for young female artists.



PETER SUTHERLAND

Stage Manager

Pete Sutherland has had a career in Stage Management that spans over two decades.

He has stage managed for most of the significant theatre companies in Australia and he has also worked internationally. For La Boite, Peter has stage managed *The Village*, *Blackrock*, *Lysa* and *the Freeborn Dames* and all three seasons of *Single Asian Female*.

The directors Pete has stage managed for include Todd MacDonald, Kate Cherry, John Bell, Wesley Enoch, Robyn Nevin, Neil Armfield, Michael Gow, Stephen Page, Andrea Moor, Jason Klarwein, Judy Davis, Simon Phillips, Richard Wherrett, Peter Evans, Debbie Allan, Garry McDonald, Roger Hodgamn and Sam Strong. Some highlights of Pete's career include stage managing John Bell's final show as Artistic Director of the Bell Shakespeare Company *The Tempest* 2015 and the tenth anniversary revival of David Page's award winning one-man-show *Page 8* for Bangarra Dance Theatre.



PETER RHOADES

Assistant Stage Manager

From graduating a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Technical Production at QUT in 2014, Peter primarily works as freelance technician over multiple venues around Brisbane including but not limited to La Boite theatre company, Queensland Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Gardens Theatre QUT, Judith Write centre, State Library Queensland. Positions ranging in Live audio mixing, lighting, audio-visual, stage managing, machinist, special effects and pyrotechnics.

Some of Peter's more recent production credits being: Lighting Operator for Shake & Stir's ShakeFest 2019, Production Technician for Shake & Stir's *A Christmas Carol* 2018, ASM/Mech La Boite's *Prize Fighter* national tour 2018, Automation Swing Queensland Theatre's *39 Steps* 2018, Automation Operator Queensland Theatre's *12th Night* 2018, FOH Audio Engineer 2017-2018 Woodford Folk Festival, special effects on Australian *Spartan* TV series 2018, Brisbane Riverfire 2013-18 FOTI Fireworks.

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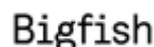
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