We are happy to announce that $5 of each Empress Mei Li Lotus Blossom ticket purchase will be donated to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  GBSC has committed to donating $5 for every ticket sold to its fall programming to a social justice cause. The artists involved with each program are being invited to choose the organization they wish to support.
February, 2020 | A Zoom meeting, spanning from New York City to Los Angeles and somewhere in between.

A Teaneck born Asian American actress adopts the persona of an exotic Chinese film star so she can finally take Broadway by storm.

By Christine Toy Johnson

Directed by Christine Toy Johnson

Assistant Director: Ilyse Robbins

CAST

Michelle Liu Coughlin* .................................. Lo-An/Susan Lee

EJ Zimmerman* ................................................Roberta Liu

Lily Kaufman ....................................................... Ashley Sanders

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers’ Unions:

ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION* AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS SAG-AFTRA

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR THEATRE IS LOCATED ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE WAMPANOAG AND THE MASSACHUSETT PEOPLES.
Christine Toy Johnson (Playwright/Director) is an award-winning writer, actor, director and advocate for inclusion. Her written works have been produced and/or developed by the Roundabout, Village Theatre, Barrow Group, Prospect Theatre, Weston Playhouse, O’Neill, Women’s Theatre Festival, CAP 21 and more and are included in the Library of Congress’s Asian Pacific American Performing Arts Collection (Playwrights Division). She is an alum of the BMI Musical Theatre Writing Workshop, was a 2016 fellow of The Writers Lab (supported by Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman and NYWIFT), serves on the Council of the Dramatists Guild and is host of the Guild’s podcast “Talkback” on Broadway Podcast Network. As an actor, Christine has appeared extensively on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in regional theatres across the country and nearly 100 television and film appearances including recurring guest star roles on Marvel’s “Iron Fist”, “The Americans”, “You”, “Law and Order: SVU” and more and is on “extended intermission” from the North American tour of COME FROM AWAY. She is currently writing a new musical with Jason Ma as a commission from Village Theatre as well as other pieces to get her mind off of the pandemic. Rosetta LeNoire, JACL, Asian American Arts Alliance, Obie awards for advocacy in diversity and inclusion. For details, please visit www.christine-toyjohnson.com

Ilyse Robbins (Assistant Director) proudly holds the title of Associate Artistic Director at Greater Boston Stage Company. Most recently, Ilyse choreographed and staged the world premiere of Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet for which she won the Elliot Norton Award for Best Choreography. She has directed, choreographed or performed in over 30 shows at GBSC. Favorite directing credits include Miracle on 34th Street; Million Dollar Quartet (first female director); Being Earnest (East Coast Premiere); She Loves Me (IRNE Award—Best Direction); Dames at Sea (IRNE Award—Best Choreography); How to Succeed... (IRNE Award—Best Choreography); Thoroughly Modern Millie (Elliot Norton Award—Best Director); 42nd Street (IRNE Award—Best Choreography). Other credits include United Solo Festival NYC, SpeakEasy Stage Co., Hanover Theatre, Lyric Stage, New Rep, Underground Railway, Modern Theatre, Hope Rep, Fiddlehead Theatre, Overture Productions, Jewish Theater NE, American Stage Festival, Boston Theatre Works, Wheelock Family Theatre, Museum of Science, Publick Theatre, Reagle Music Theatre, UpStage Lung Cancer, Boston Women on Top. Ilyse holds a B.S. in communications/theatre from Northwestern University, certification from the British American Drama Academy and an Ed.M. from Harvard University. She teaches at Brandeis University and coaches presentation skills for Mohr Collaborative and Ovation. Ilyse is an Associate Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Michelle Liu Coughlin (Lo-An/Susan Lee) is an actress, singer and producer currently living in New York City. She toured with Lincoln Center’s Tony Award-winning revival of The King and I, directed by Bartlett Sher, and has appeared at many other theatres including City Center, Playwrights, York Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Prospect Theater Company, Arena Stage &
Kennedy Center. Michelle’s television & film credits include *FBI, New Amsterdam, Instinct, Madam Secretary, It’s Complicated, Seeds,* & the indie short *I Look At You All* which is currently premiering at the New York Latino Film Festival. For more info visit www.michelleliucoughlin.com IG: @michelleliuc

EJ Zimmerman (Roberta Liu)
Broadway: *Les Misérables* (Eponine u/s). National Tour: *Avenue Q.* Other favorites: Nancy in *Oliver!* (Goodspeed Opera House); Kim in *Miss Saigon* (Arvada Center - Henry Award, Riverside Theatre, and others); *Stuck;* Sundance Institute Theatre Lab; Reza in *Once* (Geva Theatre, Pioneer Theatre); and especially all the roles originated and developed in readings and festivals. EJ is committed to exploding racial stereotypes on stage, on screen, and in every day life. #representationmatters
@ejzimmerman47 www.ejzimmerman.com

Lily Kaufman (Ashley Sanders) is a graduate of Umass Amherst Theatre, as well as the Shakespeare & Company conservatory program, and she is so excited to be making her Greater Boston Stage Company debut with *Empress Mei Li Lotus Blossom.* Lily has been spending most of her quarantine performing on Zoom, but Pre-Covid, she was most recently seen as Lina in Apollinaire Stage Company’s production of *Cry it Out* by Molly Smith Metzler, where she was nominated for a Norton Award for her performance. Favorite past credits also include performing in *King John* with Shakespeare & Company and *The Winter’s Tale* with Hampshire Shakespeare Company.