

Crowded Fire Theater

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CROWDED FIRE THEATER CONCLUDES THE 2014 SEASON OF
STARTLING NEW PLAYS WITH A WORLD PREMIERE BY CHRISTOPHER CHEN

THE LATE WEDDING

by Christopher Chen

Directed by Marissa Wolf

September 18–October 11 (Press Opening September 22)

Thick House

1695 18th St, San Francisco

The Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) concludes its 2014 season with the World Premiere of THE LATE WEDDING by Christopher Chen opening with a press night on September 22 (Previews Sept. 18, 19, 20) running through October 11 at the Thick House in San Francisco's Potrero Hill. THE LATE WEDDING is both inspired by and a homage to Italian fabulist novelist Italo Calvino whose stories "Invisible Cities" and "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler" have become Chen's launching pad into a shadowy exploration into themes of distance, dislocation, and transience in internet-age relationships. A Crowded Fire Theater commission, in THE LATE WEDDING "Chen channels our society's collective unconscious with dizzying urgency..." remarks director Marissa Wolf. "He is peeling back layer after layer of cultural practices and rituals, revealing a raw, pulsing interior of longing and hope." Directed by Marissa Wolf THE LATE WEDDING features Michele Leavy*+, Lawrence Radecker+, Lauren Spencer, Michael Anthony Torres*, Kathryn Zdan*, Ogie Zulueta*. (*Actors Equity, +CFT company member)

Christopher Chen enlists his own unreliable narrators to take us on a kaleidoscopic, mind-bending, and ultimately luminous journey of the soul. In the spirit of Calvino *The Late Wedding* is designed as a "fluid play." There can be anywhere from 3-16 actors playing a host of characters and couples. Gender, sexuality, and race can (and should) be endlessly interpreted and reinterpreted, from production to production or even within a single production- several different actors might cycle through a single character. "Implicit in Chen's examination of structure and human consciousness is the very real portrait of a world in which all people, gay or straight, have the right to marry..." states Wolf "featuring a spectrum of various marriages on stage, with a diverse cast of actors, offers subtle and powerful images around a key issue of equality that we currently face as a nation."

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THE LATE WEDDING by Christopher Chen Directed by Marissa Wolf

Run: September 18–Oct 11 Press Night Monday **September. 22 8 pm** (Previews **Sept 18, 19, 20**)

At: Thick House, 1695 18th St., SF (between Carolina St. & Arkansas St. in Potrero Hill)

Performances: Wed-Saturdays 8 PM Special Opening Night Monday **September 22**

Tickets: Prices range from \$15-\$35 progressively during the course of the run.

We offer Pay-What-You-Can Preview performances and student/senior/group rates.

Tickets: Visit www.crowdedfire.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Box Office by phone (415) 746-9238 **Photos:** <http://www.crowdedfire.org/press/>

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CFT LATE WEDDING- add one

Playwright Christopher Chen (*The Hundred Flowers Project*, *MUTT*) is the 2013/2014 recipient of the Paul Vogel Playwriting Award and is currently playwright-in-residence at the Vineyard Theatre in New York. In early July Chen was selected for the Sundance Institute's 2014 Theatre Lab where he worked his new stage play *CAUGHT* with director Mark Brokaw and the Sundance associated artists. In October two of Christopher Chen's plays go up, the world premiere of *CAUGHT* at InterAct in Philadelphia, and MidWest premiere of *HUNDRED FLOWERS* at Silk Road Rising in Chicago.

Crowded Fire champions playwrights whose work offers a vital contribution to the American theater landscape. THE LATE WEDDING is funded by generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation, as well as individual producer support from Carol & Burton Goldfield, Andrew Meisel, and Brad Rubenstein. The Late Wedding is a Crowded Fire Matchbox Commission. Development for the piece is supported by funding from the San Francisco Arts Commission, the San Francisco Foundation, and The Tournesol Foundation. World premiere programming in Crowded Fire's 2014 Season is funded by generous support from Corporate Sponsor Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and Season Producer Dugan Moore. Crowded Fire gratefully acknowledges general operations funding from Grants for the Arts/SF Hotel Tax Fund and The Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

Crowded Fire Theater Company was founded in 1997 by a group of young artists interested in experimental contemporary theater. Crowded Fire gained early acclaim for urgent, poetic, and bold work. In 2005 *The San Francisco Bay Guardian* awarded CFT the Goldie Award for Theater noting, "A well-deserved reputation for challenging modern work as aesthetically rich as it is politically and socially provocative." As the company's visibility and production values have grown, we have continued to offer beautiful, risk-taking contemporary theater, and have won consistent critical recognition for our gutsy, innovative spirit. In 2012 CFT achieved significant recognition when its production of *THE HUNDRED FLOWERS PROJECT* by Christopher Chen (co-produced with Playwrights Foundation) received both the Glickman and the Rella Lossy Award. *FLOWERS* also garnered five Bay Area Critics Circle nominations.

Christopher Chen (playwright) is a San Francisco based playwright whose full-length plays have been produced and developed nationally at American Conservatory Theater, Asian American Theater Company, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Central Works, Crowded Fire, Cutting Ball, Fluid Motion, hotINK Festival, Just Theatre, Lark Play Development Center, Magic Theatre, Silk Road Theatre Project, Theatre Mu; and internationally at the Beijing Fringe Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. His play *THE HUNDRED FLOWERS PROJECT*, produced by Crowded Fire and Playwrights Foundation, won the 2012 Will Glickman Award, the 2012 Rella Lossy Playwriting Award (for which juror Mark Russell of The Public Theatre named Chen "a fresh and challenging voice") and was nominated for the Steinberg Award and shortlisted for the James Tait Black Award. In addition it won an NEA Consortium Grant, and made multiple top-ten lists including the SF Chronicle. Other honors include 2nd Place in the Belarus Free Theater International Competition of Modern Dramaturgy for his play *INTO THE NUMBERS*; a Ford Foundation Emerging Writer of Color Grant; and finalist status for the Jerome Fellowship. Chris is the 2013/2014 recipient of the Paul Vogel Playwriting Award and is currently playwright-in-residence at the Vineyard Theatre in New York. Chen is a former resident playwright with Playwrights Foundation, a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, with an M.F.A. in playwriting from S.F. State.

Marissa Wolf (director) Currently in her sixth season as the Artistic Director of Crowded Fire Theater, Wolf's recent directing credits include the World Premiere of *The Taming* by Lauren Gunderson at Crowded Fire, *Precious Little* by Madeleine George at Shotgun Players (2012 Top Ten list in the SF Chronicle), and the WestCoast Premiere of *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven* by Young Jean Lee (nominated Best Director

CFT LATE WEDDING- add two

by Broadway World San Francisco and the Bay Area Critics Circle Award) with Crowded Fire Theater and AATC. Other credits include, *The Secretaries* by The Five Lesbian Brothers, *Good Goods* and *DRIP* by Christina Anderson, *Gone* by Charles Mee (Crowded Fire), Act II of *The Lily's Revenge* by Taylor Mac (The Magic Theatre), the Bay Area Premiere of *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* by Will Eno, listed as #1 on Bay Area Critic Sam Hurwitt's 2009 Top Ten list, (Cutting Ball Theater), and *Truce* by Marilee Talkington (Vanguardian Productions). She has directed at Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, Marin Theatre Company, SF Playhouse, The Magic, Cutting Ball Theatre, Shotgun Players, Vanguardian Productions, and Playwrights Foundation. Marissa previously held the Bret C. Harte Directing Internship at Berkeley Repertory Theatre for two years, where she assisted renowned directors, including Tony Taccone, Les Waters, Lisa Peterson, Annie Dorsen, Frank Galati, and Mary Zimmerman. Marissa has her degree in drama from Vassar College, and received additional training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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