

Fall
2024

Honolulu Theatre
HTy
for Youth

The Great Race

THE STORY OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC



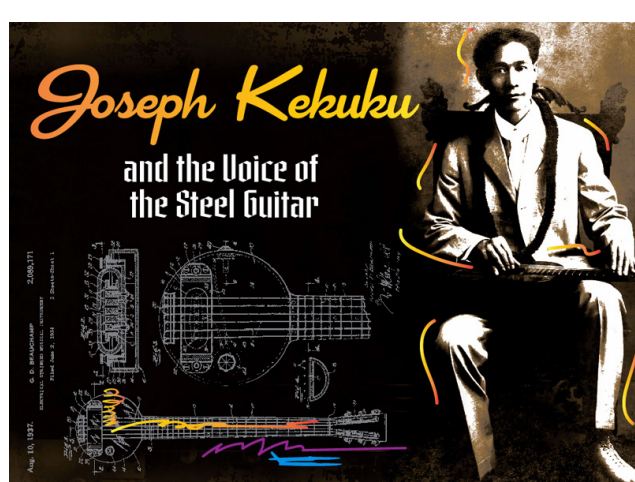
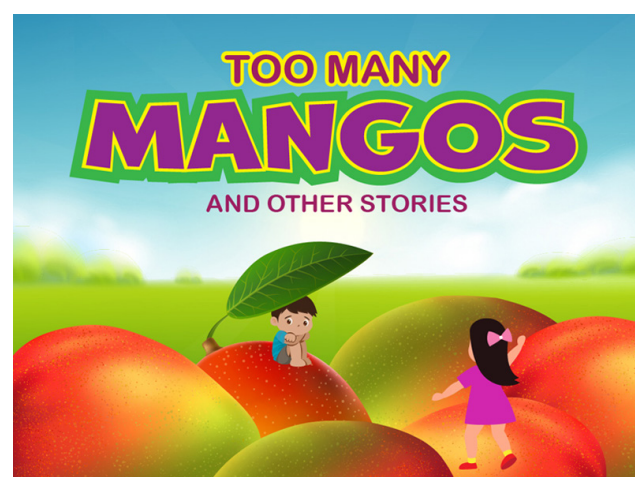
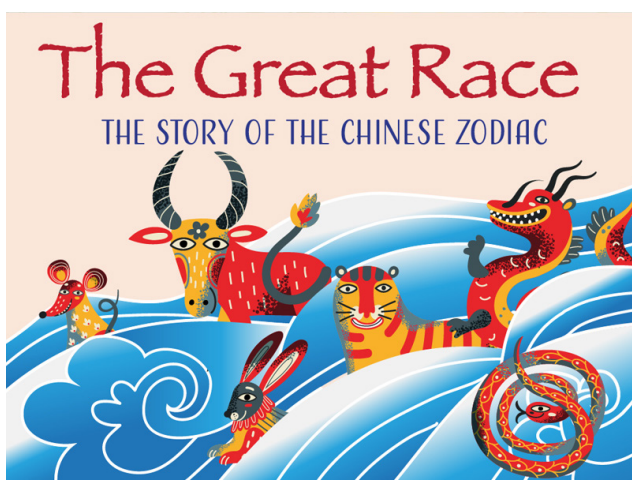
Written By Reiko Ho

2024-2025 SEASON



Aloha!

This season we celebrate 70 years of stories, families and fun at Honolulu Theatre for Youth! We are offering 9 original plays made for Hawai'i audiences by our company of professional theatre makers, and we hope this celebration will keep your family laughing and learning together with us.



Absolutely the best way to enjoy HTY is to become a member! A Family Membership (\$25 per month) includes two adult tickets plus tickets for all the children in your immediate family. For less than a single adult ticket you can bring your entire family to multiple performances and showings all season long.

Our greatest birthday wish is to have you and your loved ones with us this season-- that is the true celebration!

Information on membership and tickets at www.htyweb.org

Mahalo,
Eric Johnson
HTY Artistic Director



Production Credits

Written and Directed by Reiko Ho

Set Design by
Chesley Cannon

Costume Design by
Iris Kim

Prop Design by
Iris Kim
Eric West

Lighting Design by
Chesley Cannon

Sound Design by
Mattea Mazzella

Stage Manager
Sarah Danvers

Performed by
Serina Dunham
Mattea Mazzella
Hermenigildo Tesoro, Jr.
Emily Wright

**Lion Dance and
Kung Fu Consultants**
Hawaii Lion Dance Assn:
Denton Chun
Brandon Lee
Ricky Lee

and
Ninja Monkeys:
Grant Miyashiro
Chad Okumura
Kevin Won

Our Sponsors

Heartfelt mahalo for the generous support and funding for this project.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

The Clarence T C Ching Foundation

The Freeman Foundation

The Gee Hing Chinese Charitable Trust

Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation

The Hawai'i State Department of Health



About the Show

Join Po Po and Kung Kung, as they celebrate Chinese New Year by making dumplings and sharing the story of The Great Race with their grandkids, Freddie and Ivy. The show weaves a family celebration with a re-telling of one of the most beloved tales in Chinese folklore-- the origin story of the Chinese Zodiac.

Note from Playwright/Director, Reiko Ho

Storytelling (Pingshu) is an important part of Chinese culture and a means of keeping traditions alive. Celebrating Chinese New Year, watching lion dances, eating traditional foods and listening to stories are all memorable parts of growing up in Hawai'i. As a fourth generation Chinese American, born and raised in Hawai'i, stories like The Great Race are part of my childhood and the legacy left by my Chinese great grandparents who immigrated to Hawai'i to work on plantations.

I hope this play is not only how I pass on this story to a new generation, but part of the healing we are still doing after the terrible Asian-hate during the pandemic. The Chinese in America have a complicated and often dark history. Growing up in Hawai'i has taught me that healing starts with aloha and delight in one another's cultures.

Stories connect us all.

This story celebrates being Chinese.
I tell it with joy and aloha.

About the Playwright and Director



Reiko Ho is an accomplished director and multi-disciplinary theatre maker from Honolulu, Hawai'i, who loves telling stories that reflect the diverse voices of her island home. Her work has been seen throughout Hawai'i as well as nationally. Reiko is currently Artistic Associate for Honolulu Theatre for Youth, a member of The Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists (CAATA), and on the Board of Directors for TYA/USA, the leading national organization for professionals in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences.

About the Cast



Serina Dunham was born and raised as a hapa girl in Nara, Japan. After dreaming about Hawai'i for all her teen years, Serina moved to study theatre at UH Mānoa. On stage, Serina loves “clowning,” making funny voices and performing with puppets. Off stage, “tea time” is her favorite activity with friends over baked goods. This is Serina's 6th season in HTY's resident ensemble.



Mattea Mazzella is a creator from Kaneohe, Hawai'i, who loves making art and sharing stories. Matt's first instrument was the Kawai piano at his grandma's house on the windward side of the island of 'Oahu. With a camcorder and a laptop, Matt's been making music and films since he was a kid. This is Matt's eleventh season as a member of HTY's resident ensemble.



Emily Wright is an Oahu-born actor and designer. She received her MFA in Acting from the University of Hawai'i and her Bachelor's Degree in Drama and English Literature from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. This is Emily's third season in HTY's resident ensemble.



Hermenigildo Tesoro, Jr. is in his 29th season with HTY! Junior has performed as a cockroach, crocodile, hula mula dancer, mongoose, monk, demigod, evil stepsister, swordsman, snake, juggler, fish general, fairy, mouse, monkey, ogre, caribou, blacksmith, surfer, p'ansori singer, a rock, a rock wall (twice), King of Troy, musubi, Maui, Aladdin, Spartan knight, dolphin, paleontologist, a fire-breathing sea dragon (three times), Wilbur the pig, a nene, Peter Rabbit, a culinary drill sergeant, a kamikirigami artist, goldfish vendor, B-boy, Robin Hood, a cloud, an invisible reindeer, Inky Blue, star-nosed mole, Xi Xia King, Uncle Billy, a pink unicorn, the red balloon, a Philippine eagle, a garbage truck, Gepetto, a hair brush, a salt farmer, carp, woodcutter, snail, spam musubi, Japanese cumulus cloud, and a cockroach (again).



Mahalo

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Chesley Cannon
Sarah Danvers
Serina Dunham
Alysia Kepa'a
Iris Kim
Annie Lokomaika'i Lipscomb
Mattea Mazzella
Kaonohiokalaealohihinei Muller
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Eric West
Emily Wright

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