

**vAct**

VANCOUVER  
ASIAN  
CANADIAN  
THEATRE

PRESENTS

2023 MSG LAB  
WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS



**Year of  
the Frog**

by Garvin Chan  
December 11 at 7pm



**Hiraeth**

by Christian Ching  
December 12 at 7pm



**The Golden  
Dragon Cafe**

by Jiejun Wu  
December 13 at 7pm

December 11, 12, & 13, 2023  
Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre

PROGRAM GUIDE

## ABOUT THE MSG THEATRE LAB

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (vAct) is committed to fostering the next generation of Asian Canadian creators. The MSG Lab facilitates the creation and development of new theatrical work by Asian Canadian artists for future production opportunities.

The 2023 cohort had the opportunity to design an individual process to develop their new work, while receiving support from a personalized dramaturg through a series of writers' seminars and creation residencies. These new works-in-progress will be featured in our three-day presentation series. Our presentation of *Year of the Frog* will include a moderated talkback where audience members will have the opportunity to provide feedback and share their experience with the artists.

The 2023 MSG Theatre Lab is  
generously funded by

**The Department of Canadian Heritage and  
Province of BC**

Please fill out the Dramaturgy Questionnaire (if applicable) to  
provide further feedback

### **CALL FOR MSG LAB SUBMISSIONS**

Are you an Asian Canadian writer and creator? Would you like to get your play off the page and on a stage? Details about our upcoming call for MSG Lab submissions will be available on our website soon! [vact.ca](http://vact.ca).

**The MSG Lab readings are presented on the unceded and traditional territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt̚ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.**

# THE 2023 MSG LAB WORKS

## MSG TEAM

Producer	Tricia Trinh
Resident Dramaturg	Leslie Dos Remedios
Guest Dramaturg	Kamila Sediego

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### *Year of the Frog*

— Monday, December 11, @ 7:00pm

## CREATIVE TEAM

Lead Artist and Co-Director	Garvin Chan
Dramaturg and Co-Director	Derek Chan

## CAST

**“Grandma,” Isaac Li, Samantha Li, “Little Fish”**

With special thanks to **Natalie Gan**

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### *Hiraeth*

— Tuesday, December 12 @ 7:00pm

## CREATIVE TEAM

Lead Artist	Christian Ching
Dramaturg	Leslie Dos Remedios
Sound Designer	Miguel Maravilla

## CAST

**Natasha Chew, Howard Dai, Joel Grinke, Lissa Neptuno, Anjela Magpantay**

With special thanks to **Pedro Chamale, Athena Chan, Ming Hudson, Kunji Ikeda, Brian Postalian, Stephanie Wong, Conor Wylie, and Shelby Wyminga**

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### *The Golden Dragon Cafe*

— Wednesday, December 13 @ 7:00pm

## CREATIVE TEAM

Lead Artist	Jiejun Wu
Dramaturg	Kamila Sediego
Director	Leslie Dos Remedios

## CAST

**Sebastien Archibald, Emily Ma, Olivia Poon, Stephanie Wong, Raugi Yu**

# MSG LAB 2023 CREATIVE TEAM



**Derek Chan (he/him)** – VACT MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | YEAR OF THE FROG DRAMATURG AND CO-DIRECTOR; THE GOLDEN DRAGON CAFÉ TRANSLATOR

Derek Chan (陳嘉昊) grew up in colonial Hong Kong, lived in Norway, and now lives and works on the unceded, stolen, and ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, colonially known as Vancouver. A playwright, director, performer, translator, and producer, Derek is the Managing Artistic Director of vAct. Before that, he was co-artistic director of rice & beans theatre from 2010 to 2021. Derek has been a National Arts Centre English Theatre Artist in Residence (19/20) with *yellow objects*, a new installation-exhibition in support of the ongoing pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong. His play, *Chicken Girl* (2019/20), won the Sydney Risk Award for Outstanding Original Play by an Emerging Playwright, and was nominated for Outstanding Original Script at the Jessies. He was the co-recipient of the 2021 Simon Fraser University FCAT Young Alumni Award for his work at rice & beans theatre.



**Leslie Dos Remedios (she/they)** – HIRAETH DRAMATURG AND THE GOLDEN DRAGON CAFÉ DIRECTOR

Leslie is an actor, director and dramaturge based in so-called Vancouver, the unceded ancestral land of the Coast Salish people. She has worked with many Vancouver companies including Green Thumb Theatre, Arts Club, Mitch and Murray Productions, Touchstone Theatre. They are currently assistant directing *As You Like It* as part of the 2023 Bard on the Beach season and are honoured to be a part of vAct's 2023 MSG Lab, and beyond. Leslie is a graduate of York University (2008) and Studio 58 (2012).



**Kamila Sediogo (she/her/siya)** – THE GOLDEN DRAGON CAFÉ DRAMATURG

Kamila Sediogo is a first-generation Filipinx settler, playwright, and dramaturg privileged and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Her ancestral roots are embedded deep in Manila, Cebu, and Iloilo, Philippines. She is honoured to be returning to the MSG Lab as a dramaturg for a second year! Kamila is also a current Playwrights Theatre Centre Associate. With the care and support of many, she is developing two of her shows, *Homecoming* and *Engkanto*.

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Don't miss out on what's happening at vAct. Subscribe to our e-newsletter for monthly updates on events.

Follow us on social media!

**@vactheatre**



**Tricia Trinh (they/she/he) – MSG LAB PRODUCER**

Trinh is a queer, genderfluid, interdisciplinary, Chinese-Vietnamese-Canadian theatre artist with a background in directing, playwriting, curating, and producing. Graduate of UVic. Founder of Dusty Foot Productions. Selected Playwright/Director Credits: Probability [rEvolver 2018], Red Glimmer [Fringe 2019], Attachments [Tremors 2020]. Her artistic practice aims to examine the duality in intersectional lived experiences, specifically investigating intercultural socio-political influence on queer identity and gender identity. They approach theatre as the most direct vessel in which we can share with one another our humanity. He is ecstatic for the opportunity to collaborate with this electric team of Asian-Canadian storytellers! Let’s gooooo!

## YEAR OF THE FROG CREATIVE TEAM AND CAST



**Garvin Chan (he/they) – LEAD ARTIST**

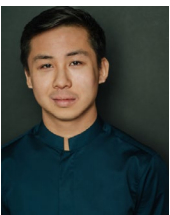
Garvin Chan 陳嘉泓 (he/they) is an emerging theatre maker/director from Hong Kong, currently situated in the unceded territories of xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Graduating from Simon Fraser University’s theatre performance program with honours in 2022, they are currently in the early stages of creating two different works while beginning to pursue a career in stand-up comedy.

Garvin’s works explore identity through dark humour and contrasting the spiritual with the mundane. Recent directorial works include *What the F-Word is Going On?*, *Year of the Frog*, and scenes from Stefanie Kuo’s *Final Boarding Call*.



**Grandma – PERFORMER (GRANDMA)**

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Grandma’s inaugural protest was in June 2019. Although seldom venturing to Hong Kong Island, standing for hours under the scorching 37°C sun near Causeway Bay’s SOGO department store made her realize the island, once British-owned, grapples with accommodating 2 million like-minded individuals. That transformative summer undeniably altered Grandma’s and her family’s lives. She admits regret for not acquiring a respirator or the typical black attire, yet tears flowed for the city she calls home.



**Isaac Li – PERFORMER (SON)**

Isaac is an actor, director, producer. Recent acting credits include: *Goodnight Desdemona*, (*Good Morning Juliet*) (Blue Bridge); *Forgiveness* (Arts Club/Theatre Calgary); *The Code* (Green Thumb); *She Sells Sea Shells* (United Players); *Anon(ymous)*; *Antony and Cleopatra* (Studio 58); *Of Mice and Men* (Promethean), *Cabaret*; *Mortified* (Studio 58). Recent directing credits include: *Derwent is Different* (Green Thumb); *King Lear*; *Saint Joan* (Promethean); *Chicken Wings & Jell-O Shots* (Studio 58). Isaac is the artistic director of Promethean Theatre.



**Samantha Li** – PERFORMER (GRANDCHILD)

Samantha Li (李倩伽) is a bilingual performance artist and aspiring dancer born in Hong Kong, based in so-called Vancouver. She experiments with devised theater and movement-based practices in her work. She finds pleasure in taking on tasks that are dangerous or naughty on stage, sometimes she regrets. She is very grateful to be making work that pulls her closer to home. Stay tuned for her graduating project at SFU next semester! Xoxo



**Little Fish** – PERFORMER (DAUGHTER)

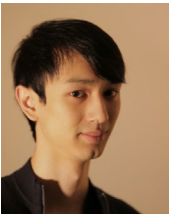
Glub glub glub gulu gulu gulu. Don't move me from my pond please, I know you think it's best for me but do you really know what I want? I want the waters I grew up in, even if they're contaminated with filthy propaganda and debris. I'm scared of the ocean. I like bread-specifically 菠蘿包 (pineapple buns), feed me some and I'll tell you a story. Glub glub glub, gulu gulu gulu.

## HIRAETH CREATIVE TEAM AND CAST



**Natasha Chew** – DEVELOPMENT PLAYER

Natasha is an emerging Filipino-Chinese theatre artist and playwright based on the unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. With recent work showcased with Rumble Theatre and the Ignite Youth Festival, their practice is based on collective storytelling and laughter as a tool of healing.



**Christian Ching** – LEAD ARTIST

Christian Ching is an emerging producer, lighting designer, scenographer, and technical director with a love for design and biology. He is a graduate of Simon Fraser University (2021) with a double degree in Theatre Production and Design and in the Biological Sciences. Originally from the Philippines, he is currently based in the unceded Coast Salish territories of the xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) nations (also known as Vancouver). His practice aims to revolve around collaboration and the consideration of ecological aspects of design. In his free time, he likes to run RPGs, draw, and make music.



**Howard Dai** – DEVELOPMENT PLAYER

Howard Dai is a Taiwanese actor and theatre artist based in so-called Vancouver whose work has been seen across Canada. His performances and creations have existed in theatre, films, public spaces, Zoom screens, Google Sheets, automated phone calls, interactive websites, and virtual reality. Howard is an associate artist with rice & beans theatre, and holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from SFU School for the Contemporary Arts. [www.howarddai.com](http://www.howarddai.com)



**Joel Grinke** – DEVELOPMENT PLAYER

Joel creates immersive and interactive experiences for museums, themed attractions, and theatre. He crafts moments of wonder using stagecraft, automation, and multimedia design to make experiences that have been described as “unique,” “uplifting,” and “spectacular.” Recent projects include the Lights of Hope Light Up Celebration, and *So How Should I Be*, an escape-game experience about anxiety for young audiences. He is a member of the Themed Entertainment Association, and The World Experience Organization.



**Anjela Magpantay (she/her)** – DEVELOPMENT PLAYER

Anjela is a first generation Canadian originating from the Philippines and graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BFA in Theatre Performance. Anjela works freelance as an actor, director, producer, clown, teacher and collaborator with various artists of different disciplines and has worked with various companies such as rice & beans theatre, Upintheair, Playwrights Theatre Centre, Rumble, Theatre Conspiracy, Pacific Theatre, Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre, Arts Club, Neptune Theatre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Soulpepper, Dumbinstrument Dance and A Wake of Vultures. She is also a Co-Founder of New(to)Town Collective, a company passionate about making Physical theatre training accessible, both economically and for the d/Deaf and hard of hearing community. She has worked nationally and internationally as a performer and collaborator in Hong Kong, in the UK and across Canada.



**Miguel Maravilla (he/they)** – SOUND DESIGNER

Miguel Maravilla is a first-generation Filipino essayist, activist, self-taught artist, and musician, born in Manila, Philippines, and currently residing on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel̓ilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Miguel interweaves their text and cultural analysis into more community-oriented media, through collaborative song-making, performance, and mixed-media installation. They have been involved in the creation and development of performance art pieces, such as LAKBAY (2021) with Joshua Ongcol as co-creator and sound artist, Untrue Stories Live (2021-2022) with Rumble Theatre as Musical Director, and Liturgical Heat (2022) with Wil Aballe Art Projects as performance and sound artist.



**Lissa Neptuno** – DEVELOPMENT PLAYER

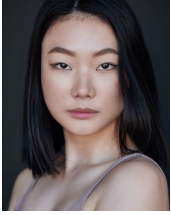
Lissa Neptuno is an award-winning Asian-Canadian multidisciplinary artist who was born in Brunei and raised in Western Canada, and is currently based on the unceded territories of the Qayqayt First Nation. Lissa credits her parents for her lifelong love of acting and is grateful to have their support.

# THE GOLDEN DRAGON CAFÉ CREATIVE TEAM AND CAST



## **Sebastien Archibald** – PERFORMER (PATRICK)

Sebastien is an actor, playwright and Artistic Producer of ITSAZOO Productions based on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples. He has created/produced numerous shows, including: *The Café* (with Aphotic Theatre); *The Pipeline Project* (with Savage Society); *Hidden*; *The Competition is Fierce* (Jessie nomination Outstanding Script). Recent acting credits include: *God Said This* (Pacific Theatre); *Our Ghosts* (Firehall); *Redbone Coonhound* (Arts Club). Upcoming: *The Sunrise Betties* (ITSAZOO Productions – visit itsazoo.org for more info); *Red Velvet* (Arts Club).



## **Emily Ma** – PERFORMER (YOUNG ELAINE/MARY)

Emily Ma is an actress based in Vancouver, Canada. She is a second generation Canadian, as her lineage lies in Hong Kong. Emily began her journey in the arts as a hip-hop dancer, where she competed internationally. Throughout high school, she chose drama as one of her most consistent electives but would officially fall in love with acting in her university years while studying Psychology and Criminology. Emily is a TV/Film trained actress, and currently exploring her love for theatre. You can catch her in some films in the local and international film festival circuit.



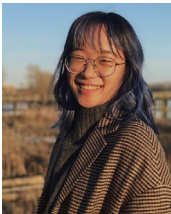
## **Olivia Poon** – PERFORMER (ANNA)

Olivia Poon (潘皓婷 – Hong Kong) began her career in the arts as a Cantonese DJ for Fairchild Radio and has since voiced for YVR Airport and television shows in Japan. She has performed at the Fringe, STAND, and HIVE theatre festivals, and with United Players and Theatre In the Raw. Olivia's television credits include *A Million Little Things*, *Project Blue Book*, *BH90210*, *Siren*, *Arrow*, and TV movies for Hallmark.



## **Stephanie Wong (she/they)** – PERFORMER (ELAINE)

Born in Hong Kong, Stephanie Wong is a multidisciplinary artist based on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xw̱məθkwəy̓ əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and Səlilwətaʔ peoples. Their art is an invocation to imagination, which they explore through directing, devising, performance, and design. She is a graduate of Studio 58, and the current Associate Artistic Director of re:Naissance Opera. By honoring the intersections of their professional and personal experience, their art amplifies stories of connection and coexistence.



## **Jiejun Wu (she/her)** – LEAD ARTIST

Jiejun Wu is a writer and arts administrator based in Burnaby, BC, on the unceded territories of the hən̓q̱əmi̓n̓əm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples. She is a graduate of the University of British Columbia with a double-major in English Literature and Creative Writing. She is thrilled and grateful to be developing new work as part of vAct's 2023 MSG Lab cohort and the Arts Club's 2023/24 Emerging Playwrights Unit. When she isn't writing, she enjoys reading, playing Stardew Valley, and buying yarn she'll never use.





**Raugi Yu** – PERFORMER (PETER/WONG KA WAI)

Raugi Yu, originally from Montreal, is a graduate of The Dome Theatre program at Dawson College and The BFA Acting program at UBC. He has acted in various theatres across Canada and the U.S. Moving seamlessly between stage and film for the past 30 years in front and behind the camera as a Director. For stage Raugi recently worked as an Associate Director and Actor for *Our Ghosts* and previously to that, *Yellow Fever*, both at The Firehall.

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## vAct's MISSION

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre is dedicated to the development of professional Asian Canadian theatre artists through the production of new works. We envision a world where ethnic and cultural diversity is accepted and embraced by everyone. We embody this vision by creating vital Canadian theatre that celebrates difference.

vAct is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatre and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association

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