



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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President

Gladys Chen

Resident Artist

Lloyd Suh

Development Director

Arlene Yang

Founder & Honorary Artist

Welly Yang

Resident Producer

Grace C. Lee

Board of Directors

Sherman Chin, Chairman

Lloyd Cheu, Vice-Chairman

Yau Cheng, Secretary

Chad Tanaka, Treasurer

Aaron Frankel

Irwin Liu

June Jee

Welly Yang

Board of Advisors

Cindy Hsu

David Henry Hwang

Lisa Ling

Second Generation Names New Leadership

NEW YORK - Second Generation (2g) welcomes Gladys Chen as the new President of Second Generation. The company will focus on developing new and emerging Asian American artists and nurture new works featuring Asian Americans stories. Lloyd Suh, playwright and longtime 2g Artist, has been named Resident Artist. He will provide artistic leadership and work closely with Ms. Chen to lead the next phase of Second Generation. As part of the organization's restructuring, Welly Yang, who founded the nonprofit theater company in 1997, has stepped down as President and Artistic Director and Grace C. Lee has resigned as Executive Director.

"We've achieved a lot over the last eight years. When I started the company, I didn't imagine the accomplishments and impact 2g would have. We've brought theater to hundreds of thousands of people in New York, and in the United States and Asia. We've demonstrated that there is an audience hungry for Asian American works, and that audience is Asian American. More importantly, that audience includes all Americans," said Welly Yang, Founder.

The company's new direction marks a return to its roots, by focusing on its New York artists and audience base, with a more nimble company to nurture new works and a national presence. Telling Asian American stories remains central to the company's mission. Second Generation will provide a stronger platform for new works and utilize the network of creative, production and marketing talent it has cultivated, along with its relationships with theaters and supporters through its development series like *In the Works*. By expanding the *In the Works* reading series, Second Generation recognizes its unique niche in providing opportunities to incubate developing works for eager audiences and provide marketing support. Second Generation will select one work to further cultivate and create a production in the coming year. In the expanded program, 2g will focus on developing 4-6 new works a year, working with emerging artists, and selecting one for stage production within the coming year. The *2g After Dark* series will continue to develop singers and songwriters.

"We are committed to working with artists, and to continue feeding the pipeline with more quality Asian American pieces that feature Asian American talent. With our resources, Second Generation is in a unique position to empower artists and to help writers and singers and actors to succeed," remarked Gladys Chen. "We will help artists bring their finished works to life."

"When I first moved to NY years ago, 2g gave me my first job in the theater," said new Resident Artist Lloyd Suh. "It became a kind of artistic home for me. So I'm thrilled to have the chance to give other artists those same types of opportunities. I know of many Asian American artists, even established ones, who are so eager to work with 2g, because we've been particularly successful at tapping into the urgent need of young audiences, who discover that their stories are earnestly and accurately being told. They become very loyal and enthusiastic for more. 2g's audiences are so rare in that they're not your typical theatregoers, they're younger, more eager,



and particularly hungry for Asian American stories. And we have a chance to supply that need, with artists who equal that passion.”

“We’ve seen 2g grow, evolve and make its stamp as one of the most important Asian American theaters in the country, and this is the time to focus on 2g’s roots and its beginnings. We are delighted that Gladys is at the helm in this next phase of 2g’s evolution,” said Sherman Chin, Chairman of Second Generation’s Board of Directors.

“We need more artists, writers, singers, producers, and talent at all levels, to continue to increase the visibility of Asian Americans in arts and entertainment. We thank the artists, production crews, patrons, sponsors and volunteers who have been such an incredible part of 2g’s journey thus far, and we look forward to continuing this journey with all of them,” said Grace C. Lee, Resident Producer.

Ms. Chen was Second Generation’s first Managing Director, from 1997 to 2000 and has remained a committed volunteer. She is a graduate of Columbia University and the Wharton School of Business and brings years of experience as a marketing executive, currently with Johnson & Johnson. Mr. Suh is currently Program Director for the *In the Works* reading series. Over the past several years, 2g has featured Mr. Suh as a playwright, director, and actor, including his recent direction of several readings and his play, *Masha No Home*, presented in collaboration with the Ensemble Studio Theatre.

Mr. Yang will remain on the Board of Directors and will be named Honorary Artist and Ms. Lee will take on an advisory role as Resident Producer. Welly will continue to focus on his pursuits as a writer, performer, and producer. After serving as Second Generation’s managerial leader for more than 2 years, Ms. Lee will continue to pursue theatrical and developmental projects. In addition to Ms. Chen and Mr. Suh, Arlene Yang remains on staff 2g’s Development Director.

As part of the expanded *In the Works* series, 2g is currently accepting manuscripts for new theatrical works. Deadline is November 1, 2005. For more information, visit www.2g.org

Second Generation formally welcomes Ms. Chen and Mr. Suh in their new roles with a celebration on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, at 6:00PM at Shebeen, 202 Mott St, New York, NY.

Second Generation is a nonprofit Asian American theater company dedicated to telling Asian American stories and the cultural landscape of America. Now in its eighth year, the company has toured the musicals *Making Tracks* and *The Wedding Banquet* in Asia and the United States, and produced the annual *Concert of Excellence*. Recent collaborations include the Ulua Theatre in Hawai’i and San Jose Repertory Theatre in California.

For more information, please visit www.2g.org

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