GUILIN CITY MUSIC PRESENTS

GUILIN, A CHINA STORY

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GUILIN, A CHINA STORY - A THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

Guilin, A China Story, *is a musical for live theatre. The show is currently in the process of development with the end goal a run on Broadway in New York City. The next step is to further expose the project to industry professionals: a director, general producers, a lead producer and investors. Previously presented as a staged reading in the New York Musical Theatre Festival in 2014, the musical has been refined to its current version based on audience feedback from the three presentations in the festival. The musical is now ready to be presented again as a reading followed by the next step which will be a Lab, a Workshop or a Showcase (phase two). After funding and the final production and creative team is in place, a regional theatre production (phase three) in or around New York City with the eventual goal – a Broadway theatre run (phase four) will complete the pre production process.*

INTRODUCTION: ABOUT THE MUSICAL GUILIN, A CHINA STORY

Guilin is the name of a city in China known by the Chinese as "the most beautiful place under heaven." The city is the setting for a story about Mei Li Goodson, a Chinese American teenager born in China, adopted, and raised in the United States. It is a story about Mei Li's discovery of self through a dream that takes her back to her birth city and her biological father.

The composer, lyricist and book writer for the musical ***Guilin, A China Story*** is Louis Steven Santora, a lifelong musician, writer, composer and music arranger. ***Guilin*** is an inspired story with beginnings that originated with Santora's trip to China in 2004.

The goal is to see ***Guilin*** produced and presented to theatre audiences in the United States and abroad. The story, as presented with dialogue and music, will be a showcase for the beautiful Chinese city where the story takes place. The thematic nature of the material has universal appeal.

Brief Synopsis

Being adopted has created uncertainty and emptiness in the life of Mei Li Goodson, a Chinese American teenager, the protagonist in the story. Now in transition from high school to college, adolescence to adulthood, the search for self-identity has become a driving force in her life. On the other side of the world in China, there is a man who has lived a life of regret over the actions that he took one cold night in January - the abandonment of his only daughter. This man, Zhuang Guo, once an advancing Communist Party official who is now assigned to patrolling the park along the Lijiang River, has regret that is so strong that it drives a supernatural force - a force that allows him to communicate with his lost daughter through her dreams.

For the audience the story is a fanfare of the exotic. It takes them to a place that not many have seen with their own eyes unless they have traveled to "the most beautiful place under heaven." Mei Li's dream about her birth home takes the audience on a journey through a historical account of Chinese political unrest and how that tumultuous time in Chinese history relates to her life. Most compelling is the emotional drive of the characters as they rediscover their relationship and love for each another. The drive of human emotion is so strong an unearthly force brings father and daughter together, even though they are two worlds apart and not physically known to one another.

Guilin is a "feel good" story with universal appeal - a blending of cultures set in an exotic place. The show is a "Disney like" fantasy with a more in-depth theme. Lost and found love, lifelong guilt and regret, the consequences of individual choices, the profound effect on the outcome of ordinary lives by the decisions made by the powerful few, and most important, the quest of discovery of self, are all tied together for the audience through a timeline of events and the emotional relationships between the characters. *Guilin* will be a must-see show when produced.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

The musical was invited to participate in the New York Musical Theatre Festival as a staged reading in 2014. http://www.nymf.org/about/mission/2014-events/***Guilin***. A prestigious event, the festival provides exposure for new works in the heart of the New York theatre district. Selection for the festival is a rigorous process as entries far outnumber the available spots. Valuable feedback is obtained from New York theatre audiences during the festival. A twelve member professional cast, with acting credits from the shows *Cats, Miss Saigon, Allegiance*, and several others, performed the ***Guilin*** readings. Cast direction was provided by Peter Gregus, best known for his role as Bob Crewe in Broadway's *Jersey boys*.

The festival cast list and pictures are available at the musicals' Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/***Guilin***themusical. Two actors that performed with the ***Guilin*** cast in the festival, Scott Watanabe and Manna Nichols, were cast in the 2015-2016 Broadway show *Allegiance* staring George Takei and Lea Salonga. ***Guilin***, when produced, will have a mostly Asian cast.

OVERVIEW: THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHOW TO DATE

Phase One (developmental)

During the approximately 7 years of development, the script was written, refined, and rewritten several times in conjunction with New York based dramaturge Anne Hamilton. Songs were written and recorded in Nashville, New York, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh. An identity was developed including artwork and a logo. Marketing was initiated in social media with Facebook along with a preview website. The show was performed in New York in 2014 at the New York Musical Theatre Festival, at the Theatre Row Studio Theatre on 42nd Street. Audience reaction and written feedback via a survey handed out after the performances has helped to shape the music and script into its current form. Writer Santora's solely owned production entity *Guilin City Music* has funded all of the Phase One Development.

Phase Two & Three (overview)

Phase Two and Three funding, yet to obtained, will be used for the following pre-production purposes: fees, advances, deposits or bonds made for the purpose of purchasing and/or extending options on the *musical* and other underlying materials (if necessary), engaging a director and other creative personnel, engaging a general manager, securing a theatre, retaining legal, accounting and other professional advisors, preparing offering documents, fees or expenses for travel, lodging and meals for the producers or affiliates or any third party producers, for funding (in whole or in part) readings, showcases, a workshop, a lab, a regional or other developmental productions, or other purposes reasonably related to the production of the musical, ***Guilin, A China Story***.

Phase Four

Phase Four funding, yet to obtained, will be used to fund a Broadway run. After an out-of-town pre-Broadway or regional theatre run, a musical normally enters New York for previews and production in a major Broadway theatre.

THE TEAM

Developmental

Louis Steven Santora - Composer, Lyricist, Book Writer, Producer

Anne Hamilton - Developmental Dramaturge

Developmental Production Talent

Helen Karloski, Actress; Kara Lindsay, Actress; Anderson Davis, Actor; Kirsten Bracken, Actress; Wilson Scott, Actor; Marissa Lesch, Actress; Jeff Howell, Actor; Greg Brandt, Actor; Caroline Nicolian, Actress; Betsy Lawrence, Actress; Emily Miller, Actress; Tim Hartman, Actor; Lindsey Gort, Actress; Doug Kreeger, Actor Actress; Ruby Lewis, Actress; Kristiann Menotiades, Actress; Devin Ilaw, Actor; Ron Krasinski, Musician; Tony Janflone Jr., Musician; Shin Miyazawa, Audio Engineer; Vance Powell, Audio Engineer; Richard Dodd, Audio Engineer; John Kilgore, Audio Engineer; Rick Antolic, Graphics Design Art Web; Lisa Fargo, Graphics Design Art Web; Gary Ritchie, Graphics Design Art Web; Dan Barrere, Graphics Design Art Web; Jordan Mitchell, Graphics Design Art Web; Tome Cousin, Director

The New York Musical Theatre Festival (Guilin's first exposure to New York Theatre)

The following are actual comments from those who attended the GUILIN reading at the festival:

"Really enjoyed the music, much of which is superb!"

"The music was amazing! Reminds me of Mulan & Chess"

"Everyone in the cast was wonderful!"

"Music – singing – actors…excellent!"

Back Row: Peter Gregus, Director; Brad Frenette, Actor; Jonathon Lynch, Music Director; Chelsie Nectow, Actress; Paul Martinez, Actor; Louis Steven Santora, Composer

Middle Row: EJ Zimmerman, Actress; Madelyn Monaghan, Actress; Manna Nichols, Actress; Maggie Wetzel, Actress; Laura Perez, Stage Manager;

Front Row: Herman Sebek, Actor; Matthew Rodin, Actor; Scott Watanabe, Actor; Richie Abanes, Actor; Cheeyang Ng, Actor; Michael Cassara, Casting Director (not pictured)