

Book-It Presents Inventive Story about a Search for Home in *A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING*

by Ruth Ozeki

Adapted by Laura Ferri Directed by Desdemona Chiang

September 14-October 9, 2016

Press Contact

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SEATTLE, WA—August 15, 2016—Book-It Repertory Theatre opens its 27th season with *A Tale for the Time Being* this September. In Tokyo, 16-year-old Nao's only solace is her diary. Across the Pacific, Ruth is a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As a mystery unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.

"*A Tale for the Time Being* is a deeply spiritual story, and like any good piece of art, awakens us from complacency and taps into all the large unanswerable questions about life, death, and human connection. It reminds us that we have the capacity to make a profound impact on each other and our world, in surprising and unexpected ways," says Director **Desdemona Chiang**. Chiang makes her Book-It debut with this production.



Mi Kang and Mariko Kita. Photo by John Ulman.

The cast includes **Khanh Doan** as Jiko, **Mi Kang** as Nao, **Mariko Kita** (*Red Ranger Came Calling*) as Ruth, **Scott Koh** (*How I Came West, and Why I Stayed*) as Haruki #2, **Kevin Lin** (*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*) as Haruki #1, **Michael Patten** (*Little Bee, The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*) as Oliver, **Rachel Rene** as Muji, and **Annie Yim** as Babette. The design team is led by Scenic Designer **Catherine Cornell** (*Slaughterhouse-Five, Truth Like the Sun*) with **Robertson Witmer** (*The Art of Racing in the Rain, the 2009 premiere of Emma*) as sound designer, costumes by **Christine Tschirgi**, and lighting by **Tristan Roberson**.

A Tale for the Time Being runs **Sept 14-Oct 9, 2016**

(opening/press night on **Saturday, Sept 17**) at **Center Theatre at the Armory** (305 Harrison Street, Seattle, WA 98109). Tickets range from \$25-\$50 with group rates available. Purchase at book-it.org or by calling the box office at 206.216.0833. The box office is open Tues. through Fri., 12:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. (Tues. – Sat. during production run), located in the outer lobby of the Center Theatre at the Armory.

Desdemona Chiang is a stage director based in Seattle and the San Francisco Bay Area. Co-Founder of Azeitrope. Directing credits include Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Long

Wharf Theatre (upcoming), Playmakers Repertory Company, Aurora Theatre Company, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Shotgun Players, Crowded Fire Theatre Company, Impact Theatre, Playwrights Foundation, Golden Thread Productions, Washington Ensemble Theatre, among others. Assisting and new play development credits include: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Intiman Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Arizona Theatre Company, Mark Taper Forum, Magic Theatre, Theatreworks, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, among others. Awards/Affiliations: Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Theatre, SDC Sir John Gielgud Directing Fellow, Drama League Directing Fellow, TCG Young Leader of Color. Adjunct Faculty, Cornish College of the Arts. BA: University of California at Berkeley. MFA Directing: University of Washington School of Drama.

A company member for over 25 years, Laura most recently directed *Prairie Nocturne*, winner of a 2012 Seattle Times Footlight Award. She adapted and directed *Broken for You* and the Danger: Books! series for Book-It All Over (now Book-It's Arts & Education Programs). Her adapting and/or directing credits also include Special Editions of *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears*, *Stories for Boys*, and *The Call of the Wild*. Laura's most memorable Book-It stage appearance was as Mrs. Bennet/Lady Catherine in *Pride and Prejudice*, which she also choreographed along with *Emma*, *Anna Karenina*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *My Antonia*, and *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*. Her work has been commissioned by Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Seattle Arts and Lectures, Women's University Club, and JTNews, among others.

A novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest, **Ruth Ozeki** grew up in New Haven, Connecticut and graduated with degrees in English Literature and Asian Studies. Along with *A Tale for the Time Being*, she has published novels *My Year of Meats* and *All Over Creation*. Her film *Body of Correspondence* received the New Visions Award at the San Francisco Film Festival and *Halving the Bones* was screened at the Sundance Film Festival, the Museum of Modern Art, the Montreal World Film Festival, and the Margaret Mead Film Festival, among others.

For information, to arrange interviews, or for hi-res pre-production photos by John Ulman, please contact Communications Manager Val Brunetto at valb@book-it.org.

PLEASE NOTE: We ask that you use Book-It's full name "**Book-It Repertory Theatre**" or simply "**Book-It**", in all text and listings. Thank You.

About Book-It's 2016-17 Season

The rest of the upcoming season continues with *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stephenson; Ernest Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast* in a theatrical and culinary partnership with Café Nordo performed in Pioneer Square; and wrapping up the season next spring will be *Welcome to Braggsville*, by T. Geronimo Johnson.

During the 2016-17 season, **Book-It's Arts and Education Program** will produce three [works of literature for young people](#): *Last Stop on Market Street*, by Matt De La Peña (performed bilingually in English and Spanish); *Goin' Someplace Special*, by Patricia C. McKissack; and *El Deafo*, by Cece Bell, also performed bilingually in spoken English and American Sign Language. These productions, performed by professional actor/teaching artists, tour to schools, libraries, and community centers statewide. In addition, each of

the book adaptations will be featured in [Family Fun Day performances](#) that include the performance and theme-related crafts and activities—these will be at community locations to be announced. Tours may be booked by calling 206-428-6319.

ABOUT BOOK-IT REPERTORY THEATRE

Book-It Repertory Theatre, a leader in the narrative theatre movement, was founded in 1990. Book-It is a non-profit organization with a dedication to great literature and quality theatre experiences employing simple, sensitive and imaginative production techniques, and to inspiring its audiences to read. The company is funded, in part, by generous contributions from corporations and foundations, and hundreds of individuals who share our passion for literature.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT: Book-It Repertory Theatre opens its 27th season with *A Tale for the Time Being*. In Tokyo, 16-year-old Nao's only solace is her diary. Across the Pacific, Ruth is a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As a mystery unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future. *A Tale for the Time Being* is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

WHEN: Pay-What-You-Will: Wednesday, Sept 14
Previews: Thursday, Sept 15 and Friday, Sept 16
Opening/Press Night: Saturday, Sept 17
Closing: Sunday, Oct 9

TIMES: Wednesday-Saturday—7:30pm (Matinees on Sept 21, Oct 1, Oct 8)
Sundays —2:00pm

WHERE: Center Theatre at the Armory (305 Harrison Street, Seattle, WA 98109).

TICKETS: Tickets range from \$25-\$50 with group rates available. Purchase at book-it.org or by calling the box office at 206.216.0833. The box office is open Tues. through Fri., Noon – 5p.m. (Tues. – Sat. during production run), located in the outer lobby of the Center Theatre at the Armory.

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