

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ADAPTATION OF *THE ORPHAN OF CHAO* WILL HAVE JUSTICE AT THE SHAW

- Previews of this one-act epic begin June 13 -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (June 12, 2024) – The world premiere of [*The Orphan of Chao*](#), translated and adapted **Michael Man** from **Ji Junxiang's** Yuan era drama *The Great Revenge of the Zhao Orphan*, begins previews tomorrow at the Royal George Theatre. **Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster** directs this Lunchtime One-Act epic.

Tu-an Ku (**Jonathan Tan**), is a high-ranking minister in the imperial court of Jin. Fearful of the rival Chao family's growing influence, he orchestrates their brutal extermination, leaving only a single infant alive. Entrusted with protecting the child, faithful doctor Cheng Ying (**Donna Soares**) turns to sympathetic minister Gongsun Chujiu (**John Ng**) for aid. Together they choose to resist Tu-an Ku's campaign of madness, no matter the cost, to ensure the survival of the orphan of Chao and one day deliver justice for the fallen Chao family.

The Orphan of Chao also features **Eponine Lee****, **Richard Lee** and **Lindsay Wu*****.

The Shaw's production of *The Orphan of Chao* features evocative set and lighting design by **Jareth Li**, inventive costume design by **Christine Ting-Huan Urquhart**, immersive sound design by **Heidi Wai Yee Chan** and dynamic movement and fight design by **Richard Lee**. The production team includes stage manager **Amy Jewell** and assistant stage manager **Ferne Hudson**.

On stage at the [Royal George Theatre](#) (85 Queen Street) from June 13 to October 5 (available for review beginning June 22), *The Orphan of Chao* is recommended for audience members 14+/Grade 9+. Running time is approximately 1 hour, with no intermission.

The Orphan of Chao is sponsored by the **Dorothy Strelsin Foundation**, **Tim & Frances Price Risk Fund**, **Andy Pringle Creative Reserve** and supported by the **Toronto Arts Council**. The **Royal George Theatre** is sponsored by **124 on Queen Hotel & Spa**.

Cast:

Eponine Lee**
Richard Lee
John Ng
Donna Soares
Jonathan Tan
Lindsay Wu***

Cheng Bo/Ensemble
Han Jue/Ensemble
Gongsun Chujiu/Ensemble
Cheng Ying/Ensemble
Tu-an Ku/Ensemble
Chao Ting/Ensemble

Creative & Production

Michael Man*
Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster
Jareth Li

Playwright
Director
Set and Lighting Designer

Christine Ting-Huan Urquhart	Costume Designer
Heidi Wai Yee Chan	Sound Designer
Richard Lee	Fight and Movement Designer/Fight Captain
Tara Rosling	Assistant Director
Ximena Pinilla	Assistant Set Designer
Theo Belc	Assistant Lighting Designer
Sarah Yuen	Assistant Costume Designer
Ausar Stewart	Voice and Dialect Coach
Jeff Ho	Dramaturge
Amy Jewell	Stage Manager
Ferne Hudson	Assistant Stage Manager
Kim Charleen Smith	Production Stage Manager

* 2024 Christopher Newton intern, Michael Man, is generously sponsored by Marilyn and Charles Baillie.

** Emerging Artists are sponsored by the RBC Foundation.

*** The Baillie Cohort is generously supported by the Baillie Family Fund for Education.

The Shaw Festival's 2024 season runs through to December 22, with a playbill featuring [Lerner and Loewe's My Fair Lady](#), [One Man, Two Guvnors](#), [Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart](#), [Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution](#), [The Secret Garden](#), [The Orphan of Chao](#), [Candida](#), [The House That Will Not Stand](#), [Snow in Midsummer](#) and [A Christmas Carol](#). The Spiegeltent's season features [The Shaw Variety Show](#), [The Roll of Shaw](#), [Kabarett](#), [Cotton Club](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Footlights](#), [Speakeasies](#), [What's In Your Songbook](#) and [Gospel Choir](#).

Direct bus service from Downtown Toronto and Burlington to Niagara-on-the-Lake is available on the [Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express](#). Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. \$34 return per person. Ticket to a 2024 performance is required. Please pre-arrange with the Box Office. Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates and times with the Shaw Festival Box Office.

For more information or to purchase tickets or a seat on the Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express, please contact the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW or visit [shawfest.com](#).

Mask use at The Shaw: Masks are not currently required in our theatres. Though wearing a mask is optional, it is recommended; however, the choice remains at the discretion and comfort of the individual. The Shaw continues to maintain its [Duty of Care](#) measures. Patrons are also requested to refrain from attending any performance or event if presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

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The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of Bernard Shaw, the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw Festival is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the

artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, please visit shawfest.com.

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