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**FACTORY presents *The Naked Season 2015/16*
CANADIAN CLASSICS REIMAGINED**

BANANA BOYS

Written by Leon Aureus • Adapted from the Novel by Terry Woo
Directed by Nina Lee Aquino
November 3 – November 22, 2015

What exactly is a banana boy? To a group of Asian-Canadian men in their twenties, it's a peculiar predicament; "growing up yellow on the outside, and white on the inside." Factory presents **BANANA BOYS**, written by Leon Aureus, adapted from the novel by Terry Woo, and directed by Factory Artistic Director Nina Lee Aquino.

Nina Lee Aquino revisits **BANANA BOYS**, a seminal work of Asian-Canadian theatre in a powerful new production that examines the deep challenges of being torn between cultures and identities. Drawn together by the death of their friend and unofficial leader, five young Asian-Canadian men must confront unrealized potential, devastating loss, and time travel . . . all while trying not to punch too many white boys in the face. This wickedly funny play, adapted from the celebrated book, is a call to everyone who has felt out of place in the world.

"The first production of **BANANA BOYS** was a watershed moment for the next generation of Asian Canadian theatre artists. It was a bold, unapologetic, angry, loud and wildly funny play for a generation who grew up without a voice," explained Nina Lee Aquino. "It's a rare and sublime pleasure to go back and attack the text with wiser directorial eyes, and find a whole new layer to the ever changing Asian Canadian identity. More than anything, I'm really excited to share the talents of these five next-NEXT generation Asian actors with our audiences."

In 2003, fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company, devoted to the development of professional Asian-Canadian theatre artists, presented a sold-out reading of **BANANA BOYS** at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. In 2004, marking their auspicious mainstage debut, fu-GEN produced the world premiere of **BANANA BOYS**, directed by Nina Lee Aquino. The production garnered high critical acclaim, played to sold-out houses and was invited to the prestigious Magnetic North Theatre Festival. In 2005, fu-GEN and Factory co-produced a remount to more critical praise, box office success and a Dora Award-nomination for the Ensemble.

Leon Aureus (playwright) is one of the founding Artistic Directors of fu-GEN, as well as an actor, playwright and producer. **BANANA BOYS** was his debut as a playwright. Aureus also wrote and directed the short film *Friends Like These*, and co-wrote the play *People Power* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre Company).

Nina Lee Aquino (director) is an award-winning director, dramaturge and the current Artistic Director of Factory. Nina was the Artistic Director of fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company in 2002, the

Artistic Producer of the CrossCurrents Festival at Factory, and served as Artistic Director of Cahoots Theatre Company from 2009-2013. She is the editor of Canada's first Asian-Canadian two-volume drama anthology *love + relationships* (Playwright Canada Press), and the co-editor of the award winning *New Essays on Canadian Theatre Volume One: Asian Canadian Theatre* (Playwrights Canada Press).

BANANA BOYS proudly boasts an intercultural Canadian cast, future generation theatre stars, including: **Darrel Gamotin**, as Sheldon Kwan (*Waiting for Godot*, Modern Times Theatre); **Matthew Gin**, as Mike Chao, a new graduate of the joint acting conservatory program at Sheridan College and U of T making his professional debut; **Oliver Koomsatira**, as Dave Lowe, (*Ching Chong Chinaman*, fu-GEN); **Simu Liu**, as Rick Wong (*Blood and Water*, OMNI tv); and **Philip Nozuka**, as Luke Yeung, (*Durango*, fu-GEN).

Stripped down to the most fundamental and striking elements, *The Naked Season* pares down theatre to a series of pure encounters between the audience, the actors, and the text. **BANANA BOYS** is presented as part of a seasonette that also includes: **AGE OF AROUSAL**, written by Linda Griffiths and directed by Jennifer Brewin, October 20 – November 8 in the Mainspace Theatre; and **BOMBAY BLACK** written by Anosh Irani and directed by Peter Hinton, November 17 – December 6, 2015 in the Studio Theatre.

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FACTORY, 125 Bathurst Street (at Adelaide)

Studio Theatre

Starring Darrel Gamotin, Matthew Gin, Oliver Koomsatira, Simu Liu, Philip Nozuka

Run Dates: November 3 – November 22, 2015

Media Night: November 5, 2015 @ 8pm

Opening Night: Friday, November 6, 2015 @ 8pm

Tuesday - Saturday @ 8pm • Sundays @ 2pm

Single tickets on sale beginning September 8, 2015

*** New This Year – All Single Tickets \$35 – Preview Tickets \$25 ***

The Naked Season Play prices range from \$99 for a 3-Play Pass to \$180 for the full 6-Play Pass. Tickets and Passes can be purchased online at www.factorytheatre.ca, by phone at 416.504.9971, or in-person at Factory's Box Office, 125 Bathurst Street (at Adelaide)

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