

## YELLOW EARTH PRESS RELEASE

### **THE NIGHTINGALE by Hans Christian Andersen**

Adapted and directed by David K.S. Tse

Yellow Earth Theatre's '**The Nightingale**' is co-produced by Hong Kong Arts Festival in association with Chung Ying Theatre Company and in partnership with the British Council Hong Kong. The Nightingale will run from 4<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre in Hong Kong. The UK tour will run from September to October and come to London in November.

2005 is the bicentenary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen, one of the world's favourite children's authors. Born in Odense, Denmark, Andersen wrote stories such as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*, which have charmed and delighted children and adults around the world. This exciting new version of *The Nightingale* will offer a unique opportunity for UK and Hong Kong Asian artist, actors and Chung Ying Theatre to collaborate on this timeless classic for family audiences.

Out in the forest, only the common people know the secrets of the nightingale's magic. The bumbling Lord Chamberlain persuades a young girl, the poor kitchen maid, to bring the nightingale to the imperial court. Inside, the fabulously dressed courtiers laugh at the plain little bird, but they are quickly silenced when she starts to sing. Pure and beautifully simple, the nightingale wins the Emperor of China's heart. To keep her close, he imprisons the bird in a golden cage. But in the fickle court, the nightingale is soon ousted by a new toy, a dazzling, jewel-encrusted mechanical bird. The nightingale escapes back to the forest. But when Death arrives to snatch the Emperor's life away, who will save his ailing heart? *The Nightingale* is a wonderful uplifting story about love, loyalty and freedom.

"Tse creates a magical world onstage in which an eldritch fable exists in a world of high-tech sophistication"

Michael Billington for THE GUARDIAN, *Lear's Daughters* (2003)

"Visionary, charming and luminous"

Lucy Powell for TIME OUT, *The Butcher's Skin* (2002)

"Dynamic flair and imaginative integrity"

*The Independent*, on *Rashomon* (2001) of the Yellow Earth Theatre

"Fizzes with energy and physical invention, will impress the sort of kids who delight in being unimpressed"

*The Times*, on *Play to Win* (2000) of the Yellow Earth Theatre

**Yellow Earth Theatre** is the UK's pioneering East Asian company, integrating physical theatre with strong narratives that explore universal themes from an East Asian perspective. The show will be performed bilingually by a UK / HK cast in Cantonese and English (with subtitles), feature shadow puppetry and specially composed music, imaginative video, beautiful dance, evocative lighting, colourful costumes and a cleverly designed set from a talented UK/HK creative team. The Nightingale was developed in association with Half Moon Young People's Theatre in London.

**David K.S.Tse** is a leading writer and director of populist new work, crossing theatrical and ethnic boundaries with bold adaptations and the creation of acclaimed ensembles. Previous works includes: *Lear's Daughters*, *The Butcher's Skin*, *Rashomon* and *Play To Win*. Earlier this year Yellow Earth hosted Typhoon 3, an international festival of East Asian work, and schemes for new East Asian writers and directors, yellow Ink and Yellow Stage. David K.S.Tse has recently been awarded the Windrush Award for Arts Achiever 2004 and YET won The Pearl Award for Creative Endeavour 2004. YET is spearheading a bid to open an East Asian arts centre for London, Chinatown Arts Space.

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