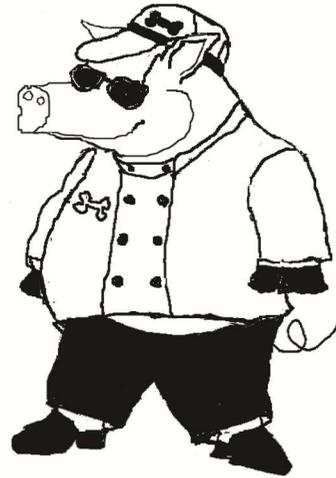
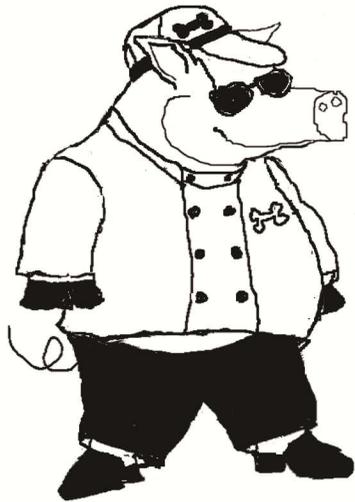


# REDBONES

BARBECUE and BEER SINCE 1987



**RESTAURANT - TAKE-OUT - CATERING**

**28 BEERS ON TAP**

**LUNCH and DINNER SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

**55 CHESTER STREET DAVIS SQUARE SOMERVILLE MA**

**www.redbones.com 617-628-2200**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**

Betty Walker and Unity Church for sharing their space with us, our great team of house volunteers, and our friends, family and audience members—without your support of the arts, we wouldn't be here.

The play will be presented with one ten-minute intermission. Unity Church is a non-smoking facility. Restrooms are back up the stairs toward the entrance.

BARE STAGE  
BARE SOULS  
BARE WORKS  
BARE WORDS

**BARE BONES**

**STAGED READINGS AT THEATRE@FIRST**

# A Language of Their Own

by Chay Yew

Thursday, August 26, 2010 — Unity Church of God

## CAST

**LESLIE DRESCHER (DANIEL)** likes plinky piano music, dancing, and Ikea. So, you see, this casting isn't as far off as you'd think.

**ANDREA HUMEZ (OSCAR)** is nostalgic for elementary school, when she always played male roles because she thought there ought to be some and none of the other girls wanted to do it. How times have changed... Andrea was most recently seen on stage as Margaret Fuller, a conservative fairy god-mother, and a conservative plain old ordinary grandmother. Like Oscar, Andrea often finds it difficult to express herself physically. Unlike Oscar, she has rarely been accused of talking too little.

**DAVID POLICAR (MING)** considers rose petals as the moon wheels shining silver across the blackened star-pricked sky. His tongue squirms between his clenched teeth and he tastes the sweet copper tang of glory amid frenzied laughter and acrid truths reluctantly spoken. He does not sing in the syncopated rhythms of the climbing ivy or the blossoming weed, nor yet in the parched measures of the yellowing grass, but when the herons burst into fluttering flight he touches the drumbeat of their feathers with his smile. Thank you (yes, you!) for being part of it.

**GILLY ROSENTHOL (ROBERT)** did not enjoy poetry until she spent a year reading a poem a day — apparently in preparation for this very role. She enjoys pushing her own boundaries and experiencing other lives through theatre, whether that's screaming in labor onstage or playing a gay man. She thanks you for being willing to come along for the ride.

## STAFF

**HEIDI CLARK (AD SALES)** thinks that after an evening of Bare Bones, bbq ribs are just the thing!

**JO GUTHRIE (TECHNICAL COORDINATOR)** has been on board since the very beginning and is still hanging around. Hanging curtains, hanging signs...

**BECKIE HUNTER (ASSISTANT PROGRAM DIRECTOR)** is the founding President of T@F. She has produced eight shows, from our first production to June's revival of *The Margaret Ghost*.

**ELIZABETH HUNTER (PROGRAM DIRECTOR)** is the founding Artistic Director of T@F and has directed eight T@F shows (most recently *The Margaret Ghost*) in addition to working with other community and college theatre groups in the Boston area.

**NEIL MARSH (SOUND DESIGN)** has provided aural enhancement for too many T@F shows to count. He loves sound of all kinds, particularly radio drama, and is the founder of the Post-Meridian Radio Players.

Please stay for a conversation with the director and cast after the performance.

**JUDY YEN (DIRECTOR):** Sometimes a story just grabs your attention and doesn't let go. Reading *A Language of Their Own*, I was fascinated by Chay Yew's ability to give voice to a traditionally reserved community without falling back on stereotype. I fell in love with the fragile balance Yew creates between intimacy and isolation, using misdirected communication and interrupted dialogue to craft these touching, almost heartbreaking scenes.

For a play by an Asian writer that examines Asian-American homosexual identities and incorporates Chinese-American culture in the text, we had a decided lack of Asian actors in our audition pool. So we had to ask: how can you perform an ethnic show without ethnic actors? For me, the answer lay within the text, as well—this is not just an “Asian story” or a “gay story”. It is a relationship story, one that takes us into the beginnings and endings of that basic human connection. It is a people story, one that delves into many aspects of humanity, good and bad. And above all else, it is a love story.

Realizing this made it possible to present this play without focusing on the ethnicity of the cast. As a staged reading, it is possible for my wonderful non-Asian cast to bring this Asian story, this gay story, this love story to our audience without losing its essence. I am very pleased to present this beautiful and evocative play to all of you, as a staged reading, and with much love.

*Judy is excited to be making her directorial debut with Theatre@First. A biologist by day, she's more accustomed to using her left brain than her right, so she is truly grateful for the opportunity to exercise her artistic side. She sends much love to her all-white, mostly female cast for their enthusiasm and willingness to portray gay Asian men. Judy would also like to extend a heartfelt “Thank you!” to her family and friends for their support and understanding, and a special thanks to the rest of her T@F family for, well, everything.*



Theatre@First is Somerville's largest community theatre, part of the Massachusetts Community Theatre Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

Our mission is to work together to provide a fun, friendly, and creative theatre experience for cast, crew, and audience alike. We welcome volunteers at all levels of experience, without regard to race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, national origin, body type, age or disability. We encourage a supportive environment in which to work, play, grow, and explore new areas of the theatre arts. We offer affordable and eclectic performances to the community, aiming to surprise, delight, entertain, and educate our audiences.

As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on our audience for support. Please take a moment today to consider becoming a subscriber to T@F and supporting our work as a contributor.

**SUBSCRIBER**—For just \$50 you'll get free admission to all T@F shows for a full year.

**CONTRIBUTOR**—Support T@F with a tax-deductible donation that you can claim on your tax return.

For information about benefits to contributors starting at just \$20 visit [www.theatreatfirst.org](http://www.theatreatfirst.org).

Please visit the box office to contribute today, or send a check by mail:

Beckie Hunter, Theatre@First  
89 College Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

Thank you for supporting Theatre@First and the arts in Somerville!