



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2009

Contact: Linda Jacobs
212-609-5900 x255
ljacobs@tcg.org

“Lee is the queen of unease... *Songs* offers not only chauvinistic monologues and ass-slapping Korean dances, but also a rigorous exploration of art-making and its associated terrors.” –*The Village Voice*

**New from TCG Books:
The First Collection of Plays by Young Jean Lee
A Major New Voice in the American Theatre**

NEW YORK — Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of ***Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven and Other Plays***, the first volume of work by Young Jean Lee, whose explorations of race, religion and gender are unflinching—and seat-squirmingly funny. This collection includes *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*; *The Appeal*; *Pullman, WA*; *Church* and *Yaggo*, along with the title play, which has been widely performed by Young Jean Lee’s Theater Company, in an acclaimed production Lee directed.

“Lee is a facetious provocateur; she does whatever she can to get under our skin—with laughs and with raw, brutal talk.” —*The New Yorker*

“Have you ever noticed how most Asian Americans are slightly brain-damaged from having grown up with Asian parents?” begins the female Korean-American protagonist of *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*. In creating the piece, Lee says, “I decided the worst thing I could possibly do was to make an Asian-American identity-politics show, because it can be a very formulaic, very clichéd genre, and very assimilated into white American culture... It’s a destructive impulse—make it so bad that it just eats away at its own clichés.”

“Bold, unguarded work that resists pat definition—except as emotionally raw dispatches from an angry mind that lacerates itself as much as it does the world.” —*Time Out New York*

With the other plays in this volume, Lee skewers subjects as diverse as the English Romantic poets (*The Appeal*), the world of self-help (*Pullman, WA*) and Christianity (*Church*), in the form of a theatrical Evangelical church service. Her latest work *The Shipment*, which takes on identity politics through the lens of black America, will be published by TCG in September 2009.

Young Jean Lee was born in Korea and moved to the U.S. as a young child. She is the founder of Young Jean Lee’s Theater Company, which has performed throughout the country and in Europe, and is the recipient of a 2007 Emerging Playwright OBIE Award.

###

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is the national organization for the American theatre. TCG is dedicated to nurturing professional, not-for-profit American theatre institutions, artists, and audiences, and to fulfilling its mission to strengthen, nurture and promote professional, not-for-profit field.

TCG initiatives include a variety of artistic, management, international and advocacy programs. TCG's many publications offer a national resource for reference, opinion, and debate on theatre and the performing arts today. TCG publishes *American Theatre* magazine, ARTSEARCH, and books on theatre and performing arts. Please visit our website and online bookstore at www.tcg.org.

Songs of Dragons Flying to Heaven and Other Plays

Paperback 216pp

\$16.95

978-1-55936-327-4

April 2009

TCG books are exclusively distributed to the book trade by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution. Orders: 800-283-3572. SAN number: 63170X. Individuals may call 212-609-5900 or visit our online bookstore at www.tcg.org. For postage and handling, please add \$5.00 for the first book and \$.50 for each additional copy.

###