

**For Immediate Release** March 4, 2011 Los Angeles, CA Contact: Christine Huynh (213) 625-7000 ext. 12 chuynh@EastWestPlayers.org

## Southern California Edison Sponsors East West Players' Theatre For Youth Tour About Author and Activist Carlos Bulosan

East West Players (EWP), the nation's premier Asian American theatre, presents the touring production of ALLOS: THE STORY OF CARLOS BULOSAN by Giovanni Ortega, directed by Dom Magwili and featuring Josef Malonzo as part of its Theatre For Youth Program. With generous funding from Southern California Edison, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and California Community Foundation, East West Players ensures that this school year's Theatre for Youth touring production of ALLOS: THE STORY OF CARLOS BULOSAN can provide multicultural outreach to communities in the Los Angeles area.

ALLOS: THE STORY OF CARLOS BULOSAN tells the story of an important American hero many do not know and history books do not mention. Like so many immigrants seeking a better life, Bulosan followed his brothers to America only to find violence, racism and exploitation. He used his writing to combat discrimination and became an advocate for migrant workers rights. In 1946, his semi-autobiographical novel <u>America is in the Heart</u> became the voice of the Filipino immigrant experience. Bulosan's story is a testament to one man's courage and spirit in a country that rejected him, yet he never ceased to love and believe in the country he called home – America.

"Carlos Bulosan's gripping story of struggle and triumph will inspire students to become more responsible citizens and respecting the hard-earned civil rights of all ethnicities and cultures," says Producing Artistic Director Tim Dang. "The lives and struggles of Filipinos in America are stories seldom told and yet they are the largest Asian Pacific community in Los Angeles. This touring production reflects our commitment to utilize the performing arts as a tool to teach students about American history, immigrant rights, and how the arts can be an important tool in uniting a community. This tour is especially important at this time when so many schools are

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artistic directors emeriti Mako (d.) Nobu McCarthy (d.) cutting back on arts education. We are so thankful to Southern California Edison for this partnership."

"Southern California Edison is proud to support worthy programs that educate, entertain and enlighten," said Erwin Furukawa, SCE's Vice President, Customer Programs and Services. "It's important to share history that we don't see in our text books and East West Players continues to lead the way in showcasing diverse cultural presentations."

The tour will run throughout the month of March. In addition to their sponsorship, SCE will provide a booth with energy efficiency experts in various locations as part of the tour. Some of the participating schools and organizations include Repetto Elementary School, Monterey Highlands Elementary School, Traweek Middle School, Monterey Park City Hall, Alhambra Civic Library, Hemet Public Library, Baldwin Park Public Library, Gardena Mayme Dear Library, South Pasadena Library, Ramona Elementary School, Eastmont Intermediate School, Menifee Valley Campus (sister campus of San Jacinto Community College), Lancaster Boys and Girls Club, and Leisure World.

East West Players is the longest running theatre of color AND the largest producer of Asian American artistic work. Located in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, it is committed to teaching American history, diversity and respect for many different culture. EWP's Theatre for Youth Touring Production has toured Southern California since 1972. For more information on this program, please contact Arts Education Director, Marilyn Tokuda at (213) 625-7000 x15 or email mtokuda@eastwestplayers.org. For more information on all of East West Players' productions and educational programs, please call (213) 625-7000 or visit www.eastwestplayers.org.

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