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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ART 168 (A RABBIT AND A TIGER PRODUCTION) ANNOUNCES THE
WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE THUMPING CLAW ONE ACT SERIES***

ART 168 presents its inaugural stage production of 3 new One Act Plays from prestigious Asian American Writers, Judy Soo Hoo (*Texas*), Jason Fong (*Fentor*) and emerging talent Wesley Du at the Actor's Playpen Theater in Hollywood, CA

August 9 through August 25, 2007; Opening night is Thursday August 9, 2007

Hollywood, August 9, 2007 - ART 168 (A Rabbit and a Tiger Production) is proud to announce the world premiere of *The Thumping Claw One Act Series*. This production is the first in an annual series that features seasoned Asian American directors and playwrights with emerging new artists. Portions of the show's proceeds will go to the Center for the Pacific Asian Family (<http://www.cpaf.info/>).

For this production, *The Thumping Claw One Act Series*, will be presented at the Actor's Playpen Theater in Hollywood, CA and will feature the following One Act Plays: *Peanuts*, written by Judy Soo Hoo, *Jupiter and Nebula*, written by Wesley Du and directed by Ricky Pak, and *Elevator, Elevate Her*, written and directed by Jason Fong.

Producers Andrea Cheng Apuy and Regina Cheng-Sheu are excited to work with such respected playwrights and directors. "Judy (Soo Hoo), and Jason (Fong) as well as Judy's director, Michael (Hagiwara) have been an incredible help and guidance on this project. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing group of

creative artists as mentors.” Newcomers Wesley Du and his director Ricky Pak also find themselves in great company.

Judy Soo Hoo's *Peanuts* is a wickedly fun comedy about the honeymoon stage of marriage. Andy married Jane, the woman of his dreams. But a startling revelation causes him to think that he's made a grave mistake. Paired with Hagiwara's playful direction, *Peanuts* is a wonderfully mischievous ride.

In *Jupiter and Nebula*, playwright Du and director Pak take a stark look at two loathingly unlovable people looking to find love in each other and within themselves. Is there a limit to loving a person? Is there such a thing as an act that can't be forgiven? These and many other questions are explored in this brutally honest one act.

For *Elevator, Elevate Her*, Fong also takes the helm as Director for his story about Neil, a young college graduate with a degree in “lostwithoutanydirection”. In this beautifully lyrical piece, Neil contemplates his life and love for a muse with a hidden secret.

The Thumping Claw One Act Series is also just one of many events under *The Thumping Claw Summer Series*. “Our purpose of The Thumping Claw is to promote and assign artistic voices towards community awareness.” says Cheng-Sheu. Inspired and foundationally modeled after their “Big Sister” company, Desert Lotus Entertainment, who produced this year's All-Asian cast of the *Vagina Monologues* at the Japan American Theater, *The Thumping Claw Summer Series* will donate portions of the proceeds from all their events to a single charity. This summer, the Center for the Pacific Asian Family will be the recipient. Other events include outdoor and venue performances of The Outlet, a minority-based comedy improv troupe directed by November Morris, and club music events featuring seasoned DJs such as DJ Paris of the Standard Hotel “Bottle Rocket”.

The Thumping Claw One Act Series: Make some noise. Leave your mark. Opens Thursday, August 9, 2007. Shows are Thursday, Friday and Saturday through August, 25, 2007.

Judy Soo Hoo (Playwright, *Peanuts*)

Judy Soo Hoo's plays include 29 1/2 DREAMS: WOMEN WALKING THROUGH WALLS (CO-COLLABORATOR) TWICE-TOLD CHRISTMAS TALES, REFRIGERATORS, TEXAS, BEASTLY BEAUTIES OF AMERICAN MONSTERS, SOLVE FOR X and AMERICAN MONSTERS 2. She is a recipient of the EWP and AT&T New Voices Play Award, Yukon Pacific New Play Award, PEN/WEST Emerging Voices Fellowship, and a Durfee ARC grant. Excerpts of her plays have been published in the Best Male Stage Monologues, Best Stage Scenes (Smith and Kraus), and Bold Words: A Century of Asian American Writing (University of Rutgers Press).

Wesley Du (Playwright, *Jupiter and Nebula*)

Wesley Du is a first year graduate playwriting student at UCLA. Du's work has been presented as staged readings at the Asian American Theater Company, Theater Mu, Second Generation and Lodestone. His work has also been read at UCLA through the Marianne Murphy Fellowship.

Jason Fong (Playwright/Director, *Elevator, Elevate Her*)

Jason Fong has written two stage plays, "Fentor" and "A Nickel's Worth"; receiving productions at the San Diego *Asian American Repertory Theatre* and *hereandnow Theater Company* in East L.A. Most recently, Fong wrote and directed the stage play "Oymun's 11" at the GTC Burbank Theater. From his humble beginnings as an actor, Fong has been on stage in over seven-hundred performances, and he has also been an improvisation teacher for five years.

Michael Hagiwara (Director, *Peanuts*)

Michael Hagiwara has been involved in L.A. theatre for over 20 years. He has performed in more than 50 shows locally and nationally, and some of his most memorable shows include, "A Chorus Line", "Pacific Overtures", "A Jivebombers Xmas", "Leilanis Hibiscus", "Manzanar", "A Funny thing happened on the way to the Forum" and "The Seagull". As a Producer, Director, and Choreographer he has been involved with productions such as "A Jivebombers Xmas", "Camp Dance", "Stewed Rice", "Tims 10th!", "EWPs Anniversery Gala", " Day of Independence"(film), " Manzanar" (touring), "65th Nisei Week Coronation", and "Nisei Widows Club (Holiday on Thin Ice)".

Ricky Pak (Director, *Jupiter and Nebula*)

Ricky Pak has directed "Private Eyes" by Steven Dietz for the University of Redlands, "Sock Puppet Theater" and other original works for the stage for the 2006 "New Works Festival" hosted by the hereandnow Theatre Company in Pasadena, and most recently "Snakebit" by David Marshall Grant for the City of Pasadena at the Armory Center for the Arts Northwest in observance of World AIDS/HIV Awareness Day in December of 2006. As an actor, he has most recently appeared in the T.V. show "Bones" and will be appearing in the upcoming film remake "Get Smart" starring Steve Carrell and Anne Hathaway.

The Thumping Claw One Act Series (World Premiere)

Make some noise. Leave your mark.

Presented by Art 168 (A Rabbit and a Tiger Production)

Show runs August 9 through August 25, 2007, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

Opening Night: August 9, 2007

Portion of proceeds will go to The Center for the Pacific American Family.

Plays:

Peanuts

Written by Judy Soo Hoo

Directed by Michael Hagiwara

Jupiter and Nebula

Written by Wesley Du

Directed by Ricky Pak

Elevator, Elevate Her

Written and Directed by Jason Fong

Tickets (\$22) at the door. Advanced ticket sales and ticket discounts are online at www.plays411.com. Discount sales by phone are also available by calling Plays 411. For more information please email karen.jacobson@art168production.com.

Please visit:

www.art168production.com/ThumpingClaw

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