



Entertainment



Bobby to direct play in London's West End

FUNFARE By Ricardo F. Lo (The Philippine Star) Updated July 24, 2010 12:00 AM

Congratulations to Bobby Garcia who is making his debut in London's West End. Bobby has been tapped to direct the new musical *Sacrifice*.

This piece of good news was confirmed by Toby Simkin, William Ong and authors Kenneth Clarke, Richard Daniels and Mark Troop, producing partners of *Sacrifice*.

"I have known Bobby for years and I greatly respect his unique ability to re-tell a foreign story to Asian audiences with his Asian productions of *The King And I*, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* and *Hairspray*," Simkin, lead producer, was quoted as saying. "I have been searching for a director with an Asian sensibility to tell our love story to western audiences. Bobby is the perfect choice."



Some of Simkin's Broadway productions include *Death of a Salesman*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Victor/Victoria* and *I Am My Own Wife*.

In addition to the feature film version currently in the works, the musical *Sacrifice* is now in development to open London's West End after an Asian workshop production.

But before going to West End, Bobby is directing *Xanadu* and *A Little Night Music* in Manila and Singapore before the year is over, and *Next to Normal* next year. Playing the lead role in *A Little Night Music* is Dawn Zulueta.

"I'm really excited to work in London's West End," admitted Bobby. "The love story of *Sacrifice* is one of the greatest of all time. The score is a beautiful fusion of ancient Chinese and modern western sound."

Sacrifice is the story of Emperor Xuanzong (of the prosperous Tang Dynasty 618-907 AD) who brings Yang GuiFei, one of China's most beautiful women, into his court as a concubine. When they adopt China's greatest villain, the barbarian An Lushan, their fateful triumvirate creates China's greatest love story.

Bobby and the *Sacrifice* authors (Clarke, Daniels and Troop) have already been doing initial work on *Sacrifice* these past two months, developing the musical structure and characters in preparation for the Asian workshop production prior to the London opening.

"I like the demo recordings that Ima Castro has worked on," added Bobby.

The playdate of *Sacrifice* will be announced shortly.

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