

PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

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Introduction for patrons who are blind or have low vision

DBLSPK: 菠蘿麵包 *Pineapple Bun* by Howard Dai, co-produced by PuSh + rice & beans theatre (Canada)



January 29th, 2022 | Playhouse Recital Hall | FREE

Image description

Three bright yellow pineapple buns with slabs of butter inside, with a gradient background from left to right of pink, yellow, green and blue and the subtle image of a bakery. In small letters in the top right corner it reads "A 2022 DBLSPK Residency co-produced by rice & beans theatre and the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival. In big letters at the bottom right corner it reads "菠蘿麵包 *Pineapple Bun*, A new play by Howard Dai."

Because there will not be any live description the creators of the show wrote this document describing the important visuals of the show. We, the festival and the artists, understand that is not the same: our intention in sharing this document is to provide people with information and let them make their own decisions.

When You Enter

When you get inside the Playhouse Recital Hall, there is a small stage to your left with stairs on either side. On the floor at the left side of the stage, there is a TV on a small stand. On the floor to the right side, two ASL interpreters are seated with a music stand in front of them. The back of the stage is painted half yellow and half purple, and there is a large open doorway on either side. Onstage, all of the set pieces are made out of cardboard. There is a bakery display case with three tiers that is full of chinese desserts wrapped in brown paper. On top of the case, there is a brochure holder with one bakery brochure inside, as well as a closed brown paper bag. To the left of the case, there are many tongs, and a small table with two trays on top of it. On the right hand side of the stage, there is a counter with a brochure standing up straight. Next to it, there is a closed brown paper bag, a fan, a cash register and a waving lottery cat. The title and horse logo of the "Diamond Horse Bakery" is projected on the back wall and onto the front of the counter in both English and Chinese.

Scene 1

In the bakery, 2007.

A 2007 taiwanese newscast plays on the TV. Chen enters from the right doorway with a tray of pineapple buns and crosses the stage to place them in the display case.

Ding! Wu enters up the left stairs wearing a blue backpack. Chen crosses to the bakery counter as Wu looks at the baked goods in the display case.

Ding! Behbeh enters from the left stairs and goes to Chen at the counter. He crosses to get a baked good from the display case, and Wu moves out of his way. He goes back to the counter to get them bagged and pays. *Ding!* BeBeh exits by the left stairs, and Wu goes back to standing by the display case.

Wu sits down center stage, and for a moment, all projections and tv go away. Chen talks about a poet and his name appears on the back wall in chinese lettering. Then, three duplicate images of him appear on the back wall. Then, his name again. Finally, his poem, along with its phonetic spellings, appear in chinese lettering on the back wall.

Honk honk! The TV turns back on with the Taiwanese newscast, and the lights brighten. The bakery sign is once again projected on the back wall and counter. Wu stands.

Wu runs to exit down the left stairs.

Scene 2

In the bakery, present day.

The TV is on with the taiwanese lottery draw playing, and the title and logo of the bakery are once again projected on the back wall and front of the counter.

Wu stands centre stage and Behbeh enters from the right doorway with a tray of pineapple Buns. He puts some into the display case, and then hands Wu a pineapple bun before crossing to stand behind the counter. They remain in these positions until almost the end of the scene.

There is a *Ding!* and Wu grabs a bag of pineapple buns from the top of the display case and leaves with it down the left stairs. Behbeh then leaves through the right doorway.

Scene 3

At school, present day then into the Bakery in the underworld

The lights go down, and come up on a flipped bakery - the counter is now on the left side and the display case on the right. Horse enters. He is played by the same actor as Behbeh, but he is wrapped in brown fabric. He comes to stand centre.

Wu enters on the floor level from the left-hand side, holding the bag of pineapple buns from the last scene. Wu sits on the edge of the stage and puts the bag of pineapple buns next to them.

Horse reveals some red fabric and hands it to Wu. Wu ties it around their eyes. Horse hovers his hand over the top of their head, and then stops. Horse hovers his hand over the top of their head again, and a projection of moonlight reflecting on dark water begins to move over them. Horse says “Are you ready to begin?” and Wu grabs their bag of pineapple buns and holds it close to their chest. Horse starts chanting. The projection of water is overtaken by the visual of a storm of ash and the lights dim so that there is only light around Horse and Wu.

Horse finishes his chant and the projection fills the stage with the ash flying up. There is the sound of horses and, projected, we see the legs of many horses galloping on the stage floor. Projections of Wu’s memories begin to play on the back wall and jump from moment to moment, flashing quicker and quicker.

At the climax of visuals and sound, everything goes black. Then, the horses stop galloping.

Suddenly, the lights are back up and bright onstage, with a faint projection of water on the back wall. Wu remains seated and blindfolded on the edge of the stage. The Taiwanese lotto starts playing on the TV and Chen enters from the left doorway and stands behind the counter with a lottery ticket in her hand. She watches the TV and when the last number is called, she hasn’t won.

Wu takes off their blindfold and puts back on their shoes. They gets up onto the right hand side of the stage and crosses to place the bag of pineapple buns on the counter in front of Chen. Chen eats a bun.

Wu crosses to look at the display case and goes to take a bun, but does not take it. Wu then takes a brochure from on top of the display case and reads it. Chen sees this and crosses to center. When the music begins, the TV changes to show for the music video for 夢醒時分 by Sarah Chen, with a faint tint of water overlaid on top.

Chen sits down on the stage. The background projection changes to play the water-covered music video that is playing on the TV. Wu sits down on the edge of the stage next to Chen. They look out past the audience and the lights go down.

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For full details and to discuss accessibility needs please contact:

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