

Excerpt from proposal written for The Jerome Foundation for the Multi-Stages Theater Company:

We are asking the Jerome Foundation to consider a grant of \$10,000 for MultiStages' world premiere production of a play by Dorothy Tan, "The Palace of Loneliness." This work was the winner of the MultiStages New Works Playwrighting Contest held in 2000 and will be presented at HERE Theatre in New York City in the Spring of 2001.

Ms. Tan has woven two separate, but surprisingly connected, stories about love, passion, family and death. At first, we meet a young Chinese-American woman who walks into a sanitarium and confesses to a murder that no one can substantiate. Then, we plunge back in time to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.) where we follow a Chinese opera that dramatizes the legend of Emperor Xuanzong and his beloved concubine. The same cast moves from one period to another and from one performance style to another. Several artistic forms are used to tell these stories and reveal how they are linked, including: Chinese opera instrumentation; verse; dance; and highly choreographed movement. "The Palace of Loneliness," is in direct keeping with the MultiStages' mission of interdisciplinary productions.

MultiStages is a multidisciplinary, cross-cultural, not-for-profit theatre company founded in 1997. Our goal is to create a much needed opportunity for broader artistic collaboration in theatre. By encouraging new works, new partnerships and new ideas, we are providing a forum for emerging and established playwrights, directors, actors, visual artists, dancers, composers, musicians, singers, and others, both within and outside the traditional theatre community. We believe that merging the arts in each theatrical production creates a meaningful dialogue between these often separate disciplines. At the same time, our approach serves a variety of artistic communities.