

G O L D E N S H I E L D

BY ANCHULI FELICIA KING

Education Mini-Pack

12 AUGUST — 14 SEPTEMBER 2019

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

About the Play

Tenacious young lawyer Julie Chen brings her sister, Eva, on board as a translator in a risky legal battle with international ramifications. Leading a class action exposing an American tech giant's involvement with the Chinese government's internet firewall, Golden Shield, they must put their differences aside to confront large-scale censorship, corporate greed and their own complicated past.

About the Playwright

Anchuli Felicia King is a playwright and multidisciplinary artist of Thai-Australian descent. As a playwright, Felicia is interested in linguistic hybrids, digital cultures and issues of globalisation. Her plays have been produced by the Royal Court Theatre (London), Studio Theatre (Washington D.C.), American Shakespeare Center (Staunton), Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, National Theatre of Parramatta and Belvoir Theatre (Sydney). As a multidisciplinary artist, Felicia has worked with a wide range of companies and institutions, including Punchdrunk, PlayCo, 3LD Arts & Technology Center, Roundabout Theater, 59E59, Ars Nova, the Obie Awards, The Builders Association, Ensemble Studio Theater, NYTW and Red Bull Theater. She is a member of Ensemble Studio Theater's Youngblood Group and Roundabout Theater's Space Jam Program. Formerly based in New York, Felicia continues to work internationally and is based between London, New York and her hometown of Melbourne, Australia.

Cast

Nicholas Bell Richard Warren/Larry Murdoch

Jing-Xuan Chan Eva Chen

Gabrielle Chan Huang Mei/Deputy Minister Gao Shengwei

Fiona Choi Julie Chen

Yi Jin Li Dao

Josh McConville Marshall McLaren

Sophie Ross Amanda Carlson/Jane Bollman

Yuchen Wang The Translator

Creative Team

Director Sarah Goodes

Set & Costume Design The Sisters Hayes
(Esther Marie Hayes & Rebecca Hayes)

Lighting Designer Damien Cooper

Composer & Sound Designer Luke Smiles

Voice & Dialect Coach Geraldine Cook-Dafner

Associate Designer Kat Chan

Assistant Director Alice Qin

Language & Translation Consultant Jing Wei Lee

Design Secondments Jemima Johnston & Harrie Hogan

Voice & Dialect Secondment Matt Furlani

Stage Manager Pippa Wright

Assistant Stage Manager Lisette Drew

Rehearsal Photographer Deryk McAlpin

Production Photographer Jeff Busby

Genre

Contemporary international drama

Running Time

Approx. 2hrs and 30min including a 20min interval

Attendance Information

This production contains frequent coarse language, sexual references, mature themes and haze effects. For detailed information, please visit

www.mtc.com.au/production-content-guide



Turn the page for activities,
and discussions.

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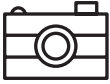
Before the show



Research the real Golden Shield Project (also named the National Public Security Work Informational Project) online. What are the main aims of the project?

Download the show programme at mtc.com.au/backstage to read about how and why Anchuli Felicia King came to write a play about China and the United States of America.

Debate this topic: The internet is dangerous to society and should be restricted.



'The world is watching you.' – Discuss this quote from the play, which is also used in the show's marketing. What does it mean?

See the rehearsal gallery at mtc.com.au/backstage and make predictions about how the video cameras will be used on stage.



Watch a video where the playwright and director discuss *Golden Shield* at [YouTube.com/melbtheatreco](https://www.youtube.com/melbtheatreco). Director Sarah Goodes says her first impression of the script was being 'struck by the magnitude of the ideas in the play'. Discuss this comment, and make predictions about the themes.



This play is performed in both Mandarin and English. Do you speak both of these languages? How might you understand what is happening when actors are speaking a language you aren't fluent in?

How would you define the difference between *translating* and *interpreting* language?

Post-show Activities



What theatre style/s would you say *Golden Shield* was performed in?

Recall some moments from the play that resonated with you, made you laugh, or that you didn't like. Have other people in the class chosen the same moments?



Look at the production photos at mtc.com.au/backstage. Discuss how design elements were manipulated to create several locations.



Read the Q&A with actor Yuchen Wang (The Translator) at mtc.com.au/backstage and discuss his comments about translation, and his character's relationship with the audience.

Watch the video trailer for *Golden Shield* at [YouTube.com/melbtheatreco](https://www.youtube.com/melbtheatreco) and choose a scene to evaluate in detail.

Download the show programme at mtc.com.au/backstage to read about the cast and creatives who worked on *Golden Shield*. There's also a page at the back that lists everybody who works at MTC. Research roles that you're unfamiliar with and think about how they contributed to this production.

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukit Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the First Peoples of Country on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand. We pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.



@melbtheatreco #mtcGoldenShield



MTC Education

MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

