



Jordan Cheng and Margaret Cheung play George and Emily in A Beautiful Day.

While staying faithful to the original play's central themes, *A Beautiful Day*, the retitled Cantonese adaptation from Actors' Family, has shifted the action from a fictional town in New Hampshire in the early 20th century to a fictitious village in Sha Tin in the 1950s. Another change sees the mothers of the two protagonists - George (Jordan Cheng Kwanchi) and Emily (Margaret Cheung Kwokwing) - go from singing in a church choir to practising Cantonese opera in the village commune house. The two lovers tie the knot at a traditional Chinese wedding.

Wong says most of the play may seem ordinary and mundane but that is to contrast with the powerful final act.

"The line that struck me most the first time I saw the play was 'To spend and waste time as though you had a million years.' It reminds us to live our lives to the fullest and treasure every moment and every person around us. When you're dead, you can't do anything - not even small and ordinary

things," says the composer.

Director Victor Pang Chun-nam, who is handling the adaptation, and lyricist Chris Shum Wai-chung complete the creative team.

Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai, July 26-28, 8pm, July 27-28, 3pm, HK\$180, HK\$240 Urbtix. Inquiries: 6715 4437

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