

A conversation from the Kitchen

with Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert

Welcome to the Kitchen! We opened the season with Annie Baker's wonderfully quirky play *Circle Mirror Transformation* and we enjoyed watching a terrific ensemble of actors bring a group of ordinary folks to life whose revelations are as surprising to them as they are to us. The summer flew by, because we literally ended the 2010-11 season one day and began rehearsals for 2011-12 the next. It was a whirlwind last season. I am hoping for a little bit of a calmer time this season, but no less exciting.

IN THE COMPANY OF DANCERS

We have begun rehearsals for *In the Company of Dancers* and it's going well. This group of dancers ranges in age from 12 to much older than that. I have asked a few dear old dancer friends to dust off their, well in this case, bare feet and join in this production alongside a group of younger dancers from Ithaca College and the Ithaca community. Choreographer Lindsay Gilmour and I are creating the choreography, and musicians Linda Case (violin), Rosie Elliot (cello) and Andrea Merrill (piano) are playing everything from Dvorak to Schumann to Kreisler to Beach and more. And, actress Norma Fire (*At A Loss*) is a member of the cast. The piece is filled with memory, humor and great stories. It will be an evening for your ears, your eyes and your hearts. Thanks to our sponsors, Purity Ice Cream and WSKG.

NEAT AUDITIONS IN NYC

I was in NYC with director Sara Lampert Hoover (*Yellowman*, *The Clean House*, *The Tricky Part*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Pretty Fire*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* among others) for auditions for *Neat* by Charlayne Woodard. We saw many wonderful actresses for the role and are excited about our choice for this incredible play. *Neat* opens October 19th and it's going to rock the roof! It is a play that allows us to focus in on a single actress playing multiple characters with

a wonderfully rich script that tells a terrific, compassionate story about growing up. It is storytelling at its best. The title of the piece refers to Charlayne's Auntie Neat who is twelve years older than Charlayne, but remained childlike due to an accident when she was a baby that left her developmentally disabled. Neat's mother was turned away when she sought emergency treatment for her daughter at a whites-only hospital. An African American doctor saved the baby's life, but it was too late to avoid the damage. When, as a little girl, Charlayne meets her southern Auntie Neat, she is delighted to have a playmate who is older but acts like a little girl. When Neat and her mother move north and



From left: Jennifer Herzog, Norm Johnson, Camilla Schade, Alison Scaramella, Greg Bostwick, and Dean Robinson.
 Photo: Ed Dittenhoefer

move in with teenager Charlayne's family, their once close relationship is mixed with the embarrassment Charlayne experiences with her Auntie's behavior. The play is hilarious and moving, with songs, movement and so much heart, I am sure it will find a place in every viewer's heart as well. I am looking forward to this glorious play. I hope you will take the opportunity to invite friends to come to the Kitchen for a truly unique experience. Thanks to our sponsor Cornell University and our Community Partner, The Franziska Racker Centers.

KITCHEN SINK SERIES BEGINS - We have some added events to the season on the Kitchen Sink Series. What is the Kitchen Sink? Well, it is our way of opening the performing space to local and visiting groups to mount readings, productions and events not included on our season. It gives a home to young theater artists testing their wings or established theater professionals to try something new (Brian Dykstra's *The Jesus Factor*, for example). These additional performances happen throughout the season and we have three coming up in October.

Frack You! October 2 and 4 at 7:30pm - Sunday and Tuesday, October 2nd and 4th at 7:30pm S.T.A.R. (Southern Tier Actors Read), a group of actors and directors from Binghamton, will read Laura Cunningham's new play FRACK YOU! at the Kitchen. This one-act play is set in a bar located at "ground zero" for Marcellus Shale drilling. It has six characters: Nozmo, the bartender, who wants his land fracked for big bucks; Charlie, a NYC native who recently purchased land in the country to escape city life; Frick and Frack, welders for Henley Drilling, who are just happy to have jobs and each other; Molly, an environmentalist; and Joe, Molly's boyfriend, who may be getting fracked on the side.

Concert with David Neal & Richard Montgomery, October 3 at 7:30pm - On the Monday night in between the potentially controversial FRACK YOU! performances, there will be a real change of pace with a performance of Franz Schubert's Winterreise, sung by David Neal and accompanied by Richard Montgomery on piano. This well-known song cycle is filled with drama, love and longing. David Neal (last seen at the Kitchen in *Bed & Sofa*) has sung nationally and internationally and together with accompanist Richard Montgomery (*Bed & Sofa*, *Precious Nonsense*, *Tony & the Soprano* among others) this will be an exhilarating evening of music. Not to be missed on Monday, October 3 at 7:30pm.

Reading of George Sapio's Fault Lines, October 30 at 7:30pm - Later in October, on Sunday, October 30 at 7:30, there will be a reading of George Sapio's new play *Fault Lines* directed by Norm Johnson.

Looking Ahead - We have a wonderfully varied and stimulating season of 9 plays ahead. We have planned "conversation starters" throughout - possibly some heated ones, too. It is the mission of the Kitchen Theatre Company to bring to the community evenings of theater that are challenging, thought provoking and reveal humanity with all the joy, struggle and humor that accompanies being alive. Personally, I thank you for supporting the work by coming, sharing your thoughts and actively participating in the development of the Kitchen through those actions. I hope to hear from all of our subscribers and friends as the season progresses. A theater exists to reflect, to ask questions, and to examine the human heart within the context of a community. That is what I hope the Kitchen Theatre Company does and will continue to do.

Once again, welcome to the 2011-12 Kitchen Theatre Company 21st Season.

Rachel Lampert

KITCHEN MAIN STAGE CALENDAR

In the Company of Dancers
 Sept 28 - Oct 9, 2011

Neat
 Oct 19 - Nov 6, 2011

The Mystery of Irma Vep
 Nov 30 - Dec 18, 2011

Call Me Waldo
 Jan 8 - Feb 5, 2012

Red Light Winter
 Feb 22 - Mar 11, 2012

Broke-ology
 Apr 4 - 22, 2012

Waiting for Spring
 May 30 - June 17, 2012

New Comedy TBA
 July 11 - 29, 2012

KITCHEN SINK CALENDAR

Frack You!
 Oct 2 & 4, 2011

Winterreise
 Oct 3, 2011

Fault Lines
 Oct 30, 2011

Tickets for Kitchen Sinks and all Kitchen performances are on sale at the Ticket Center.

Buy by phone:
 607.273.4497

Buy on-line:
kitchentheatre.org

Message from Stephen Nunley, Managing Director



The season has started, and we are now officially 21! We've been making some jokes and some serious references to turning 21. It is a milestone when a young person reaches that age, and it often brings new experimentation – some fun and some serious. The Kitchen Theatre Company is doing both. Our new building is certainly fun. We continue to enjoy the wonderful newness of the theater space, the lobby, the shop, the backstage and the storage. We get many requests for others to use the space, and that's fun for us and also a great way for KTC to find new friends. The serious side of turning 21 is that it is the age of maturity and it comes with new responsibilities. We have been on a long journey to becoming a mature organization. The past seven seasons have moved us closer to a place of fiscal stability and certainly the new building is a demonstration of KTC's ability to achieve amazing things.

I have always been confident in the artistic maturity of the KTC. Rachel's leadership and vision keeps all of us engaged and excited about what is going on on-stage, and we all love seeing the creativity throughout each season from production to production. It's great to feel this way about the "art side," as I am responsible for the financial side of things, and the knowledge we are in great hands keeps me motivated to support the work Rachel and our terrifically talented collaborating artists constantly offer us.

Long-time KTC supporters know the enormous effort to purchase and renovate the new building was part of a strategic plan to ensure KTC's future. We increased our seating capacity by 30%, from 73 to 99 seats, to reach specific financial and institutional goals. We expect it will take a few seasons to reach full houses on a regular basis, but I am happy to report that in our first season in the new theater we reached our ticket sales goals. We have set a new goal for this season and we hope to meet it. We can use your help.

Get Involved! We hear from so many of you, our subscribers, how much you enjoy coming to the Kitchen and how the theater contributes to the cultural life of our community. I want to encourage you to be ambassadors for the Kitchen and bring new people to our productions. It sometimes takes a "peer to peer" recommendation to get others to try something new – especially when plays are new, lesser known or push emotional and intellectual buttons.

Here's a goal I can suggest to each of you. Using last season's attendance numbers, I calculate that if, over the course of this season, every subscriber brought 2 new people to the Kitchen one time to see one performance, it would raise our attendance by almost 10%! If every subscriber brought 4 people it would push us very close to the ultimate goal of filling every seat every night. And, just to be clear, though we gave all our full-season subscribers coupons for complimentary tickets for friends which we hope you will use, I am talking about 2 people who purchase one ticket each during the season.

So, how about celebrating our 21st Birthday by finding 2 or more friends who have never been to the Kitchen Theatre before, and introducing them to the experience you have been enjoying with us with a purchased ticket? The Kitchen Theatre Company has come a long way in the past 21 years, but we have a long way yet to go. Welcome to our 21st year - a year we continue our commitment to excellence in theater and one to move us forward to a more secure position of financial stability.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE KITCHEN

Volunteer help makes all the difference to a not-for-profit like the Kitchen Theatre Company. And this season we are looking for volunteers to help us in several key areas that will strengthen us as a company and aid us in using staff time as efficiently as possible. Here is what we are looking for:

Company Management Assistance. These volunteers help set up apartments for guest actors and directors throughout the season. These folks are hospitality ambassadors. They also provide rides for actors to and from the bus station, and around town for shopping. They may be asked to make arrangements for guest actor/director requirements including travel scheduling, special requests and general assistance. Think concierge with house keeping! (Approximately 5-6 hours every time a new cast comes in and 6-10 hours during each production)

Poster and Brochure Distribution. A great excuse to take a drive around the city, county, and the region visiting B&B's, restaurants, vineyards, artists' galleries, places where people gather and distributing our posters and brochures. We supply the list, the pen to check off the list of stops, and we'll happily give you a map! (1-3 hours each run)

Assist the Artistic Director. Everything from reading a play, contacting a playwright, organizing her schedule, holding her hand, taking notes in rehearsal, shopping, cataloguing, running errands and making copies – this is "art up close and personal". Rachel needs a full-time assistant, but would be happy, eager to have someone (or two or three) people who could have a regular scheduled time to work with her on her many jobs and help her change hats.

Ushers needed throughout the season.

Marketing help with mailings and distribution, on a job by job basis.

One-night event help in set-up and clean up for April 28, 2012. (6-7 hours)

Not the glamour job – but very much needed – is **help with lobby maintenance.** Prep of lobby and restrooms for the public; tracking hospitality supplies and maintaining inventory. (1 hour before performance)

All these jobs come with the greatest perk we can offer – our sincere thanks and deeply felt recognition of the contribution our volunteers make to the organization. AND, a special Volunteer Recognition Event this coming Spring.

We have a new system this season. There is an application/information process. Please go to www.kitchentheatre.org/volunteer.htm for the application. To ask questions, email information@kitchentheatre.org. We will get back to you quickly.

FAQ'S WORTH REPEATING

Parking: is available on the street. Meters are not in effect after 6pm and on weekends. You can park across the street at NAPA for evening performances. Parking is also available evenings in the Wylie Cleaner lot on Corn and Seneca, Diane's Downtown Automotive, and at the Human Services Building on MLK Street and Geneva. On Thursday matinee days, we arrange the plays to work with the metered parking. We have two handicap bags to place on meters and hold for our patrons. Look for these in the front of the theater. Because these spots are not held permanently, the exact placement may change from time to time. If you need assistance in unloading or entering the building, please call the office during the day on a weekday to let us know.

Performance Times: Wednesdays and Thursdays are at 7:30pm; Fridays and Satur-

days are at 8:00pm; Sundays are at 4:00pm; and our newest addition, Thursday matinees, are at 2pm for a selected number of productions. We thank Tompkins Trust Company for their sponsorship of our Thursday Matinee Series.

Subscriber Benefits: Ticket Exchanges are available only to subscribers. You can do this over the phone by calling the Ticket Center at 607 273-4497. They will exchange them for you and you can pick the new tickets up on the night of your new performance date. There is no need to come down in person – that's one of your benefits. Full-Season Subscribers received a coupon with their subscription that gives them one additional ticket for one single performance during the season. This is a gift to you and way for you to bring a friend or family member to see a play. Call the Ticket Center to arrange for your ticket. Subscribers receive this Newsletter in advance of us posting it on the web. Subscribers get priority in seat assignments. Subscribers get advance notice of special events and are invited to Subscriber-Only events. Bring a friend (see Steve's welcome for more about this) and you will get 10% off that additional ticket.

Save the date for

Dance the Night Away
April 28, 2012

Co-Chairs
Kathy Garner & Cheryl Kallet Mitchell

Don't miss out on the
Kitchen Theatre's
biggest party yet!