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Rachel Lampert, Artistic Director

bold • intimate • engaging

# KITCHEN theatre company

## PRESS RELEASE

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August 30 – September 23, 2007

MAIN STAGE 2007-08

### *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl

**Director:** Sara Lampert Hoover\*\* **Scenic Design:** Paul Heckathorn **Lighting Design:** Caleb Magoon **Costume Design:** Hannah Kochman **Composer:** Mer Boel **Stage Manager:** Stephen Wagner **Production Coordinator:** Melissa Thompson  
(\*member of SSDC Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers)

**Cast:** Ursula Cataan\*, Leigh Keeley, Olivia Lawrence\*, Charles Stransky\*, Addie Walsh (\*members of Actors Equity Association)

**Previews:** Thursday August 30 at 7:30pm and Friday August 31 at 8:00pm

**Press Opening:** Saturday, September 1 at 8:00 PM **Closes:** Sunday, September 23 at 4:00 PM

**Performances:** Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 PM & Sundays at 4:00 (see calendar page 2)

**Tickets:** \$19-\$34 (senior, student, preview and group discounts available) and may be purchased in person at the Ticket Center located in the Historic Clinton House, Downtown Ithaca near the Commons, 116 N. Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY (corner Cayuga and Seneca Streets), by calling (607) 273-4497 or online at [www.kitchentheatre.org](http://www.kitchentheatre.org) **Photos available upon request.**

The Kitchen Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of production Underwriter Tompkins Trust Company. This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

## Kitchen Theatre opens its 2007-08 season with THE CLEAN HOUSE, a regional premiere

The Kitchen Theatre Company opens its 17<sup>th</sup> Main Stage Season with a comedy! (Previews August 30th and 31st; press opening September 1st and runs through September 23th, 2007. *The Clean House*, by prize-winning playwright Sarah Ruhl, is about clean houses, messy lives, jealousy, disease, compassion and forgiveness. Lane, a physician, wants her house clean. Lane's Brazilian maid Matilde wants to be a comedian. Lane's surgeon husband Charles has fallen in love with his patient Ana. Ana wants to celebrate life and embrace transitions. Lane's sister Virginia would clean up all the mess everyone else is making, if only they would give her permission.

*The Clean House* creates its own genre with an unexpected mix of realism and fantasy. Four diverse women characters drive the action, and playwright Ruhl gives them ample opportunities to say things others might never dare to utter. The play constantly surprises. Even as it is filled with the pain of deception and the sadness of a bloodless marriage, *The Clean House* is wonderfully life-affirming journey. Through all the muck and mire and complexity of our lives, the characters discover it is laughter that sustains us.

"I love this play!" says Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert. "I am moved, then I am laughing, I am thinking, then crying, I am learning and then laughing more—it's like life. A great way to start our new season."

Sarah Ruhl is one of the hottest, most produced new playwrights working today. Her play *Eurydice* is currently in an extended run at Second Stage in NYC, and her plays are being produced throughout the U.S. including

In the Historic Clinton House, 116 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca, New York 14850

Trinity Repertory Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, New York Theatre Workshop and more. Raised in Chicago, Illinois and a graduate with an M.F.A. in playwriting from Brown University and was a runner-up for a Pulitzer for *The Clean House* in 2004. Ruhl has won the Helen Merrill Award, the Whiting Writers' Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, an international award given to a female playwright writing in English.

In a review of the NYC production, the New York Times reported, "This comedy is romantic, deeply so, but in the more arcane sense of the word: visionary, tinged with fantasy, extravagant in feeling, maybe a little nuts."

For the Kitchen Theatre Company's regional premiere of *The Clean House*, leading the cast of five actors is director Sara Lampert Hoover, whose production of *Yellowman* was one of last season's standouts. Sara Lampert Hoover's other directorial credits at the Kitchen include *The Syringa Tree*, *Tony & the Soprano*, *The Servant of Two Masters* and more. The cast includes four NYC-based actors: Addie Walsh (*The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, *Three Tall Women*) returns to play Lane along with Charles Stransky (*The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*) as Charles. Also visiting from NYC are actors Ursula Cataan, playing Matilde, and Olivia Lawrence, playing Ana. Long-time KTC veteran Leigh Keeley (*The Price*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Memory of Water*) completes the cast, playing Lane's sister Virginia.

The scenic design is by Paul Heckathorn (*Our David*, *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*). New to the Kitchen is lighting designer Caleb Magoon. The production will have an original score by Mer Boel (*The Glass Menagerie*). The Kitchen Theatre Company was able to commission the original score through the support of the New York State Music Fund of the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. Hannah Kochman (*The Price*, *Clean Alternatives*) will design the costumes.

**Performance Dates:**

August 30, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm (Preview 1 of 2)

August 31, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm (Preview 2 of 2)

**September 1, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm (Press/Opening/Reception)**

September 2, 2007, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 1 of 4)

September 5, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

September 6, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm

September 7, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm

September 8, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm

September 9, 2007, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 2 of 4)

September 12, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

September 13, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm

September 14, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm

September 15, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm

September 16, 2007, Sunday at 4 pm (Matinee 4 of 4)

September 19, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

September 20, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm

September 21, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm

September 22, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm

**September 23, 2007, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Closing)**

**Bold, intimate, engaging...Kitchen Theatre Company** (KTC), now in its 17th season, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theatre with four performance series (Main Stage, Family Fare, Kitchen Counter Culture, Kitchen Sink). KTC is the first not-for-profit recipient of the David R. Strong Memorial "**Small Business of the Year**" Award from the **Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce**. KTC provides an engaging mix of regional and world premiere plays and musicals to Central NY in an intimate 73-seat theatre that encourages a bold relationship between audience and actor. The theatre is located in the historic Clinton House, a renovated hotel in Downtown Ithaca, New York. Ithaca is located on the southern tip of Cayuga Lake in central New York. Kitchen Theatre Company receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency and the Tompkins County Room Occupancy Tax Fund. For the 2007-08 Season the Kitchen Theatre Company is receiving support from the Shubert Foundation and the New York State Music Fund.

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