

bold • intimate • engaging

KITCHEN theatre company

17th Season - Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert

Office (607) 272-0403
Fax (607) 273-4816
Tickets (607) 273-4497
www.kitchentheatre.org

Historic Clinton House, 116 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, N.Y.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2008

Contact: Lesley Greene, Kitchen Counter Culture Producer, 607.272-0403; lesley@kitchentheatre.org

KITCHEN COUNTER CULTURE 2007-08

April 18-20, 2008

EXPATRIATE

Written by Lenelle Moïse; Starring Karla Mosley and Lenelle Moïse

Directed by Tamilla Woodard

Performances: April 18 & 19 at 8:00 PM and April 20 at 4:00 PM (see calendar page 3)

Tickets: \$14-\$16 (senior, student, and subscription 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 **Photos available upon request. Artist available for interview.**

The Kitchen Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Kitchen Counter Culture Series sponsors New York State Council on the Arts, Foster Custom Kitchens and CSP Management and hospitality sponsor Hilton Garden Inn. This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

Lenelle Moïse brings her new musical drama to the Kitchen

ITHACA, NY: The Kitchen Theatre Company's KITCHEN COUNTER CULTURE series, featuring cutting-edge, outside-the-box work by guest artists from around the country, continues this month with a new play by playwright **Lenelle Moïse**. EXPATRIATE features two actors, Moïse and NYC-based actress Karla Mosley, and is directed by Tamilla Woodard. It will run at the Kitchen Theatre for three performances only: April 18, 19, and 20. **All performances will be followed by a talkback with the artists.**

EXPATRIATE tells the story of Claudie and Alphine, African-American jazz singers and long-time sister-friends. Disillusioned by grief, homophobia and "the black glass ceiling," the two flee to Europe to realize their starved American dreams. In Paris, their stars rise. But Claudie and Alphine soon discover that for some black artists living abroad, stardom comes at a price. Will their friendship survive the pressures of their newfound success? This musical drama combines dialogue, dream sequences, dance, and live music in an exploration of race, friendship, addiction, art and infamy.

Haitian American playwright and performer Lenelle Moïse is a 2002 graduate of Ithaca College, where she created a Planned Studies major in Women and Storytelling. As an Ithaca College student, she wrote her first two plays, CORNERED IN THE DARK and PURPLE (commissioned by the Kitchen Theatre Company) and began work on a third, THE MANY FACES OF NIA. Moïse went on to complete an MFA in Playwriting at Smith College. She has written ten plays and two screenplays, produced a spoken word CD, authored essays that appear in numerous published collections, and appeared as an actor on stage and screen. In 2004, the Kitchen Theatre presented the premiere of her play WOMB-WORDS, THIRSTING, a work she describes as "a brew full of womanist Vodou jazz, queer theory, hip-

hop, and movement." EXPATRIATE is her latest play; it will have a workshop production in April at The Culture Project in New York as part of their Women Center Stage 2008 programming.

BIOS

Lenelle Moïse (Playwright / Performer): Lenelle's other plays include: MATERMORPHOSIS, an adaptation of Kafka's "Metamorphosis" commissioned by Serious Play Theatre Ensemble; LITTLE GRIOT, a youth play about masculinity commissioned by the Drama Studio; THE MANY FACES OF NIA, a two-act comedy about stereotypes and Black-Jewish relations; SPILLING VENUS, Pandora's "coming out" story; CORNERED IN THE DARK, a choreopoem about the psychological aftermath of sexual assault; and PURPLE, a youth play about dating violence commissioned by the Kitchen Theatre Company. Lenelle was also commissioned to contribute 25 poems & monologues to WE GOT ISSUES, a "performance-based dialogue" on young women & voting produced by Eve Ensler, Jane Fonda and the Next Wave of Women in Power. Lenelle earned her MFA in Playwriting from Smith College in 2004 and is a recipient of the 2003 & 2004 James Baldwin Memorial Award in Playwriting.

Moïse has written for film as well. She co-wrote *Sexual Dependency*, Bolivian director Rodrigo Bellot's feature film debut about cross-cultural machismo and U.S. media influence on the youth of the global south. Currently out on DVD, the film won the International Film Critics' Award at the Locarno International Film Festival (Switzerland). It has since been screened and awarded in countless festivals and cinemas on four continents. Lenelle also wrote and starred in Mara Alper's short experimental video, *To Erzulie*, which premiered at the Berlin Sommerfest der Literaturen in July 2002.

Also a working actor, Lenelle won a Drammy for her performance in the Insight Out Theatre Collective production of CORNERED IN THE DARK. She has toured with Chrysalis Theatre Ensemble and Enchanted Circle Theatre and was most recently seen off-Broadway at the Culture Project in the ensemble cast of REBEL VOICES, a play based on the book *Voices of a People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn and Anthony Arnove.

Karla Mosley is a NYC-based actor. Her TV credits include *The Knights of Prosperity* and the hit children's TV series *Hi-5*. She is a graduate with honors of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has studied at the Roy Hart Voice Institute in France. Theater credits include *DREAMGIRLS* (Theater Under the Stars, Houston, TX) and the children's off-Broadway production *MAX AND RUBY* (Theaterworks USA). Additionally, she has a bit part in the upcoming Coen Brothers film, *Burn After Reading*, to open in 2008, and will be seen in the indie horror film *Red Hook*.

Tamila Woodard (Director) has developed and directed four other solo performances pieces: Sherry Boone's *SUPER STAR ARTIST SHOW* (Zipper Theatre) LeeAne't Nobles *KICKN2THEBEAT* (Zipper Theatre); Queen Gods' *BIRTH OF POWER U* (Triad Theatre/ Hip Hop Theatre Festival) and Carlos Andrés Gómez's *MAN UP* (Solo Nova Festival @ PS 122 and Edinburgh Fringe, UK). She directed the staged reading of Eve Ensler's *NECESSARY TARGETS* with Jane Fonda, Ellen Burstyn, Kerry Washington and Lynn Cohen at the Women, Power & Peace conference. Other directing credits include: *HERE.THIS.NOW*, which enjoyed a sold out workshop at Symphony Space in January '06 and premiered at the 10th New York International Fringe Festival in August '06 to a sold out run; *THE BOOK OF THE WHO* (MCC's Fresh Play Festival); and *AN EVENING HONORING TONI MORRISON* (Lincoln Center Jazz featuring Sonia Sanchez, Phylicia Rashad, Morgan Freeman, Bill T. Jones and Sweet Honey in the Rock.). Woodard also co-edited and directed *WE GOT ISSUES* (toured US 2007), a spoken word performance piece derived from the rants of 1,000 women on power and politics and compiled from the writings of "Def Poets" Staceyann Chin, Rha Goddess, Lenelle Moïse and others, and directed *VALIANT* (8th New York International Fringe Festival and subsequent runs, workshops and readings produced by The Culture Project/Impact Festival, Unofficial New York Yale Cabaret, Williamstown Theatre Festival and others), a documentary theatre piece chronicling the lives of women and war, adapted by Lanna Joffrey. Her productions have been awarded Best Performance, Best Ensemble and Best Of Listing in *New York Magazine*. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama's Acting Program, Woodard served as the Artistic Director of the Yale Cabaret.

Kitchen Theatre Company's KITCHEN COUNTER CULTURE series brings Central New York the cutting-edge, outside-the-box, bold, uncensored work of writer/performers who are fearless in their convictions and daring in their presentations. The series celebrates new voices and diverse approaches to the act of performance with artists who are breaking rules and breaking new ground. This season the series highlights five artists of color. First in the series was Indian American standup comedian and playwright Vijai Nathan's **GOOD GIRLS DON'T, BUT INDIAN GIRLS DO**. Darian Dauchan performed **MEDIA MADNESS** in November. The series continued in February with actor/teaching artist Vickie Tanner's new play **RUNNING INTO ME** and acclaimed performance artist Denise Uyehara's **SHEDDING LIGHT**, and concludes in April with **EXPATRIATE**. Funded by **New York State Council on the Arts** and sponsored by **Foster Custom Kitchens, CSP Management** and hospitality sponsor **Hilton Garden Inn**.

Performance Dates:

April 18, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm

April 19, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm

April 20, 2008, Sunday at 4:00 pm

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**.

###