

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2010

TICKETS: \$18-\$34; CALL 607-273-4497; VISIT Ticket Center Ithaca, 171 The Commons, Ithaca, NY; or CLICK www.kitchentheatre.org and buy online.

GROUP RATES: Discounts are available when you come with a group. For details, call 607-272-0403.

WEBSITE: For more information on the Kitchen Theatre Company, visit www.kitchentheatre.org.

Contact: Lesley Greene, Associate Producing Director, 607-272-0403; lesley@kitchentheatre.org

Photos available upon request

The Kitchen Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of sponsor **CAYUGA MEDICAL CENTER**. This funding helps the Kitchen bring intimate and engaging theater to life.

Forgotten history comes to life in Ain Gordon's IN THIS PLACE...

Ithaca, NY: What happens when a cutting-edge, Obie-award winning playwright is asked to explore a piece of forgotten history? The result is a remarkable play called *IN THIS PLACE...*, appearing on the Kitchen Theatre Company Main Stage April 14 to May 2 (see calendar below).

Ain Gordon, known for his remarkable and audacious experiments in theatrical structure, was commissioned by LexArts, the Lexington, Kentucky Arts Council, to create a work based on Kentucky history. Like a detective/archaeologist/social scientist, Ain Gordon came upon an unoccupied 1830s house in a historic district of Lexington and began to uncover its story. Through his investigations, Gordon found that the 1830s-era house was originally the home of Samuel Oldham, the first free African-American man in Lexington to own his own land and build his own house.

Samuel Oldham's wife, Daphney, is at the center of the play. Played by veteran New York actress Michelle Hurst, Daphney is a ghost striving to remember her "living days." Interwoven are images of her after-life, a phantom Lexington populated by the famous and the disappeared. Video footage by documentary filmmaker Joan Brannon incorporates two-year's worth of interviews and archival research on Lexington and the Oldham family. The play reveals the old through the technology of the new and asks a simple question—what is history? Is it what's written down? What we each experience?

The Kitchen Theatre is pleased to have two community collaborators participating in events focused on *IN THIS PLACE...* The History Center in Tompkins County will host its April History Café at the Kitchen Theatre on Thursday, April 8 at 5:30pm, featuring playwright Ain Gordon, actress Michelle Hurst and panelists Carol Kammen and Sean Eversley Bradwell for a discussion of the topic "Who creates history?" Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS) will host a pre-performance reception on Wednesday, April 14th at 6:45pm. The Kitchen Theatre lobby will feature before and after pictures of deteriorated houses that INHS has rehabilitated along with information about that organization's 33 years of preserving the history of Ithaca's neighborhoods. Both events are free to the public.

More about the creative team:

Ain Gordon (writer/director) is a three-time Obie Award winning writer/director/actor, a two-time NYFA fellow, and the recipient of a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in playwriting. Gordon has been commissioned/produced/presented by Soho Rep, New York Theater Workshop, Dance Theater Workshop, Performance Space 122, Dancing In The Streets, the Public Theatre (all NYC), Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (MA), the Baltimore Museum of Art (MD), George Street Playhouse (NJ), Dance Place (DC), Spirit Square (NC),

bold • intimate • engaging
KITCHEN
theatre company

Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert

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Historic Clinton House, 116 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

the Mark Taper Forum (CA); and (in collaboration with David Gordon) by American Repertory Theatre (MA), American Conservatory Theater (CA), and American Music Theater Festival (PA), etc. Gordon has also written for the NBC series “Will & Grace.” As a performer, Gordon was last seen Off-Broadway in SPALDING GRAY: STORIES LEFT TO TELL.

Michelle Hurst has numerous credits in theater, film and television. Theater credits include THE STORY (Long Wharf Theater and NYSF/The Public Theater), IDYLLS OF THE KING (The Metropolitan Museum of Art), WALLY’S GHOST (Soho Rep); her film work includes “Choke”, “Sherrybaby”, “In the Cut”, “Stepmom”, “I Shot Andy Warhol”, “Blue in the Face”, “Smoke”, and “Airheads”; television credits include “6 Degrees”, “Third Watch”, “Rescue Me”, all three “Law & Order” shows, “Sex and the City”, “Cosby”, “All My Children”, “As The World Turns”, and “New York Undercover.”

Joan Brannon is an Independent Film/Videomaker, Media Artist, Writer, Teacher and Community Activist based in Lexington, KY. Lighting design is by **E.D. Intemann**, Senior Lecturer and Resident Lighting Designer at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts at Cornell University. He has designed over 50 shows at Cornell including METAMORPHOSES, THE GRAPES OF WRATH, HAMLET, ANTIGONE, and AMADEUS. Professionally he has designed at Dancespace at St. Marks and La MaMa in New York City, the Eastman School in Rochester, NY, and the Sanctuary Theatre in Washington, DC and numerous plays at the Kitchen Theatre, among others. Stage management is by **LaShawn Keyser**.

Performance Dates:

Wed., April 14, 2010 at 7:30pm (preview 1 of 3)
Thurs., April 15, 2010 at 7:30pm (preview 2 of 3)
Fri., April 16, 2010 at 8:00pm (preview 3 of 3)
Sat., April 17, 2010 at 8:00pm (press opening)
Sun., April 18, 2010 at 4:00pm
Wed., April 21, 2010 at 7:30pm
Thurs., April 22, 2010 at 7:30pm
Fri., April 23, 2010 at 8:00pm (wine tasting)
Sat., April 24, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sun., April 25, 2010 at 4:00pm
Wed., April 28, 2010 at 7:30pm
Thurs., April 29, 2010 at 7:30pm
Fri., April 30, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sat., May 1, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sun., May 2, 2010 at 4:00pm (closing)

Bold, intimate, engaging...Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC), now in its 19th 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 2009-10 Season the Kitchen Theatre Company also receives support from the Shubert Foundation.

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