



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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TICKETS: \$18-32; 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.

Photos available upon request

This piece is made possible in part by Sponsor **Cornell University** and Community Partner **Franziska Racker Centers**. This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

KTC tells a moving coming-of-age story with Charlayne Woodard's *Neat*

Ithaca, NY: The Kitchen Theatre Company's 21st Season continues with a powerful, funny, and moving coming-of-age story, Charlayne Woodard's *Neat*. This one-woman powerhouse of a play previews on October 19, 20, and 21. Opening Night is Saturday, October 22 and performances run for three weeks, closing on Sunday, November 6, 2011.

Neat by **Charlayne Woodard** is masterful storytelling richly drawn from the playwright's own life. The play focuses on the teenage years of an African-American girl whose family moves from the South to the North in the turbulent 1960's. Part of the family is Aunt Neat, who was inadvertently poisoned as a baby resulting in brain damage and a life-long disability. Initially, young Charlayne adores her Aunt Neat, who seems like another child, but their relationship is tested as Charlayne becomes an adolescent. The story of the bond between these two is set against the struggles of typical teenage angst made tougher by outside prejudice and misunderstanding.

Directing the piece is Kitchen Theatre favorite **Sara Lampert Hoover**, director of last season's *The Tricky Part*, as well as *Yellowman*, *Souvenir*, *The Syringa Tree*, and numerous others. "When Rachel offered me *Neat* by Charlayne Woodard to direct next season I immediately said 'yes.' I was first introduced to Woodard's plays when I directed *Pretty Fire* at the Kitchen in 1999. Her work presents a director's dream of theatrical possibilities. I am excited to re-connect with her intimate, soulful and joyous storytelling."

Playing all the roles, from the teenaged Charlayne to the guileless Neat to tough guy Charles Bowman and a host of relatives, teachers, and friends is **Karen Pittman** (member, AEA). New to the Kitchen Theatre, Pittman's credits include film and television roles (*30 Rock*, *Law and Order*, *One Life to Live* and more) and onstage roles at the Kennedy Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, and McCarter Theatre, among others. She also understudied the role of Mom for the Broadway and film versions of *Passing Strange*.

The Franziska Racker Centers is partnering with the Kitchen Theatre Company to help broaden the audience for this production. The Racker Centers encourage all to gain a deeper understanding of disabilities, celebrating diversity and interdependence in our community.



Ed Intemann is the Lighting Designer for *Neat* and **Sarah Bertolozzi** is the Costume Designer. The Production Stage Manager is **LaShawn Keyser**. Performances will be at the Kitchen Theatre, located at 417 W. State / Martin Luther King, Jr. Street in downtown Ithaca, NY. Tickets are available at the Ticket Center (visit 171 The Commons, or call 607-273-4497) and online at www.kitchentheatre.org.

Performance Dates:

Wed., Oct. 19, 2011 at 7:30pm (Preview 1 of 3)

Thurs., Oct. 20, 2011 at 7:30pm (Preview 2 of 3)

Fri., Oct. 21, 2011 at 8:00pm (Preview 3 of 3)

Sat., Oct. 22, 2011 at 8:00pm (Press Opening)

Sun., Oct. 23, 2011 at 4:00pm

Wed., Oct. 26, 2011 at 7:30pm

Thurs., Oct. 27, 2011 at 2:00pm (Matinee)

Thurs., Oct. 27, 2011 at 7:30pm

Fri., Oct. 28, 2011 at 8:00pm

Sat., Oct. 29, 2011 at 8:00pm

Sun., Oct. 30, 2011 at 4:00pm

Wed., Nov. 02, at 7:30pm

Thurs., Nov. 03, at 7:30pm

Fri., Nov. 04, at 8:00pm

Sat., Nov. 05, at 8:00pm

Sun., Nov. 06, 2011 at 4:00pm (Closing)

Bold, intimate, engaging... Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC), in its 21st season, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theater company, specializing in regional and world premiere plays and musicals. KTC's intimate 99-seat theater is in its newly renovated "green" building in the West End neighborhood of downtown Ithaca, New York. 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 and receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the Tompkins County Room Occupancy Tax Fund. The Kitchen Theatre Company also receives general operating support from the Shubert Foundation.

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