
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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December 6 – 23, 2007

MAIN STAGE 2007-08

NINE PARTS OF DESIRE

by Heather Raffo

Performed by: **Lanna Joffrey***

*member of Actors' Equity Association

Director: **Carmel O'Reilly** Scenic and lighting Designer: **Solomon Weisbard** Sound Designer: **Dewey Dellay**
Costume Designer: **Lisa Boquist** Stage Manager: **Stephen A. Wagner**

Previews: Thursday December 6 at 7:30pm and Friday December 7 at 8:00pm

Press Opening: Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 PM

Closes: Sunday, December 23 at 4:00 PM

Performances: Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 PM & Sundays at 4:00
(see full calendar page 3)

Tickets: \$19-\$34 (senior, student, preview and group discounts are 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.

The Kitchen Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the sponsors of this production:

Cornell University and **CSP Management**. This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

NINE PARTS OF DESIRE — an extraordinary solo performance

The Kitchen Theatre Company continues its 17th Main Stage Season with NINE PARTS OF DESIRE, Heather Raffo's beautifully shaped portrait of the extraordinary (and ordinary) lives of Iraqi women. A timely meditation on the ancient, the modern and the feminine—NINE PARTS OF DESIRE delves into the many conflicting aspects of what it means to be a woman in a country overshadowed by war.

“A triumph!” raves the New Yorker, *“An example of how art can remake the world.”*

The play's title refers to a quote from Imam Ali, founder of the Shia denomination of Islam: “God created sexual desire in ten parts; then He gave nine parts to women and one to men.” NINE PARTS OF DESIRE is performed by NYC based actress Lanna Joffrey and directed by Carmel O'Reilly. Artistic Director Rachel Lampert says, “NINE PARTS OF DESIRE is an important play to produce, especially at this time. The lives and stories of the women we encounter in this play illuminate their cultural, historical, political and philosophical differences, and I hope, shed light on the on-going struggle to understand those differences. In addition to the issues raised in this play, the form, tempo and design of it is compelling and original. And it is a distinct change of voice from the masculine energy of our last play, STRANGERHORSE. I look forward to a play devoted to women's perspectives. The Kitchen Theatre rocks from one end of the spectrum to the other!”

A year ago, the team of actress Lanna Joffrey and director Carmel O'Reilly (Artistic Director of the Suga Theatre Company/ Boston, MA) developed a production of this play at the Lyric Stage Company in Boston. Ms. Joffrey received the IRNE Award for best solo performance for that production. Joined by Kitchen Theatre veteran designer Solomon Weisbard, they return to the play to re-imagine it for the intimate Kitchen Theatre space.

NINE PARTS OF DESIRE was first performed in August 2003 at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh. It later moved to the Bush Theatre in London's Off-West End. It was selected both as "First Choice / The Best Shows in London" by The Times, and as one of the "Five Best Plays" in London by The Independent. NINE PARTS OF DESIRE was next developed and performed as a reading at The Public Theatre as part of their New Work Now festival in Spring 2004. In October of 2004 it had its New York premiere at the Manhattan Ensemble Theater, where it ran for nine sold out months and was a critics' pick for 24 weeks in a row. It began touring the U.S. at the Geffen Theater in Los Angeles and is currently being translated for international productions in France, Brazil and Turkey. It was video-recorded by Lincoln Center for its Performing Arts Library on January 12, 2005.

BIOGRAPHIES:

LANNA JOFFREY (*actor*) was most recently seen in Jason Grote's world premiere hit, 1001 (Denver Center, dir. Ethan McSweeney). Lanna's documentary play, VALIANT (dir. Tamilla Woodard) has garnered her a NY International Fringe Festival performance award and a nomination for a NY Innovative Theatre award for Outstanding Ensemble. VALIANT has enjoyed numerous performances in New York, Los Angeles, Massachusetts and New Mexico in festivals and events such as the United Nations Celebration of the Committee on the Status of Women, New York International Fringe Festival, The Culture Project's IMPACT Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, New York Imagine Festival, Unofficial New York Yale Cabaret and many others. Other credits: METAMORPHOSES (Capital Repertory, dir. Maggie Mancinelli-Carter), THE SNOW QUEEN (Urban Stages, dir. Daniella Topol), Mac Wellman's CELLOPHANE (Flea Theater, dir. Jim Simpson), LIKE I SAY written & directed by Len Jenkin (Flea Theater), THE LAKE (Flea Theater, dir. Hayley Finn), Saviana Stanescu's WAXING WEST (Goldberg New Works Festival, dir. Jonathan Silverstein), DANCING AT LUGHNASA (Cider Mill Playhouse, dir. Wendy Dann) and the world premieres of Israel Horowitz's new plays, SECURITY and A MOTHER'S LOVE. Film and TV: BREATH TAKING, SECURITY (*Audience Award, International Short Film Festival*), THE NEW AMERICANS, TEMPTATIONS, BURP and SOMEDAY SOON.

CARMEL O'REILLY (*Director*) is the Artistic Director of the Suga Theatre Company and has directed most of its productions over the past eight years, including most recently THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY, PORTIA COUGHLAN, CONVERSATIONS ON A HOMECOMING, ASYLUM! ASYLUM!, AT THE BLACK PIG'S DYKE, ST NICHOLAS, and PERFECT DAYS. Recent stage appearances include Lizzie Boles in AT THE BLACK PIG'S DYKE, Winnie in HAPPY DAYS, and Lily in THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY, for which she won a Best Actress Award from the Independent Reviewers of New England. Carmel and Peter O'Reilly were listed in this year's "Top 100" Irish-Americans by Irish America magazine.

SOLOMON WEISBARD (*Lighting & Set Design*) Credits at the Kitchen Theatre include YELLOWMAN (Lighting & Set Design), THE INTELLIGENT DESIGN OF JENNY CHOW (Lighting Design), CLEAN ALTERNATIVES (Lighting & Set Design), GLASS MENAGERIE (Associate Set Design), THE ANGLE OF THE SUN (Associate Lighting and Set Design), THE SYRINGA TREE (Assistant Lighting Design), FULLY COMMITTED (Assistant Lighting Design) and a handful of designs for Counter Culture and Kitchen Sink productions. Off-Broadway: BILL W. AND DR. BOB (Assistant Lighting Design), A VERY COMMON PROCEDURE (Assistant Lighting Design). Additional New York design work for the New York Musical Theatre Festival, The Barrow Group, White Wave Dance Company, Fisher Marantz Stone, LionFish Design and Robert Ashley. Regionally: The Herson Group, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and Syracuse Stage. He holds a BFA in Theatrical Design from Ithaca College.

Performance Dates:

December 6, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm (Preview 1 of 2)
December 7, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm (Preview 2 of 2)
December 8, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm (Press/Opening/Reception)
December 9 2007, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 1 of 4)
December 12, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm
December 13, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm
December 14, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm
December 15, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm
December 16, 2007, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 2 of 4)
December 19, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm
December 20, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm
December 21, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm
December 22, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm
December 23, 2007, Sunday at 4 pm (Matinee 3 of 3)

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.

