



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Kitchen Theatre Announces New Director of Audience Services & Community Programs **Next Steps Job Creation Program begins in November**

The Kitchen Theatre Company is pleased to announce that Rachel Burttram has joined the full-time staff as Director of Audience Services and Community Programs and mentor for the Next Steps Job Creation Program. This new position is part of a pilot project receiving funding from the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency. In addition to assisting subscribers and ticket buyers and nightly front of house duties, Ms. Burttram will also mentor three paid trainees working 22 to 30 hours a week. This job creation project offers 18-24 year-olds entry-level positions working at the Kitchen Theatre. Their primary focus will be working as front of house staff, but they will also have opportunities to experience working in other areas of the theater.

Rachel Lampert, Kitchen Theatre Company Artistic Director, initiated the planning for the project. "I saw a program like at a NYC theater. When we moved to the new space, we were all interested in building strong relationships in our new neighborhood. Creating job opportunities is a wonderful way to engage the community." Managing Director Stephen Nunley adds, "We are very grateful to the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency for their support of this project. We are looking forward to this important new Kitchen initiative. Training young people to work at the theater will help us and also prepare them for future employment opportunities."

Ms. Burttram has hit the ground running. "I have been getting to know Ithaca as fast as I can. My first responsibility was to get the word out about the program, meet with agencies that assist youth, and encourage young people to apply for these positions." Rachel Burttram brings years of experience with her. Most recently she worked at Florida Repertory Theatre where she was the mentor for their intern program, created community programs and worked both on and off-stage. Everyone at the Kitchen Theatre Company welcomes her and looks forward to having her enthusiasm and experience leading the Kitchen Theatre Company's community outreach objectives.

Young people ages 18-24 interested in applying for the trainee positions can pick up an application at the Kitchen Theatre Company's office at 409 West Martin Luther King, Jr. Street. Applications are also available at a number of neighborhood organizations, including Southside Community Center, Greater Ithaca Activities Center, the Learning Web, Ithaca Youth Bureau, and WorkforceNY. You can also apply online at www.kitchentheatre.org; click "Get Involved" and then "Employment". Call 607 272-0403 with questions. The deadline for applying is November 10, 2011.