

bold • intimate • engaging

KITCHEN theatre company

17th Season - Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert

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

PRESS RELEASE

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July 3-13, 2008

MAIN STAGE 2007-08

THE SOUP COMES LAST by Rachel Lampert

Director: **Margarett Perry** Original Score: **Mer Boel** Scenic Design: **Dan Meeker**

Costume Design: **Lisa Boquist** Lighting Design: **E.D. Intemann**

Performed by: **Rachel Lampert*** *Member, Actors' Equity Association

Opens: Thursday, July 3 at 7:30pm. **Closes:** Sunday, July 13 at 4:00pm

Performances: Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00pm & Sundays at 4:00pm

Tickets: \$23.00 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 of Cayuga and Seneca Streets), by calling (607) 273-4497 or online at www.kitchentheatre.org. **Photos available upon request.**

SOUP is cooking in the Kitchen this Summer!

From Ithaca to Beijing to New York City and now back to Ithaca comes Rachel Lampert's THE SOUP COMES LAST in a **limited nine-performance run July 3 to July 13**. SOUP is a delightful and hilarious memoir of her 1997 trip to China to stage the first-ever production of WEST SIDE STORY in the Peoples' Republic. This international backstage story filled with miscommunications and cultural missteps has been a long-time favorite with Ithaca area audiences. When SOUP played for a month Off-Broadway, the New York Times noted:

"The trip was a comedy of errors and unmet expectations, and Ms. Lampert shows a deft sense of timing and a keen ability to make you see a scene through mere description. And in a lovely, surprising ending, she gives you a chance to test how good your mind's eye is against the real thing. That's when you fully realize just how good her performance and writing were."

Of Lampert's performance in the last production in Ithaca for which she won the SALT Award for Best Actress of the Summer Season 2004, the Syracuse New Times said, *"Lampert demonstrates magisterial timing with her own material. Deepening her version in this rewrite of Soup, she also portrays what other characters were feeling."*

"I'm planning some more changes, a few new stories and I am excited to be directed by the amazing Margarett Perry in this production. So much has happened to me and to China in the last eleven years. I am interested in exploring the play within a new context," says Lampert.

Margarett Perry, director of Brian Dykstra's STRANGERHORSE and CLEAN ALTERNATIVES; A MARRIAGE MINUET by David Wiltse and this season's stunning Pinter's OLD TIMES, will bring her keen eye and ability to sharply focus the story telling to this iteration.

The set will have the original design by Dan Meeker, costumes by Lisa Boquist, the score created by Mer Boel for the NYC production and lighting design by E.D. Intemann.

If you've seen it before, come back again. If you've never seen it, this is a great summer treat. Tickets are on sale now at the Ticket Center at Clinton House or at www.kitchentheatre.org.

RACHEL LAMPERT (*Playwright/Performer*) has been the Kitchen Theatre Company's Artistic Director for the past eleven years. A playwright, director and choreographer, Ms. Lampert's credits outside Ithaca include productions at Cal Rep, Arkansas Rep, Portland Stage Company, New York's Public Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre and Hawaii Opera Theatre. Her concert dance works have been in the repertory of numerous dance companies in the U.S. and abroad. Lampert is active in the Ithaca arts community beyond the Kitchen, having directed at the Hangar Theatre (SWEENEY TODD, FALSETTOS), and she was the choreographer for HAIR this past summer. Other collaborations include Ensemble X, Music's Recreation, and the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra. She has written numerous plays for the KTC Main Stage, including BED NO BREAKFAST, COMFORT FOOD, TONY & THE SOPRANO, THE ANGLE OF THE SUN, PRECIOUS NONSENSE, THE TRIAL, THE BOOK CLUB, and FRANKENSTEIN. THE ANGLE OF THE SUN (written by Lampert & Pressgrove) was selected by the New York Musical Theatre Festival and presented in NYC in September 2007. Lampert received a CAP Individual Artist Grant and a SALT Award for Best Actress 2004.

MARGARETT PERRY (*Director*) has become well known to the Kitchen Theatre audience for her exceptional work on four Main Stage productions (OLD TIMES, CLEAN ALTERNATIVES, A MARRIAGE MINUET, and STRANGERHORSE) and two Counter Culture shows as well as Brian Dykstra's THE JESUS FACTOR on The Kitchen Sink series. Perry, based in New York City, directed the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway production of CLEAN ALTERNATIVES by Brian Dykstra that won the Fringe First Award at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe and was performed at the Kitchen in fall 2006. Her most recent project was SPILL THE WINE for GayFestNYC. Other recent credits include PAINTING CHURCHES (Human Race/DayTony Award-Best Overall Production), WELCOME TO ARROYO'S (Hip Hop Theater Fest), BRIAN DYKSTRA: CORNERED & ALONE (Off Bway), COMPETING NARRATIVES (GayFestNYC), THE RETREAT FROM MOSCOW (Human Race) and her own adaptation of SPRING AWAKENING (Holy Cross College). She is an Artistic Fellow at The Lark Play Development Center where she has worked with a variety of writers developing new plays and produced the Playwrights' Workshop with Arthur Kopit. She received her MFA in Directing from SMU and is a Drama League Directing Fellow alumni and a member of SSDC.

MER BOEL (*Composer*) has been heard at the Kitchen in THE GLASS MENAGERIE in 2006, TWO ROOMS in 2005 and most recently in the 2007-2008 season opener THE CLEAN HOUSE. Mer composes for her fold-classical-jazz string group Water Bear, for the Grassroots Festival Chamber Orchestra, and the Ithaca Community Orchestra, as well as for Women's Works. You can find Water Bear recordings at iTunes, CDBaby.com and WaterBearMusic.com.

DAN MEEKER (*Set Design*) Design credits include the world premiere of ROCK DOVES by Marie Jones, Irish Arts Center; Departures, Blue Coyote Theater Group; BILL W. & DR. BOB, Off Broadway and originally at New Repertory Theatre; VROOOMMM!, SPF NYC; World Premiere of SSOOT, at DTW; TRYING and AUNTIE & ME; Merrimack Rep; Scenery: REGRETS ONLY and LEND ME A TENOR, The Cape Playhouse; EURYDICE, University of Rochester; HELLO DOLLY, Hangar Theatre. Graduate of Ithaca College and The Yale School of Drama. Member of United Scenic Artists.

LISA BOQUIST (*Costume Design*) is the Assistant Manager of the Costume Shop at Cornell University. Before moving to Ithaca, she was a freelance costume designer in New York City. Locally, she has been a design associate and textiles coordinator for MacKenzie-Childs, Ltd. and ran her own design studio. She designed and coordinated costumes for 8 previous productions at the Kitchen, including NINE PARTS OF DESIRE, PRECIOUS NONSENSE and THE ANGLE OF THE SUN.

E.D. INTEMANN (*Lighting Designer*) is Senior Lecturer and the Resident Lighting Designer at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts. He graduated magna cum laude from Denver University with a B.A. in Theatre, received his M.F.A. in Design from Cornell University, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In addition to designs at the Kitchen he has designed at Danspace at St. Marks and La MaMa in New York City, the Eastman School in Rochester, NY, and the Sanctuary Theatre in Washington, DC. Other design credits include the Charlotte Repertory Theatre in North Carolina, the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, and the Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin. Internationally he designed for the Confrontations Theatre Festival in Lublin, Poland.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

July 3, 2008, Thursday at 7:30pm

July 4, 2008, Friday at 8:00pm

July 5, 2008, Saturday at 8:00pm

July 6, 2008, Sunday at 4:00pm

July 9, 2008, Wednesday at 7:30pm

July 10, 2008, Thursday at 7:30pm

July 11, 2008, Friday at 8:00pm

July 12, 2008, Saturday at 8:00pm

July 13, 2008, Sunday at 4:00pm

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.