

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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June 5 – June 29, 2008

MAIN STAGE 2007-08

SOUVENIR by Stephen Temperley

Director: **Sara Lampert Hoover**, Scenic Designer: **Ali Golden**, Lighting Designer: **Ed Intiman**,
Costume Designer: **Terésa Sears**, Stage Manager: **Stephen A. Wagner**

Cast: **David Beach***, **Patricia Dell***

*member of Actors' Equity Association

Previews: Thursday June 5th at 7:30pm and Friday June 6th at 8:00pm

Press Opening: Saturday, June 7th at 8:00 PM

Closes: Sunday, June 29th at 4:00 PM

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

(see full calendar page 2)

Tickets: \$19-\$34 (senior, student, preview and group discounts 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 production Underwriter: **Viva Taqueria & Cantina**. This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

The Kitchen Theatre concludes the 07-08 Main Stage Season on a High Note with Stephen Temperley's SOUVENIR

If "music is the food of love," then Florence Foster Jenkins is the surprise dessert. *SOUVENIR, a Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins* by Stephen Temperley, opening for previews on June 6 at the Kitchen Theatre Company, is a hilarious, loving and moving tribute to a woman who followed her dreams no matter how misguided.

Born in 1868, real-life Ms. Jenkins always wanted to study music. But not until the death of her wealthy parents, who disapproved of her stage desires, was she able to pursue her passion to become a great soprano. Her goals

were worthy, her voice was not. But even lacking musicianship, ear, voice, and rhythm, she was not deterred. She engaged the talented accompanist, Cosme McMoon, and then attempted to scale the concert heights, including a Carnegie Hall recital.

Stephen Temperley's empathetic play is a delightful memoir of another time told through the biting wit of the aging Cosme McMoon. Sitting at the piano late one night, he remembers how his life was changed by years of bad singing and an amazing friendship with an unlikely partner. "Why did I do it?" he asks. The answer comes in a music-filled re-telling of a tender relationship between a bold, ear-splitting singer and her younger, gay pianist. Through music ranging from Gershwin to Mozart, the play brings to life two people whose shared love of music carried them on a crazy, not-so-melodic ride.

"I always love when there is music in a play in the Kitchen," says KTC's Artistic Director Rachel Lampert. *"SOUVENIR is a deliciously endearing play about a woman who hears beautiful music in her head but cannot make it come out of her mouth. For all music lovers, singers great and not, this will be a wonderful evening."*

Sara Lampert Hoover, who directed the popular and successful KTC season opener THE CLEAN HOUSE, returns to direct the final production of the season. Well known at the Kitchen, Ms. Lampert Hoover's directorial work includes YELLOWMAN, CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY, TONY & THE SOPRANO, PRECIOUS NONSENSE, and MOLLY SWEENEY.

New York City based actors Patricia Dell (member, Actors Equity Association) and David Beach (member, Actors Equity Association) are making their Kitchen Theatre debuts in this production. Ms. Dell has worked extensively with the Center for Contemporary Opera and appeared in numerous musicals. Mr. Beach was in the Broadway cast of URINETOWN, MOON OVER BUFFALO and MAMA MIA as well as appearances in LAW & ORDER, SEX AND THE CITY, and MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE among others.

SOUVENIR will feature set design by Ali Golden, lighting design by Ed Intiman and costume design by Terésa Sears.

SOUVENIR is underwritten by Viva Taqueria & Cantina

Performance Dates:

June 5, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm (Preview 1 of 2)

June 6, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm (Preview 2 of 2)

June 7, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm (Press/Opening/Reception)

June 8, 2008, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 1 of 4)

June 11, 2008, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

June 12, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm

June 13, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm

June 14, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm

June 15, 2008, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 2 of 4)

June 18, 2008, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

June 19, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm

June 20, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm

June 21, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm

June 22, 2008, Sunday at 4 pm (Matinee 4 of 4)

June 25, 2008, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

June 26, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm

June 27, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm

June 28, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm

June 29, 2008, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Closing)

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