

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2007

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October 18 – November 11, 2007

MAIN STAGE 2007-08

### **STRANGERHORSE** by Brian Dykstra

Director: **Margarett Perry\*\*** Scenic Designer: **Kent Goetz** Costume Designer: **Hannah Kochman**  
Stage Manager: **Christine Swartwout\***

Cast: **Nick Barb, Matthew Boston\*, Brian Dykstra\* and Tyrone Mitchell Henderson\***

\*member of Actors' Equity Association \*\*member of Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers

**Previews:** Thursday October 18 at 7:30pm and Friday October 19 at 8:00pm

**Press Opening:** Saturday, October 20 at 8:00 PM

**Closes:** Sunday, November 11 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 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](http://www.kitchentheatre.org)

**Photos available upon request.**

The Kitchen Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of production Underwriter **Fresh Ice Productions, Inc.** This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

## **Brian Dykstra returns to the Kitchen Theatre with the world premiere *STRANGERHORSE***

The Kitchen Theatre Company is proud to continue its 17<sup>th</sup> Main Stage Season with the world premiere of Brian Dykstra's explosive new drama *STRANGERHORSE* (previews October 18 and 19, press opening October 20, runs through November 11, 2007). Dykstra's plays "can make you think as hard as you laugh," (*Village Voice*) and his newest play is no exception. *STRANGERHORSE* explores such hot button topics as homophobia, racism, assimilation and trust through quick-fire dialogue and Dykstra's signature edgy comedy.

When white, 30-something hospital administrative employee Zach (*Matthew Boston*) meets tough, black, 16-year-old T-Rex (*Nick Barb*) the two make easy assumptions about each other. But the situation soon becomes anything but typical, and their chance encounter becomes a fateful reckoning for Zach, T-Rex, and Zach's boyfriend, Graham (*Tyrone Mitchell Henderson*). Added to this gripping story is another layer—playwright *Brian Dykstra* plays Don Strangerhorse, a Native American, whose monologues are interspersed with the action of the central plot. The result is an edge-of-your-seat comedy with more than one issue, problem, and life in the balance.

Of *Clean Alternatives*, Dykstra's play seen at the Kitchen last season, directed by Margaret Perry, the *Syracuse New Times* wrote, "Dykstra has produced that rare American drama where the velocity and exhilaration of the dialogue really drive the show." Kitchen Theatre Company Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert is eager to continue the artistic collaboration with this talented playwright and director, "Brian Dykstra and Margaret Perry embody the KTC's "bold" mission. Always pushing the envelope, I predict *STRANGERHORSE* will be the talk of the town. This play is an exciting bold step for the KTC." When asked about this upcoming production play playwright Dykstra said, "Who said all plays were political? Edward Albee? This is about the politics of relationships which may prove to be the most insidious political negotiating we ever have to do."

Dykstra is not the only familiar face in *STRANGERHORSE*. The production features the return of New York City-based actors Matthew Boston (*A MARRIAGE MINUET*) and Tyrone Mitchell Henderson (*YELLOWMAN*). *STRANGERHORSE* also takes advantage of local talent, as newcomer Nick Barb, an Ithaca College freshman, makes his Kitchen Theatre debut.

The scenic design is by Kent Goetz (*A MARRIAGE MINUET* and KTC-commissioned *THE DRUNKEN CITY*). Goetz is the chair and resident scenic designer of Cornell's Department of Theater, Film and Dance. Hannah Kochman (*THE PRICE*, *CLEAN ALTERNATIVES*, *THE CLEAN HOUSE*) designed the costumes. Stage management is by Christine Swartwout who will be assisted by resident stage manager Stephen Wagner.

## Biographies

**BRIAN DYKSTRA** (*Playwright / Strangerhorse*) made his Kitchen Theatre debut last season with his play *Clean Alternatives* and returned at the end of the season as actor in *A Marriage Minuet*. *Clean Alternatives* had its world premiere at 59E59 in NYC and went on to win the Scotsman Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Other credits include *Hiding Behind Comets* (world premiere, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park-Tony Award-winning season, 29th Street Rep, Zeitgeist Stage), *Brian Dykstra: Cornered & Alone* (Off-Broadway), *That Damn Dykstra (the boxed set)*, *Forsaking All Others* (NY, LA, London), *Silence* (Holy Cross College, Stella Adler Conservatory). Awards/Fellowships: Lark Play Development Center Playwright Fellow, 2004 National Theatre Conference Award-*Hiding Behind Comets*, The Vault's *It's the End of the World As We Know It* Award. Actor: Off Broadway: *Clean Alternatives*, *Hiding Behind Comets*, *Brian Dykstra: Cornered & Alone*, *Breaking Legs*, *Incommunicado*, *A Most Secret War* and *King John*, *Love's Labors Lost* and *Much Ado About Nothing* at NYSF. Other NY: *Americana Absurdum*, *That Damn Dykstra*, *STRANGERHORSE* and *Forsaking All Others*. London: *Americana Absurdum*. Favorite regional credits: Don in *Rounding Third*, Heisenberg in *Copenhagen*, Eddie Carbone in *A View From The Bridge*, Gabe in *Dinner with Friends*, Sir Toby in *Twelfth Night*. Notable television & film: "Third Watch", "Law & Order" "Chappelle's Show", *Corn*, *Spectropia*, *Another Bed* and *Freedomland*. [www.briandykstra.net](http://www.briandykstra.net)

**MARGARETT PERRY** (*Director*) was last at the Kitchen directing *A Marriage Minuet* this past summer. She 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 this past fall. Last spring she directed *Competing Narratives* for GayFestNYC and *Painting Churches* at the Human Race. Other recent credits include *Welcome to Arroyo's* (NY Hip Hop Theater Festival), *Brian Dykstra: Cornered & Alone* (Off Broadway), *The Retreat From Moscow* (Human Race) and her own adaptation of *Spring Awakening* at Holy Cross College. During her tenure as the Producing Director of Access Theater she directed world premieres of *3 0'Clock in Brooklyn*, *That Damn Dykstra (the boxed set)* as well as the NYC premiere of *Forsaking All Others*. Film/TV: *Another Bed* (short), *Wet* (short) and *The King & Me* (TVpilot-ABC). 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.

**MATTHEW BOSTON (Zach)** will be remembered by the Kitchen Theatre audience for his performance as Douglas in *A Marriage Minuet* just this summer. NY credits include *Disconnect* (Working Theater), *Magic Hands Freddy* (SoHo Playhouse), *A Ritual of Faith* (Lion Theatre), and *STRANGERHORSE* and *That Damned Dykstra* (Access Theater). His regional credits include *Black Snow* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *The Real Thing* (Huntington Theatre Company); *The Beard of Avon*, *The Invention of Love* (American premiere), *Arcadia*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, and *The Matchmaker* (American Conservatory Theater); *The Violet Hour*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Dallas Theater Center); *The Rainmaker* (Centerstage); the world premiere of Donald Margulies' adaptation of *God of Vengeance* (A Contemporary Theatre); *Cloud Nine* (Trinity Repertory Company); *Galileo* and *Pentecost* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *Laughter On The 23rd Floor* (The Cleveland Playhouse); *Othello* (Great Lakes Theater Festival); *Julius Caesar* (New Jersey Shakespeare Festival); *Holiday* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *What the Butler Saw* (Two River Theater Company); *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan* (Stamford Theatre Works); *The Lion in Winter* (La Mirada Theater); and *Reckless* (Princeton Repertory Company). Mr. Boston's film and television credits include *Ghost Ship*, *Into the Blue*, "Camp Wilderness," "One Life to Live," and "All My Children."

**TYRONE MITCHELL HENDERSON (Graham)** made his Kitchen Theatre debut last season with multiple roles in *Yellowman*. His NY credits include *Bring In 'Da Noise-bring In 'Da Funk* national tour, *The America Play*, *The Tempest*, *Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Raft of the Medusa*, *Cater Waiter*, *Medea*, and *Stonewall*. **Regionally:** *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Enemy of the People*, *All My Sons*, *Wit*, *Art*, *Piano Lesson*, *Jitney*, *The Crucible*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Master Harold and the Boys*, *Angels in America*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *My Good Name*, and *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, opposite Phylicia Rashad. **Television:** *LAW AND ORDER*, *LAW AND ORDER-CRIMINAL INTENT*, *AS THE WORLD TURNS*, *ALL MY CHILDREN*, *NEW YORK UNDERCOVER*, and *THE BEAT*. **Film:** *RIDE FOR YOUR LIFE*, and *THE TREATMENT 2006 Tribeca Film Festival award winner*. Tyrone is a playwright, and a proud member of Actor's Equity. He is the recipient of a Dallas Theatre Critics Award and a Leon Rabin Award.

**NICK BARB (T-Rex)** is pleased to be making his Kitchen Theatre debut in *STRANGERHORSE*. He is a freshman at Ithaca College.

**KENT GOETZ (Scenic Designer)** is currently Chair of Cornell University's Department of Theatre, Film & Dance and has been the Resident Scene Designer at Cornell's Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts since 1991. Kent most recently designed the set for *A Marriage Minuet* this past summer. His previous designs at KTC were sets for *Drunken City* in '05 and sets and light for *Old Times* in 1994.

**HANNAH KOCHMAN (Costume Designer)** designs for the Main Stage and Family Fare at the KTC. Her recent designs include *The Clean House*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Mozart Mystery*, *The Price*, *Winter Tales* and *The Odyssey I & II*.

**FRESH ICE PRODUCTIONS, INC. (Underwriter)** was founded to "continue the debate" by producing theatre, film and television that grapples with current issues. Recent theatre credits include Brian Dykstra's *Clean Alternatives* (Off-Broadway and the Fringe First award winning production at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe) and Dykstra's long-running Off-Broadway one man show, *Brian Dykstra: Cornered & Alone*. Upcoming: the Off-Broadway production of *Sealed For Freshness (a Tupperware Party Gone Awry)* by Doug Stone and the short film, *Wet*, screenplay by P. Seth Bauer. In Development: *The Artist* (screenplay by Brian Dykstra based on the award winning short story by Edward Falco). [www.freshiceproductions.com](http://www.freshiceproductions.com)

#### **Performance Dates:**

October 18, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm (Preview 1 of 2)

October 19, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm (Preview 2 of 2)

**October 20, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm (Press/Opening/Reception)**

October 21, 2007, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 1 of 4)

October 24, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

October 25, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm

October 26, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm

October 27, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm

October 28, 2007, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 2 of 4)

October 31, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

November 1, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm

November 2, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm  
November 3, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm  
November 4, 2007, Sunday at 4 pm (Matinee 4 of 4)  
November 7, 2007, Wednesday at 7:30 pm  
November 8, 2007, Thursday at 7:30 pm  
November 9, 2007, Friday at 8:00 pm  
November 10, 2007, Saturday at 8:00 pm  
**November 11, 2007, 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 Foundation and the New York State Music Fund.

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