

BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Playwriting Festival to Showcase New Work of Women Playwrights

BCA and Company One mark the end of the third year of their XX PlayLab partnership

BOSTON, MA – The Boston Center for the Arts will produce its second new play festival in collaboration with Company One Theatre for XX PlayLab, the program designed to support, develop and propel the work of female playwrights. On Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7 audiences will have the opportunity to see performances of new plays from this year's XX Playwrights, catch a sneak peek of Company One Theatre's multimedia, experimental production for Summer 2014, and participate in panel conversations on the rise of "Geek Theatre" and the future of the new play sector on a national level. Performances will be followed by post-show conversations with the artists, who will share their experience and discoveries from a full year of XX PlayLab development.

The festival will kick-off Friday, June 6 with a reading of *THE SPLENDOR VARIATIONS* by Kirsten Greenidge, based on the IRNE-nominated *SPLENDOR*. XX Playlab audiences were first treated to a reading of this play in Fall 2012, and had the opportunity to see it evolve into a fully-realized production in 2013. This is a rare chance to experience a play in development after its world premier. Other programs on Saturday, June 7 include: a reading of Miranda Craigwell's musically infused *SHELTER OF LAST RESORT*; a full performance of the one-woman show, *FUFU & OREOS*, written and performed by Obehi Janice; and a sneak peek of Natsu Onoda Power's *ASTRO BOY AND THE GOD OF COMICS*, which will receive a full production by Company One Theatre this summer. As with last year's festival, the readings in June will be complemented by a series of panel discussions, featuring nationally recognized artists and experts.

Power notes: "Working with XX PlayLab has been a dream! I have never worked with this rhythm — spending a year with the show and with the cast, in several short spurts. The process is intensely collaborative and nurturing. It has given a new life to this play." Janice, who has been working on *FUFU & OREOS* independently for several years, adds "The XX PlayLab is exactly what I needed at this point with my solo play, as I'm interested in testing the limits of autobiographical storytelling. I've never worked with dramaturgs before and I'm enjoying the freedom that comes with having people help me to answer tough questions. Being a part of the XX PlayLab has pushed my development as an artist."

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Natsu Onoda Power is a DC-based writer/director/ designer. Recent works include *THE T PARTY* (Forum Theatre, writer/ director), *A TRIP TO THE MOON* (Synetic Theatre, writer/ director/ illustrator), *ASTRO BOY AND THE GOD OF COMICS* (The Studio Theatre 2ndStage, writer/ director). She has also directed *YELLOW FACE* (Theatre J); and *SONGS OF THE DRAGONS FLYING TO HEAVEN* (The Studio Theatre 2ndStage). Her set design has been seen at Imagination Stage, Forum Theatre, Synetic Theatre, and The Hub Theatre. She is an Assistant Professor of Theater and Performance Studies at Georgetown University, where she has directed *THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA* (adapted from Michael Pollan), *MADNESS AND CIVILIZATIONS* (adapted from Michel Foucault), and numerous other productions. Natsu holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Northwestern University, and is the author of *God of Comics: Osamu Tezuka and the Creation of Post World War II Manga* (The University Press of Mississippi in 2009).

Miranda Craigwell will be appearing in the world premier of Lydia Diamond's new comedy, *SMART PEOPLE*, at the Huntington Theatre Company this summer. Regional credits include Lady Capulet in *ROMEO AND JULIET* (Actors' Shakespeare Project), Selector in *HOW WE GOT ON** (Company One), Shylock in *MERCHANT OF VENUS* (Zero Point Theater), Silvia in *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA* (Actors' Shakespeare Project), Susan in *RACE* (New

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XX PLAYLAB: NEW IDEAS AT A GLANCE

Friday, June 6 & Saturday, June 7
BCA Plaza Theatres

Featuring readings, a performance, panel discussions & a sneak peek.

Free and open to the public.

For more information and to register:

bcaonline.org
companyone.org

XX PlayLab is designed to support, develop and propel the work of female playwrights.



Massachusetts Cultural Council
Klarman Family Foundation
in collaboration with the
Barr-Klarman Arts Capacity
Building Initiative

Rep), and Oya/Shunta Iyun in THE BROTHER/SISTER PLAYS** (Company One). Film/TV roles include Grace in "LITTLE EYES" (Beyond Measure Productions), Margaret in "FOUR" (Jam the Wimp productions) and Oona in UK television series "NIGHTLIFE". Ms. Craigwell was formerly a member of the URBAN IMPROV troupe (Freelance Players) and was recently a Playwright Fellow with the Huntington Theatre Company. Her play SHELTER OF LAST RESORT is currently being developed as part of the XX Playlab at the BCA.
www.mirandacraigwell.com

Obehi Janice is an actress, writer, producer, and director. A native of Lowell, Massachusetts, her written work explores the power of voice in identity, politics, cultural exchange, and testimony. Her plays have been produced by GAN-e-meed Theatre Project, Sleeping Weazel, MPAACT (Chicago), The One-Minute Play Festival, The Berkshire Fringe Festival, and The Boston Theater Marathon. She is a graduate of Georgetown University.
www.obehijanice.com

Kirsten Greenidge is a current PEN America/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award for Playwright in Midcareer, whose recent work includes SPLENDOR (Company One), THE LUCK OF THE IRISH (LTC3 and the Huntington Theatre Company), BOSSA NOVA (Yale Rep), RUST (The Magic) and MILK LIKE SUGAR (La Jolla Playhouse and Playwrights Horizons), which received a Village Voice Obie Award, the San Diego Critics Award, and a TCG/Edgerton Foundation Award. Kirsten has attended The O'Neill, The Playwright's Foundation Summer Festival, Pacific Playwrights Festival, Denver Center New Play Summit and has been a NEA/TCG Fellow and recipient of the Lorraine Hansberry KC/ACTF Award, the Mark Cohen Award, and two IRNE Awards. Past plays produced by Company One are 103 WITHIN THE VEIL, A MORE PERFECT UNION, and THANKSGIVING in the collaborative play GRIMM. She is currently at work on commissions from LTC3, The Goodman, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, the Huntington Theatre Company, the Kennedy Center and the University of Iowa. An alum of New Dramatists, Kirsten attended Wesleyan University where she was a U.S History Major and The Playwrights Workshop at the University of Iowa. Kirsten is also a member of the Boston playwrights group Rhombus.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday, June 6

8pm Reading: THE SPLENDOR VARIATIONS by Kirsten Greenidge

Saturday, June 7

10am Reading with vocal mix: SHELTER OF LAST RESORT by Miranda Craigwell

2pm Sneak Peek: ASTRO BOY AND THE GOD OF COMICS
created & directed by Natsu Onoda Power

2:30pm Panel Discussion: Geek Theatre: Bring Outsiders Center Stage

4:30pm Performance: FUFU & OREOS written and performed by Obehi Janice

7:15pm Panel Discussion: What's Next with the XX Artists

8:45pm Closing Party

ABOUT THE BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is a not-for-profit performing and visual arts complex that supports working artists to create, perform and exhibit new works; builds new audiences; and connects art to community. The BCA serves arts audiences through exhibitions, live performances and community events, and supports artists through affordable studio, rehearsal and performance space on the historic South End site. The BCA's two-acre campus is home to hundreds of working artists, as well as several nonprofit arts and educational groups that provide a wide spectrum of services.

To learn more, please visit www.bcaonline.org.

ABOUT COMPANY ONE THEATRE

Recently named "Boston's Best Theatre Company" by the Improper Bostonian, Company One Theatre has become nationally known for providing the most progressive, racially and socially provocative programming in Boston. Called one of the ten "most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape" by the American Theatre Wing, Company One Theatre produces professional theatrical productions and comprehensive educational programming.

For more information, please visit www.companyone.org.