

2007

Stage Center Theatre Newsletter- Mar. 2007

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Recommended Citation

Ozgur, Ilknur R., "Stage Center Theatre Newsletter- Mar. 2007" (2007). *Stage Center*. 5.
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Season 2006-2007

STAGE CENTER THEATRE

NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2007

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

Fitting Room Confessions

Director's notes from Melanie Bujan

What drew me to Susan Cinoman's play, *Fitting Rooms*, was the context. As a woman, I am all too familiar with the rather agonizing female ritual of trying on clothes. Fitting rooms and dressing rooms are often horrible places with fluorescent lights, cramped spaces, and poorly chosen wall color. *Fitting Rooms*, then, offers us a view of communication between women in a setting that makes many women feel particularly vulnerable.

The play presents us with three pairs of women in a Philadelphia boutique. Two of the pairs of women are friends. Mariel and Linda have known each other for 18 years; Kahine and Tia, for considerably less time. Mariel's and Linda's dialogue has them working through some of the same conflicts that have probably plagued them throughout their relationship: Linda's strength and success versus Mariel's vulnerability and dependence. Kahine and Tia, on the other hand, are comparatively young, and at this point each is vying for a position of dominance within the friendship. The final pair, in this trio of pairs, is the shop's sales associate, Rissa, and her wealthy client, Mrs. Kate Oliver. In this business relationship (a contrast to the two pairs of friends) we find Rissa to be ingratiating, but not overly so, and when Mrs. Oliver is charmed, she is coaxed to reveal something intensely personal.

Mrs. Oliver, Mariel and Kahine try on clothes (*change clothes*, if you will) while their partners observe and react. The conversations bring forth introspection, and from this introspection, the possibility of greater self-awareness. All of this emotional honesty produces some heady conversations which have the potential to propel these characters forward with their life choices.

As a communication teacher, one of the most important principles I try to impart to my students is the transitory nature of communication, how each moment is dynamic, ever-changing. We can only capture so much, influence so much, retain so much, but within each communication moment is the possibility to find connections to one another, to enact change in ourselves, to find ourselves. I think *Fitting Rooms* presents us with the potential for such communication to be transformative.

The cast and crew of *Fitting Rooms*

Director	Melanie Bujan	Linda	Stephanie Tichenor
Stage Manager	Sarah Sherron	Mariel	Gail Wittenstein
Assistant Director	Hugo Rosado	Kate	Meredith Blick
Set Design	Lizz Otto-Cramer	Rissa	Michelle Rice
Light Design	John Rodriguez	Kahine	Elizabeth Roig
Costume Design	Linnea Carrera	Tia	Heather Dean
Sound Design	Leroyd Manuel		

Play suggestions are being accepted for the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 Stage Center Seasons.

Suggestion drop off locations are located either in the Fine Arts Building 2nd floor (on the bulletin board), or Stage Center theatre in the F Building. Submittals are also accepted via email to A-Anuramian@neu.edu. Please include the title of the play and playwright.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR STAGE CENTER THEATRE:

Spring Children's Theatre Workshop Presents:

Gary Grinklie's Battles with Wrinkles and Other Troubles in Mudgeville



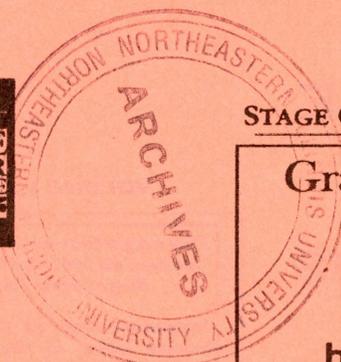
Stage Center Theatre
March 14-April 25th
MWF 10:30-11:30 a.m.

For reservations call
Kat Matassarini
847.373.1817

Fitting Rooms
F109
April 10 & 12 @
1:40 & 7:30 p.m.

The Mineola Twins
Stage Center Theatre
April 19-21, 26-28 & May 3-5
@ 7:30 p.m.





Graduate student projects outside the classroom



Hogwash, an improvised tall tale is an interactive, educational theater experience that integrates art, music, and drama into a completely improvised story fueled by the imaginations of children in the audience. Shelby Jennings (Director) is a Northeastern Illinois University graduate student. You can catch *Hogwash, an improvised tale* at the Balliwick Arts Center Studio Theatre 773-857-5501 or email questions to info@hogwashtime.com. Run is April 21,22,28 & 29 all shows at 2 p.m.

The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow is a drama/comedy/rock musical in which a brainy, obsessive-compulsive, agoraphobic young Chinese girl, adopted at birth by an American family, builds a robotic replica of herself as part of a quest to reconcile her self-esteem issues and connect with her biological parents in China. Ilknur River Ozgur (Assistant director) is a Northeastern Illinois University graduate student. The Chicago Tribune stated it is a 'must see', you can catch this performance at Chicago Dramatists. Runs through April 1st, produced by Collaboraction theatre company.



Spring 2008 submittals are being accepted for One-Act Playwriting Competition

Requirements: Northeastern Illinois University is looking for one-act scripts that will be produced as the final production of the Stage Center Theatre Spring 2008 Studio Series. The script must be an original work and not previously produced by a for-profit organization and have not been published. Staged readings and not-for-profit productions will not disqualify a script. A playwright may submit more than one entry. The script should be neatly typed with a title page including title, playwright's name, mailing address and phone number. Also, the Application form must accompany the script; the application form is located below.

The Stage Center Theatre staff and reading committee reserve the right to withhold the award if, in their opinion, no entry merits productions.

APPLICATION

Submit your scripts to:
Northeastern Illinois University
Stage Center Theatre
C/O Department of Communication, Media & Theatre
Attn: Anna Antaramian
5500 N. St. Louis
Chicago, IL 60625
Questions? 773.442.5975

All scripts must be postmarked by April 30th, 2007.

Playwright's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone() _____ Work Phone() _____

Email Address _____

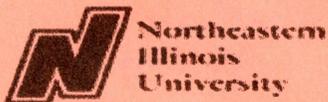
Playwright's Statement: (Title of play) _____

is an original play written by me. It has not been produced by a for-profit organization, nor has it been published. Northeastern Illinois University has the right to use the name of the play and my name in publicity.

Signature _____

Scripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Receipt of scripts will be acknowledged by a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

Call the Stage Center Theatre box office for reservations and ticket sales at 773.442.4274
Tickets are free for all NEIU faculty, staff, and students with NEIU ID



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