

2011

Stage Center Theatre Newsletter- Feb. 2011

Kathleen Weiss

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Stage Center Theatre

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Emma's Child

After years spent trying and failing to conceive a child, Jean and Henry Farrell make the decision to adopt a baby. They come across Emma, a young pregnant woman, who gladly accepts Jean and Henry as adoptive parents for her unborn child. After months of impatient waiting, the baby is born with hydrocephalus, a dangerous condition resulting from excess spinal fluid making its way into the skull. Jean and Henry are told that baby Robin's chances of survival are low, and since the couple agreed to only adopt a healthy baby, Henry is under the impression that they will not take the child.

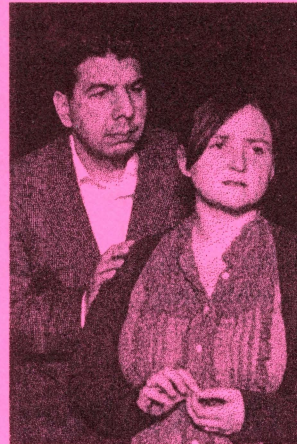
Jean, however, put too much hope into this baby to leave him. She falls in love with the infant and her marriage is put to the test by her relationship with a child that is not technically hers. To further complicate matters, the hospital also becomes concerned over Jean's visitation of the sickly baby.

This painful story explores the beauty of wanting to be a parent, and the extraordinary amount of influence one baby can have on another's life. The touching tale of *Emma's Child* can be seen at the Stage Center Theatre February 17-19, 24-26, and March 3-5.

CAST:

**Beth Jackson
Daniel Ochoa
Carrie Ediger
Tiffany Blake
Arbella Al-bazi
Rand Ringgenberg
Caitlin Inman
Cara Lawson
Tony Gasbarro
Roula Villis**

Directed by:
Rodney Higginbotham



Meet the Playwright: Kristine Thatcher

Kristine Thatcher came to Chicago in 1985, and has been an invaluable voice in the Chicago theatre community ever since. Thatcher has acted, directed, and written for the theatre, and has won numerous awards for her dramatic scripts. As a middle

aged mother, she has been surprised by the lack of opportunities for older actresses onstage. She has used her writing skills to create plays based on the experiences of older women in an attempt to reverse this trend. For example, *Emma's Child* was inspired by

her own experiences as an older woman adopting a child. Though the work is not strictly based in reality, many of Thatcher's works are taken from her life experiences, a characteristic which makes them believable and touching to audiences.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAIN STAGE 7:30PM Reservations:
(773) 442-4274

Emma's Child
February 17-19, 24-26, March 3-5

Bleacher Bums
April 14-16, 21-23, 28-30

As You Like It
June 9-11, 16-18, 23-25

You Can't Take It With You
July 21-23, 28-30,
August 4-6

**STUDIO SERIES 7:30PM
F109**

Selecting Memory
February 21-23,
February 28- March 2

**CHILDREN'S THEATRE
10:30AM**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Reservations:
(773) 442-5971

The Love for Three Oranges
March-April

STUDIO SERIES SPOTLIGHT

Selecting Memory

Theatre Lingo

Tania Richard's original creation set during the devastating aftermath of the 2010 Haitian earthquake brings a personal story to a recent massive catastrophe. Mary and Judith, two second generation Haitian American sisters, follow reports of the situation during a visit to their mother's home. During this visit, their mother asks them to clean out the bedroom of their younger sister, who passed away years prior. Together they face the painful ordeal of packing up her childhood belongings, while they

finally deal with her death. It is difficult for them to take on this task while watching the land of their ancestors try to repair itself. The sisters discover that they have very different ideas about grief and the process of mourning, and they realize how these ideas have impacted their personal relationships. They learn that the best way to move on with their lives is to cherish the memory of their deceased sister. *Selecting Memory* will run February 21-23, and February 28- March 2,

Storefront Theater

Word: storefront theater, may also be shortened to "storefront"

Part of Speech: noun

Definition: Originally this term was adopted for a storefront, usually rented, that was transformed into a performance space. Now this expression can be loosely applied to any performance space that occupies a building not originally intended to be a theater.

Example: That storefront in Rogers Park is doing a revival of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*.

Meet the Author: Tania Richard

Another Chicago dramatist featured this theatre season is Tania Richard, a Haitian American woman active in the theatre community. In addition to *Selecting Memory*, she has also written *Happy.Go.Lucky* and *How Far? Too Far?* *Selecting Memory* was recently a finalist in the Chicago Dramatists' Many Voices Project, as well as a finalist at the Senachai Theatre's Amarach Festival.

An actress as well as a playwright, she has appeared on Broadway, at the Steppenwolf, and Second City. Her exceptional performance in *Voyeurs de Venus* won her a nomination for Best Actress by the Back Theatre Alliance. She spreads her extensive knowledge of drama as an acting teacher at Columbia College and as an improvisation instructor at the Second City Training Center.

Stage Center Theatre

A great time for family and friends of all ages, Stage Center Theatre also offers a great value on entertainment. Admission to all productions is **free for students, faculty, and staff with a valid NEIU ID.**

Main Stage

General Admission.....\$10
Seniors/Alumni/Students.....\$8
Children 6-12.....\$6

Studio Series tickets are all \$3