

SEW PRODUCTIONS

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T H E A T R E

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Lorraine Hansberry Theatre adds Magic Theatre production to Passport Season

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, November 5, 2008—Lorraine Hansberry Theatre is very pleased to announce its first collaboration with San Francisco's Magic Theatre.

The west coast premiere of *Tough Titty*, by Oni Faida Lampley, will be in performance from January 24 through February 22, 2009, at the Magic Theatre at Fort Mason, San Francisco. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre subscribers will be offered *Tough Titty* as a bonus selection for their 2008-2009 Passport Season.

In *Tough Titty*, Angela, a thirty-seven-year-old breast-feeding mother of two, receives a startling breast cancer diagnosis. The play explores the toll taken on her family, especially on her marriage, through recurrences and the rigors of treatment.

Richly emotional, *Tough Titty* is a boisterous exploration of one woman's willful search for grace. Charles Randolph-Wright directed the premiere of *Tough Titty* in 2005 at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Berkshires, Massachusetts. Robert O'Hara will direct the Magic Theatre production.

At the January 29 performance, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Artistic Director, Stanley Williams, will lead a post-performance discussion.

Oni Faida Lampley, an award-winning playwright whose works included *The Dark Kalamazoo* and *Mixed Babies*, died April 28, 2008, after a long battle with breast cancer. As an actress, her final role was Mrs. Breedlove in Hartford Stage's production of *The Bluest Eye*. Her Broadway acting credits included *Mule Bone* and *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan*.

Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's Passport Season runs through June 2009, when LHT subscribers will see the San Francisco Opera's production of *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*SM. Other highlights of the season will include the tenth annual production of LHT's perennial holiday classic, *Black Nativity: A Gospel Celebration of Christmas*, featuring the return of Arvis Strickling-Jones and for Black History Month in February, *Waitin' 2 End Hell*, a comedy-drama by Sacramento playwright, William a. Parker, plus a March co-production with The SF Playhouse, *The Story*, by Tracy Scott Wilson.

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"A Classical People Deserve a Classical Art."

— Lorraine Hansberry

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Lorraine Hansberry Theatre announces its 2008–2009 Season, a powerful line-up of productions, including:

- ***Radio Golf*** by August Wilson October 8–November 2, 2008
Presented by TheatreWorks at The Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts 500 Castro St. Special Dates for LHT Subscribers: Nov. 1 at 2pm; Nov. 2 at 7pm. (limited ticket exchanges are available)
Pulitzer Prizewinner August Wilson's inspired final play is a powerful elegy for a lost time, a hustling comedy-drama set in a neglected Pittsburgh neighborhood at the twilight of the 20th century.
- ***Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Subscriber Bonus Selection)*** by August Wilson October 31–December 14, 2008
presented by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., in association with Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. Haunted by seven years on a chain gang, Herald Loomis appears in Pittsburgh to reunite his family, and fights for his soul and his song in the dawning days of a century without slavery.
(LHT subscribers will receive a special discount to see this play)
- ***The Black Nativity, a Gospel Celebration of Christmas*** December 11–28, 2008
Presented by Lorraine Hansberry Theatre at PG&E Auditorium 77 Beale St. at Market (near Embarcadero BART) San Francisco. This classical holiday musical weaves glorious gospel music, poetry and powerful narration to recall the traditional Christmas story of the birth of Christ. Arvis Strickling Jones returns to the Bay Area as Principal Featured Artist.
- ***Tough Titty (Subscriber Bonus Selection)*** by Oni Faida Lampley January 24–February 22, 2009
presented by Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center Building D, San Francisco. Eat healthy, workout, and think positive thoughts! When Angela's routine cannot keep breast cancer at bay, she must learn to face the disease, her family, and her community with equal doses of tenacity and humor. Richly emotional, Tough Titty is a boisterous exploration of one woman's willful search for grace.
(LHT subscribers will receive a special discount to see this play)
- ***Waitn' 2 End Hell*** by William a. Parker February 12–March 2, 2009
Presented by Lorraine Hansberry Theatre at PG&E Auditorium 77 Beale St. at Market (near Embarcadero BART) San Francisco. Provocative comedy-drama exploring African-American male-female relationships. What do women want? Is this the end of black love?
- ***The Story*** by Tracy Scott Wilson March 18–April 25, 2009
Presented at SF Playhouse 533 Sutter Street, San Francisco. A co-production of Lorraine Hansberry Theatre and SF Playhouse. An ambitious black newspaper reporter goes against her editor to investigate a murder and finds the best story — but at what cost?
- ***The Gershwins® Porgy and BessSM*** June 9–27, 2009
Presented by the San Francisco Opera at The War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. Special dates for LHT Subscribers: June 14, 18 & 24, 7:30pm. (limited ticket exchanges are available)
Opera by George Gershwin, Dubose and Dorothy Heyward, and Ira Gershwin
George Gershwin miraculously melded classical music, popular song, jazz, blues and spirituals in this quintessentially American masterpiece that tells the poignant story of a crippled beggar, and the headstrong woman he loves.

For ticket information or to subscribe, call (415) 474-8800 or purchase online at our website: www.lhtsf.org. Discounts are available for groups, students and seniors.

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