



a new theater company

in association with the President and the Board of Directors of The National Arts Club
Present

AT WAR: AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS RESPOND TO IRAQ

Staged readings of excerpts from new plays by

Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen Bathsheba Doran Cory Hinkle Rajiv Joseph
Ryan Kelly Peter Maloney Jose Rivera Lynn Rosen Jonathan Schaefer

Collaged by

Jessica Blank Erica Gould Audrey Rosenberg

With

Jason Antoon Jessica Blank David Calvitto Michael Cerveris
Judith Hawking Laura Heisler Sal Inzerillo Erik Jensen Ty Jones
Haskell King Aasif Mandvi Heather Raffo Audrey Rosenberg
Peter Sarsgaard Jonathan Schaefer Jeremy Schwartz
Paul Sparks David Strathairn Mather Zickel

Directed by

Erica Gould

Guest Speakers

Paul Rieckhoff, Mark Crispin Miller, Marla Bertagnolli

Produced by

Audrey Rosenberg

Associate Produced by

Erin McCann

AT WAR: AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS RESPOND TO IRAQ

Interwoven excerpts from
(in order of first appearance):

BACK FROM THE FRONT by Lynn Rosen

Wendy.....Judith Hawking
Penny.....Laura Heisler
Tim.....David Calvitto
Hal.....Haskell King

PHOSPHORESCENCE by Cory Hinkle

Woman.....Heather Raffo
Chuck.....Michael Cerveris
Arnold.....Jonathan Schaefer

ABU GHRAIB TRYPTICH by Peter Maloney

Kassim.....Jason Antoon

A BENGAL TIGER IN THE BAGHDAD ZOO by Rajiv Joseph

Tiger.....Jeremy Schwartz

THE PROFESSOR by Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen

Based on an interview with Sinan Antoon

Sinan.....David Strathairn

RENDITION by Ryan Kelly

Bullbill.....Erik Jensen
Jello.....Ty Jones
Steve.....Mather Zickel

GAS by Jose Rivera

Cheo.....Sal Inzerillo

TWO SOLDIERS by Bathsheba Doran

1974.....Paul Sparks
1412.....Aasif Mandvi

ZAHRA by Jessica Blank (with Jennifer Abrahamson)

Based on an interview with Marla Ruzicka, founder of CIVIC

Marla.....Jessica Blank

FUBAR by Jonathan Schaefer

Army Captain.....Peter Sarsgaard
Social Worker.....Audrey Rosenberg

**The theatrical presentation will be followed by a discussion with the artists
and our evening's Guest Speakers**

Iraq war veteran, activist, and writer

Paul Rieckhoff

Executive Director of Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

And author of the book Chasing Ghosts

Author

Mark Crispin Miller

Professor of Media Studies at NYU and author of
Fooled Again, the Real Case for Electoral Reform

Marla Bertañoli

Associate Director,

CAMPAIGN FOR INNOCENT VICTIMS IN CONFLICT

ABOUT CIVIC

Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC) advocates on behalf of victims of armed conflict, working to ensure they receive recognition and assistance from warring parties. CIVIC persuaded the US Congress to establish programs for war victims in Afghanistan and Iraq, guides victims to assistance, brings the human cost of war to the attention of policymakers and the public, and is advocating a new global standard of conduct that warring parties should help where they have hurt. In 2005, CIVIC's founder Marla Ruzicka was killed in Iraq by a suicide bomber while advocating for families injured and killed in the crossfire. CIVIC honors her legacy and strives to sustain her vision.

ABOUT MARLA RUZICKA

Marla Ruzicka was born December 31, 1976. In 2001 she went to Afghanistan to help families accidentally harmed in Operation Enduring Freedom. She arrived in Kabul only a few days after the Taliban were removed from power and organized a survey of the war's impact on Afghani civilians, using the information to get aid to those families from the US Military and USAID. The day after Saddam's statue fell, Marla arrived in Iraq and immediately began a door-to-door survey of civilians who had been killed or injured. In 2003, Marla formed CIVIC, successfully lobbying the US Government for assistance to Afghan and Iraqi families harmed as a result of US and coalition operations. In 2005, Marla became an innocent victim of war herself when she was killed by a suicide bomb. To date, \$25 million has been appropriated for the "Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund," and more than \$14 million for similar activities in Afghanistan.

A portion of the proceeds from "AT WAR" will be donated to CIVIC.

To make an additional donation, go to www.civicworldwide.org

To donate to **IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA**,
which helps US veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, go to www.iava.org

THE FIRE DEPT SALON SERIES enables artists and audience to come together to share the experience of theater in unique, non-proscenium environments, and to engage deeply with questions of meaning to our society and culture. Staged readings of new plays that raise challenging questions and address compelling contemporary issues are followed by invigorating and intimate dialogue between artists, audience, and special guest speakers whose life experiences speak to the issues raised by the play.

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT OUR UPCOMING SALONS:

THE THEATRE OF DECEPTION: MEDIA MANIPULATION, MOB CONSCIOUSNESS, AND AMERICAN POLITICS

an evening with Janeane Garofalo and friends

"...How eager you all are to be slaves..." --Emperor Tiberius

"And I say unto that, all of Gaul is divided." --Janeane Garofalo

BOX AMERICANA

Playwright Jason Grote takes a biting and comic look at Walmart, late capitalism, and "The American Dream". Located at Wal-Mart #24-2-128, the economic epicenter of Sprawlville, USA, BOX AMERICANA takes place at a moment when the world's largest employer is defending itself against the largest class-action lawsuit in American history.

VIDEO GAMES, VIOLENCE, AND DIGITAL CULTURE: AN EVENING OF NEW WORK

In an age when mass murderers dress like video game avatars, and single-player video games are used as training and recruitment tools by the military, how are digital media changing the way we view each other and the world? Commissioned short plays by noted playwrights.

BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES

The Fire Dept Salon Series takes on race, class, and the morality of money in this new music-theatre adaptation of the Tom Wolfe novel from composer Stefania de Kenessey.

SPECIAL THANKS

Jennifer Abrahamson, Amelia Campbell, Janine Carter, Kady Chambers, Dustin Crouse, Jessica Dickey, Terrett Drake, Emily Rae Fink, Dr. Elaine Gould, Will Harper, Korey Jackson, Chris LaPanta, David Lawson, Sarah Orlinski Maitland, Erin McCann, Rob Moore, OneDream Sound, Kim Page, Diana Previtire, Leonard Robinson, Luke Rosen, Elyse Seiden, Dara Seitzman, Ann Sethness, Han Shan, Sarah Tuft, Joe Veltre, Laura Von Holt, Michael Warner, Liz Wexler,

and

Steve, Anthony, Joe, Frances, and Aldon James at the National Arts Club.

Food provided by Murray's Cheese Shop

Wine provided by Florencia 13

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions: Actors' Equity Association, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists, Screen Actors' Guild through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

ssdc The Director is a member of the *Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc.*, an independent national labor union.



a new theater company

THE FIRE DEPT is a New York-based non-profit theatre company founded in spring 2006 by Jessica Blank, Erica Gould, and Audrey Rosenberg. THE FIRE DEPT is made up of established and emerging writers, directors, actors, and designers who have come together to create and produce visceral and invigorating theatre that not only entertains, but also wrestles with questions of importance to our society and our world.

At a time when we are overrun by telecommunications, mass media, and their illusion of interconnectedness, THE FIRE DEPT creates work that cannot be replicated inside a television box or on a movie screen. We believe in the power of live theatre and its ability to evoke empathy, by embracing both the diversity and the commonality in human experience. THE FIRE DEPT combines the rigor and structure of great narrative storytelling with the vitality of formal experimentation to immerse audiences in a total experience that leaves them awake, alive, and transformed.

We are dedicated to the development of new plays as well as vital re-interpretations of existing works; and to utilizing traditional as well as alternative theatre spaces. The plays produced by THE FIRE DEPT ignite questions, spark controversy, and respond to the urgency of our times.

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Jessica Blank • Erica Gould • Audrey Rosenberg

ARTIST ADVISORY BOARD

Peter Askin • Jill Clayburgh • Emily Mann • Lynn Redgrave • Marian Seldes • Sam Waterston

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Rob Ackerman • Suzanne Bradbeer • Dave Calvitto • Amelia Campbell • Kathleen Chalfant
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Visit www.thefiredept.org