



# Festival of Plays

**DCFA | Theatre Arts Unit**  
**NEW DIRECTORS FORUM**

**November  
21-24, 2013**  
**LRC Auditorium**



**For more info. contact:**

**663-2222 | 662-2002 ext. 82510**

## Duenne

Thursday 21st November, 8:00pm

Directed by Lalonde Ochoa

Written by Dr. Paloma Mohamed

There is a character in Caribbean folk mythology (Guyana) known as the Duenne. This is the spirit of a child which first appears to humans as an abandoned 'sack'. It attracts attention to itself by emitting the wail of a new born baby. If a curious passer-by happens to merely touch the sack, the spirit of the dead child attaches itself firmly upon the back or shoulders of the hapless person and has to be carried around for the rest of that person's life, becoming heavier and heavier until the person breaks under the burden and dies or until an exorcism is done and both the spirit and the person are freed.

Duenne, the play, draws upon the richness of this myth and other such myths drawn from Caribbean folklore in an examination of the concept of "birth/ life": How do we come into being? At what point do we become "alive"? What is our purpose in life? What if any, is our relationship with the creator? But apart from these age old issues Duenne examines positions that arise with any woman who becomes pregnant: issues of motherhood, of selfhood and choice on the physical, psychical and spiritual realms in the cycle of life.



## **An Echo in the Bone**

Friday 22nd November, 6:00pm

Directed by Robert Noel

Written by Dennis Scott

An Echo in the Bone is set in Jamaica during the year 1937. The plot deals with the mystery surrounding the death of Mas Charles, the estate owner, and the disappearance of "Crew," a villager who is eventually assumed to be the murderer.

Rachael, the wife of Crew, decides to host a "nine nights" a traditional African ritual which is held to watch over the spirit of the dead as it passes to the other world. During this event the villagers are 'mysteriously' transported into time and events ranging from Africans on board a 16th century slave ship, a slave auction in 1820, and Crew's house 4 years before the murder.

The results of the experiences of the African forefathers have indeed left a resounding echo, heard in Jamaica in 1937 and even now in Trinidad and Tobago in 2013. There is a passion in these characters to shake off the stains of having been classified as property and to endure the mental, emotional, spiritual transformation that takes them back to a time when they were proprietors of their own destiny. An Echo in the Bone is directed by Robert Noel.



## **Blood Weddding**

Friday 22nd November, 8:00pm

Directed by Tafari Lewis

Written by Federico Garcia Lorca

Blood Wedding by Federico Garcia Lorca is a classic modern drama that tells the tragic tale of a love that kills but never dies, haunts but never truly departs. The play employs rich, poetic language and takes us through a journey that foreshadows upcoming events. It paints the picture of a happy wedding party that is interrupted by a mystery; a mystery that throughout the play affects many relationships and soon adds conflict to seemingly happy homes. This play begs the question: What would you do for love?



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## Jinxed

Saturday 23rd November, 6:00pm

Directed by Renatha Baptiste

Written by Gregory Mungo

Jinxed is one of the plays featured in this year's New Directors' Forum, Festival of Plays 2013. This theatrical Production showcases the creative work of Renatha Baptiste as an emerging director. Jinxed is a Canadian based play which exposes relationship dynamics at all possible levels. Written in 1986 after the emergence of lesbianism, the play incorporates issues that arise from traditional relationship with intrusions from the modern relationship dynamics, constituting to a contemporary reconstitution of the family.

The play is centred on Carrie who is in a relationship with Cedric who had a colourful past with Cedric's best friend Gerry who has an ex lesbian lover Lana. Like every other relationship Carrie and Cedric have their issues. Just when things were getting better the play take a drastic turn into what you are encouraged to come see.



## **Lysistrata**

Saturday 23rd November, 8:00pm

Directed by Candace Sturge-Dunbar

Written by Aristophanes

Lysistrata is a Greek play written by Aristophanes in 400 B.C. The play is set between 427 to 387 BCE and themed after an Athenian woman who is a fore runner and advocate for women rights and a peace keeper for the people of Greece. She conceptualises the idea of withholding sex from the men of Greece as a tool to bring about change to all of the provinces.

It is the tradition for Greek women to be housewives; however, this soon changes when she makes a decision to help end the war in Greece. She holds a meeting with other women in all the provinces to implement her plan. She recognises that war keeps men from their homes and the women become solely responsible for rearing children, many women end up poor and widowed.



# **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**

Sunday 24th November, 4:00pm

Directed by Ketisha Williams

Written by The Brothers Grimm

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is a German fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm. In 1937 it was made into an American animated film produced by Walt Disney. In the play, a Magic Mirror informs the Queen that Snow White is the fairest maiden in the land. The jealous Queen orders a huntsman to take Snow White into the forest, kill her and to bring back her heart in a jewelled box as proof of the deed. But the huntsman could not do the deed and tearfully begged Snow White for forgiveness, revealing to her that the Queen wanted her dead. He urged Snow White to flee into the woods and never come back. The wily huntsman took back a pig's heart to the queen instead.

Meanwhile, Snow White is befriended by woodland creatures including Seven Dwarfs, Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy, and Dopey, who work in a nearby mine. These colourful creatures bring much life and music to the play. The queen later learnt that Snow White was still alive and cursed her into "Sleeping Death"; a sleep that can only be cured by the power of "love's first kiss".



## One of our Sons is Missing

Sunday 24th November, 6:00pm

Directed by Kirsten Shade

Written by Godfrey Sealey

One of Our Sons is Missing is a play written by Godfrey Sealey in 1982. It incorporates the arguably taboo themes of sexuality and HIV/AIDS. The play is set in Trinidad and Tobago and focuses on an average Trinidadian nuclear family that is forced to face the reality of HIV/AIDS. The character Miguel is introduced to us as an average, heterosexual young man but it is soon revealed that he is secretly bisexual. Unbeknownst to him, his partner (Conrad) is HIV positive. Herein lies the problem as he contracts the disease and lives completely unaware of this fact until Conrad confesses the truth. This revelation is the turning point in the play. The character Miguel then takes us through his personal battle with the disease, the psychological and social effects it has on him, his eventual confession, the reactions of his parents and girlfriend and the progressive stages of the illness. The play illustrates the risks to which young people may be exposed in their relationships, often without being fully aware of the consequences.

