

Local actor and director Rahaleh Nassri (*Miklat, Hannah and Martin* and *The Disputation* as an actress at Theater J with directing credits including *Benedictus* at Theater J, *Breath Boom* at Studio Theatre and *The Skin of Our Teeth* at Rorschach Theatre) plays the tenacious, conflicted journalist, Maryka. Lucas Beck as refugee camp aid worker Carlos and Erika Rose as Hawa, the Darfuri survivor, will both be making their Theater J debuts. Lucas Beck has frequently performed with 1<sup>st</sup> Stage in Tysons Corner, Virginia, most recently in *The Game of Love and Chance*, *Red Herring*, *Pig Farm* and *The Violet Hour*. Erika Rose has recently been seen in *The Taming of The Shrew*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *As You Like It* at The Shakespeare Theatre and was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for her leading performance in *Pretty Fire* with African Continuum Theatre. The cast is also joined by Jessica Frances Dukes (*Eclipsed* at Woolly Mammoth, nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for her leading performance in *Spunk* with Tribute Productions and African Continuum Theatre Company), Carl James (the Express Tour and the New Play Festival at Young Playwrights Theater), Deidra LaWan Starnes (*In The Red and Brown Water* at Studio Theatre, nominated for five Helen Hayes Awards, including for her award-winning performance in *Intimate Apparel* at African Continuum Theatre Company) and Brandon White (*A Raisin in the Sun* at African Continuum Theatre, *Lions of Industry* at Discovery Theatre).

Winter Miller, a playwright and periodic journalist, has also authored *The Penetration Play*, *Cake and Ice Cream*, and *Conspicuous* among others. Her monologue, "Mother to Son" is published in Eve Ensler's anthology *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer* and has toured cities across the U.S. with the photo exhibit, "Darfur/Darfur" and the documentary *The Devil Came on Horseback*. As a journalist, she has written for *The New York Times*, *Variety*, *New York Magazine* and *The Boston Globe*. Her plays have been published and performed in London, Uganda, Canada and regionally. In 2007, Voices of Uganda brought Miller to Northern Uganda to write plays for a group of youth whose lives had been devastated by war and AIDS. Her monologue about a Ugandan grandmother, "Lifelines," has been performed at fundraising events by Ruby Dee, Allison Janney and Liv Ullman. She wrote a companion short play for and with New York City high school youth and continues to work with urban, disenfranchised youth writing plays with Theatre Askew and the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Project. Winter is currently mentored by Craig Lucas with the Cherry Lane Mentor Project 2009-10 season. Lucas will direct her comedy *Paternity* at the Cherry Lane in May 2010. She is at work on *The Arrival* (Sundance Institute Playwriting Fellow 2010) and the musical *Something's Wrong With Amandine* (Theaterworks, Electric Pear and an upcoming New York Theater Workshop Monday@3).

Director Derek Goldman is Artistic Director of the Davis Performing Arts Center and Associate Professor of Theater and Performance Studies at Georgetown University. He is also Founding Artistic Director of the StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance, an award-winning socially-engaged professional theater founded in Chicago, devoted to new adaptations of literature for the stage, re-imagined classics, and ensemble-devised performance. Under Goldman's leadership, the company was named by *The Chicago Sun-Times* as "the most exciting company to emerge in Chicago since John Cusack's *New Criminals*," by *The New York Times* as "one of Chicago's top theater companies." In addition to having led the company for 15 years through more than 60 productions, he has directed Off-Broadway, internationally, and worked regularly as a director and adapter/playwright with leading regional theaters such as Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. Recent projects include his adaptation of *Lysistrata* with Synetic Theater and Georgetown; Theodore Bikel's *Sholom Aleichem: Laughter through Tears*, which he developed with the legendary performer at Theater J and moved on to a run in New York as part of an international tour; *As You Like It* at the Folger Theater, his adaptation of Studs Terkel's *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* at Steppenwolf (with David Schwimmer), at Millennium Park in Chicago (with Garrison Keillor), in North Carolina and in DC at Georgetown University with Arena Stage (with David Strathairn), and a workshop of the new jazz musical *My Swan: The Passions of F. Scott Fitzgerald* (created with recording artist Nancy Harrow) at Lincoln Center.

**IN DARFUR** was originally co-commissioned by The Guthrie Theater and The Playwright's Center in Minneapolis as the winner of the 2006 Two-Headed Challenge Project, through which it was mentored by Nicholas Kristof. The play was subsequently developed at The Playwrights' Center Playlabs, Geva Theater's Hibernatus Interruptus Festival and premiered at The Public Theater in the New Work Now! reading series, followed by a standing-room only performance at their 1800-seat venue in Central Park, a first for a play by a woman.

Theater J is partnering with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Committee on Conscience, American Jewish World Service, Enough, Genocide Intervention Network (GI-NET) and STAND to present a series of discussions following performances of **IN DARFUR**.

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## 2009-2010 Season

### ZERO HOUR

Written & performed by Jim Brochu  
August 29–September 27

### LOST IN YONKERS

By Neil Simon  
October 21–November 29

### MOMMY QUEEREST

Written & performed by Judy Gold  
December 16–January 3

### THE FOUR OF US

A new play by Itamar Moses  
January 20–February 21

### ANDY WARHOL: GOOD FOR THE JEWS?

A world premiere written &  
performed by Josh Kornbluth  
March 6–March 21

### IN DARFUR

A new play by Winter Miller  
March 31–April 18

### MIKVEH

An English language premiere  
by Hadar Galron  
May 5–June 5

### NEW JERUSALEM:

#### THE INTERROGATION OF BARUCH DE SPINOZA

A new play by David Ives  
June 26–July 25

### Theater J

Washington DCJCC  
1529 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Aaron & Cecile  
Goldman Theater

Tickets: (800) 494-TIXS  
Info: (202) 777-3210  
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## WINTER MILLER'S SEARING NEW PLAY IN DARFUR EXPLORES THE RECENT GENOCIDE UNFOLDING IN SUDAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2009

PRESS NIGHT: Saturday, April 3 at 8:00 pm

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(Washington, DC) – Playwright and journalist Winter Miller wrote this harrowing story of international significance after she experienced the atrocities of the Darfurian genocide firsthand during her travels to Sudan and Chad with *The New York Times*. *IN DARFUR*, directed by Derek Goldman, is a searing story of humanitarian urgency and journalistic ethics challenged by harsh, unintended consequences.

This limited engagement runs March 31–April 18, 2010 at Theater J in the Washington DCJCC's Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater. Performances on Wednesday, March 31 and Thursday, April 1 are pay-what-you-can-previews. Press night is Saturday, April 3 at 8:00 pm. A talk-back with the cast will follow the performance on Thursday, April 8. On Thursday, April 15 the show will have open captioning for the hearing impaired. Tickets are available for \$30-\$55 at [boxofficetickets.com](http://boxofficetickets.com) or (800) 494-TIXS. Limited tickets for patrons 35 and under are half-price for all performances!

Winter Miller's chronicle opens with bullets flying across the Sudanese desert in a high-stakes chase scene with three intertwined lives at risk, fleeing a refugee camp for internally displaced persons. When an American journalist (Rahaleh Nassri) wants to interview Hawa, an educated Darfuri woman (Erika Rose), seeking safety in order to get an article published about the genocide, an aid worker (Lucas Beck), who is there to save people, refuses to help her expose the woman's story. As the chain of events unfolds, all three are forced to make sacrifices that could jeopardize their own and each others' safety. In the midst of trying to keep Hawa alive and get her story on the front page, the journalist is forced to confront challenging moral questions: Can one woman's story stand for the plight of a nation? What are the costs of mobilizing world opinion?

*IN DARFUR* was inspired by Winter Miller's research trip with *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof to refugee camps along the Chad-Sudan border to interview survivors of the 21st Century's genocide. Kristof, *The New York Times* op-ed columnist since 2001, won his second Pulitzer Prizes for his relentless work bringing to light the story of the genocide in Darfur. About creating this play, Miller says "I had no idea how to portray something as morally incomprehensible as genocide. The first step was to create characters to identify with and the second was to go there, because I couldn't write this play if I wasn't on the ground to see it with my own eyes." This searing chronicle looks at the recent situation in Sudan and pits the desperate need of a people alongside the complicated ethics of those destined to tell the tale. Miller posits "The last century has shown it's almost pointless to hope politicians will lead the way in the fight against genocide. The real leadership has to come from ordinary citizens; it can start with the writers, actors, and directors who create plays, as well as the audiences who watch them."