



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lesley Greene, Associate Producing Director at (607) 272-0403 or lesley@kitchentheatre.org. Photos available upon request.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW: \$90-\$245. To purchase, call (607) 272-0570, or visit the Kitchen offices (409 W. State St.) Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM and at the theater (417 W. State St.) Saturday-Sunday, 12:00-4:00 PM.

TICKETS: \$15-\$40. To purchase, call (607) 272-0570, visit the Kitchen offices (409 W. State St.) Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM and at the theater (417 W. State St.) Saturday-Sunday, 12:00-4:00 PM, or click www.kitchentheatre.org.

WEBSITE: For more information about Kitchen Theatre Company, visit www.kitchentheatre.org

Kitchen Theatre Company heats up the winter with SEX WITH STRANGERS by Laura Eason

Ithaca, NY: Kitchen Theatre Company continues its 2016-17 season and heats up the winter with *Sex With Strangers*, a provocative and sensuous exploration of ambition and obsession in the digital age. *Sex With Strangers* runs at Kitchen Theatre Company from March 12 to April 2, 2017.

In a world where the number of clicks can translate to stardom, twenty-something Ethan writes a blog of “sexcapades” that catapults him into instant celebrity and success. Forty-something Olivia is a mid-career novelist, widely unappreciated and hoping to get a second wind. When the two are waylaid in a remote cabin, the chemistry is explosive. Written by Laura Eason, best known for her work on TV’s “House of Cards,” *Sex with Strangers* investigates the confluence of ambition, success, cyber identity, and the price of fame.

“The play asks so many questions: How far will we go to achieve recognition? Whom do we trust, and with what? Our hearts? Our ambitions? Where do we find fulfillment? In work? In love?” says Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert. “I am eager to see this sizzling play on our stage.”

Sex with Strangers features **LeeAnne Hutchison** and **Darian Dauchan** as Olivia and Ethan. Mr. Dauchan previously appeared at Kitchen Theatre Company earlier this season in *Death Boogie*. Other KTC credits include: *The Whipping Man*, *The Brothers Size*, and *Black Sheep*. LeeAnne Hutchison is making her KTC debut. Ms. Hutchison has appeared in productions at BAM, Next Wave Festival, NYC, Arkansas Rep, and West Virginia Public Theatre among others.

The creative team includes scenic design by **David L. Arsenault** (KTC credits: *Dancing Lessons*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Seminar*, *Sunset Baby*, among others), lighting design by **Tyler M. Perry** (KTC credits: *Dancing Lessons*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *I and You*, *The House*, *Thin Walls*, among others), and costume design by **Lisa Boquist** (KTC credits: *Hand to God*, *Precious Nonsense*, *The Mountaintop*, *Paloma*, among others). **Sergey Levitskiy** (sound design) is making his KTC debut. **Jen Schilansky** (stage manager) has been the resident stage manager for the past 5 seasons. Casting is by **Judy Bowman**.



Rachel Lampert directs the play. She has directed over forty main stage productions during her 20-year tenure as Artistic Director of Kitchen Theatre Company.

Laura Eason is among the most-produced living playwrights in the United States and *Sex with Strangers* one of the top ten most-produced plays in the 2015-16 American regional theatre season. Ms. Eason is the author of 20 plays, original works, and adaptations, as well as being a musical book writer and screenwriter. Selected productions include *The Undeniable Sound of Right Now*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*. As a screenwriter, Laura wrote on seasons two and three of the Emmy-winning Netflix show “House Of Cards.”

She is a member of Rising Phoenix Rep, an Affiliated Artist of New Georges and an alumna of the Women’s Project Playwright’s Lab. She is an active ensemble member and former Artistic Director of Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago, recipient of the 2011 Regional Theatre Tony Award. Laura is a graduate of the Performance Studies Department of Northwestern University. Originally from Chicago, she lives in Brooklyn, NY.

In conjunction with the Ithaca world premiere of *Sex With Strangers*, Kitchen Theatre Company will present several surround events. Post-show talkbacks with the playwright, director and design team are scheduled for Sunday, March 12th, Tuesday, March 14th, and Wednesday, March 15th (preview performances). On Friday, March 17th and Friday, March 24th, there will be a post-show talkback, moderated by **Lee Rayburn** from WHCU radio, with the cast, director and playwright. There is also a free to the public pre-show talk on Wednesday, March 29th at 6:30pm by novelist **Leslie Daniels** on "A Few Ins and the Many Outs of Publishing."

Pay What You Can Night will be Tuesday, March 14th. Opening Night is Thursday, March 16th, and includes a post-show reception with the cast and creative team. The Friday, March 24th performance is Under-40 Night and includes a free wine tasting and a post-show event. For complete event listing, check the website: www.kitchentheatre.org.

Kitchen Theatre Company's production of *Sex With Strangers* has the Co-Producing Sponsorship of **¡Viva Taqueria!** The Media Sponsor is **WEOS, Finger Lakes Public Radio**.

Tickets are available by calling (607) 272-0570 or on line at www.kitchentheatre.org. Season subscriptions are available over the phone at (607) 272-0570, or in person at the Kitchen offices (409 W. State St.) Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM and at the theater (417 W. State St.) Saturday-Sunday, 12:00-4:00 PM. *Sex With Strangers* has adult language and situations and is recommended for ages 16+.

“Important conversations happen in the Kitchen.”

DETAILS FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS – *Sex With Strangers*

WHAT: *Sex With Strangers* by Laura Eason



WHEN: March 12th – April 2nd, 2017

Sun, Mar 12 @ 4:00 - PREVIEW, POST-SHOW TALKBACK
Tues, Mar 14 @ 7:00 - PREVIEW, POST-SHOW TALKBACK, PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT
Wed, Mar 15 @ 7:30 - PREVIEW, POST-SHOW TALKBACK
Thurs, Mar 16 @ 7:30 - OPENING NIGHT
Fri, Mar 17 @ 8:00 – POST-SHOW TALKBACK
Sat, Mar 18 @ 8:00
Sun, Mar 19 @ 4:00
Wed, Mar 22 @ 7:30
Thurs, Mar 23 @ 2:00 & 7:30
Fri, Mar 24 @ 8:00 - POST-SHOW TALKBACK, WINE TASTING, UNDER-40 NIGHT
Sat, Mar 25 @ 8:00
Sun, Mar 26 @ 4:00
Wed, Mar 29 @ 7:30 - PRE-SHOW TALK by Leslie Daniels at 6:30pm
Thurs, Mar 30 @ 7:30
Fri, Mar 31 @ 8:00
Sat, Apr 1 @ 8:00
Sun, Apr 2 @ 4:00 – CLOSING PERFORMANCE

WHERE:

Kitchen Theatre Company
417 W. State/MLK, Jr. St. Ithaca, NY 14850

HOW:

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ABOUT:

Bold, intimate, engaging... Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC), now in its 26th season, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theater company, specializing in regional and world premiere plays and musicals. KTC's intimate 99-seat theater is in a beautifully renovated, LEED-certified building in the West End neighborhood of downtown Ithaca, New York. KTC is the first not-for-profit recipient of the David R. Strong Memorial "Small Business of the Year" Award from the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the Tompkins County Tourism Program. The Kitchen Theatre Company also receives general operating support from the Shubert Foundation.

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