

FitzANDstartz PRODUCTIONS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 11, 2017

Contact: Lesley Greene at (607) 272-0403 or lesley@fitzandstartzproductions.org. Photos available upon request.

TICKETS: \$12. To purchase, call (607) 272-0570, visit Kitchen Theatre Company offices (409 W. State St.) Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM or 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

FitzandStartz Productions presents

Emmett & Ella's Big Apple Escapade

book & lyrics by Rachel Lampert, music by Lesley Greene

April 29 & May 6, 2017, 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM

Director: Rachel Lampert **Music Director:** Travis Knapp **Costume Design:** Hannah Kochman

Cast: Rachel Frank, Ellen Jackson, Stephen Nunley, Benno Ressa, & Sarah Welden

Ithaca, NY: Kitchen Theatre Company **is going to the dogs!** with the musical adventure *Emmett & Ella's Big Apple Escapade*. Performances are on Saturdays April 29th and May 6th at 1 & 3pm.

Emmett is a hound dog, Ella's got some retriever in her, and Louella Smythe-Trappe is a lady who loves her dogs and loves to sing. When Louella's lifelong dream of singing at Radio City Music Hall in New York City becomes a reality, Emmett and Ella are shocked to learn that she isn't planning on bringing them along. The dogs hatch a plan to follow her, leading to a wild, unexpected, Big Apple escapade full of song, dance and interesting characters along the way.

Emmett is played by **Benno Ressa**, a newcomer to Ithaca previously seen as Uncle Howard in the FitzandStartz Production of *Adventure in Apartment G#*. Opera Ithaca apprentice artist **Sarah Welden** lends her beautiful voice to the role of Ella, and Louella Smythe-Trappe is played by Opera Ithaca Apprentice Director **Ellen Jackson**. Kitchen Theatre Company's Managing Director **Stephen Nunley** and Lehman Alternative School senior **Rachel Frank** play multiple roles in the play.

Playwright/lyricist **Rachel Lampert**, Kitchen Theatre Company's Artistic Director and co-Director of FitzandStartz Productions, has authored many original productions for family audiences (*Winter Tales*, *The Mozart Mystery*, *I Have a Song to Sing O!*, *A December Suite*, *The Sisters* *Fitzenstarts Fall Recital*. *Adventure in Apartment G#*. and *Fools! Schmools!* among others) and

adaptations (*The Odyssey* parts I & II, *A Christmas Carol*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *HMS Pinafore* and *The Mikado*). Lampert also serves as the director of this play.

Composer **Lesley Greene** is co-Director of FitzandStartz Productions and Associate Producing Director at Kitchen Theatre Company. She has composed music for Kitchen Theatre productions of *Physics Fair*, *Winter Tales*, *Park Play*, *Fools! Schmools!*, and more.

Music Director **Travis Knapp** is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter originally from Clinton, NY. He studied piano at Ithaca College ('07), and now lives in Erin, NY. He is also a vegetable gardener and touring bicyclist.

Emmett & Ella's Big Apple Escapade is great for all ages. Tickets are \$12 and are available by phone at (607) 272-0570, at the Kitchen Theatre offices (409 W. State St.) Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, at the theater (417 W. State St.) Saturday-Sunday, 12:00-4:00 PM, and online at www.kitchentheatre.org.

Musicals for family audiences by Fitzandstartz Productions at Kitchen Theatre Company are supported by Sponsors **CFCU Community Credit Union** and **Agava Restaurant**.

"Important conversations happen in the Kitchen."

Performance Dates

April 29, 2017, Saturday at 1:00 pm

April 29, 2017, Saturday at 3:00 pm

May 6, 2016, Saturday at 1:00 pm

May 6, 2016, Saturday at 3:00 pm

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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