

EXTENDED! NOW THROUGH APRIL 13th!**Take a Musical Romp Through Paris with Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas!****Picasso, Harlow and Fitzgerald, too. - Respondez S'il Vous Plait!****Urban Stages****(Frances Hill, Artistic Director, Sonia Kozlova, Managing Director)****27 RUE DE FLEURUS****A New Musical****Book and Lyrics by Ted Sod, Music and Lyrics by Lisa Koch****Directed by Frances Hill****At 259 West 30th Street (between 7th and 8th)**

March 17, 2008 – Heavy ticket demand has prompted Urban Stages to extend its hilarious drawing room musical, *27 Rue de Fleurus*, for two weeks through Sunday, April 13th. Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein are delighting audiences with wit and one-up(wo)manship in repartee and song as they confront each other about love, marriage, jealousy, genius and other delicious topics. Add into the salon Pablo Picasso, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mabel Dodge, Sylvia Beach and the smashing Jean Harlow, and you have a highly memorable and amusing night of theatre.

Unlike most of the stage works about Gertrude and Alice, *27 RUE DE FLEURUS* is told from Alice's point of view as "her muse." When Gertrude becomes embarrassed by Alice's revealing tell-all, she attempts to hijack the play as only the author of such lines as "sugar is not a vegetable" can. But Alice has secrets to share with the audience that silence the famously verbose Gertrude. Quelle surprise!

Critical reviews have praised Frances Hill's "smart direction," the "strong performances" of the cast (*New York Times*), as well as "luscious" costumes by Carrie Robbins (*Variety*). *Curtain Up* says, "Add this small charmer to this season's cornucopia of off-beat new musicals," and *Theatermania* declared, "Director Frances Hill's production has a zest that matches the unbridled creativity of the creators, unfolding on a handsome scenic design from Roman Tatarowicz, who's created a surreal white salon with skewed walls that's backed by a series of overlapping frames into which Alex Koch's collage-like video is projected. It's the perfect canvas for this haphazard look into Toklas and Stein's world." The critically acclaimed cast includes Cheryl Stern as Alice, Barbara Rosenblat as Gertrude, and Sarah Chalfy, Susan Haefner and Emily Zacharias in various celebrity parts. John Bell is Musical Director.

ARTSHOW. During the run of the show, photographs and other artworks from the *Gertrude and Alice* collection of San Francisco collector Hans Gallas are on display in the theater lobby. Gallas coordinated events around the world last year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the meeting of Gertrude and Alice on Alice's first day in Paris. Works exhibited include original Carl Van Vechten photographs, wood-block prints, caricatures, and mixed media pieces created by artists from around the world. Gertrude and Alice have been the subjects of visual artists from the beginning of the 20th century and continue to inspire artists in all media.

Urban Stages produces new plays with themes that reflect our diverse society. Their most recent productions were the critically acclaimed *Oxford Roof Climbers Rebellion* by Stephen Massicotte, *Marion Bridge* by Daniel MacIvor, the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Bulrushers* by Eisa Davis and *Apostasy* by Gino Dilorio.

Since 1983, director Frances Hill has overseen more than 600 staged readings and workshops, plus over 75 productions of new work for the stage. Recent directing credits include Jim Lehrer's *Chili Queen* (Urban Stages and The Kennedy Center), John C. Picardi's *Seven Rabbits on a Pole* and *The Sweepers* (Urban Stages and Capital Rep), *Comfort Women* by Chungmi Kim and last season's *Apostasy* by Gino Dilorio. As Artistic Director of Urban Stages, she has moved two plays to commercial off-Broadway runs: *Minor Demons* and *Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown*, which won an Outer Critics Circle Award.

SCHEDULE for 27 RUE DE FLEURUS: Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8PM, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3PM. Tickets are \$40.00; all Wednesday performances are specially priced at \$25. Tickets may be purchased by calling Smarttix at 212-868-4444, or online at www.urbanstages.org. There will be talkbacks every Wednesday and Saturday night, check www.urbanstages.org for schedule of speakers.

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