



an Epicenter of Pilipino American Performing Arts - 185 Sixth Street San Francisco CA 94103 (415) 974-1167

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2002
San Francisco, CA

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Melinda Corazon Foley Playwright (and Performer)

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TEATRO NG TANAN presents ...

"the Coconut Masquerade"

a.k.a. say someone sees

A play in verse by Melinda Corazon Foley

(playwright Melinda Corazon Foley)

FLASH! Whirlwind family images of a haunted past descend upon Maya's brain like a testament to attention deficit disorder. Driven by profound longing, and the encouragement of Ima, a wild ghostly elder, Maya returns to the people she most wanted to understand. That childhood foundation... where something went bitter at the roots

"The Coconut Masquerade" is written in a rhythmic verse language influenced by developments in Spoken Word, Hip Hop, adult alternative, and children's tales. Its production coincides with the ever-increasing fusion of Spoken Word and Hip Hop influenced theater, as evidenced by the national success of San Francisco's own Youth Speaks programs, and productions ranging from MTV's recent "Hip Hopera," a contemporary remake of the 19th century opera, "Carmen," to the 1998 Sundance and Cannes Film Festival Winner, "Slam."



WHEN: May 2nd to May 25th every Thursday thru Saturday night. 8pm
WHERE: Bindlestiff Studio 185 6th street (at Howard in San Francisco)
TICKETS: \$15 general; \$12 seniors, students w/ID; \$10 group (cash only)
RESERVE: (415) 974-1167 or email: Events4U@bindlestiffstudio.org
URL: <http://www.bindlestiffstudio.org> — <http://www.coconutmasquerade.com>

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Emerging playwright, Melinda Corazon Foley, introduced story ideas for "Masquerade" at the 1996 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and has since brought developing segments of the play to cities from NYC, to Denmark, London, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. "Masquerade" parallels the playwright's own journey to persevere amidst a whirlwind of physical and spiritual trials.

BIO of PLAYWRIGHT, MELINDA CORAZON FOLEY

The city-hopping writer-performer blazed an early artistic path through the California Bay Area. Born in Cebu, Philippines, and raised in Virginia, Melinda relocated to the Bay in the mid 1990's to present her original compositions in conjunction with Oakland's La Peña Cultural Center; "10 Poets & a Mic," a collective of East Bay spoken word expressionists; "Pieces of the Quilt," a Campo Santo collection of short plays about the AIDS epidemic; and productions by San Francisco's Asian American Theater Company. In 1999, she took to national stages as part of the Silicon Valley Poetry Slam Team, which shared 1st place in the 1999 National Poetry Slam in Chicago, as reviewed by 60 minutes, the New York Times, and The Chicago Tribune. The exposure catapulted Melinda overseas to perform her innovative rhythmic-verse compositions in venues throughout London, Copenhagen, and on Radio P3, Denmark's national radio station. Hardly content to bask in these achievements, Melinda has since been presenting new musical collaborations and segments of her verse play at venues such as Massachusetts' acclaimed New World Theater, the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, TX, the Los Angeles Grand Performances Summer Series "Turntablism Jam" in downtown California Plaza, and upcoming appearances at the 4th annual San Jose "Floricanto Festival" and "Intersection: Future Aesthetics" a project funded by the National Performance Network, and the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations.

BIO of TEATRO NG TANAN

In 1989 Teatro ng Tanan, or "Theatre for Everyone," became the first Filipino American theater arts organization in the United States. The company was formed through a series of youth theatre workshops and training. Support and promotion of emerging theatre artists continues to be an important part of Teatro ng Tanan's focus. Throughout its thirteen year history, the company has successfully produced dozens of critically acclaimed original plays, festivals, and other theatrical events, such as Jeannie Barroga's "Gadgets," all of which focus on reflecting the experiences, history and concerns of the Pilipino American community. It is the aim of Teatro ng Tanan to tell these stories For Everyone, and as a result the company has achieved wild success and been extremely well received, not only within the local Filipino community, but also by the larger Bay Area community.

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