

For Immediate Release  
June 18, 2009

Media Inquiries: Alli Bailey  
press@banishedproductions.org

banished? productions presents  
**A TACTILE DINNER**

a synaesthetic experience in seven-courses inspired by the Futurists

in conjunction with the 2009 Capital Fringe Festival

*Viva la degustacione!*

**Washington, D.C.** – In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Futurism, **banished? productions** presents *A Tactile Dinner*, a seven-course “dinner” of gastronomic revolution running from July 11 – 19. Featuring evocative dishes such as “Polyrhythmic Salad” and “Totalrice,” an intriguing “post-futurist” set, and captivating visuals and choreography, diners who partake in *A Tactile Dinner* will never look at food the same way again.

“*A Tactile Dinner* responds to a society that has become obsessively, even fanatically, interested in all things culinary: from ‘haute-food,’ celebrity chefs, ‘food-porn’ and all that the Food Network has to offer, to health and ethical concerns over the way their food is produced, distributed and consumed,” said producing director Carmen C. Wong, who conceptualized the piece. “I hope this performance allows us to add a sense of child-like fun and fascination into the modern food equation.”

One part performance, one part meal, *A Tactile Dinner* aims to recreate a synaesthetic food experience for the dining audience members, who will be provided “suitable tactilist garb” as part of the hybrid art performance. The performance culls from “Father of Futurism” F.T. Marinetti’s *Futurist Cookbook*, a book full of avant-garde experiments that delve into sensual and sensory experiences. Marinetti and his artist-chefs looked at food as colorful materials and put them together sculpturally and experientially, giving more thought to texture than taste, as evidenced in their quest to make their food provide more “pre-labial pleasure.” By reconnecting with food in all five senses and encouraging playfulness with food, diners will embark upon a one-of-a-kind sensory/gustatory communal journey, with a renewed relationship with food at the destination.

*A Tactile Dinner* will be presented at the Arthur S. Flemming Center at **1426 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW**, Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$15 with a suggested \$5 gratuity. Performance times are **Saturday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., Sunday, July 12 at 3:00 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., Monday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 19 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** go on sale June 22 at the *Capital Fringe Festival Box Office* at 607 New York Ave NW, by phone toll-free at 1-866-811-4111, or online at [www.capfringe.org](http://www.capfringe.org). Tickets may also be purchased with cash only at the Arthur S. Flemming Center one hour prior to scheduled performance times. Seating is limited, so buy tickets in advance to guarantee a space at the table in one of the most delectable fringe performances of the year.

For food concerns, please contact [info@banishedproductions.org](mailto:info@banishedproductions.org). Audience members will be served the following:

- Course 1: Polyrhythmic Salad**
- Course 2: Aural Sensations**
- Course 3: Aerofood**
- Course 4: Magic Food**
- Course 5: Visual Nutrients**
- Course 6: Totalrice**
- Course 7: Tactile Vegetable Garden**
- Digestivo**

## **PREVIEW EVENT**

On Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, **banished? productions** will present a special preview of *A Tactile Dinner*, with a Q&A to follow for special guests and press at The Arthur S. Flemming Center located at 1426 9<sup>th</sup> St NW, Washington, D.C. This event is by invitation only. If you are interested in participating or would like more details, please contact Alli Bailey via phone at 215-872-4316 or via e-mail at [press@banishedproductions.org](mailto:press@banishedproductions.org).

## **about banished? productions**

**banished? productions** is an inter-disciplinary theatre production company that is dedicated to the re-creation of wonder and the re-awakening of the senses. It is committed to producing quality work that culls from multiple artistic expressions, particularly in theatrical experiments that play with text and form.

**banished?** strives to inspire and collaborate with other artists in order to fuel its own artistic process: re-discovering and re-inventing the art of narration.

It is headed by co-founders Carmen C. Wong (Artistic Director, Producer), Niell DuVal (Technical Director, Producer) and Levia C. Lew (Resident Set & Lighting Designer).

Carmen C. Wong is a German, Film and Theatre graduate from the University of Notre Dame who hails from Singapore. A self-confessed appropriator and provocateur, her directorial dabblings include highlights from *My Comic Valentine* (2009), the concept for a story-telling machine *Ballades Mechaniques* (ver 1.0 in 2007), the whimsical *bobrauschenbergamerica* by Charles L. Mee (2007), a scatologically-inspired rendition of Pablo Picasso's *Desire Caught by the Tail* (2006) and a multimedia unveiling of Oscar Wilde's *Salome* (2004). She has also stage managed Constanza Macras' *Back to the Present* produced by Dorky Park & Sophiensæle (Berlin, 2003).  
[ccw@banishedproductions.org](mailto:ccw@banishedproductions.org)

Niell DuVal is currently in his eighth season at the Arena Stage as a full-time props artisan. Niell has also been a props artisan for the Shakespeare Theatre and the Kennedy Center. His work has been commissioned by television programs, museums and has traveled on to Broadway (*33 Variations*, *Next to Normal*) and other theatrical institutions in the Greater Washington and Baltimore area. A selection of his work was featured in the exhibit *Theatrical Artisans: Props and Crafts from DC Theatre* (2005) at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center. Before his move to DC, Niell co-founded a handcrafted-boomerang company in his hometown of Fayetteville, Arkansas.  
[jnd@banishedproductions.org](mailto:jnd@banishedproductions.org)

Levia C. Lew has worked as a junior lighting designer with an architectural lighting firm in New York City and as the resident Gallery Lighting Designer for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Other past theatrics include serving as a lighting assistant for the Shakespeare Theatre, a lighting fellowship at Arena Stage, lighting for *Roxi in 3-D with Elvis* (Baltimore Theatre Project) and associate lighting design for *Siguiriya* (LaMama ETC, NY). She holds a B.A. in art history and an M.F.A. in lighting and set design from Illinois State University.  
[lcl@banishedproductions.org](mailto:lcl@banishedproductions.org)

Press Reviews from the Washington Post, Washington City Paper and DC Theatre Reviews are available upon request or online at [banishedproductions.org/press.html](http://banishedproductions.org/press.html)

### **For more information...**

Alli Bailey – Press Contact

[press@banishedproductions.org](mailto:press@banishedproductions.org) or (215) 872-4316

Website: [banishedproductions.org](http://banishedproductions.org)

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# A TACTILE DINNER

a synaesthetic experience in seven-courses inspired by the Futurists  
**adapted and directed by Carmen C. Wong**

**PRESS CONTACT:** Alli Bailey  
**E-MAIL:** [press@banishedproductions.org](mailto:press@banishedproductions.org)  
**PHONE:** (215) 872-4316

**PERFORMANCE DATES and TIMES:**  
 Sat 07/11: 7:00pm & 9:15pm  
 Sun 07/12: 3:00pm, 6:15pm & 8:15pm  
 Mon 07/13: 7:30pm  
 Sun 07/19: 4:00p & 7:30pm



**LOCATION:** The Arthur S. Flemming Center, 1426 9th St NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

**TICKETS:** \$15 with \$5 suggested gratuity. Advance tickets on sale June 22 at the Capital Fringe Festival Box Office at 607 New York Ave NW, by phone toll-free at 1-866-811-4111, or online at [www.capfringe.org](http://www.capfringe.org). All major credit cards accepted. Tickets may also be purchased with cash only at the door one hour prior to scheduled performance times.

Artist/Student/Senior discounts available for eligible patrons, please inquire by e-mailing [info@banishedproductions.org](mailto:info@banishedproductions.org).  
**Please also e-mail us about food allergies and concerns.**

**METRO ACCESS:** Metro Rail: Yellow/Green Line: Shaw/Howard-University stop **OR** Mt. Vernon/Convention Center stop.  
 Metro Bus: G2 & G8 (9<sup>th</sup> & P St NW), DC Circulator-Southwest/Waterfront (O St, btw 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> St NW), 70 & 71 (7<sup>th</sup> & P St NW), 63 & 64 (11<sup>th</sup> & P St NW)

## ARTISTIC COLLABORATORS

Carmen C. Wong\* – Producer/Director/Concept  
 Niell DuVal\* – Producer/Technical Director/Props  
 Levia Lew\* – Producer/Set & Lighting Designer/Concept  
 Samantha Vick-McGill – Chef

Jeff Allen – Videography & Tech. Assistance  
 Tim Ball – Props (Digestivo Machine)  
 Ken Hays – Narrator  
 Sean Hennessy – Props (Course 4 Serving Ware)  
 Josh Hermias – Sous-Chef  
 Melissa Krodman\* – Choreographer  
 Carrie Monger\* – Choreographer  
 Marie Schneggenberger – Costume Advisor  
 Emmett Williams\* – Videographer, Sound & Music

## \*Denotes performance as a waiter alongside

Emma Campbell  
 Stephanie Davio  
 Otis Ramsey-Zöe  
 Jessica Seo

## Behind the Scenes

Alli Bailey – Marketing Assistance & Press Contact  
 Amy Cesal – Graphic Designer  
 Joseph Price – Webmaster & Box-Office Manager  
 Otis Ramsey-Zöe – Dramaturgy Assistance  
 Yvonne Reyes – Craft Services & General Assistance  
 Samantha Vick-McGill & Stephanie Davio – Costume  
 Sweatshop Workers

## DELIRIOUSLY SPECIAL thanks to...

**KICKERLAND®** and Laura Kellner for the music box donations  
 Emmaus Services for the Aging and Arlene Collins & Dawn Troupe  
 Shaw Main Streets and Alex Padro  
 Marie Schneggenberger & Sarah Lengyel for their fabric donations  
 Industrial Truck Association for their old faithful projector  
 Ka Cosmetics & Kimberly Logan for bespoke hand cleaners



**big bear cafe** and Lana Labermeier  
 Anna Blasco  
 Martin Smith

Presented as a part of the 2009 Capital Fringe Festival  
 Capital Fringe Festival & the Baldacchino Gypsy Tent Bar  
 607 New York Ave NW \* Washington, DC 20001 \* [capitalfringe.org](http://capitalfringe.org)

**CAPITAL  
 FRINGE  
 FESTIVAL**  
 JULY 9-26, 2009