

For Immediate Release
June 20, 2011

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banished? productions presents

TACTILE DINNER CAR

Driving in and Dishing up a Gastro-Art-Revolution!

Premiering at the 2011 Capital Fringe Festival!

“This daringly interactive, philosophically pungent, meal-like extravaganza is designed to spatula audiences out of their comfort zones — theatrical and gustatory — and instill a new appreciation of sensory experience.” –

Washington Post

“This is no show, it is an experience, and one I exhort you not to miss.” – *Washington City Paper*

“It manages the rare trick in avant-garde performance of not taking itself too seriously, of embracing the audience rather than intentionally alienating it: think Top Chef hosted by Stephen Colbert.” – *readyssetdc.com*

Washington, D.C. – The futuristic gastro-performance HIT at the 2009 Capital Fringe is back in a streamlined and mobile version, ready to tantalize audiences with an array of sensory experiences. With a rotating “menu” of non-traditional ilk, banished? productions’ *Tactile Dinner Car* will be dishing up bite-sized portions of hybrid food-art performance stationed under the Capital Fringe Baldacchino Gypsy Tent. The *Tactile Dinner Car* will debut on July 7, with additional performances on July 9 and July 21 till 24, 2011.

Tickets are \$12, and will go on sale June 20, 2011 at the *Fort Fringe Box Office* at 607 New York Ave NW, by toll-free phone at 1-866-811-4111, or online at www.capfringe.org. Audiences should select their preferred reservation slot within the following operating hours: Thursday, July 7 (7:30pm-8:30pm); Saturday, July 9 (3:00pm-4:30pm); Thursday, July 21 (7pm-8:30pm); Friday, July 22 (7:15pm-8:45pm); Saturday, July 23 (7pm-8:30pm) and Sunday, July 24 (2:30pm-4pm). Tickets may also be purchased with cash only under the Baldacchino Gypsy Tent one hour prior to scheduled performance times. Tickets will be sold in 15-minute increments during the operation hours and the length of each person's experience will be self-determined. Reservations are limited, so buy tickets in advance to guarantee a space at the table in one of the most delectable Fringe performances of the year.

Tactile Dinner Car will serve up playfully audacious “dishes” appropriated from F.T. Marinetti’s *Futurist Cookbook*, a tome of avant-garde experiments that use jarring sensory experiences to renew the art of eating. Marinetti, the “Father of Futurism” and his artist-chefs looked at food as materials to be put together sculpturally, experientially, and oftentimes contradictorily, serving up inedible food for sensorial contrast and theatrical entertainment. By reconnecting the act of consuming with all five senses and encouraging playfulness with food, audiences visiting banished? productions’ *Tactile Dinner Car* will embark upon a one-of-a-kind sensory/gustatory journey, with a renewed relationship to food at the destination.

Tactile Dinner Car follows in a long line of avant-pop projects and performances by banished? productions which celebrate whimsy and self-satirizing humor, and encourage audiences to indulge in the art of play. Conceptualized by banished?’s Artistic Director Carmen C. Wong and fabricated by Technical Director Niell DuVal, the design of *Tactile Dinner Car* is a re-imagining of the kind of Futurist car Marinetti would build. Pulling inspiration from Buckminster Fuller’s Dymaxion Car, Ernest Trova’s “Falling Man” sculpture and the Mercedes F-Cell Roadster among many other influences, the *Tactile Dinner Car* will mobilize the pseudo-edible Futuristic fusion of cuisine and theatre.

TACTILE DINNER TRAVELS!

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre awarded one of six “On The Road” grants to banished? productions’ Carmen C. Wong to create a culturally-specific version of *Tactile Dinner*. The program, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation encourages reciprocity and cultural exchange throughout the world so that artistic collaborations are built. Carmen will continue research and documentation with Finnish collaborators and food designers in Helsinki, Finland in the Fall of 2011.

about banished? productions

banished? productions is an avant-pop performance company that generates immersive interdisciplinary art experiences for all, to re-create wonder and re-awaken the senses. It is committed to producing quality work that cull from multiple artistic expressions, particularly in performative or 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 self-confessed appropriator and provocateur who hails from Singapore. She was recently awarded a TCG travel grant to return to Helsinki, Finland, following a HIAP-FINUS artist-residency last year. She received a DCCA Young Artist award in 2010 to produce *Walk With Me*, an alternative art audiowalk exploring DC’s Columbia Hts and Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods. Her directorial dabblings include the hybrid show *TACTILE DINNER, Ballades Mechaniques* – a series of story-telling machines, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, and Pablo Picasso’s *Desire Caught by the Tail*. She got her start in interdisciplinary performance from working on Constanza Macras’ *Back to the Present* in Berlin, Germany. ccw@banishedproductions.org

Niell DuVal been making props full time at the Arena Stage in Washington DC since 2001. 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

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 *Siguriya* (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

Press Reviews are available upon request

For more information:

Alyssa Schimmel – Press Contact

press@banishedproductions.org or (267) 346-4105

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adapted and directed by Carmen C. Wong

PRESS CONTACT: Alyssa Schimmel
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PHONE: (267) 346-4105

DINNER CAR OPERATING HOURS @ CAPFRINGE ARE:

Thu 7/7, 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Sat 7/9, 3pm – 4:30pm

Thu 7/21, 7pm - 8:30pm

Fri, 7/22, 7:15pm – 8:45pm

Sat, 7/23, 7pm – 8:30pm

Sun, 7/24, 2:30pm – 4pm

Call box-office to book a **Reservation slot** and determine your own run time.

Walk-ups welcome but admission subject to availability.



LOCATION: The Baldacchino Gypsy Tent * 607 New York Ave NW * Washington, D.C. 20001

TICKETS: \$12 not including gratuity. Advance tickets on sale at the Fort Fringe Box Office at 607 New York Ave NW, by phone toll-free at 1-866-811-4111, or online at www.capfringe.org. All major credit cards accepted.

Tickets will be sold in 15-minute increments during the operation hours and the length of each person's experience will be self-determined.

Tickets may also be purchased with cash only at the door one hour prior to scheduled performance times.

Please e-mail info@banishedproductions.org or speak with the Host/Hostess regarding any dietary constraints.

METRO ACCESS: METRO RAIL: Mt. Vernon Sq. 7th Street (Green/Yellow)

METRO BUS: 70, 71, 79, 80, G8, P6, X2,

Circulator: Convention Center / Waterfront and Georgetown / Union Station

ARTISTIC COLLABORATORS

Carmen C. Wong – Producer/Director/Concept
Niell DuVal – Producer/Technical Director/Car Design
Ayodamola Okunseinde – Video Design
Melanie Clark – Costume Design
Josh Hermias – Chef
Samantha Vick-McGill – Chef

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Frank DuVal – Boccioni Artwork
CityBlossoms – Herbs & Vegetables
Garner's Produce – Fruit & Vegetables
Panorama Bakery – Breads

PERFORMERS

Stephanie Davio – Hostess
Otis Ramsey-Zöe – Host & Dramaturgy Assistance
John Hibey – “Chef”
Keira Hart – Servertron
Mark Jaster – Marinetti

PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE

Alyssa Schimmel – Marketing & Press Contact
Michael Kyrioglou – Press Assistance
Danielle Mages-Amato – Graphic Design
Jessica Seo – Photography
Miguel Bermudez - QR Portal Web Assistance

JULY 7 TO 24, 2011
**CAPITAL
FRINGE
FESTIVAL**
*festival of the performing arts
washington, dc*

Presented as a part of the 2011 Capital Fringe Festival
Capital Fringe Festival & the Baldacchino Gypsy Tent Bar
607 New York Ave NW * Washington, DC 20001 * capitalfringe.org