

press release

NTOZAKE SHANGE

JESSICA HAGEDORN

April 24 & 25 8:30pm
\$4.00/\$2.50 members/TDF
Reservations: 925-3615

The Kitchen, in collaboration with Basement Workshop, presents two evenings of performances of writings, music and dance by NTOZAKE SHANGE and JESSICA HAGEDORN. The performances, on Friday & Saturday, April 24 & 25, 1981 at 8:30pm, are being specially staged for this event and will be directed by fellow poet and performance artist, THULANI DAVIS.

NTOZAKE SHANGE's new work, MOUTHS: A daughter's geography, addresses the "openings in a woman's life--her body, her earth, her politics, her love and birth." "I have been exploring the possibilities of moving my poetry from spoken word to dramatic forms...to maintain the relationship of my work to movement and improvisation."

TENEMENT LOVER: no palm trees in new york city is written by JESSICA HAGEDORN with music by The Gangster Choir. "The theme is familiar cultural-surrealism/cross-culturalization with the usual interplanetary-cinematic references, with which I am terribly obsessed with" admits Jessica. The thing to remember is this definition (from the Tagalog language) anting-anting: talisman, charm, or amulet, eg. crocodile's tooth, twin tailed lizard, whale spine, etc.

The Basement Workshop, now in its tenth year, is an artistic agency/alternative space dedicated to the development of literary, visual, and performance works by specifically, though not exclusively, Asian Americans. This special performance by these very special artists are part of Basement Workshop's program to provide exposure and access to a wide variety of audiences throughout the Metropolitan area.

Among the major productions of NTOZAKE SHANGE are: for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf, performed at Henry Street Playhouse in 1976, at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1976, The Booth Theater 1976-1978, the National Theatre in 1978, Teatro do BNH in 1978 and the Royalty Theater in 1979; Where the Mississippi Meets the Amazon performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1978; Spell #7 performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1979; Mother Courage & Her Children performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1979 and Sarannuck Land performed at Basement Workshop in 1981.

JESSICA HAGEDORN, born and raised in the Philippines, is the 1980-81 Basement Workshop writer in residence. Her most recent book, Dangerous Music (Momos Press), is now in its third printing. She is a co-editor of the anthology Third World Women; her poems, plays, and prose have been published widely (Yardbird Reader, The Black Scholar, Rolling Stone, Amerasia Journal, Bridge Magazine). She has performed extensively at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater where her play Mango Tango was presented by Joseph Papp in 1978. Ms. Hagedorn is the founder of the Ganster Choir, an innovative, rockin'seven piece band. Her latest book, Petfood will be published in the Fall of 1981.

THULANI DAVIS is the author of All the Renegade Ghosts Rise, a book of poems published by Anemone Press. She has performed extensively at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater, has appeared with pianist composer Cecil Taylor, and with members of the Art Ensemble of Chicago. Ms. Davis is currently on the staff of the Village Voice.

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