

## Stanford Summer Theater Presents Aristophanes' Lysistrata

Stanford Summer Theater (SST) celebrates its sixth season with Aristophanes' comic masterpiece, Lysistrata, in a hilarious new adaptation by Pulitzer-nominee Amy Freed (The Bard of Avon, Freedomland). Lysistrata stars Bay Area favorite Geoff Hoyle (Feast of Fools, Cirque de Soleil, SST's The Chairs) as the war-hungry, phallus-challenged Magistrate, who meets his match in Lysistrata, played by Katie Sigismund (California Shakespeare Festival). Adding fire power to this explosive mix are SST veterans Kay Kostopoulos (Kalonike), Annie Abrams (Myrrhine), and Geoff Sobelle (Kinesias). Live music, composed by Bruce Barthol (San Francisco Mime Troupe), keeps things smoking.

Lysistrata has kept audiences laughing--and squirming--for over two millennia. When the women of Greece stage a sex strike for peace, sparks fly and comedy pops up everywhere. Faithful to the liberating anarchy of Aristophanes' original, Freed's wild and witty dialogue underlines how far we *haven't* come in all these years.

As the greatest anti-war comedy ever written, Lysistrata could hardly be more timely. On March 5, 2003, over 1000 theater groups in 70 countries (including the US and Iraq) read Lysistrata as a symbolic act of resistance to imminent U.S. military aggression. As the dust clears and the reasons for war prove absurd, the authorities invoke the "permanent military threat" to stifle meaningful debate. In such an environment, the theater provides an alternative space where we can entertain and foster a more life-affirming image of the future. According to director and SST founder Rush Rehm, "Lysistrata has much to offer our theater today. If the laughs it unleashes shake us hard enough, they might shake us free of the lies that masquerade as patriotism and distract us from the profitably business of war that makes a mockery of its victims."

Lysistrata features costumes by Connie Strayer, sets by Mark Gurgius; lighting by Chad Bonaker, and visuals by Anghad Balla and Megan Cohen. For press information, call Dan Anthony at 650-814-1333.

Lysistrata previews July 16 and runs from July 17 through August 9 (Thursday - Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 7:00 p.m.) at Stanford's intimate Pigott Theater, adjacent to Memorial Auditorium. As the production must close August 9, two matinee performances have been added, August 2 and 9 at 2:00 pm. For tickets, visit or phone Tresidder Box Office on the Stanford campus (650-725-ARTS); after hours call 650-725-5838; or visit us on the web at <http://www.stanfordtheater.org>. Tickets are \$25 and ) \$17 (seniors and students).

To reach Pigott Theater, take 101 to Embarcadero. Head west on Embarcadero towards Stanford; cross El Camino., where Embarcadero turns into Galvez. Cross Campus Drive on Galvez, and take first right into Memorial Way. Plenty of free parking