



For Immediate Release

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MO'OLELO ANNOUNCES CAST OF
9 Parts of Desire

Three San Diego actors to tackle roles
Tickets now on sale

July 22, 2009 - San Diego, CA – Critically acclaimed Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company is pleased to announce the complete cast for its next production of **Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire***. The story of nine Iraqi women living in Iraq, London and New York between 1990 and the present, *9 Parts of Desire* paints a portrait of these extraordinary and ordinary women as they confront the world around them, and reveals the conflicting aspects of what it means to be a woman in the age-old war zone that is Iraq. The production will run from **October 8 to November 1 at The 10th Avenue Theatre** in Downtown San Diego, with a **press opening on Saturday, October 10 at 7:30 PM**.

The cast features three talented San Diego actors. **Lisel Gorell-Getz** is a San Diego favourite whose work has been seen at La Jolla Playhouse, North Coast Repertory, San Diego Repertory, and Cygnet. New to San Diego, **Frances Anita Rivera** returns to the stage following a motorcycle accident in May that left her in a doctor-induced coma for two weeks. Her credits include Seattle Repertory, The Magic Theatre and American Conservatory Theater. **Dré Slaman** returns home to San Diego for this production. A native, who received her MFA in Acting at Northern Illinois University, her credits include the world premiere of *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook* and the NBC television show *Medium*. She serves as Artistic Director of Momentum Theatre Group.

Playwright and Actor Heather Raffo wrote *9 Parts of Desire* as a one-woman vehicle for herself, but the play has been produced with one, three and nine actors. "The characters of *Huda*, *Layal* and *The American* represent the core of the play's dialogue," said Ms. Raffo. They represent the past, present and future of Iraq. "Having three actors anchor each of these roles and portray the remaining voices is a very exciting treatment of the text," she added.

According to Director **Janet Hayatshahi**, "The power of three women on stage provides tremendous opportunity visually, vocally, and physically to bring Heather's potent script to life. I am thrilled to work with these talented actors."

Tickets for *9 Parts of Desire* are now available at www.moolelo.net or by calling 619-342-7395.

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About Mo'olelo:

Mo'olelo means *story* in Hawaiian. Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company is a socially-conscious theater organization dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego's cultural environment by telling powerful stories that are as diverse as the islands of Hawaii, by paying Equity wages to local actors and developing environmentally-friendly theatre practices. A recipient of the Patti, San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, McDonald Playwriting and the Anti-Discrimination Awards, its mission is to create new works based on research within various communities, produce lesser-known works by master and contemporary playwrights, and educate youth. To learn more, visit www.moolelo.net or call 619-342-7395.



Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company
***9 Parts of Desire* - Fact Sheet**

What: Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire*

When: October 8 – November 1, 2009
Press Opening Saturday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m.
October 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 at 7:30 p.m.
October 11, 18, 25, November 1 at 2:00 p.m.
High School Matinees October 14, 21, 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Mo'olelo at The 10th Avenue Theatre
930 10th Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101
On the west side of 10th Avenue, between Broadway and E Street

Who: **Produced by Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company**
Director: Janet Hayatshahi Playwright: Heather Raffo
Stage Manager: Annette Ye* Scenic Design: David F. Weiner
Lighting Design: Jason Bieber Costume Design: Charlotte Devaux
Sound Design: Paul Peterson Dialect Coach: Jan Gist
Dramaturg: Shelley Orr Consultant: Ghada Osman

Cast:
Lisel Gorell-Getz
Frances Anita Rivera
Dré Slaman

** Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.*

Background: Written by **Heather Raffo**, an alumna of the University of San Diego (USD)/The Old Globe M.F.A. program, *9 Parts of Desire* explores the extraordinary and ordinary lives of a whole cross-section of contemporary Iraqi women living in Iraq, London, and New York. The play is a journey through the lives of these nine women as they deal with the world around them. Through their voices, we hear multiple perspectives on the sometimes conflicting aspects of what it means to be a woman in the age-old war zone that is Iraq. Surprising and captivating, the play received the 2005 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Special Commendation and a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show.

Tickets: Preview Performances October 8 & 9, \$15 - \$18
Opening Night October 10, \$30 - \$35
Regular Performances October 11 – November 1, \$22 - \$27
Special discounts for groups of 10 or more Call for details

Box Office: 619-342-7395 and www.moolelo.net