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The Balzer Theater at Herren's
84 Luckie Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Brownie Points

Written by Janece Shaffer

February 3 — 28, 2010

Directed by Jasmine Guy

at The Balzer Theater at Herren's

"*Brownie Points* began with the question, 'what is more powerful: the shared experience of motherhood or the divisiveness of race?'"

—Janece Shaffer

Is there an answer to this question? Should there be? "I certainly didn't have answers and frankly even asking the questions scared me", says Atlanta playwright Janece Shaffer (2009 winner of the Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award for *Managing Maxine*) of her new world premiere play. After cultivating her ideas in various theater workshops throughout the nation, Shaffer concluded that **"talking about race when it is framed in the reality of a first-grade girls overnight trip seems to make everyone comfortable enough to stay with the discussion that they might otherwise shy away from."**

This new work masterfully mirrors modern families and society through the multi-cultural mayhem of a girls' club camp-out in the North Georgia mountains. Five mothers—each coming from different backgrounds and social circles—take a good look at each other and themselves when they join their daughters in the great outdoors. Shaffer uses the power of Mother Nature to expose their vulnerabilities of motherhood and womanhood, asking: "...do we judge someone based on their best moment or their worst?"

Jasmine Guy (*A Different World, For Colored Girls...*) directs this dramatic and poignant work infused with moments of comedy and confession. Of Jasmine, Shaffer says, "She is committed to the process, to finding truth, to challenging our notions and taking chances. I am thrilled to be on this journey together." For audiences 12 years and older, *Brownie Points* is the play to share a laugh, a tear, and a story.



Janece Shaffer's most recent credits include: "Managing Maxine" (a commission premiered at the Alliance Theatre in 2008; Asolo Repertory Theatre. April 2010; winner of the 2009 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award and the 2009 Gene Gabriel Moore Award for Playwriting) and "Bluish" (commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival; premiered at the Alliance Theatre in March 2006; Arizona Jewish Theatre Company 2007; New Jewish Theatre 2008; Theatron Toronto Jewish Theater, April 2010.) In 2006, Shaffer was selected to participate in a writer's retreat sponsored by New Rivers Dramatist and was a member of the Alliance Theatre's inaugural 2007-2008 Atlanta Writer's Lab. Shaffer dedicates the world premiere of *Brownie Points* to her fabulous family -- Emma, Billy, Bill, Freida & Max.

Community Engagement:

Janece Shaffer and Theatrical Outfit are committed to using theater as a means to spark conversation about community issues. With *Brownie Points*, we are encouraging these opportunities through **Talk Back mediums, discussion forums, and art.** To achieve these ideas and activities, Theatrical Outfit is receiving the support of many dedicated Atlanta women who form the **Brownie Points Host Committee.** Together, our theater and these women are facilitating, moderating, and encouraging the discussion of race and motherhood and giving a space for people to share their unique experiences.

Performances & Tickets:

Evening Performances:

Wednesdays - Saturdays @ 7:30pm.

Matinee Performances:

Sundays and Saturday 2/13, 2/27 @ 2:30pm.

Group Performances:

Seniors Matinee, 2/17 @ 2:30pm, \$15.

Tickets:

Regular price, \$35. Group discounts and \$15 student tickets available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.theatricaloutfit.org or by calling the Box Office at 678-528-1500. Box Office hours: Tues. - Fri., 12 - 6pm and prior to performances.