



Deborah Henson-Conant



True Story Theatre

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Run Through Oct. 3, 2006**

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Inviting Invention Performance Exploration Series Week Three: "True Story Meets Pure Invention"

WHO: Performer/Composer Deborah Henson-Conant
Special Guest "True Story Theatre" Improv Troupe
Moderator Jonathan Wyner (series producer)

WHAT: Inviting Invention – A Performance Exploration Series at the Regent Theatre
Six Collaborative Explorations crossing Styles, Genres and Disciplines
Week Three: "True Story Meets Pure Invention"

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2006 – 7:30 PM

WHERE: Regent Theatre - 7 Medford St - Arlington Center

PRICE: \$16 Adults/ \$12 Students / Kids 8-12 \$8 - check www.HipHarp.com for discounts

TIX: www.RegentTheatre.com / 781-646-4849 / Box Office - 7 Medford St - Arlington

WHAT IS THE "INVITING INVENTION" SERIES? It's a six-week series of performance explorations with performer/composer Deborah Henson-Conant and special guests from the fields of music, theater, dance, philosophy, writing, literature, sports, medicine, journalism ... and everything else! The show combines performance, interview, and collaboration between host Deborah Henson-Conant and guests. Through the creative exploration of diverse minds, the audience is invited into the worlds of individual creativity and chemistry of creative collaboration. Example: How is being a nuclear physicist *like* being a musician, and *how can the two possibly create something together* — right now — in front of an audience?

THIS WEEK'S GUEST: True Story Theatre performs a very personal style of theatre created from true stories told to them by audience members. The results are sometimes funny, sometimes dramatic, and always insightful.

HOST: Deborah Henson-Conant is known for her renegade performances that mix theatre, music and humor, and for revolutionizing the elite concert harp into an electric strap-on 31-string hybrid she plays in genres from blues to flamenco.

FOR MORE INFO about the series or DHC: www.HipHarp.com or www.InventionAndAlchemy.com

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Why is this Series being Developed?

The "Inviting Invention" Exploration Series is an opportunity to allow Henson-Conant and other creative minds a chance to invent something new and imperfect in front of a live audience, yet within the safety net of exploration.

During a massive 2-year artistic project, developing and producing broadcast-quality DVD of new orchestral music ("Invention & Alchemy" DVD), producer Jonathan Wyner and performer/composer Deborah Henson-Conant became fascinated with the interplay between individual creativity ("Invention") and its transformation through collaborative performance ("Alchemy").

They decided to continue exploring the concept and discovered that diverse influences created unexpected – and rich -- artistic results, that a conversation with a physicist or an ecologist might be as ripe for onstage performance as performing with another musician. "I began to wonder," said Henson-Conant, "why musicians only invite other *musicians* as 'opening acts' or special guests. Why not collaborate on stage with diverse inventors – creating collaborations that put both our work into broader context?"

Thus Henson-Conant and Wyner developed the "Inviting Invention" Series – inviting guests from diverse backgrounds to collaborate on stage with Henson-Conant in what they call "performance explorations."

"This initial 6-week series is an experiment," says producer Jonathan Wyner. "Our long-term interest is to develop an ongoing series, connect with a video production company, film and edit the shows for podcast, then use them as a pilot for a broadcast series. At this point everything is open from the show's format to the series' name. This initial series is a chance for people to be a part of experimentation at its inception."

Each show is in 3 segments, with a brief intermission. First, Henson-Conant and her guest briefly present their individual work. Secondly they "engage the observer" -- describing what they observed of each other's work and create a proposition for a collaborative experiment. Finally, they perform a spontaneous collaboration based on the proposition they created. If time permits, audience is invited for a Q & A.

Deborah Henson-Conant – Brief Bio

Composer, performer, singer/songwriter, author, comedian, renegade harpist – mix those together and you just begin to describe Deborah Henson-Conant. From the Edinburgh Fringe to Boston's Symphony Hall, she presents shows that mix theatre, humor and music. She's toured as a soloist with the Boston Pops, opened for Ray Charles at Tanglewood, premiered her compositions with symphonies throughout the US, lectured at the Paris Conservatory, received grants from the NEA and "Meet the Composer". She's been featured on NBC, CBS, and CNN, and PBS. Her recently released DVD, "Invention & Alchemy," features her one-woman show with 80-piece orchestra. (www.HipHarp.com)

Jonathan Wyner, Producer/Moderator – Brief Bio

Producer, mastering engineer, performer and coach, Wyner has mastered more than 4000 CD's during the last 21 years spanning every musical genre from Opera to HipHop. His credits range from the extremely well known (James Taylor, David Bowie, Aerosmith, Kiri Te Kanawa), to the more idiosyncratic and independent artists/labels. He produced of Henson-Conant's recent "Invention & Alchemy" DVD. (www.M-Works.com)

See Page 3 for Guest Bio • Upcoming Guests at HipHarp.com Tour Schedule

More info: www.HipHarp.com or email info@HipHarp.com / phone 781-483-3556

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"Inviting Invention" - Guest Bio **True Story Theatre**

A nonprofit ensemble based in the Boston area, the "True Story" troupe uses improvisational theater for community development and social healing.

True Story Theatre joins "Inviting Invention" host Deborah Henson-Conant for the third show in a series of weekly Performance Explorations:

Tue. Oct. 3rd at 7:30 pm
The Regent Theatre

For ticket & other info, see pg. 1

True Story theater is one of several dozen "Playback Theatre" Troupes in the US. Each Playback Troupe has their own style and their own name, but all follow basic principles developed 30 years ago by the founders of "Playback Theatre" in New Paltz New York. These principles come out of drama therapy, but are used by "Playback" companies not only to heal individuals but to strengthen and create dialog in communities.

The Boston Area's "True Story Theatre" was founded by Christopher Ellinger in 1991, and grew out of his frustration with standard meeting styles. He discovered that the drama and insight of "Playback Theater" could often provide more engaging and productive ways to encourage group conversation. He called his troupe "True Story Theater" to highlight the troupe's belief that each person has special stories to tell and his conviction that our true stories are as compelling and often more meaningful than anything a storyteller is likely to make up.

Members of "True Story" have varied backgrounds, from professional artists to drama therapist, corporate coaches, drama teachers, yoga teachers, university professors and professional musicians. They're each drawn to the "Playback" style of theatre in part because of the creative collaboration and in part because it allows them to serve the diverse communities in which they present their events.

"True Story" performs and offers training locally and nationally. They have worked with teen leaders, ex-prisoners, hospices, churches, federal employees, businesses, philanthropists as well as engaging in performance events with the general public.

For upcoming special guests to "Inviting Invention" visit the Tour Schedule at HipHarp.com
For more info visit www.HipHarp.com or contact: info@HipHarp.com / 781-483-3556

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