

Crowded Fire Theater

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**CROWDED FIRE THEATER'S 2014 SEASON - THREE BOLD PREMIERES BY
AMELIA ROPER, ADITI BRENNAN KAPIL AND CHRISTOPHER CHEN
AT THICK HOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO**

**SHE RODE HORSES LIKE THE STOCK EXCHANGE by Amelia Roper
March 20-April 12 (Press Opening March 24)**

**BRAHMAN/I: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show by Aditi Brennan Kapil
June 5-28 (Press Opening June 9)**

**THE LATE WEDDING by Christopher Chen
Sept 18-October 11 (Press Opening Sept 22)**

**Thick House
1695 18th St, San Francisco**

Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) announces three bold new plays in their 2014 Season by playwrights Amelia Roper, Aditi Brennan Kapil and Christopher Chen. "Our 2014 season brings a beautiful, sophisticated and at times humorous look at the intricacies around love and loss..." states CFT Artistic Director Marissa Wolf, "Each play views the world through a lens of intimate relationships. Filled with fresh humor and searing longing, the 2014 line up offers three distinct, startling new plays."

CFT's 2014 season begins with the World Premiere of Amelia Roper's *She Rode Horses Like the Stock Exchange*, (March 20 - April 12-opens March 24) an absurdly funny and terrifying ride through downsized, foreclosed America. The Australian playwright, Amelia Roper, is a bright new voice in the American theater, currently writing for Yale Rep and for the 2014 Humana Festival. This Premiere marks the first production of Roper's to appear in the Bay Area. **In June, the season features Aditi Brennan Kapil with her West Coast Premiere of *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show* (June 5-28-opens June 9)** that hilariously takes on history, mythology, and high school through the lens of an intersex boy/girl tethered by neither gender nor culture, wildly curious and inventive in his/her examination of both. **The season concludes with the nationally recognized Christopher Chen**, known for his use of structure and metatheatricity (*The Hundred Flowers Project*), he returns with a new CFT commissioned World Premiere, ***The Late Wedding*** (Sep. 18-October 11-opens Sept 22). Inspired by the writings of Italian fabulist novelist Italo Calvino, Chen and his unreliable narrators take us on a luminous journey of the soul.

The 2014 season follows a very successful 2013 season in CFT's new home the Thick House, which included music and art related to the season's productions. Nashville singer/songwriter Sarah Lou Richards performed a concert which included a song commissioned for *The Taming* and *The New Yorker* cartoonist Tom Toro presented a CFT sponsored exhibit at the Potrero Hill *Farley's Gallery* of The New Yorker cartoonist Tom Toro

in conjunction with a display of his work in the Thick House lobby.

World premiere programming in Crowded Fire's 2014 Season is funded by generous support from the San Francisco Foundation (The Matchbox), and the San Francisco Arts Commission (The Matchbox). Crowded Fire gratefully acknowledges general operations funding from Grants for the Arts/SF Hotel Tax Fund and The Kenneth Rainin Foundation

The Matchbox: Commissioning and Developing New Plays

Matchbox Readings: December 1, 2, 8, 9

The Matchbox: Commissioning and Developing New Plays grew out of CFT's need to bolster playwrights' revision processes in order to strengthen the scripts before rehearsals for the professional productions began. *The Matchbox* programming includes three different initiatives, including Commissions, in-house Workshops, and slots in the annual *Matchbox Readings Series* -- public staged readings of plays in development. Recent Crowded Fire Commissions through the Matchbox and first seen in the *Matchbox Readings Series* include *The Hundred Flowers Project* by Christopher Chen and *The Taming* by Lauren Gunderson. The 2014 *Matchbox Reading Series* will take on four surprising new plays, including a co-commission by Geetha Reddy with Playwrights Foundation.

THE PLAYS:

Crowded Fire champions playwrights whose work offers a vital contribution to the American theater landscape. Committed to diversifying the canon of contemporary plays, CFT welcomes Amelia Roper and Aditi Brennan Kapil to San Francisco for premieres of their first fully staged Bay Area productions.

Amelia Roper offers a wry, sharp approach to the global financial meltdown In ***She Rode Horses Like the Stock Exchange***. She examines our complicity in the economic structures in which we are embedded, and how easily our creature comforts can be wrested away from us. In counterpoint to traditional theater, **Aditi Brennan Kapil's *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show*** offers an incredible night of stand-up comedy that keeps you laughing and gasping, as she explores questions around sexuality and gender in utterly surprising ways, exploring gender-fluidity through a South Asian lens.

CFT has had a long and fruitful relationship with the award winning Bay Area playwright **Christopher Chen**. In 2011 CFT co-commissioned and produced Chen's wildly successful *The Hundred Flowers Project* with the Playwrights Foundation. He is the current recipient of the 2013 Paula Vogel Playwriting Award and is playwright in residence at The Vineyard Theatre. In this new CFT commissioned World Premiere ***The Late Wedding***, Chen takes us to a world of nuanced relationships that spiral out from the everyday inner workings of spouses to the very outermost depths of our solar system.

THE PLAYWRITERS:

Amelia Roper (SHE RODE HORSES LIKE THE STOCK EXCHANGE) Amelia Roper is currently writing for Yale Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville's REMIX 38 for the 2014 Humana Festival, Berkeley Rep's FOOD PROJECT and SOHO Rep's Writer/ Director Lab in NYC . Her plays have been produced in Australia by the Melbourne Arts Centre, St Martins Youth Arts Centre and FortyFortyHome. Roper's work has been developed by the Melbourne Theatre Company, the Old Vic in London, Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, American Theater Company in Chicago, NNPN at the Kennedy Center and the Moscow Playwright and Director Center in Russia. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, a MacDowell Fellow and a recent graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

Aditi Brennan Kapi (BRAHMAN/I: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show) Aditi Brennan Kapi is a writer, actress, and director, of Bulgarian and Indian descent. She was raised in Sweden, and resides in Minneapolis, MN. She performs extensively around the country, and her writing has been produced nationally to critical acclaim. Aditi is currently working on commissions with Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, and South Coast Repertory Theatre. Her play "Love Person" received the 2009 Stavis Playwriting Award, and her play, *Agnes Under the Big Top, a tall tale*, was selected as a Distinguished New Play Development project by

the NEA as administered by Arena Stage. Her most recent work is the Displaced Hindu Gods Trilogy, consisting of the plays *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show*, *The Chronicles of Kalki*, and *Shiv*. She is the Mellon Playwright-in-Residence at Mixed Blood Theatre, an artistic associate at Park Square Theatre, and a Core Writer at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.

Christopher Chen (THE LATE WEDDING) Christopher Chen's full-length plays have been produced and developed across the U.S. and abroad. He is the current recipient of the 2013 Paula Vogel Playwriting Award and is playwright in residence at The Vineyard Theatre. His play "*The Hundred Flowers Project*," co-produced by Crowded Fire and Playwrights Foundation in 2012, won the Glickman Award, the Rella Lossy Playwriting Award, and was nominated for the Steinberg Award and shortlisted for the James Tait Black Award. Other honors include 2nd Place in the Belarus Free Theater International Playwriting Competition (for his play "*Into The Numbers*"), a Ford Foundation Emerging Writer of Color Grant, and finalist status for the Jerome Fellowship. A San Francisco native, Chris is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and holds an M.F.A. in Playwriting from S.F. State.

For Calendar Editors

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CROWDED FIRE THEATER COMPANY 2014 SEASON

WHAT: CROWDED FIRE THEATER COMPANY 2014 SEASON March 20- October 11 2014

SHE RODE HORSES LIKE THE STOCK EXCHANGE

by Amelia Roper

World Premiere

March 20 - April 12 (opens March 24)

director: Matthew Graham Smith

BRAHMAN/I: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show

by Aditi Brennan Kapil

West Coast Premiere

June 5-28 (opens June 9)

THE LATE WEDDING

by Christopher Chen

World Premiere

Sep. 18-October 11 (opens Sept 22)

director: Marissa Wolf

WHERE:

Thick House, 1695 18th St, San Francisco.

(between Carolina St. & Arkansas St. in Potrero Hill)

PERFORMANCES:

Wed-Saturdays 8 PM

With Special Opening Night Performances on Mondays, 8PM

Tickets: Prices range from \$10-\$35 progressively during the course of the run.

We offer Pay-What-You-Can Preview performances and student/senior/group rates.

Tickets: Visit www.crowdedfire.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Box Office by phone 415) 746-9238

www.crowdedfire.org or (415) 655-3866

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