



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Queer Soup Theater Presents "My Yolanda Love"

Boston (June 28) - On July 6, the Boston Playwrights' Theatre will transform into a surreal and electrifying atmosphere of kidnappings, spells and a self-destructive love affair.

"My Yolanda Love" is Jess Martin's most recent full length play and winner of the 2005 Artist Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Produced by Queer Soup, "My Yolanda Love" will take the audience on an emotional journey through a young woman's struggle to represent her mother's polarizing lifestyle, while risking everything for a love affair she is destined to have...or is she?

"There's a cowgirl presence in this play that rebels against the expectations that these four women abide by. It's this trespassing which bends comedy to its own end while going into the very real depth of someone trying to recover from a broken heart," said playwright Jess Martin.

Set in a pink motel room off Route 66, "My Yolanda Love" explores the struggles of a former beauty queen and aspiring poet, Mitsy. Far from her Texas home, Mitsy finds herself in a downward spiral of passion and scheming as she and her childhood friends confront her professor and lover in this bizarre pink comedy.

Jess Martin has a Masters in Playwriting from Boston University where she studied with Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, and an undergraduate degree in Creative Writing from the University of Houston where she studied playwriting with Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Edward Albee. Her previous productions include "Lipstick Cigarette," "Girl Crazy," "Thursday Night Theory," and "Tomboy" (which was featured in the 2000 New York International Fringe Festival) as well as collaborative productions with Queer Soup including this past January's Boston Center for the Arts production of "Home", the 2004 summer's hit "Invasion of Pleasure Valley" and the sold-out "Buffy the Vampire Slayer's High School Reunion."

Queer Soup will present a **Benefit Performance** on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> for Pathways to Wellness. Celebrating 17 years, Pathways to Wellness is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing equal access to high quality holistic therapies including acupuncture, shiatsu massage, Chinese herbal medicine, and yoga. Open to all people needing care, Pathways to Wellness is one of the country's largest providers of free and low-cost holistic medicine. Pathways practitioners specialize in chronic and life threatening illness, and work collaboratively in a team environment and in conjunction with Western medical professionals to offer an integrated approach to care. Facing cuts in both federal and local aid, Pathways to Wellness responded by developing its unique Share the Care program. Through this program, those who pay full-price for treatments enable someone less fortunate to receive low-cost or free care thus allowing Pathways to continue to offer services to all those in need. Additional information on Pathways to Wellness' services can be found on its web site at [www.pathwaysboston.org](http://www.pathwaysboston.org)

Queer Soup will also be presenting two original works in progress as free readings during the run of "My Yolanda Love." "PeaceWomen B4 Me" by Susan Corso and starring Sheriden Thomas

on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, and “Still Married” by and starring Karen ‘Mal’ Malme will take place on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Queer Soup is a collaboration of Queer Artists who cultivate new works that introduce, unite, and incite audiences by using laughter to smuggle ideas across society’s borders. Queer Soup formed in 2002 as a collaboration between the Brian & Mal Show and J. Rene Productions. In addition to creating and production original works, Queer Soup travels to area colleges presenting an evening of sketch comedy, produces workshops for the community, and has a commitment to donate part of its ticket sales to area service non-profits.

### **About MCC Artist's Grant Program**

The MCC Artist’s Grant Program provides direct assistance to Massachusetts artists, to recognize exceptional work and to support the further development of their talents. Artist Grants give individuals the financial ability to hone and deepen their craft. They also provide artists with recognition and affirmation from their peers and the public. Fellowship grants of \$5,000 are offered in discipline categories which rotate according to the fiscal year.

\*\*\*\*

### **At a Glance**

- What:** **MY YOLANDA LOVE**  
Produced by Queer Soup  
Written by Jess Martin  
Directed by Sheriden Thomas and Susan Corso  
Starring: Susan Corso, Sara Jones, Kim Hoff, Karen ‘Mal’ Malme
- When:** July 6<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006  
Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8pm
- Where:** Boston Playwrights’ Theatre  
949 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115
- Cost/Tix:** \$20, \$15 Students and Seniors  
Pay-What-You-Can – Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>  
Benefit Performance – Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>  
To reserve tickets, please call 1-866-811-4111  
Visit <http://www.queersoup.net/>
- Readings:** Free Readings of works in progress  
“PeaceWomen B4 Me” – written by Susan Corso, performed by Sheriden Thomas  
Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm  
“Still Married” – written by and performed by Karen ‘Mal’ Malme  
Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm
- PRESS -** To find out more, schedule an interview or reserve seats for opening night, please be in touch with:  
  
Renee C. Farster  
617-759-4629  
[renee@queersoup.net](mailto:renee@queersoup.net)

**PRESS NIGHT – Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM**  
JPEGs/Photos and images are available upon request and at  
[http://www.queersoup.net/images/Yolanda\\_index.html](http://www.queersoup.net/images/Yolanda_index.html)