

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2005

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**Queer Soup Playwright Jess Martin is awarded
2005 Artist Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council**

BOSTON, MA: Queer Soup Playwright and Producer, **Jess Martin**, has been selected as one of the seven playwrights chosen to receive the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) Artist Grant. Her full length play **“My Yolanda Love”** which delves a little into magic, a lot into the landscape of New Mexico along with a touch of identity theft is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant to fund its development to the stage.

“This play explores passion in women, from an affair with a college professor to the dangerous desire of those women who like to drive too fast, and then how being passionate about someone or something isn’t always the best thing, especially as it spins out of control in a pink motel room off of Route 66,” said Jess.

Jess Martin’s 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 of last summer’s hit “Invasion of Pleasure Valley” and the sold-out “Buffy the Vampire Slayer’s High School Reunion.” Her productions have been staged in Boston, New York and Houston, Texas. She has a Masters in Playwriting from Boston University where she studied with Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, and she has an undergraduate degree in Creative Writing from the University of Houston where she studied playwriting with Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Edward Albee.

“My Yolanda Love” will have a staged reading this summer as a part of **Queer Soup’s Summer Simmer**. This summer at the Boston Playwrights’ Theater, the Queer Soup creative team led by Jess will be presenting a staged reading of their latest work-in-progress, a full-length play that takes on religion, transgenderism and drag kings. Following this, on the weekend of July 29th, audiences will be able to tune in to a **Summer Creature Double Feature** of her plays "Interview with a Fifty-Foot Woman" and "Revenge of the Fifty-Foot Woman: Journey to the Center of Canada!" Where fifty-foot femmes, martian invaders, mad scientists, and coffee just don't mix. **“My Yolanda Love”** will be presented as a staged reading in August along with an update at that time on when and where the full production will be held.

“It’s tremendous to think that this play that has been haunting me for the past year is going to get the theatrical justice it demands. As a queer artist, I am looking forward to the opportunity to produce this work which to me represents my growth as a writer and also brings to the stage a new voice that both straight and queer audiences in Boston will respond to,” said Jess.

The **MCC Artist’s Grant Program** has been created in order to meet the needs of many working artists whose time is one of the most precious things money can buy. The development of any artistic discipline takes years of dedication, determination and a lot of positive reinforcement. The Artist Grants 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.

In June, Jess will be featured on the MCC website along with the other awardees.

<http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/>

<http://www.queersoup.net/>

At a Glance

What: **My Yolanda Love, Jess Martin,
Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Grant recipient**

When: August 2005

Where: Boston Playwrights' Theatre
949 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA

PRESS - To find out more, schedule an interview, please be in touch with:

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JPEGS/Photos and images are available upon request and at

<http://www.queersoup.net/pressreleases/index.html>