

# KENNEDY THEATRE

## Media Release • 2014-2015 Season

Department of Theatre and Dance  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AUGUST 21, 2014**

### **The Human Spirit Defies the Cruel Reality of War at Kennedy Theatre**

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance is proud to present Lynn Nottage's play "Ruined" in the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre. Performances will take place Sept. 17, 18, 19, and 20 at 8 p.m., and Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.; a free post-show chat will be held with the cast and director on Fri., Sept. 19. The production marks the show's Hawaiian premiere and will serve as director Troy M. Apostol's MFA thesis presentation.

Apostol's contribution to the Hawaii theatre scene extends far beyond Kennedy Theatre. In addition to pursuing his MFA at the Department of Theatre and Dance, he has performed with Manoa Valley Theatre and Honolulu Theatre for Youth, written for Kumu Kahua Theatre, and directed for Hawai'i Shakespeare Festival. Apostol has received the Lisa Toishigawa Inouye Award for Excellence in Playwriting from UHM. He is currently an advisory board member at Playbuilders and the Director of *Hitting the Stage*, Hawai'i's first dedicated theatre news and reviews website.

Although no stranger to Nottage's work, Apostol has had a difficult time getting it produced until now. When asked why he chose this play at this time, he said that he was "...blown away by its rawness and power... The backdrop of the play, the evils that men inflict upon women, is all around us in today's culture." Certainly the piece is full of rawness and

power that Apostol hopes will spur discussion about men/women relationships in regards to sexual violence. He also emphasizes that the play is meant for a more mature audience, capable of taking part in this dialogue.

The story of “Ruined” takes place in the present day Democratic Republic of Congo, around the brothel and bar of Mama Nadi (played by Lillian Jones), in a small mining town. Here government soldiers and guerrilla rebels alike rest between attacks and operations, though never at the same time, soothed by cold beers and warm women. The tenuous balance is disrupted by the addition of two working girls brought by Christian (played by Quantae Love), a travelling salesman, Sophie (played by Denali Lukacinsky), a young woman who has been physically “ruined” by a horrific sexual assault and Salima (played by Alexis Harvey), who has been banished from her village due to her being “unclean.” This additional burden is compounded by the fact that a large deposit of Coltan, a necessary material to digital devices such as cell phones, has been found nearby, causing a flood of civilians and militia hoping to strike it rich. How will Mama Nadi keep the peace and protect her new wards, when men are willing to kill for a fistful of dirt?

Tickets for “Ruined” are available online at [etickethawaii.com](http://etickethawaii.com) starting September 15, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at participating outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre box office; the box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours on performance dates. Prices are \$18 for general admission; \$16 for seniors / military / UH faculty and staff; \$13 for students; and \$8 for UHM students with a validated Fall 2014 UHM photo ID. Ticket prices include all service fees. For further information, please visit [hawaii.edu/kennedy](http://hawaii.edu/kennedy), or call the theatre at (808) 956-7655. For disability access, please call the theatre.

**EVENT:** “*Ruined*” by Lynn Nottage

**PRESENTED BY:** UHM Department of Theatre and Dance

**WHEN:** Sept. 17, 18, 19\*, and 20 at 8 p.m.  
Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.  
\* Free post-show chat with the director and cast

**WHERE:** UHM's Earle Ernst Lab Theatre  
1770 East-West Road, Honolulu

**TICKET PRICES:**  
\$18 general admission  
\$16 seniors / military / UH Faculty and staff  
\$13 non- UHM students  
\$8 UHM students with validated Fall 2014 UHM photo ID  
Ticket prices include all service fees.

**PURCHASE INFO:**  
Tickets are available online at [etickethawaii.com](http://etickethawaii.com) starting September 15th, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at participating outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre box office; the box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours on performance dates.

**NOTE:** Due to some sexual and violent themes, as well as strong language, the play is recommended for mature audiences over the age of 16.



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