

For Immediate Release



Centaur Theatre's Wildside Festival

presents

The Montreal Premiere of the International Hit

FILLER UP!

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY

DEB FILLER

CO-WRITTEN BY
LOWRY MARSHALL

MONTREAL PDN. DIRECTED BY
SHARI HOLLETT

Direct from a sell-out season at Metrostage in Washington which garnered her a Helen Hayes nomination for outstanding actress, Deb Filler appears in *Filler Up!* a piping-hot, bread-breaking, life-affirming story of cinnamon buns, challah and family, *Filler Up!* opens as part of Centaur Theatre's 8th Annual WILDSIDE Festival.

Moving and warmly funny, *Filler Up!* is the story of one woman and countless loaves of bread. The play addresses the question, how do we take the recipe we are given by our families and make it our own? As Deb Filler bakes a divine Challah loaf on stage each night, she attempts to unfold the tangled strands of her stage family and our own universal family.

Deb was actually born in a bakery. *Filler Up!* relates the semi-fictionalized story of 'Deb', daughter of Jewish baker, Max, a survivor of the Holocaust. For Max, food cannot be wasted. Every night he brings home bakers' boxes of cakes and

bread. The result is a household full of ample thighs as well as ample anxieties.

After her father's passing, Deb gets a phone-call - her mother is coming to live with her. On the eve of the arrival of her past, Deb reviews her life and we are treated to a series of remarkable remembrances, both bittersweet and hilarious. From being sent unknowingly to a fat farm, to falling in love with a Lesbian Avenger who demonstrates outside a spa near L.A., "*Spa La La*", *Filler Up!* is an intimate comic gem.

HHHHH London Time Out, Critic's Pick

'The humour is sharp...superb...likely to connect with anyone who's ever looked in the mirror...*Filler Up!* goes down a treat.'

HHHHH Times Literary Supplement

"Deb Filler is a hilariously funny woman, part Ruby Wax mixed with Tracy Ullman and a sprinkling of Nigella Lawson...Deb Filler's warm personality shines through and it was a pleasure to be in her company for one and a half hours".

Introducing Deb Filler. Filler first appeared off Broadway in the acclaimed ***PUNCH ME IN THE STOMACH***, produced by New York Theatre Workshop (*RENT*) a poignant recollection of her visit decades later with her father to the concentration camp in Poland he survived. Deb played 36 characters in both the play then the film and received unanimous praise for her writing and performing. She studied with Stella Adler and Uta Hagen in New York and made her off-Broadway debut in the musical comedy *Sophie*, based on the life of singer Sophie Tucker. In 1995 ***PUNCH ME IN THE STOMACH***, was made into a film by Montreal filmmaker Francine Zuckerman which later aired on PBS and the CBC amongst others.

FILLER UP! is her most recent show, performed in Australia, New Zealand (from where she hails), London, Edinburgh where it played the Assembly Rooms, Berlin, Baltimore, Toronto and Montreal etc. to critical acclaim.

The show has immense audience appeal since it humorously deals with the main character's love-hate relationship with food and in turn most women's experience is reflected in this. But this is only the jumping off point of the many topics the show deals with, including family dynamics, rising up and finding your way in the world.

If that weren't enough, Deb who performs twenty-seven characters has cleverly found what appears to be a gimmick to bind all these topics together -- she bakes challah on stage which she shares with the audience at the end of the show. This is a powerful metaphor of the show's themes of acceptance, tolerance, understanding and community.

An invited member of the Ante Chamber series for playwrights at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toronto. Deb is also a lifetime member of the Usual Suspects Playwrights Lab at New York Theatre Workshop, She has been Playwright-In-Residence at the Adirondack Theatre Festival and an invited team member for a new American musical at Chicago's Looking Glass Theatre.

FILLER UP!

Recently performed to a sold out season and five star reviews off West End in London, Berlin, rave reviews at the Edinburgh Festival, a sell-out extended season in Auckland, Melbourne, Washington DC and Baltimore...standing ovations in Toronto and Winnipeg...

Village Voice

"Extraordinary work, an extraordinary story-teller..."

HHHHH New Zealand Herald Review

"Knockout humour and wistful observation."

HHHHH London Jewish Chronicle

"Every comedy actor knows the importance of timing. But Deb Filler takes the discipline to new heights...funny...poignant...at the end like all well-seasoned performers, the finished challah makes its final appearance with impeccable timing."

HHHHH The Independent (London)

"Filler is a complete chameleon, transforming herself instantly into dozens of relatives and accents ... exhilarating and liberating."

HHHH The Baltimore Sun

"Filler brings so much humor and understanding to the subject...it's a life-affirming philosophy that warms the heart as much as the stomach."

HHHHH Philadelphia Inquirer

"Consistently clever ... Extraordinary ... Tour de force"

The Toronto Star

"Filler's overriding warmth, relaxed delivery and level of comfort with the material are so engaging."

FILLER UP!

Will be performed for five shows only at
CENTAUR THEATRE, WILDSIDE FESTIVAL
453, St - Francois Xavier

Jan 11th 7:00pm show
Jan 13th 9:00pm show
Jan 15th 3:00pm show
Jan 19th 7:00pm show
Jan 22nd 9:00pm show

BOX OFFICE 514 288-3161

ticket info

\$15 adults /adultes

\$10 students, seniors & Centaur subscribers / étudiants, âge d 'or et abonnés
\$5 additional show, same night / Une 2è pièce le même soir !