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**“PARTY OF ONE”**

**Noel Williams presents  
her fringe festival favorite at the  
Chicago Cultural Center Studio Theater  
November 7-24, 2008**

Noel Williams, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, performs her award winning Pochinko clown and Bouffon style in **Party of One**. The production comes to Chicago DCA Theater's Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, at 77 E. Randolph Street, from November 7 - 24, 2008. Members of the press are invited to the performance on Friday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Noel Williams journeys through the psyche of Captain Melisande Blue in a divine ride through Clown and Bouffon performance. Packed and ready to go, Mel and her baggage find themselves at a train station exiled for “loving a little too much.” Her adventure features a feisty turnstile, dinner dates with luggage, and a two and a half foot mini version of “Gone with the Wind.” A Fringe Festival favorite throughout the country, this will be the first time the full show has been seen in Chicago.

Performances of **Party of One** are Friday, Saturday, and Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. Discount rates are available for groups of eight or more. All tickets are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting [www.dcatheater.org](http://www.dcatheater.org), or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.; and one hour prior to each performance.

In conjunction with the production of **Party of One**, Noel Williams is presenting several special events following her shows. On Sunday November 8, Lucia Mauro will moderate a discussion on “Women in Comedy” with panelists Susan Messing, Lilian Frances, Francesca Peppiatt, and Norm Holly. On Sunday, November 15, Keland Scher will host a talkback with Noel Williams on “Working in the Smallest Mask.” Williams will discuss the techniques involved in working with masks, including types of clowning and the various physical styles of Commedia dell'Arte. For both events, ticket holders from the 3 p.m. show get priority seating.

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**Party of One** premiered at the 2007 Winnipeg Fringe Festival and then toured to the 2007 Minnesota Fringe Festival, the 2007 Indianapolis Fringe Festival, and the 2007 San Francisco Fringe Festival. In San Francisco, the show was awarded “Best Clown Show.” Noel Williams recently performed her work at this year’s New York Clown Theatre Festival.

Noel Williams is a graduate of the Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre where she studied clown with Sue Morrison. Together she and Morrison co-directed clown duo Gerkle and Zetta in the Chicago Reader’s Highly Recommended and award winning *Does This Mean Anything to You?*, which was performed at the Around the Coyote Festival, City of Fools Festival, and Orlando Fringe Festival 2001. She has been seen clowning with Wise Woman Fools in the *Velvet Rope Circus*, and in Chicago Reader’s highly recommended *Circus Crashers* at the Actor’s gymnasium. A graduate of the Second City Conservatory, Williams has also studied with master teachers Antonio Fava, Carlo Mazzone-Clementi, Joan Schirle, and Daniel Stein. She acts as the Ensemble Coordinator for TriArts, Inc.’s Commedia dell’Arte Ensemble and has performed with them in *Hfob-n-Ffos*, *Hfob-n-Tempest*, *Hfobble*, and *Hfob-n-Tales*. *Party of One* is Noel William’s first solo show as a performer and producer.

Director Sue Morrison has been teaching, directing, and collaborating on Clown and Bouffon across the globe for more than 20 years. On a ‘quest to work from her heart,’ she met Clown through mask visionary Richard Pochinko, and after working with him for many years, he asked her to be his apprentice. Today, Morrison’s unique and powerful work brings together the diverse elements of Native American and European Clowning, Bouffon, le Jeu, and Improvisation, ultimately creating dynamic performance spectacles. Morrison has been Artistic Director of the Theatre Resource Centre since 1993, and she has taught at the Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre. Morrison’s students are currently featured in Cirque du Soleil, Slava’s Snow Show, Blue Man Group, Second City, and other international stages.

The Studio Theater and the Storefront Theater, its companion theater located across the street at 66 E. Randolph Street, comprise Chicago DCA Theater, an anchor of the downtown theater district. Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging and developing theater companies that call Chicago home.

Discounted parking is once again available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$14 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

For more information about Noel Williams’ **Party of One** and Chicago DCA Theater, visit call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or visit [www.dcatheater.org](http://www.dcatheater.org). The enhanced website features more information about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a new blog, photo galleries, and visitor information

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Note to Press: Electronic images are available at [www.dcatheater.org/press](http://www.dcatheater.org/press) or by request.