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FILE: Theater

Footloose presents *The Rita Hayworth of this Generation*

Written and performed by Tina D'Elia; directed by Mary Guzmán

Fridays and Saturdays, March 23 through April 7, 2012 at 8 pm;

Shotwell Studios, 3252-A 19th Street, San Francisco, 94110

Tickets general \$15-20; students \$12 at brownpapertickets.com/event/224162 or 800-838-3006

Info/Res: 415-289-2000; ftloose.org

San Francisco, California, January 31, 2012: Footloose presents *The Rita Hayworth of this Generation*, a one-woman play with multiple characters written and performed by Tina D'Elia; directed by Mary Guzmán. This short run is the official premiere with six shows only over three weekends March 23-April 7, 2012, at Shotwell Studios in San Francisco. Interviews can be arranged with Ms. D'Elia and Ms. Guzmán and complimentary tickets are available by contacting producer, Mary Alice Fry.

The Rita Hayworth of this Generation is the story of Carmelita Cristina Rivera, a queer Latina performer whose passion, power and heartache impact her drive to stardom. She gambles on landing a part in a syndicated TV show and winning the love of a Latino transgender. From the Black Jack King to the iconic Rita Hayworth, Tina plays the unconventional characters—real and imagined—that help Carmelita break into show business. Fate deals her access into a parallel dimension where integrity is at stake in this humorous and dramatic one-woman show.

Much as been written on Rita Hayworth, but no one has portrayed the actress known to the world as the “Love Goddess” in such a magical realm as Tina D'Elia in her newest play. Tina's fascination began long before the Latin craze broke out with Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony in the late 1990's. Tina was already doing her Rita style nightclub act with the one glove striptease as part of the queer women of color performance troupe 1994-1995 of *Drag Kings Sluts and Goddess* in her hometown of Boston. Tina researched and portrayed Rita for a live audience in Boston's *The American History*, Television Channel and was hooked as a huge Rita fan.

As a lesbian/queer identified Mexican-Italian Latina Femme, Tina relates to Rita being born from a Spanish father and an Irish mother (maiden name of Hayworth) who maintained her cultural integrity despite being whitewashed by movie industry monsters like Harry Cohn. Tina's writing was inspired by film noir classics like *Gilda* and in 2003, Tina wrote a two-person performance piece with singing and dancing influenced by Rita called *Black Jack King*. It was also published as a short story in the Anthology, *Best Lesbian Erotica Anthology 2004*, which won the prestigious Lambda Award for Best Lesbian Erotica in 2004.

She has been developing the play with writing coach, David Ford, who says “*Tina has that magic talent to have fun and move the audience at the same time. Extraordinary.*” She tried her first draft in front of an audience at Brava's black box theater in June 2011, to a sold out crowd who gave her a standing ovation. Encouraged by the positive audience response, Tina and Footloose Artistic Director, Mary Alice Fry, decided to present a short theatrical run as the next step before Tina takes the show on the road. Fry, of the acclaimed *Women on the Way Festival*, previously produced Tina's hit show *Groucho: a Day in the D'Elia Soup* at Venue 9 in 2001. See below for more biographical information.

BIOGRAPHIES:

Tina D'Elia, Solo Performer, Playwright is a Mexican-Italian actor, playwright, award winning screenwriter, poet, and casting director. She is an expert storyteller and character actress. Tina's short story, *Lucha*, was adapted to a screenplay and won the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival Audience award in 2009 and was nominated for the prestigious Iris Prize in the United Kingdom.

Footloose produced Tina's premiere of her popular one-woman show: *Groucho: a Day in the D'Elia Soup*, directed by Ellen Sebastian Chang. Tina's performance in the *Women on the Way Festival* in 2001 and subsequent successful engagement at Venue 9, led to her being chosen for the *National Queer Arts Festival* in 2002 in San Francisco. She made a film of *Groucho* and finished that process in 2008. Tina started to develop *The Rita Hayworth of this Generation* in an AIRspace residency at The Garage in San Francisco in 2010, and continued working on the show in David Ford's solo performance class at The Marsh. Tina performed a first draft to a full house at Brava's black box theater in June 2011 and is now ready for the premiere run with Footloose presents at Shotwell Studios. She intends to tour the show to festivals as the next step.

Mary Guzmán, Director, has directed for the stage and is an award winning filmmaker. Her theater credits include work for Theatre Rhino, The Playwrights Foundation and The Lark Theater in New York City. Highlights include Enrique Urueta's, *Learn To Be Latina*, at IMPACT Theatre and *Bright Ideas* with Shotgun Players. Ms. Guzmán's films have screened in Spain, France, Australia, Indonesia and the U.S. Three of them are in distribution. Her film, *Do the Math*, is part of the Frameline Voices initiative which helps LGBT films become more accessible to the public. She has completed the screenplay for her mystery, *Lost Dog*, and is creating a women's college basketball TV pilot titled, *Starting Five*. Her newest short film, *The Wait*, was an official selection of the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival in 2011.