

# CHICAGO fringe festival

March 13, 2012

For Immediate Release

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## Chicago Fringe Festival 2012 Lineup Chosen, Design Contest Upcoming

CHICAGO –Question: What do a half-Asian Alabaman, a grandmother of eleven from suburban Chicago and a 16-person French performance troupe have in common with a duo from Yale University that uses guitars to play video games?

Answer: All will perform at the 2012 Chicago Fringe Festival!

At a February 25 event at Simone's restaurant in Pilsen, attendees tried on funny mustaches, competed in a trivia contest, noshed on delectable Simone's empanadas and cheered as the 2012 Chicago Fringe Festival lineup was chosen by lottery.

The 37 chosen shows joined 13 that were already selected via a first-come, first-serve process.

Michelle Glick-Wolter's "Asian Belle" will be among the 25 shows coming to the festival from out of state. Glick-Wolter's show tells the story of growing up half-Asian in Alabama, and for half the performance she assumes the character of her Vietnamese mother, coping after her husband leaves her "for a black woman who has a thing for wigs." Another out-of-state show, "Modal Kombat," was masterminded by two Yale School of Music grads, who say the show "lies at the intersection between music, visual arts, and digital media that results in the defining of a new genre of audio-visual performance: the public guitar-controlled video game battle."

Joining the out of state performers will be four international productions, hailing from South Korea, Serbia, Australia and France. These performances will tackle everything from teenage love to the nature of faith to the never-ending battle of the sexes, utilizing puppetry, slapstick physical comedy, projections and live music.

Many Fringe shows illuminate outsider experiences, but many others find the drama (and comedy) in more commonplace situations. Anyone who has married into a big family will likely

be able to relate to Mary Redmon's performance about becoming a stepmom and then a "granny" to 11 grandkids.

"The Granny Diaries" is one of the 25 Chicago-based shows that will appear in the 2012 festival. Among the other local acts whose number came up at the lottery: Strangeloop Theatre, putting on "Shadows and Lust"; Jeri and Ed, offering "No Stopping, No Warping, No Dying"; and White Elephant, doing "Pink Milk."

A perennial Chicago Fringe favorite for critics and audiences alike, Rebecca Kling saw her number drawn for the third consecutive year. She will perform "You Say Transgender Like It's a Bad Thing." Other returning artists include The Miscreants, whose "The Roast of Santa Claus" was one of the bestselling shows of 2011, and Kate Healy, who in 2011 was hailed by Time Out as a breakout artist for her show "Let Me Count." Her 2012 production is entitled "Lie Light."

With an exciting lineup of shows in place, the Fringe Festival will soon launch its second annual design contest. The winner's design will be the official 2012 Fringe Festival poster design and will appear on a wide range of Fringe materials, including ads, tee-shirts, festival programs, pins, banners and more.

More information about the design contest will be forthcoming. Last year's winning design and runners-up can be viewed at <http://chicagofringe.org/pilsen2011.php#contest>.

A complete list of the 2012 festival lineup can be found on the PDF attached to this release, and at <http://chicagofringe.org/pilsen2012.php>.

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