

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Doorway Arts Ensemble and Arts Alive Theatre present

**TETHER****sex, race, religion, tetherball...twin sisters are coming of age**

**Bethesda, MD** Doorway Arts Ensemble presents *Tether*, a World Premier play by Julie Taiwo Oni, co-produced with Arts Alive Theatre Artistic Director, Perry Schwartz as part of Montgomery College Silver Spring Arts Alive Theatre Series. This production marks the first presentation by a professional theater organization of a script that received development and a stage reading as part of the 2009 Inkwell's Inkubator Festival in Washington, DC.

In *Tether*, Lach and Lam are 15 year old mixed race twins. Lach is white, Lam is black and both are obsessed with tether-ball. In this rhythmic drama, life is a back-and-forth game of rules and regulations, kissing boys, movie-talk and the roots of their religious upbringing. As the sisters come into their maturity and men enter the game, they must learn to tether without their counterpart. When an obstacle swings between them, they must begin to face and embrace the differences between each other in order to be true to themselves

The odds against of a couple having twins of dramatically different color are a million to one, each twin fertilized by different sperm with different genetic input from their parents. The phenomenon is extremely rare...there are only about 5 sets of mixed race twins living in the world today.

**Runs February 18 through March 13, 2011.**

Performances: Thursday-Saturday at 8pm and Sunday Matinee at 2pm

Monday March 7 at 8 PM - Special Performance

**Friday Feb 18** - Press Night - followed by reception (press are welcome to all performances)**Saturday Feb 19** – Q&A follows performance featuring the dramaturg, director, playwright and actors**TICKETS:** \$10 for general admission/\$7 for students and seniors/\$5 for MC Students, Faculty and Staff.Call 240-567-5775 or order online at [www.ticket.com](http://www.ticket.com). All performances opening weekend are Pay What You Can.**LOCATION:** The Studio Theater in the Cultural Art Center at Montgomery College Silver Spring 7995 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910.**DIRECTIONS:** Go to <http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/go/cultural-arts-center-montgomery-college> and click on Map It.

**Doorway Arts Ensemble** Claire Myles, Producing Artistic Director  
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## **TETHER CAST & CREW**

**Jessica Lefkow** [director] Jessica Lefkow is an independent theater director and performer currently living in the Washington DC area. Her extensive work with playwrights nationwide includes directing Theater J's world premiere of the 2009 Helen Hayes Award-winning *Honey Brown Eyes*. She has yearly directed new plays for the Capital Fringe Festival. Her directorial work has also been seen in productions at 1<sup>st</sup> Stage, The Inkwell, Montgomery College and Spooky Action Theater Company. This spring, she will direct an Equity Members Code production of Allyson Currin's new play, *Benched*, with runs in Washington DC and New York. Jessica recently appeared onstage as Yvette/Ensemble in dog&ponydc's *Courage*, and as Cassius in Taffety Punk's Riot Grrrl production of *Julius Caesar*.

**Julie Taiwo Oni** [playwright] is an identical twin - the daughter of a Nigerian father and German-American mother. She holds a BA in Creative Writing from Pepperdine University and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from USC's School of Theatre. Her play *Tether* received development and a reading. She is a member of Company of Angels Playwrights Group in Los Angeles, California and teaches ESL in Pasadena.

**CAST:** **Gwen Grastorf** as Lach and **Jade Wheeler** as Lam

The director and playwright are available for interviews – Please call Emily Morrison to schedule.

**PRODUCTION TEAM:** Claire Myles, Producing Director; Perry T. Schwartz, Co-Producing Director; Jenn Book Haselswerdt, Dramaturg; Emma Jaster, Movement Choreographer; Carmen Gomez, Set Designer and Builder; Sarah Kendrick, Costuming; Liz Replogle, Light Design; Brandon Roe, Sound Design; Toni Goldberg, Production Stage Manager

***Funding in part for Tether has been made possible by the Puffin Foundation.***

**ABOUT DOORWAY ARTS ENSEMBLE** Under the leadership of founding Producing Artistic Director, Claire Myles, Doorway Arts Ensemble (DAE) provides an artistic entrance and platform for exceptional talent. DAE works to develop and support a theater company that champions the production of new plays written by the best of promising playwrights and spotlighting new theater talent throughout the Washington, DC metro area.

Notable Productions – the first 3 years: 2008 *Anima - Mead Theatre Lab Program at Flashpoint*; 2009 *Herbie: Poet of the Wild West* - Capital Fringe Festival; 2010: *Sex and Education* - Capital Fringe Festival

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Questions about Arts Alive Theatre and events at the Cultural Arts Center of Montgomery College in Silver Spring may be directed to Artistic Director Perry Schwartz by email [perry.schwartz@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:perry.schwartz@montgomerycollege.edu) or phone 240-567-1387.

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