



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 8, 2009
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Are Women Inferior to Men in Math and Science?

. . . as Lawrence Summers, then President of Harvard, asked several years ago? NYC writer/performer and recovering mathematician Gioia De Cari offers a woman's perspective on this question, as she shares her experiences in higher mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the autobiographical solo show, *TRUTH VALUES: ONE GIRL'S ROMP THROUGH M.I.T.'S MALE MATH MAZE*, directed by Miriam Eusebio.

While making the most of the comic absurdity of being the only woman in a spooky basement office, being asked to serve cookies at a seminar and retaliating with "fashion experiments," *TRUTH VALUES* is also a serious exploration of the world of elite mathematics and the role of women in math and science.

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) is pleased to present a special engagement of this play during the 2010 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco. Acknowledged as one of the preeminent centers for collaborative mathematical research, MSRI is also a leader in bringing programs to the Bay Area public that unite science and the arts, such as evenings with playwrights Tom Stoppard, David Auburn and Michael Frayn, authors, respectively, of the celebrated math- and science-themed plays *Arcadia*, *Proof*, and *Copenhagen*. Discussions on women in mathematics will immediately follow the shows. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Association for Women in Mathematics.

WHEN: Thursday, January 14 and Friday January 15 at 8:00 PM

WHERE: Zeum Theater, 221 Fourth Street, San Francisco, next to the Moscone Center

TICKETS: \$35. Call Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006, or visit www.unexpectedtheatre.org.

For more information and **ONLINE PRESS KIT WITH PHOTOS**, visit http://www.unexpectedtheatre.org/truth_values/press.

TRUTH VALUES, recipient of a Puffin Foundation grant, premiered in August, 2009, at the New York International Fringe Festival, winning a FringeNYC 2009 Overall Excellence Award and raves from the New York press: "Funny and insightful one-woman show ... replete with hilarious characters ... she can make a reading of her math thesis compelling! ... the story is riveting ... go see this show!"—*CurtainUp*. In September, 2009, the show received its regional premiere on the mainstage of the Central Square Theater in Cambridge, MA, where it quickly sold out a two-week run and one-week extension, played to standing ovations, won many more raves from the critics, and generated a decided buzz in the press:

"[M.I.T. biologist Nancy] Hopkins says she did not enjoy the tumult surrounding the Summers controversy, 'but if it had the effect of bringing this issue forward and inspiring this young woman to write this fabulous play . . . I'd say it was worth it, because this is an important play.'"

— *The Boston Globe*

"Hilarious one-woman show . . . De Cari . . . opts for the refreshing delights of humor, even compassion, and creates a rich and wry *reductio ad absurdum*."

— *EDGE Boston*

"If you only see one play this year about reflexive non-binary relations, make it this one."

— *Los Angeles Times*