



Photo: Nancy Crampton

SEVEN

A powerful documentary play about seven amazing women. SEVEN tells their stories in a simple setting on stage - stories that are interwoven together in a gripping, sad but inspiring tale of women who've overcome tragedy, rape, death threats, illiteracy, extreme poverty, the sex trade and more to rise up, care for others and become leaders in their corner of the world.



Cast:

Jetty Mathurin (The Netherlands), Anousha Nzume (The Netherlands), Mirna Sakhleh (Palestine), Assil Ahmad Ayyash (Lebanon), Cecilia Nilsson (Sweden), Hedda Krausz Sjögren (Sweden), Josette Bushell-Mingo (Great Britain/Sweden)

2 December 2009

19.00

Nieuwe Kerk, Spui 175, The Hague
(Performance in English)

Free tickets available at the Swedish Embassy in The Hague:

✉ Jan Willem Frisolaan 3, The Hague,
(Opening hours Mo-Fr: 9.00 – 12.00)

Web: www.swedenabroad.com/thehague

Email: eu.events-haag@foreign.ministry.se

SEVEN WOMEN *Brief description of the women portrayed in the play*



Farida Azizi, Afghanistan

Farida Azizi became an activist fighting the marginalization of women under Taliban rule in her native country. Because of threats on her life, she has gained asylum and now lives in the United States with her two children and works on women's rights and peace-building in Afghanistan.



Mu Sochua, Cambodia

Mu Sochua is the former Minister of Women's Affairs in Cambodia (one of only two women in the cabinet), she was co-nominated in 2005 for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work against sex trafficking of women in Cambodia and neighbouring Thailand. MP Mu Sochua, after door-to-door visits to 482 villages, won a seat in Parliament in July, 2008.



Annabella de Leon, Guatemala

Annabella raised herself and her family out poverty by getting an education. She has been a congresswoman since 1995 has received death threats because of her fight against corruption and for the rights of the poor, particularly women and indigenous peoples.



Hafsat Abiola, Nigeria

Hafsat Abiola, Nigeria, an advocate for human rights and democracy following the murder of her activist parents, founded the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, which provides skills-training and leadership opportunities for young women across Nigeria. She now helps build bridges between African and Chinese women, as China increases its engagement in the African continent.



Inez McCormack, Northern Ireland

Inez McCormack is an activist for women's and human rights, labour, and social justice and a former President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Ms. McCormack played a critical role in the 1998 Good Friday Peace Accords and continues to advocate for equal rights and fair labour practices for women and minorities. She now chairs a program, the Participation and Practice of Rights Project, that helps the disadvantaged access resources and services in Ireland, both North and South. Ms. McCormack currently serves as chair of the Participation and the Practice of Rights Project (PPR) and in 2008 received the prestigious Irish Tatler Woman of the Year Award.



Mukhtar Mai, Pakistan

Mukhtar Mai was gang raped by four men and forced to walk home almost naked in retribution for an alleged "honour crime," Ms. Mai and her harrowing story grabbed headlines across the world. Instead of taking the traditional "women's" route of committing suicide, she brought her rapists to justice, built schools to improve the condition of women, and became an advocate for education in her country.



Marina Pisklakova-Parker, Russia

Against tremendous odds in 1993, Marina Pisklakova-Parker founded the first hotline for victims of domestic violence, which has since grown into Center ANNA, part of a coalition that has provided crisis and counselling services for 100,000 Russian women.