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Gretchen Cryer Will Direct Miriam Kulick's One-Woman Show, *Open Hearts*, at Theatre Row

By *Michael Gioia*
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Miriam Kulick's one-woman show, *Open Hearts*, a poignant and comedic journey about love of self, the acceptance of family and the courage to move forward, will begin performances April 19 in the Studio Theatre at Theatre Row.

Directed by Obie Award winner **Gretchen Cryer**, the limited engagement will continue through April 28.

Here's how the solo show is described: "Sadie Nussbaum is about to celebrate her 90th birthday with a party in her Upper East Side apartment. No ordinary 'alta cocker,' she is high-spirited, humorous and salt of the earth. She is also the matriarch of a somewhat troubled Jewish family whom she encounters throughout her day, including her lesbian daughter Deborah announcing proudly to a horrified Sadie that she's going to Darfur to help refugees; her emotionally unstable ex-rocker nephew living in a psychiatric ward; and her lonely eight-year-old granddaughter who's desperately missing her mother, a victim of suicide. As an ancillary part of Sadie's world, there's Henrietta, Deborah's British



lover, a quirky woman coming to terms with her lesbianism and love for ballet; Fernando, Sadie's amusing maintenance man who can fix anything (even a broken heart); and Anwar, a Middle Eastern woman whom Deborah meets at a support group for refugee women. A former psychiatric nurse, Sadie has cared for maladjusted people her whole life and wonders now who will care for her."

Kulick's *Open Hearts* was first seen at the 2011 Washington DC Fringe Festival where it was named Pick of The Fringe by DC Theatre Scene. Kulick is the co-founder of Miami's Square Peg Productions whose first production, *Three Angels Dancing on A Needle*, was also performed in New York at the Brick Theater. Her solo show *Full Circle* was performed at Ensemble Studio Theatre's Octoberfest.

Director Cryer has been seen on Broadway in *Little Me*, *110 in the Shade* and *1776*. She also wrote the book and lyrics for *Shelter*.

The Studio Theatre at Theatre Row is located at 412 West 42nd Street (between 9th and 10th Avenues). For more information and tickets, call (212) 239-6200 or visit www.telecharge.com or www.theatrerow.org.



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