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Event: **Magic Theatre FREE Performance of *Annapurna* by Sharr White**

Laney College Theater Arts Building

Saturday, November 19th, 2:30pm

### **San Francisco's Magic Theatre Continues FREE Performance Series at Oakland's Laney College**

World Premiere of Playwright Sharr White's *Annapurna*  
Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. at Laney College Theater

**San Francisco CA, October 17, 2011** - Magic Theatre in conjunction with Laney College Theater Arts Department continues their FREE season of world class plays in Oakland with playwright Sharr White's *Annapurna* on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. at Laney College Theater. The performance is free to the public and includes a post-show discussion with the actors.

*Annapurna* is a breathtaking story about the longevity of love. After twenty years apart, Emma (played by Denise Cormier) tracks Ulysses (played by Rod Gnapp) to a trailer park in the middle of nowhere for a final reckoning. What unfolds is a visceral and profound meditation on love and loss with the simplest of theatrical elements: two people in one room.

Hot off his first major New York production (*The Other Place* at MCC Theater starring Laurie Metcalf), White has been hailed as "a crack craftsman who knows how to hook an audience" (*The New York Daily News*) and "a skillful hand...with an uncanny ability to know exactly how much to give away and when" (*The New York Press*). Commissioned by South Coast Repertory, *Annapurna* was featured at SCR's 2011 Pacific Playwright Festival directed by Magic's Producing Artistic Director Loretta Greco.

Greco is thrilled to direct the world premiere at Magic Theatre: "Sharr has written a spellbinding and epic tale about unconditional love and its destructive force. Emma and Ulysses are the most tragic of lovers because they are soul mates whose love is impossible, cruel, and yet all consuming. I look forward to bringing this beautiful play to Laney and the Oakland Community."

The idea for the series came about last year when people filled the Laney College Theatre to see Magic's free performance of Tarell Alvin Mc Craney's *The Brothers Size*. "We knew we were on to something and wanted to share more," said Greco. "It was such a big hit and an incredibly rich experience for everyone involved that we decided it was something we should continue. We are thrilled to be working in collaboration with Laney College Theater Arts Department and Oakland Community Producer, Awele Makeba, to present this full season of Magic plays. Last year we had some of the most fruitful dialogue from our Oakland audiences and we look forward to more."

Michael Torres, Chair of the Laney College Theater Department, said, "Bringing the Magic to Oakland is just that – magic. The magical power of storytelling and how it informs an audience can actually aid in the healing of a community. Oakland is not often exposed to quality professional theatre. We believe our partnership with Magic Theatre will do just that."

Community Producer for the Magic Oakland series is Awele Makeba, an award-winning, internationally recognized recording artist, storyteller, educator, and community activist. She was instrumental in the success of Magic's Oakland performance of McCraney's *The Brothers Size*. "Our hope is to bring quality professional theatre to Oakland that can transform Laney College Theater into a cultural center for community engagement." she said.

Tickets are not required, just show up at the Laney Theater Arts Building 30 minutes prior to curtain. This play contains some mature dialogue and story lines may not be suitable for under 18.

*Annapurna* begins its run at Magic Theatre in San Francisco on November 2 and plays through December 4, 2011.

**For More information contact:**

Awele Makeba Community Producer  
<http://magictheatre.org/about/oakland>  
510-601-0432 or Magic Theatre Box Office 415-441-8822

Ist Come, Ist Serve – No Reservations Needed

Laney College Theatre  
900 Fallon St. Oakland 94607

Across the street from Lake Merritt BART

**Remaining shows in the Magic Theatre (SF) in Oakland - FREE Play Series 2011-12**

***Annapurna* Sat., Nov 19th, 2:30 p.m.**

*Jesus in India* Sat., Feb 11th, 2:30 p.m.

*Any Given Day* Sat., April 14th, 2:30 p.m.

*Bruja* Sat., June 16th, 2:30 p.m.

<http://magictheatre.org/>

415-441-8822

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