FROM THE DIRECTOR

"It is no small presumption to dismember the image of God"
—John Woodall (1556-1643)

This play came out of a request by an actor for Ms. Loomer to write a monologue about foot-binding. That one character, Forgiveness, gave rise to another, Victoria, and thus the first scene was born. Ms. Loomer said in a 1994 interview in American Theatre Magazine, "I don't remember how Victoria came into my mind, but one day I had the idea to have the two of them in Purgatory, and Purgatory changed to the doctor's waiting room - which is really not that far of a metaphorical leap!" The character of Wanda was inspired by Loomer's mother being diagnosed with breast cancer. She said, "As her cancer progressed, I began to read about different types of care and treatment, and about the politics of cancer. All of that experience went into the play." When explaining the interactions of characters from different time periods, Loomer is unclear as to its genesis. "I wish I could say that I planned it, but I didn't; people kind of showed up doing whatever they were doing in whatever time they were doing it."

It is the subject matter and structure of the play which appealed to me. There are very few plays which take on the subjects of women's health issues, the health industry, and approaches to medicine. As public as the debates are about these issues, I found it very powerful to see, through the dramatic structure of the play, how these subjects impact four women from different cultures. To Loomer the real villain in the play is not men, it is greed. When asked how it was to work on the play during the health care debate, Loomer replied, "Idealistic me thought something would change, and that the whole insurance question in the play would be obsolete by now. I really want this play to be obsolete fast."

SCHOOL OF DRAMA
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Aurora Valentinetti

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Nacho Bravo, master electrician
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Sue Bruns, offices assistant
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Dorothy Kerst, graduate programs
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* Deceased

by Lisa Loomer

THE WAITING ROOM

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF DRAMA
189th Production
December 3 - 14, 1997

The Playhouse Theatre
32nd Season
THE WAITING ROOM

By Lisa Loomer

Directed by Shanga K. Parker

Assistant Director
Assistant Stage Managers
Dialect Coach
Rehearsal Assistant
Musicians
Scenic Painter
Assistant Costumes
Faculty Advisor
Master Electrician
Set Construction
Costume Construction
Lighting Crew
Running Crew
House Management
Production Office Staff
Tickets

Cast

Forgiveness, Masseuse
Maria Cason

Larry
JR Drew

Douglas
Iftiz Haroon

Orderly
Glenn Jawsang

Blessing, Johnny, Orderly
Sam Lai

Oliver
Michael McQuilken

Brenda, Bridget, Masseuse, Jade Ornament, Cerise, Health Club Attendant
Dawn Frances Roberson

Wanda
Michelle Sorensen

Orderly
Angie Tyler

Victoria, Business Woman
Montana von Fliss

Nurse Bruce
Aaron Wagner

Ken
Wiley Young

Set Design
Aaron Nather

Costume Design
Savannah Goodwin

Lighting Design
Jay Venzke

Sound Design/Composer
Katie Freeze

Stage Manager
Miriam Goodman-Miller

Technical Director
Bob Boehler

Prop Master
Ross MacQuarrie

Recommended Reading

The Waiting Room and an interview with Lisa Loomer
American Theatre Magazine Dec. 1994

Recon! by Lisa Loomer
NY: Theatre Communications Group ©1990

Baltimore Waltz by Paula Vogel
NY: Theatre Communications Group ©1996

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