

In July 1990 the United State's most prominent feminist theatre company, New York-based Split Britches, made their debut in Hawai'i. Their production of *Little Women: the Tragedy* and the accompanying 4-day intensive workshop were welcomed warmly and enthusiastically by students and audiences alike. The UHM Department of Theatre and Dance is well known for its spectacular productions of Asian theatre created through resident training programs featuring master artists from China, Japan, and Southeast Asia. In response to the interest generated by *Little Women*, the Department of Theatre and Dance decided to seek funds for a residency featuring the Split Britches company.

Made possible by grants from the Hawai'i State Foundation for Culture and the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the UH Women's Faculty Caucus Programming Committee, the Split Britches three month residency encompasses several components made possible by our generous supporters. It included three special courses offered in the Department of Theatre and Dance; five workshops offered free to the public; a guest lecture by feminist theatre theorist Sue-Ellen Case; two lectures by company members Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw on lesbian and feminist theatre; two evenings at the Lizard Loft at Java Java in which UHM students showcased solo performances developed under the guidance of the Split Britches company.

The residency is crowned by this performance of The Split Britches Company's most recent production, *Lesbians Who Kill*. The show opened at La Mama in New York in May 1992 and has played to rave reviews across the United States and Europe. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to see the best that New York has to offer in experimental theatre!

Juli Thompson Burk

The University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Department of Theatre and Dance
presents

Split Britches
in
**Lesbians
Who Kill**



May 14, 1993 8pm
Kennedy Theatre

University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Department of Theatre and Dance presents

LESBIANS WHO KILL

written by Deborah Margolin
in collaboration with
Lois Weaver & Peggy Shaw

MAY . . . LOIS WEAVER

JUNE. . . PEGGY SHAW

Directed by Lois Weaver

Musical Score by Laka Daisical

Costumes by Susan Young

Backdrop by Matthew Owen and Nancy Bardawil

Tonight's performance will have no intermission

Lesbians Who Kill is a play inspired by and dedicated to the "lesbian serial killer" Aileen Wuornos, who was recently convicted of killing seven men in Florida.

Special thanks to Heidi Schiller, Nathan Lee, and Harry Wong III for running sound, lights, and follow spot; Mark Boyd for technical assistance; Karena Rahall for research assistance; and the many who contributed financial resources, especially the Astraea Foundation.

SPLIT BRITCHES is a 13-year old, three-woman theatre company based in New York City. Its members, Peggy Shaw, Lois Weaver, and Deborah Margolin have written and directed six pieces: *Split Britches*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Upwardly Mobile Home*, *Little Women - The Tragedy*, *Anniversary Waltz*, and *Lesbians Who Kill*. The company has toured Europe extensively and has recently been in residency at UH for three months during which time they wrote, directed, and performed in *Valley of the Dolls House*. The company won a Village Voice Award for Best Ensemble in 1985, and an OBIE cash award in 1986. Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw are cofounders of the WOW Cafe which was an outgrowth of the WOW International Theatre Festivals held in NYC in 1980 and 1981. Founded in 1982, WOW Cafe is a performance space dedicated to producing works by and for women.

LOIS WEAVER is the founding director of Split Britches. She began her career in feminist theatre in 1975 as a founding member of Spiderwoman Theatre and toured with that company for 7 years. Lois directs and teaches acting at WOW, is currently Artistic Director for Gay Sweatshop in London.

PEGGY SHAW began her acting career in 1974 with the gay theatrical company, Hot Peaches. From 1978 to 1981 she worked with Spiderwoman Theatre. In the spring of 1988 Peggy won a Village Voice Obie Award for her performance as Deeluxe in *Dress Suits to Hire* and a 1991 Obie for her ensemble work in *Belle Reprieve*.

DEBORAH MARGOLIN was a featured monologist in the April 1988 issue of *Harper's* magazine. Her writing credits include articles in *Taxi* magazine and scripts for Split Britches.