



Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tuesday, March 22, 2005

ABOUT THE EVENT

The Panza Monologues

Performance type

Ethnic, Misc., Performance

EVENT DETAILS

Rose Marine Theater

1440 N. Main St.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 624-8333 or 8179215300

Runs one hour, 15 minutes with no intermission.

Performance times

03/25/2005 - 03/26/2005 8:15 p.m.

www.caramiatheatre.org

Ticket prices

\$10-\$12

Woman's monologues offer poignance, belly laughs

Mark Lowry

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San Antonio writers Virginia Grise and Irma Mayorga created *The Panza Monologues*, in part, as a response to Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. Where Ensler's work deals with a female-specific body part, theirs relates to something to which both genders can relate: the *panza*, or belly.

Humorously performed by the charismatic Grise at Dallas' Latino Cultural Center this past weekend (it moves to Fort Worth's Rose Marine Theater for Friday and Saturday), *The Panza Monologues* focuses on female characters, folding such topics as politics, obesity, diabetes and greed into a you-go-girl! message of self-worth.

It's *activista* theater that strikes a chord with everyone.

The vignettes are based on interviews and letters from real women. For some, Grise moves about the stage; for others, she's seated in chairs.

As expected in a one-person performance of monologues, a healthy mix of comedy and drama keeps the show building and moving.

One of the funniest segments is a pantomime to a voiceover from a character who can't button or zip her jeans -- until she pulls out her *panza* pliers.

What resonates most, though, are more serious pieces such as "*panza brujeria*," a diatribe about George W. Bush and war, explaining that heartache is at its most painful when it hits a more visceral place -- the gut. In "the international *panza*," a *cubano* explains obesity as an illness of capitalism: "you eat too much . . . we only take what we need."

Now that's an idea anyone can chew on, regardless of carb and calorie counting.

When Grise so winningly convinces that a *panza* is something to be proud of, why care?

GRADE: A-

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