



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](http://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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