

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Hannah Vaughn

Email: [twogirlstheplay@gmail.com](mailto:twogirlstheplay@gmail.com)

Website: [www.gabriellemaisels.com](http://www.gabriellemaisels.com)

**THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF THE ADVOCATE WHO DEFENDED MANDELA BRINGS A COMPELLING NEW STORY OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE D.C. STAGE**

George Washington University brings solo show *Bongani* to Studio XX on  
April 3, 2012

**Washington, D.C.** March 2012 - Gabrielle Maisels conjures 9 characters under an African sky in this remarkable one-woman show. Inspired by Ms. Maisels' childhood experiences in South Africa, the story engages the audience in questions of race, justice, love and betrayal.

Coincidentally, this month, Ms. Maisels' "sparklingly vivid contribution" to feature-film *Now, Forager* is lauded by *The Hollywood Reporter* as, "an extended cameo of pitch-perfect intonations and tellingly casual gestures, by noteworthy newcomer Gabrielle Maisels."

**The Play**

In post-apartheid South Africa, Bongani hurtles toward destruction. Corinne, from an activist Jewish family, thinks she can rescue him, and her struggling country. Bongani thinks she should rescue herself. See this mesmerizing tale of a love that could never be.

Hailed as the "best one-person show of the festival" during its 2011 run at the NY International Fringe Festival, Ms. Maisels brings *Bongani* to GWU through the collaboration of multiple departments. The performance is sponsored by the Africana Studies Program and the Department of Theater and Dance, with additional sponsorship from the English Department, The Program in Judaic Studies and the Women's Studies Program. A brief Q&A will follow the performance.

Gabrielle Maisels is the granddaughter of Israel Aaron Maisels, leader of the defense team

-more-

that secured the acquittal of Nelson Mandela and the 29 others accused of treason by the apartheid government in the “Treason Trial” of 1956-61. Gabrielle studied Political Theory at Harvard and Columbia, graduated cum laude and authored two books. Her hit solo shows, *Two Girls* and *Bongani*, are inspired by the summers she spent in South Africa as a child, her family’s role in the struggle, and her experience of the transition from apartheid to democracy. As an actress she has worked with artists such as Peter Dinklage, Sam Rockwell, Matthew Arkin, Daniel Sunjata, Jake Robards, Steven Rattazzi, Danton Stone and many others. Her two companion solo-shows have been performed around the country, and she is currently developing the third play of the trilogy.

Performance at Studio XX, 814 20<sup>th</sup> St. NW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Washington, D.C. 20052  
April 3, 2012, 7:30 PM.  
[www.gabriellemaisels.com](http://www.gabriellemaisels.com)

###