



Local IQ Magazine – Albuquerque

Loose Women of Low Character

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BY JONISE ORIE

If someone called you a loose woman of low character (male readers please exercise a little creativity here) what would you do? It's not something we as a society normally celebrate. Its not something a woman "should" be proud to call herself. But if someone is implying that if the shoe fits, why not wear those shoes with a little pride and pizzaz.

*Loose Women of Low Character* is a vignette of stories compiled by **Brand Slagle** and **Tiffany McQueen**, the team that wrote *Ladyslipper*, a play performed at **Sol Arts** last year. The idea for

the show came during a breakup in which Slagle's significant other bestowed the derogatory but eloquent title of *Loose Women of Low Character* onto Slagle and her friends. She was so angry she decided she wanted to make a show about it, and explore the meaning of that insult.

Slagle e-mailed all her women friends who were creative and brave enough to embrace that title. She urged them to "write something, write anything!" about what it means to be a bitch, to be a loose woman, to be a bad girl. To ensure continuity, she asked the writers to set the scene at a roadside motel — in the bar, in the parking lot or in the coffee shop.

Slagle's friends answered her call with monologues, dance scenes, therapy sessions, bitches anonymous, conversations with alter egos, bar dating 101, poems and other creative contributions. In the end, 13 women contributed. Nobody's piece was cut out; instead Slagle and McQueen underwent the long process of compiling, editing, and working with the writers to mold a narrative that unfolds at a seedy roadside hotel. Veteran local directors **Kristen Loree** and **Laira Morgan** were asked to join the fun.

Sol Arts advertises this production as "A collection of short original works about the sometimes dark but predominantly comic side of what it means to be a ferociously free female." The theater is presenting this play as part of their **Second Annual Women's Words Festival**. Slagle and McQueen were part of the first festival, during which *Ladyslipper* was performed.

*Loose* boasts a cast of nine women in the female roles and one male actor playing all of the male parts in the play. In casting for all these parts, the writers and directors looked to assemble a wide variety of women. They vary in age from 18 to 60, and are all quite disparate. "They are all just really beautiful women and just sexy in their own way." says Morgan of her cast.

Morgan asserts that the play has been a lot of fun and everyone coming into the show has been excited about it. Since it was a very collaborative play, there was a lot of discussion during rehearsals and exploring what it means to be a bad girl or a bitch, and the consequences involved. Rehearsals rarely ended on time because those involved in the play found themselves caught up in talking about their experiences. Morgan describes the first rehearsal as being almost like a slumber party.

### **Loose Women of Low Character**

8p Fri and Sat, 2p Sun Aug 25-Sep 17

Sol Arts, 712 Central SE, 244.0049 Opens Fri, Aug 25, reservations required No performance Sun, Sep 3

Pay-What-You-Can Night, 8p Thu, Aug 31

\$10 general, \$8 Students