

RELIGION

Preacher's Wife Abuse Sparks Play

Two shows
scheduled at
Portland venue

Don't let the pretty face fool you as this multi talented lady has a great mind and a painful story behind that beautiful smile and phenomenal voice.

A southern girl who grew up in

makeup on that eye, if you say something to anybody I'll Kill you!" I'll never forget that morning, the heaviness in my heart trying to direct the choir, play the piano, and lead praise and worship with a busted lip and a black eye underneath piles of makeup while he preached to the people in the pews."

Why did you decide to do the play?

"I've carried these scars for some

Thank You.

Together they've created a theatrical masterpiece in "Emerge 7 Women, 7 Stools."

Also an author, Lady Kitty is embarking upon her third book, "Fly With Broken Wings," a must read due out this spring.

"My purpose in life is to be instrumental in the hands of God, helping all people become the best

they can be in life especially women and teen girls," she says. "Every woman has a purpose and every woman has a dream my job is to help you find it, cultivate it, and celebrate it, for with God all things are possible regardless of the hell that you may have come through."

A mentor and a life coach she knows that secrets and scars run deep making survival more chal-

lenging but all the more rewarding"

Currently, Lady Kitty is director of a 65 Voice multicultural children's choir at Phoenix Park, a housing development that serves over 4,000 challenged families in the south Sacramento area.

The choir is composed of blacks, Hispanics, whites, Vietnamese,

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Lady Kitty Griffin, the First Lady of Greater Faith Church, Sacramento, Calif., performs at Highland Church in northeast Portland. A gospel recording artist and founder and director of Progressive Women of Excellence, Inc., she is behind a play about domestic violence, 'Emerge 7 women 7 Stools,' coming to Portland, for two shows, Jan. 28-29.

Sacramento, Calif., Lady Kitty Griffin has opened many doors with her several gifts while keeping a dark door shut for years, "things you just don't talk about," says the petite dynamo of a woman. "You know what goes on in this house stays in this house, those types of things."

As Lady Kitty's popularity topped the Richter scale, no one ever knew of the hidden scars and deep pain she carried inside, but no more. What the devil meant for bad, God has turned to good in the stage play "Emerge 7 Women 7 Stools," as she takes the role of an "abused woman" except it's not just a role, it's her life!

The play is coming to Portland for two shows only at the Dolores Winningstad Theater, downtown, with 8 p.m. performances on Friday, Jan. 28 and Saturday, Jan. 29.

A gospel recording artist and founder and director of Progressive Women of Excellence, Lady Kitty Griffin talked about being a survivor of domestic violence in a local interview.

She was asked what it felt like to have her husband, a church pastor, beat her.

"Well it was a sense of helplessness and degradation I've never felt before, one Sunday Morning he beat me bad and then turned to me and said now "Get up and put some

28 years and realized as I ministered to other hurting women that I wasn't alone and something pricked my heart and I had to tell the story of not just me but others like me. Maybe all didn't suffer physical abuse but sometimes the emotional abuse is just as bad."

"Emerge 7 Women, 7 Stools" tells those stories and that of many other victims of spousal abuse.

The play digs deep and substantially delivers.

One moment you're laughing, the next you're crying, then you're tapping your feet and moving to the beat. It's a phenomenal show accompanied by a 4-piece polished kicking band under the direction of Nicholas Donaldson, a gifted young man from Fairfield Calif. The play's extraordinary voices combine with extraordinary stories to leave audiences laughing, crying and on their feet.

Lady Kitty, as she is affectionately and respectfully known, has teamed up with the critically acclaimed veteran playwright Delilah Rashell, which has honored Portland with a list of fantastic shows in the past, including T.D. Jakes' mega hit Woman thou art Loosed, and several of her own, including God's Trying to Tell You Something, Things Ain't What They Used To Be, and Somebody Oughta Tell God



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