



"Complicated Courtesies" minds its manners at APAC

Kimberly Dark helps others look inward with an interactive performance and workshop

By Big Island Weekly

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Kimberly Dark is the well-loved emcee of the quarterly (soon-to-be monthly) Volcano Art Center Poetry Slam. She also teaches as an adjunct professor at University of Hawaii-Hilo when her schedule allows. As a sociologist and a performance artist, she uses entertainment to illuminate potentially contentious cultural themes. "Complicated Courtesies" is a great example of this work. It can be scary to talk about topics such as gender, race, parenting and the environment. What if we disagree? Come see how vibrant views and exciting experiences can be cleverly and kindly conveyed in "Complicated Courtesies." Don't be afraid. Kimberly Dark is not scary at all.



There is a workshop scheduled at the Aloha Theatre following the performance on Saturday, Aug. 28 at 10 a.m. The workshop is titled "Using Performance for Social Change." Participants will use a series of writing prompts and theatre games inspired by Brazilian theatre-maker Augusto Boal. Anyone can participate and no theatre experience is required. Participants will play and experiment in a supportive environment.

Kimberly Dark makes her home on Big Island (Puna District), but tours her unique solo performances around the world. Her shows are a combination of storytelling, spoken word performance and audience interaction-- always funny, always enlightening, always entertaining.

Dark shares, "This show is about how we use our small, everyday lives to make the world a better place. No, seriously. I think that's possible! And the more easily we embrace our internal

diversity --become all of our exciting selves -- the more we'll enjoy diversity in others too. I realize this seems like a tall order, and that's why we need storytelling, humor and a way to contemplate our own lives and be entertained at the same time. That's what Complicated Courtesies offers." Dark adds, -"All of my shows use simple storytelling-- that's not so simple! And I prompt the audience to consider their own stories too -- how they're different, how they're similar, what we think and feel about things that happen in the world. On one hand, it's good to live a simple, uncomplicated life -- you know, in that Zen way. On the other hand, some people never delve into the complexities of social life because it's scary - or just easier to worry about what's for dinner, when there's a sale at the mall and whether you can afford a new car. A lot of folks never pause to ask: wow, why do we act as we do? How can things get better? How can I help? I'm not saying that we have to spend every moment focused on activism - that would be painful! This show is about how we improve the world just by enjoying our days, living great big exciting lives, and being kind to others. The stories are funny, touching, engaging -- the audience will hear about my life, about my son -- if you're a parent, this show is definitely for you! And if you've ever felt like you have to put on one face for work, another for friends, another for family - wow, this show is for you too. Through entertainment, I hope the audience comes to understand that we don't need to be the same in order to be allies - but we have to know each other. And "before someone can see you - you have to be you." Complicated Courtesies reminds us that the world needs all the aloha we have.

"Complicated Courtesies" will be held at the Aloha Theatre on Friday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Dark's workshop "Using Theatre for Social Change" will be held at the Aloha Theatre the following day on Saturday, Aug. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee to participate is \$75.