



Lynn Nottage - Biography



Lynn Nottage is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and the author of *Ruined* which is now playing at Manhattan Theatre Club at New York City Center – Stage I (131 West 55th Street). The play is set in a small mining town in the Democratic Republic of Congo and follows Mama Nadi, a shrewd businesswoman in a land torn apart by civil war. *Ruined*, is a haunting story of African women scarred by the brutal civil war in the Congo, and

has won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

“A powerhouse drama. . . . Lynn Nottage’s beautiful, hideous and unpretentiously important play [is] a shattering, intimate journey into faraway news reports.”—Linda Winer, Newsday

“An intense and gripping new drama . . . the kind of new play we desperately need: well-informed and unafraid of the world’s brutalities. Nottage is one of our finest playwrights, a smart, empathetic and daring storyteller who tells a story an audience won’t expect.”—David Cote, Time Out New York.

Nottage believes it’s her “social responsibility” to shine a light on issues and situations that often do not make the headlines. Despite undeniably grim subject matter, Nottage’s play is filled with humor, music and hope. “I went further afield with ‘Ruined,’” the playwright said. “I went in search of my African sisters. When I wrote it, I felt a greater sense of urgency simply because I feel the conflict is still raging, but interest is fading.” “I wanted to depict the modern Africa in all its complexity, and to show the beauty and humor and what keeps people there going,” she said.

Nottage received the MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grant” Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Award, the 2005 Guggenheim Grant for playwriting, and fellowships from the Lucille Lortel Foundation, MTC, New Dramatists and the NYFA. She is an alumna of New Dramatists, and a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama where she is a visiting lecturer. In addition to *Ruined*, Nottage is also the author of *Intimate Apparel*, (New York Drama Critics Circle’s Best Play; Roundabout, Center Stage, South Coast Rep); *Fabulation, Or The Education Of Undine* (Obie Award; Playwrights Horizons, London’s Tricycle Theatre); *Crumbs From The Table Of Joy*; *Las Meninas*; *Mud, River, Stone and Por’knockers* and *Poof!*

Nottage, 44, is married to filmmaker Tony Gerber. They have a daughter, Ruby, 11. She said she hopes her win will inspire her child. “My mom was incredibly politically and socially engaged,” Nottage said. “I hope I pass that legacy on to my daughter.” The author said she plans to pass a portion of her \$10,000 cash prize to the Panzi Hospital in the Congo, which does reconstructive surgery for women.

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