



RIGHT NOW.

**AFGHANISTAN. NIGERIA. NORTHERN IRELAND.
RUSSIA. GUATEMALA. PAKISTAN. CAMBODIA.**



“it’s impossible not to be inspired by so many and varying examples of courage”

THE WASHINGTON POST

SEVEN

by Paula Cizmar, Catherine Filloux, Gail Kriegel, Carol K. Mack, Ruth Margraff, Anna Deveare-Smith and Susan Yankowitz, created in collaboration with Vital Voices Global Partnership.

SEVEN is a groundbreaking documentary play based on interviews with seven women’s rights activists from around the world. The interviews were conducted in 2007 by seven award-winning playwrights.

“The play powerfully portrays the transformative way that seven courageous women have changed their societies for the better – from peace-building, to fighting corruption to combating violence against women.”

US SECRETARY OF STATE, HILLARY CLINTON

Riksteatern, the Swedish National Touring Theatre, tours SEVEN as a series of staged readings of in Sweden. UNDP, United Nations Development Program, was the main partner for the tour.

As the tour started out in 2009, the performances received unanimous praise, more than doubling the size of expected audience that year.

At each venue a unique ensemble consisting of actors, politicians, students and activists, performs the play, and numerous local and national NGO’s collaborates to arrange panels, demonstrations, lectures and more.

The project manager, Hedda Krausz Sjögren directs the collaboration with artistic partners and NGO’s, coaching more than 160 performers to date.



**“The power of
theatre to change
the world”**

ARBETAREN



SEVEN women



FARIDA AZIZI, AFGHANISTAN

Farida Azizi became an activist fighting the marginalization of women under Taliban rule in her native country. Because of threats to her life, she has gained asylum and now lives in the United States with her two children, working on women's rights and peacebuilding in Afghanistan.



INEZ MCCORMACK, NORTHERN IRELAND

Inez McCormack who grew up in a Protestant family in Belfast, did the unthinkable and married a Catholic. Since the 60'ies she has been an activist for women's and human rights, labour, and social justice. She is former President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Ms. McCormack played a critical role in the 1998 Good Friday Peace Accords and continues to advocate for equal rights and fair labour practices for women and minorities.



MARINA PISKLAKOVA-PARKER, RUSSIA

In 1993, against tremendous odds, Marina Pisklakova-Parker founded the first hotline for victims of domestic violence, which has since grown into Center ANNA, part of a coalition that has provided crisis and counselling services for 100,000 Russian women.



ANNABELLA DE LEON, GUATEMALA

Annabella raised herself and her family out poverty by getting an education. A congresswoman since 1995, she has received death threats because of her fight against corruption and for the rights of the poor, particularly women and indigenous peoples.



MUKHTAR MAI, PAKISTAN

Mukhtar Mai was gang-raped by four men and forced to walk home almost naked in retribution for an alleged "honour crime," Ms. Mai and her harrowing story grabbed headlines across the world. Instead of taking the traditional women's route of committing suicide, she brought her rapists to justice, built schools to improve the condition of women, and became an advocate for education in her country.



MU SOCHUA, CAMBODIA

Mu Sochua, a former Minister of Women's Affairs in Cambodia (one of only two women in the cabinet), was co-nomiated in 2005 for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work against sex trafficking in Cambodia and neighbouring Thailand. MP Mu Sochua, after door-to-door visits to 482 villages, won a seat in Parliament in July, 2008.



HAFSAT ABIOLA, NIGERIA

Hafsat Abiola, Nigeria, an advocate for human rights and democracy following the murder of her activist parents, founded the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, which provides skills-training and leadership opportunities for young women across Nigeria. She helps to build bridges between African and Chinese women, as China increases its commitment in Africa.

SEVEN in NUMBERS

- 10** regional theatres - in collaboration with the Riksteatern Tour.
- 160** politicians, actors, and activists having stepped on to a stage to give their voice to the women of SEVEN (April 2010)
- 1** Oscar winning actress performing SEVEN – Meryl Streep in New York City in March.
- 1** Secretary of State giving an introductory speech – Hillary Clinton in New York City in March, 2010
- 1** Secretary of foreign aid giving an introductory speech – Gunilla Carlsson, Stockholm, September 2009
- 60** + organizations and agencies involved around performances of SEVEN
- 2** ministers of the Swedish cabinet performing SEVEN.
- 7** male politicians performing the seven women's roles in Swedish Parliament.
- 4** countries included in the Riksteatern tour of Seven: Sweden, The Netherlands (December 2009), Turkey (September 2010), Belgium (December 2010)

SEVEN is a GAUNTLET

Riksteatern continues to invite collaborations with governmental institutions, organizations, companies, universities and other theatres to bring SEVEN to a wider audience. In December seven members of the EU parliament will give their voice to the women of SEVEN. Is your parliament next?

Seven Swedish parliamentarians reading Seven at political summit Almedalen 2009.



RIKSTEATERN

– SWEDEN'S NATIONAL TOURING THEATRE

Your arena for creativity, development and participation

In SEVEN the national movement Riksteatern connects local initiatives with global issues. Riksteatern counts over 40 000 members, organized in 230 associations which jointly are the owners of Riksteatern. In the vision of Riksteatern, voted by member representatives, a central wording reads: to create mental collisions in many languages, setting thought and emotion in motion. As a result of the associations involvement in local and global issues, Riksteatern collaborates with theatres and NGO's in Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Macedonia, Ghana, Turkey and Finland.

Riksteatern's involvement internationally is mirrored by collaboration with large immigrant groups in Sweden. Riksteatern offers a platform for education, creativity and engagement. In our international collaborations Riksteatern offers methods of communication and models for working locally with democracy, human rights and freedom of speech - at home and away.



Diyarbakir Arts center and Riksteatern/Turkey/
Turkish association in Sweden.



African Cinderella, collaboration with
National Theatre of Ghana.

Hillary Clinton, Inez McCormack and Meryl
Streep after SEVEN performance, March 2010.



SEVEN is a CALL OUT!

Seven was created in collaboration with Vital Voices Global Partnership. Their mission is to identify, invest in and bring visibility to extraordinary women around the world by unleashing their leadership potential to transform lives and accelerate peace and prosperity in their communities. www.vitalvoices.org. There are many more unspoken stories the world needs to hear. SEVEN is a call out to other brave women to share their stories and realities. Will you tell us your story?

GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PROJECT:

See: www.riksteatern.se/seven

E-mail: hedda@hedda.nu

Hedda Produktion AB

delivers services within the areas of communication/rhetoric and producing. Hedda Krausz Sjögren, an actor, writer and consultant based in Stockholm, Sweden, received Riksteatern's yearly prize 2009 for her work with SEVEN including translating the play as well as initiating and running the national tour of SEVEN.

See: www.hedda.nu



THIS IS RIKSTEATERN

Sweden's National Touring Theatre creates mental collisions in many languages, setting thought and emotion in motion. Riksteatern counts over 40 000 members, organized in 230 associations which jointly are the owners of Riksteatern.

RIKSTEATERN



Riksteatern
145 83 Norsborg
Tel: 08-531 991 00
Fax: 08-531 830 12
info@riksteatern.se
www.riksteatern.se



VITAL VOICES
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP