

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 7 pm

# CHRISTEN CLIFFORD

## BABY LOVE

theatre performance

Cankarjev dom, Kosovelova dvorana, Prešernova 10

**C**hristen Clifford is a true American avant-gardist, a woman of candour and wit. Hailing from the grey working-class city of Buffalo in upstate New York, she arrived in New York City in the late 1980s in order to study acting at NYU. She had both beauty and brains, was fearless, and ready to think. As an actress she ventured and broke boundaries, choosing work revolving around feminism, politics and sexuality. The honesty of Christen Clifford's sharply honed prose has proven amazing, and in *Baby Love* she writes with loving boldness. With her intelligence welded to a rock-n-roll attitude, she moves seamlessly between the realms of theatre, literature and performance art.

Evolving from an essay published on Nerve.com, the subject of this new performance piece is 'maternal sexuality', as identified by Christen Clifford herself. In this essay, her frank discussion of sensual/sexual love for one's infant - even while passion between adult partners hovers on the brink of extinction - has aroused a heated response. Some people, of course, trash the writer for daring to speak of such a personal and universal truth; others are naturally thrilled at finally reading their own forbidden thoughts in print. So Christen Clifford promises to take you on a journey through the as yet unexplored psyche of sexual motherhood. She will shock, and also - if you are honest enough - confirm your own deeply held suspicions. We are all sexual creatures, mothers and babies, as well as fathers too of course. When forthright discourse about such feelings of desire is suppressed - as often happens in ideological communities - then actual, damaging, sexual abuse all too often takes its place. In contrast, Clifford's world of maternal sexuality becomes life affirming and liberating, as all avant-garde visions must ultimately be. She frees us to experience the fullness of desire, both bodily and emotional. Only in the realm of such fearless freedom does true security reside.

KAREN MALPEDE (WOMEN IN THEATRE)

Christen Clifford has performed in theatres across the US and internationally, as well as appeared in film and on television. Her work has been published in major US periodicals and received praise from the likes of the New York Times, Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, Village Voice, and USA Today. She was a joint recipient of the Golden Reel Award in 2000, for co-writing and performing in *The Erotica Project V*. In 2002 Christen Clifford created the long running *HEAT: sexy stories and burlesque* at the Culture Project, where her solo performance *17 Guys I Fucked* was also produced. She is a visiting scholar at NYU.



PHOTO: IAN SHANZLER

Julie Kramer, who directed *Baby Love*, co-developed and directed Clifford's *17 Guys I Fucked*. Her New York credits include the Ensemble Studio Theater, the New York Fringe Festival, The Variety Arts Theatre, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, New Georges, and ABC TV. Her award winning direction has also been showcased at the HBO/Aspen Comedy Festival, as well as garnered excellent reviews by The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Village Voice, and Backstage.

*Baby Love* performance was supported by New Georges and The Hourglass Group.

**CHRISTEN CLIFFORD (USA)**

### **BABY LOVE**

Theatre performance (world premiere)

Written and performed by: Christen Clifford; direction: Julie Kramer; choreography: Julie Atlas Muz in English\*

\* The Slovenian translation of *Baby Love*, published in *Apokalipsa*, will be on sale prior to the performance. Price: 1500 SIT.

[www.nerve.com/personalessays/clifford/babylove](http://www.nerve.com/personalessays/clifford/babylove)

Organisation: City of Women

In collaboration with: Cankarjev dom

Price: 2100; 1300 SIT (students, senior citizens)