

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World Premiere of *Fifty Shades of Melania* Opens in Hollywood

One-woman show *Makes America Beautiful Again*

HOLLYWOOD, CA (MAY 15, 2019) – Asylum Theatre and writer/producer Liana Mesaikou are thrilled to present the world premiere of **Fifty Shades of Melania**, a deep-dive comedic take on the various faces of the FLOTUS who doesn't really care – or does she? – and the complicated spectrum of stereotypes women constantly fight, exploit, or reverse. **Written and performed by Liana Mesaikou** and **directed by Nicole Williams**, this one-woman show opens June 8 and runs through June 30 at the 2019 Hollywood Fringe Festival.

Victim or accomplice? Trapped or willing agent? Melania Trump is an enigma; her actions and words contradictory. As both the media and public speculate about the First Lady's true emotions concerning her husband and the presidency, she maintains an air of mystery - perhaps on purpose.

Join Melania at an exclusive press conference as she tries to get re-elected as the First Lady of the United States, as the press asks such hard-hitting questions as: What is Melania's favorite movie as a little girl growing up in Slovenia? Will she be able to turn FLYLF into a hashtag? Will we find out which character from GoT Melania identifies with? Which are some of her favorite affirmations? And, of course, does she really care about this country?

Liana Mesaikou (playwright/performer) is an LA-based Greek writer/actress. She has directed and acted in a number of theater productions in Athens (Greece) and London. She earned her Master's in Text & Performance Studies at King's College London & RADA, and has studied comedy at The Groundlings, Second City and iO West. She's currently pursuing an MFA in Screenwriting at UCR. This is her first one-woman show.

Nicole Williams (director) is a writer/director from Los Angeles who has studied at iO West, The Annoyance, The Pack, and Second City. She is a graduate of The Second City Hollywood's

Directing Program and a member of their faculty. Nicole's work focuses on bringing women's stories to life, and her credits include Live Rude Girls and Super Sexy Sexy Superhero. She is thrilled to be a part of this fantastic project and to be making her Fringe festival debut. Nicole is a producing partner at Rubicon Crossing (www.rubiconcrossing.com).

Fifty Shades of Melania runs **June 8 through June 30**, with performances on Saturday June 8 at 1pm, Saturday June 15 at 1:30pm, Wednesday June 19 at 10pm, Friday, June 28 at 6:30pm, and Sunday June 30 at 5pm, at the **Stephanie Feury Studio Theatre, 5636 Melrose Ave, Hollywood**. Tickets are available for \$10 at <http://hff19.org/5825> or <https://fiftyshadesofmelania.com/>.

Details for Calendar Listings

What: The world premiere of **Fifty Shades of Melania**, a deep-dive comedic take on the various faces of the FLOTUS who doesn't really care – or does she? – and the complicated spectrum of stereotypes women constantly fight, exploit, or reverse.

Who: **Written and performed by Liana Mesaikou and directed by Nicole Williams.**

When:

Saturday June 8, 1:00 PM

Saturday June 15, 1:30 PM

Wednesday June 19, 10:00 PM

Friday June 28, 6:30 PM

Sunday June 30, 5:00 PM

Where: Stephanie Feury Studio Theatre, 5636 Melrose Ave, Hollywood

Tickets: \$10

How: <http://hff19.org/5825>

Additional Information: <https://fiftyshadesofmelania.com/>

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