



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

In 2008 in Sweden, award-winning playwright, actor and producer Hedda Krausz Sjögren initiated an innovative tour and production concept of Seven that was picked up by Swedish National Touring Theatre. By putting decision makers such as politicians and government officials on stage together with actors, media profiles and activists to portray the seven women in the play, the tour, now into its fourth year, has reached over 15 000 people in 12 countries. 500 politicians and media profiles, including seven members of the European parliament, the Swedish minister for justice Ms Beatrice Ask, high ranking police and military officials, has gotten on stage to lend their voice to a role in the play.

At each venue a unique ensemble of actors, politicians, students and activists, male and female, perform the play. Local and national organizations and agencies collaborate to arrange panels, demonstrations, lectures and more.



**“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, 1943 - 2013

Inez McCormack who grew up in a Protestant family in Belfast, did the unthinkable and married a Catholic. From the 60's she was an activist for women's and human rights, labour, and social justice. She was President for of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Ms. McCormack played a critical role in the 1998 Good Friday Peace Accords. She continued her struggle for the underprivileged until she passed away in January 2013 after a short illness.



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-nominated in 2005 for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work against sex trafficking in Cambodia and neighboring 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.

SEVEN in numbers

19 countries included in the tour of SEVEN: Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey, Belgium, Nigeria, Finland, Serbia, Russia, Denmark, Lithuania, Jordania, Afghanistan, India, Macedonia, Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Marocko.

500 politicians, actors, journalists and many more activists have read a role in SEVEN.

1 Oscar winning actress performing SEVEN – Meryl Streep in New York City in 2010.

7 members of the European Parliament performing SEVEN inside the EU Parliament.

6 ministers of the Swedish cabinet performing SEVEN.

7 male politicians performing the seven women's roles in Swedish Parliament.

1 Secretary of foreign aid giving an introductory speech – Gunilla Carlsson, Stockholm, 2009.

60 + organizations and agencies involved around performances of SEVEN world wide.

SEVEN is a GAUNTLET

The director and producer, Hedda Krausz Sjögren, continues to invite collaborations with governmental institutions, organizations, companies, universities and other theatres to bring SEVEN to a wider audience. Who would you like to see perform SEVEN? Contact Hedda Krausz Sjögren today!

Hedda Krausz Sjögren with Swedish Parliamentarians, Cecilia Wikström (FP), Bodil Ceballos (MP), Abir Al-Sahlani (C), Kajsa Borgnäs (S), Kristina Axén Olin (M), Amineh Kakabaveh (V), Desirée Pethrus Engström (KD). Photo: Stig Hammarstedt.



SEVEN on tour

- BALKAN 2013

In 2013 SEVEN will tour six Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia.

SEVEN is organized for the first time in Albania.

Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI), an Albanian NGO that offers free legal service for victims of gender based violence, is committed to organize the SEVEN show in close collaboration with the Swedish Embassy in Tirana and Civil Rights Defenders.

The Swedish tour of SEVEN is an international project begun in 2008 with the support of independent production and resource unit INTERCULT and as a part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Directed and produced by Hedda Krausz Sjögren and in cooperation with the Swedish National Touring Theatre (Riksteatern), the Swedish Institute, Swedish Embassies and local partners SEVEN has toured continuously.

SEVEN is today translated into Swedish, Turkish, Serbian, French, Spanish, Finnish, Russian, Danish, Lithuanian, Dari, Albanian, Macedonian and Arabic.

Seven male politicians rehearsing the seven women's roles in Swedish Parliament.

From left: Hedda Krausz Sjögren, Mats Sander (M), Michael Anefur (KD), Fredrik Malm (FP), Mikael Damberg (S), Jacob Johnson (V), Staffan Danielsson (C) and Mats Perotto (MP). Photo: Anna Huerta



Hillary Clinton, Inez McCormack and Meryl
Streep after SEVEN performance, March 2010.
Photo: Vital Voices



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.sevenwomen.se/en

E-mail: hedda@sevenwomen.se

 @SevenHedda

 Seven on Tour

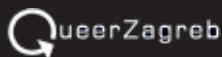
Hedda Produktion AB

is a production company operating out of Stockholm, Sweden. Hedda Krausz Sjögren, an actor, writer and consultant received Riksteatern's yearly prize 2009 and the Hans Ullberg award 2010 for her work with SEVEN including translating the play and initiating and running the Swedish international tour of SEVEN.

www.hedda.nu



SEVEN ON TOUR - Balkan 2013



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

Belgrade • Pristina • Skopje
• Sarajevo • Tirana • Zagreb

www.sevenwomen.se/en