

Weekender

San Antonio Express-News

events

Friday, March 28, 2008

17H

Wong's solo show explores truth, fiction and knitting

By DEBORAH MARTIN

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

It's probably understandable that Kristina Wong was stressed out while she was crafting her solo show "Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

The piece, which can be seen today and Saturday at Jump-Start Theater, explores high rates of mental illness and anxiety among Asian American women.

Wong's solution to her show-induced anxiety was simple: She knitted. A lot.

"The way writers will smoke cigarettes, I knitted, just trying to avoid thinking about (the show)," she said.

She eventually wove the knitting into the piece. She sought, and received, incomplete projects from knitters around the world, and those pieces are a key visual element, evoking women unraveling.

Knitting also happens in the audience. Wong invites knitters to



COURTESY JUMP-START PERFORMANCE CO.

Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' is at the Jump-Start Theater.

bring their needles and click away during the show. "I can't sit still sometimes in a theater," she said. "I thought it might be nice to meld the element into it."

The piece plays around with the idea of what is true and what is not, starting with the name of the character Wong plays — Kris-

Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

■ **Where:** Jump-Start Theater, Building B, Blue Star Arts Complex, Alamo at Probandt

■ **When:** 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday

■ **Tickets:** \$9-\$12. Reservations, (210) 227-5867.

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More on Wong and Jump-Start

tina Wong. Wong makes plain, repeatedly, that it's not an autobiographical story, but the idea still hovers over the piece. She'd like audiences to leave questioning the fictional representations in their own lives.

"There's a whole school of theater in which people talk about what really happened to them, but even that has been sculpted," she said. "(This is) more a story

about hiding and lying and how we protect ourselves with lies."

dmartin@express-news.net