The award-winning and internationally acclaimed, *Jamaica Farewell*, written and performed by Debra Ehrhardt and directed by Joel Zwick will be coming to Minnesota. Based on her true life story, Ehrhardt's *Jamaica Farewell* chronicles her escape from revolution-torn Jamaica in the 1970's to fulfill her lifelong dream of going to America. The performance of Jamaica Farewell will be at Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Main Street in Hopkins on Sunday November 11, 2012 at 4pm. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 952-979-1111.

When Debra Ehrhardt was an eighteen year old secretary in Kingston Jamaica, she and her passion for America bumped into a handsome CIA agent over a bowl of oxtail soup on her lunch break. It was during the turbulent seventies of the Manley Era that she saw her chance. A pinhole of opportunity that she could squeeze through with the help of this love-struck American. She began a dangerous adventure that only the single minded passion of a teenage girl would chance. The boundary between bravery and foolishness blurred as she became more desperate. When she agreed to smuggle a million US dollars in cash to a mysterious contact somewhere in Miami, the agent became her accomplice. Only he had no idea.

This is Kingston-born Debra Ehrhardt's third one-woman show. Previous productions include award-winning *Mango Mango*, and *Invisible Chairs*, which was produced by David Strasberg at the Marilyn Monroe theatre in West Hollywood and later optioned as a situation comedy by Fox. She was also a 2007 NYC Fringe festival award-winner and received a 2007 Proclamation from the City of New York for *Jamaica Farewell* for her outstanding contribution to the Jamaican community. *Jamaica Farewell* was the final production in the 2010-11 subscription season at Garry Marshall's Falcon theatre in Los Angeles and has been optioned by a major Hollywood Film Producer. A member of the Writer's Guild of America, Ehrhardt is currently adapting *Jamaica Farewell* for the big screen. More info at www.jamaicafarewelltheplay.com

Joel Zwick directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all

time. Recent films include *Fat Albert* and *Elvis Has Left the Building*. Zwick directed the Broadway production of *George Gershwin Alone* at the Helen Hayes Theatre. He began his theatrical career at La Mama E.T.C., as director of the La Mama Plexus. He has directed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Broadway touring companies. He and Hershey Felder have collaborated on *Monsieur Chopin*, *Beethoven As I Knew Him* and *Maestro*. Zwick is recognized as one of Hollywood's most prolific directors of episodic television, having the direction of five hundred and fifty episodes to his credit. He is currently directing 'Shake it Up' for the Disney Channel. Zwick has taught drama at Yale University, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wheaton College, USC and has made his home in Hollywood for the past decade.