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B. Smith Returns to the Stage for her Off-Broadway Debut in Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron's hit *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*

New York, NY (March 28, 2011) –[B. \(Barbara\) Smith](#)— pioneering lifestyle entrepreneur and restaurateur—will join the cast of the Off-Broadway hit [Love, Loss, and What I Wore](#), beginning April 27. While not a neophyte to the stage, this engagement marks the iconic style maven's Off-Broadway debut. During this five week run, the ensemble of the Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron play will also include "Two and a Half Men" star Conchata Ferrell, legendary actress and comedienne Anne Meara, and "90210" star AnnaLynne McCord. B. Smith's run will conclude on May 29th.



For B. Smith, whose motto has always been "Whatever you do, do it with Style," her return to the stage couldn't be more fitting than in a play that uses clothing and accessories as triggers to tell funny and often poignant stories.

B. Smith has been weaving stories through fashion since her modeling days when she broke barriers as the first African-American featured on the cover of *Mademoiselle* magazine. A myriad of other milestones followed suit: the first African-American woman to have a national lifestyle brand, the first African-American woman on the board of directors of the Culinary Institute of America and the first African-American woman to have a nationally syndicated television lifestyle show.

"This signals a return to my first love, the theater," says B. Smith. "When I first moved to New York, my fondest memories included studying with renowned Method acting advocate Paul Mann and sharing a scene with a young Kevin Bacon under the watchful eye of Michael Howard. And I have no doubt that, as director Karen Carpenter said, this experience may just change my life!"

About *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*:

Love, Loss, and What I Wore, opened in October 2009 at the Westside Theatre (407 W 43rd Street), where it's broken all box office records. Directed by Karen Carpenter and produced by Daryl Roth, this collection of stories is based on the best-selling book by Ilene Beckerman, as well as on the recollections of the Ephrons' friends. The production, which was honored with a 2010 Drama Desk Award and a Broadway.com Audience Award, is performed by a rotating cast of five all-star actors, who perform in five-week cycles. Members of the rotating cast have included, Kristin Chenoweth, Tyne Daly, Fran Drescher, Janeane Garofalo, Jane Lynch, Rosie O'Donnell, Rhea Perlman, Caroline Rhea, Tracee Ellis Ross, Sherri Shepherd, Brooke Shields, Jamie-Lynn Sigler, Rita Wilson and many more. The current cast of *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (through April 24) includes Sonia Manzano, Donna McKechnie, Annie Starke, Fredi Walker-Browne and Rumer Willis.

