



Opinionist: Top Ten in Theater 2009



And one was a genre-defying examination of how African Americans are perceived and portrayed in mass media, from an Asian American playwright hoping to create “slightly enhanced paranoia” in white audience members. She succeeded, and for her next project, that old white dude King Lear is in the cross hairs. Young Jean Lee’s plays have been instant Off Broadway hits for their personal, probing, and typically hilarious explorations of race and religion in an ostensibly “post-racial” America. This year her play *The Shipment* featured an extremely talented all-black ensemble in a genre-defying show that looks at how African Americans are perceived and portrayed in mass media. (Photo: Paula Cort)