

Think: education, race, class  
Now Listen and Respond:

Tuesday, Nov. 26, 4 pm  
WRPI/91.5fm  
and iEAR Studios in  
collaboration with  
The Arts Company and  
WGBH, Boston,

PRESENTS

# TURF

A Conversational Concert  
in Black and White

A new performance work for radio sparked by the profound impact court-ordered school desegregation has had on communities throughout the US.

Following the one-hour performance, join TURF's award-winning creator Robbie McCauley, cast member Kristin Johnson and WRPI host/producer Steve Pierce for discussion and listener call-ins:  
518-276-4778.



# Metroland

NOV. 21, 1996

## Art Murmur

CULTURAL NEWS, OBSERVATIONS, INSIGHTS AND GOSSIP

## No Shades of Gray

IN 1996 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION continues to be a polarizing topic. Cultural diversity is an issue in school board meetings, and racially motivated crime continues to increase annually. How far has the country progressed in its thinking and its actions with regard to the implications of ethnic pluralism? To define where we are, artist/writer/actress **Robbie McCauley** has created a new performance to investigate where we've been. It's called *TURF: A Conversational Concert in Black and White*, and it will be broadcast on WRPI (91.5 FM) on Tuesday at 4 PM.

*TURF*, originally a stage performance, takes place in the midst of Boston's school busing crisis of the '70s, revealing the thoughts of the city's residents during and after the event. The goal of the text, created in large part by taking first-person accounts of longtime community residents, is to express the feelings of those who lived through the event as well as the reflections of cast members who represent a multitude of ages, ethnicities and economic experiences.

"Conversational music" is the term that McCauley, a 1992 Obie Award winner, uses for the performance's structure, which like music, she says, has a wide range of feelings and emotions in its content.

*TURF* is also designed as a catalyst for producing dialogues between members of the various communities in which it has been performed. To foster such conversations, a live call-in session with McCauley, Albany and Troy residents, *TURF* actors and WRPI program host Steve Pierce will follow the performance. Listeners may call 275-4778 between 5 and 6 PM to share experiences and offer comments on issues raised by the performance including race, religion, class and general attitudes of modern American culture.

Says McCauley, "This music in the language of ordinary people, this conversational music, is a way of tuning into stories that need to be told."



**Taking affirmative action:  
Robbie McCauley.**

—Jason Black