

Sita Sings the Blues

**USA – SPECIAL SCREENING**

Animation, Nina Paley, 2007, 82 min

In English

Recommended ages 9 to adult

SYMPH – Sat, Mar 14, 1:00pm

**Q&A with director Nina Paley following the film!**

Tragedy, comedy and musical collide in this gloriously animated film from Nina Paley, New York's own "One Woman Pixar" (*Wired Magazine*). Sita is a goddess separated from her beloved Lord and husband Rama. Nina is an animator whose husband moves to India, then dumps her by email. Three bickering shadow puppets with Indian accents act as comic narrators as these old and new stories are interwoven in a post-modern retelling of the ancient Indian epic *Ramayana*, animated in a dazzling mix of traditional and collage animation styles, and backed by a soundtrack from legendary 1920's jazz singer Annette Hanshaw. *Sita Sings the Blues* follows in the line of *Triplets of Bellville*, *Spirited Away*, and *Persepolis* to exemplify animation as a "serious" art form. The panoply of monsters, gods, goddesses, warriors, sages, and winged eyeballs fill the screen with vivid color from start to finish, while the narrators' improvisational debates over the Rama legend join the filmmaker's own tragicomic story and Hanshaw's done-me-wrong tunes to layer a modern feminist commentary on the ancient tale. The result is a subtly subversive, visually stunning, highly original work that is as enjoyable for children as it is for adults.