



Supporting Women and Girls by Supporting the Arts
Women's. Action. Movement.

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upon receipt

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**WAM THEATRE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS WITH KICKSTARTER
CAMPAIGN!
TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR SARAH RUHL'S *MELANCHOLY PLAY*
BENEFIT EVENT NOVEMBER 12-21, 2010 AT NEW STAGE PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER**

Event to Benefit The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts

We did it! With 64 backers from all over the world, donating amounts ranging from \$10 to \$500, WAM surpassed their \$3500 goal to raise a total of \$3657 during their 8 week Kickstarter campaign. This success, combined with other donations and fundraising efforts, means that WAM has now raised over 50% of the needed funds for their production of Sarah Ruhl's contemporary farce, "Melancholy Play". The production will run November 12-21 at NEW STAGE Performing Arts Center and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Women's Fund of Western MA. Tickets are now on sale by calling 1-800-838-3006 or going to www.wamtheatre.com

Kristen van Ginhoven, co-artistic director of WAM Theatre remarked, "WAM is thrilled with the success of our Kickstarter campaign, amazed by the support of our community and very excited about the production of this nutty, whimsical celebration of sadness! We are looking forward to people joining us at NEW STAGE Performing Arts Center for our first full production of a play by a female playwright and our first with a local beneficiary, The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts. By coming to see WAM's production of 'Melancholy Play', you are helping to create opportunity for women and girls right here in our community!"

Marjorie Hutter, Director of Philanthropy for The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts remarked, "I remember when Kristen first called me to talk about the vision for WAM – that offering a theatrical venue for women's voices and experiences would go hand-in-hand with advancing women's philanthropy for social change. As the chosen beneficiary of WAM's fall show, the Women's Fund couldn't ask for a better alignment of mission and values. We welcome this terrific opportunity to share with WAM's audience the impact of our grantmaking in Berkshire County. So when you attend WAM's fall production, please know that you'll also be part of changing the world, right here at home!"

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Tilly (bank teller), Frances (hairdresser), Joan (nurse), Frank (tailor) and Lorenzo (therapist), together with Julian (cellist), come together in this whimsical celebration of sadness. Tilly, an irresistibly melancholy young stranger, makes her sorrow so sexy that everyone in her life falls maddeningly in love with her. Tilly's sudden joyful transformation results in a mystical and hilarious quest exploring the happiness of melancholy and the melancholy of happiness.

** This play is suitable for ages 13 and up.*

WHERE:

NEW STAGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 55 North Street, Pittsfield, MA

WHEN:

Friday, November 12, 2010: 8pm

Saturday, November 13, 2010: 3pm* & 8 pm

Sunday, November 14, 2010: 3pm

Friday, November 19, 2010: 8pm

Saturday, November 20, 2010: 3pm* & 8pm

Sunday, November 21, 2010: 3pm

**A free post-show discussion with the actors and creative team will follow.*

TICKETS:

\$25 general public

\$12 students

To book tickets, go to www.wamtheatre.com or call 1-800-838-3006

About WAM Theatre:

WAM Theatre is a theatre company based in the Berkshires and the Capital Region of New York State. Inspired by the book 'Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide' by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn, WAM Theatre was founded in 2009 by professional theatre artists Kristen van Ginhoven and Leigh Strimbeck. WAM's philanthropic mission is two-fold. First, producing theatrical events for everyone, with a focus on women theatre artists and/or stories of women and girls. Second, to donate a portion of the proceeds from those events to organizations that benefit women and girls. www.wamtheatre.com

About The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts:

The vision of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts is to empower women and girls to reach their full potential in a world that is just and fair for all. Their mission is to create economic and social equality for women and girls in Western Massachusetts through grantmaking and strategic initiatives. The proceeds donated from this production will be directed to the Fund's grantmaking initiatives.

www.womensfund.net

About the Playwright:

Sarah Ruhl's plays include In The Next Room or the Vibrator Play (Glickman Prize, finalist for Pulitzer Prize, 2010), The Clean House (Susan Smith Blackburn award, 2004, finalist for Pulitzer Prize, 2005), Dead Man's Cell Phone, (Helen Hayes award for best new play), Demeter in the City (nominated for 9 NAACP awards), Eurydice, Melancholy Play, Orlando, a new version of Chekhov's Three Sisters, and Passion Play (Kennedy Center Fourth Forum Freedom Award). In 2003, she was the recipient of a Helen Merrill award and a Whiting Writers' award, a PEN/Laura Pels award, and in 2006 was the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. Her work is published by TCG and Sam French, and she is a member of New Dramatists and 13P. She lives in New York City with her family.

More information at www.wamtheatre.com

Photographs available upon request to kaitlyn@wamtheatre.com

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