



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

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WAM Theatre announces donation of \$1500 to Women's Fund of Western MA

WAM Theatre is thrilled to announce a \$1500 donation to the Women's Fund of Western MA, raised from their recent production of 'Melancholy Play'. Sarah Ruhl's 'Melancholy Play' was WAM Theatre's first full-length production and played to critical acclaim for two weekends in November at the NEW STAGE Performing Arts Center in Pittsfield, MA.

"WAM Theatre is grateful to all the donors, supporters and audience members who made it possible to exceed our fundraising and ticket sale goals," remarked Kristen van Ginhoven, co-Artistic Director of WAM Theatre. "Exceeding these goals enabled us to employ nine professional theatre artists as well as make this donation to the Women's Fund."

Marjorie Hutter, Director of Philanthropy at the Women's Fund made this statement, "The Women's Fund board and staff are deeply grateful for WAM Theatre's generous donation of \$1,500. It's a true reflection of WAM's influence within the arts community of the Berkshires and of the broader community's embrace of WAM's philanthropic mission. To all those who had the pleasure of attending Melancholy Play earlier this month, please know that your collective support will be put to good work right here in Western Mass – improving communities by investing in the lives and talents of women and girls."

Leigh Strimbeck, co-Artistic Director of WAM Theatre says, "WAM Theatre is ecstatic about the success of our inaugural season. Our philanthropic mission became a reality by producing two theatrical events, 'A WAM Welcome' in April (beneficiary: Women for Women International) and 'Melancholy Play' in November, and donating a total of \$2500 to organizations that create opportunity for women and girls. We look forward to our first event of 2011, the 'Oh Solo Mama Mia' Festival of solo women's works in the spring, which will benefit the training of at least one community midwife at Edna's Hospital in Somaliland."

For more information about WAM Theatre's 2011 season, please go to www.wamtheatre.com

About WAM Theatre:

WAM Theatre is a theatre company based in the Berkshires of Massachusetts 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

Photographs available upon request to kaitlyn@wamtheatre.com

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