



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WAM THEATRE PRESENTS 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

After the successful production of 'A WAM Welcome' in April 2010, resulting in a \$1000 donation to Women for Women International, WAM Theatre returns with Tony nominated Sarah Ruhl's 'Bold, Outward, Sassy, Sexy and Unashamed' contemporary farce, 'Melancholy Play'. This production will run from November 12-21, 2010 at the NEW STAGE Performing Arts Center in Pittsfield, MA. In line with WAM Theatre's philanthropic mission, a portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts.

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:

2 men, Frank (tailor) and Lorenzo (therapist), and 3 women, Frances (hairdresser), Joan (nurse) and Tilly (bank teller), 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

\$12 tickets available for groups of 10 or more

For ticket information, go to www.wamtheatre.com

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 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). Her plays have premiered at the Lyceum Theater on Broadway, produced by Lincoln Center Theater; off-Broadway at Lincoln Center Theater, Playwrights' Horizons, and Second Stage; and regionally at Berkeley Repertory Theater, Yale Repertory Theater, the Goodman Theater, Cornerstone Theater, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth, Cincinnati Playhouse, and the Piven Theater Workshop in Chicago, as well being produced at many other theaters across the country. Her plays have also been performed in England, Poland, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, and Australia, and have been translated into Spanish, Polish, Russian, Korean and Arabic. Sarah received her M.F.A. from Brown University where she studied with Paula Vogel, and is originally from Chicago. 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.

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

Photographs available upon request to kaitlyn@wamtheatre.com