

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

MELANCHOLY PLAY by Sarah Ruhl
November 7-21, 2010 @ BSC Stage 2
To benefit The Women's Fund of Western MA

THANK YOU

BSC: Tristan Wilson, Julianne Boyd, Richard Parison, Laura Roudabush, Kate Ivey and the BSC Staff and Volunteer Ushers; Linda Badami, Deb Benoit, Cohoes Music Hall, Julie Henrikus, Tom Nevels, Katesel Strimbeck, The Lichtenstein Foundation, Special thanks to family and friends, Actor's Equity Association, Stephanie Remmert (WAM Theatre Administrative Assistant), Russell Sage, Yvonne Perry, Nick Webb and Paul Rapp

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Where: BSC Stage 2
Pittsfield, MA

When: April 9-11 2010

Web: wamtheatre.com

A
WAM
theatre
welcome



A WAM welcome to you, our first audience!

So who are we, and why are we starting a theatre company now? We felt compelled to take action to benefit women and girls after reading Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn's *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The book shares many stories where investing in women and girls, helping from the bottom up, successfully effects change for those in extreme circumstances. For us, both theatre professionals who are actors, passionate teachers and directors, using theatre as our way to take action was a natural choice. Our plan is to raise funds to produce two theatrical events a year. We will focus on the stories of women and girls and highlight the work of women theatre artists. For every WAM Theatre event, a portion of our proceeds will go to organizations that lift up the lives of women and girls. Tonight, that organization is Women for Women International. This double philanthropic model means that by being here tonight you are supporting the arts *and* supporting women and girls. A double positive!

Since launching WAM Theatre in January, 2010 we have received a plethora of support internationally and in both our regions, the Berkshires of Massachusetts and the Capital Region of New York. We are thankful for that support and look forward to more connections: welcoming new sponsors and collaborating with the many talented artists of our two regions. Together, we can use theatre to effect change for women and girls, locally and globally.

We'll see you again in the fall at *Melancholy Play* by Sarah Ruhl, where we are thrilled our beneficiary will be The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts.

Thank you,

Handwritten signatures of Leigh Strimbeck and Kristen van Ginhoven in black ink.

Leigh Strimbeck & Kristen van Ginhoven
Co-artistic Directors, WAM Theatre

A WAM Welcome

My Salvation has a First Name: A Wienermobile Journey

Performer, Writer Robin Gelfenbien

The Last Standing Protestor- A Staged Reading

Protestor Brenny Rabine*
Playwright Lydia Stryk
Director Kristen van Ginhoven

Mirror, Mirror

Presented by the Sage Colleges, Russell Sage College Department of Performing Arts

Ensemble Sara Anderson
Brittany Beyus
Kyrie Ellison
Heather Guarni
Raven Pingree
Marian Ravenwood
Anna Shields
Kaitlin Stewart
Raysheea Turner
Leigh Strimbeck

Director Caitlyn Cash

Stage Manager Joe and Jan Jurchak
Sound Design Nick Webb
Lighting Design

A WAM Welcome is 2 hours with an intermission

**member of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*



Women for Women International provides women with direct aid, rights awareness, leadership education, vocational skills and business training to help them become active participants in rebuilding their communities. Since 1993, WWI has directly assisted more than 93,000 women and has distributed nearly \$32 million in direct aid and microcredit loans. <http://www.womenforwomen.org/>

My Salvation has a First Name: A Wienermobile Journey- A Selection

ROBIN GELFENBIEN is a writer, storyteller and comedian. She is thrilled to be a part of this inaugural event for WAM Theatre. Her solo show *My Salvation has a First Name: A Wienermobile Journey* premiered at the 2008 New York International Fringe Festival where one reviewer called her "the consummate storyteller" and New York Magazine hailed the show as "the highlight of the Fringe." Robin wrote jokes for emcee Rosie O'Donnell at the Matrix Awards where featured presenters included Martha Stewart, Rupert Murdoch and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Her original comedy songs have played on Sirius' Radio, and she has appeared on *The Wiseguy Show*. Favorite TV credits include VH1 and a commercial directed by Spike Lee. Robin has performed at the Toronto and Chicago Sketch Comedy Festivals and the DC Comedy Festival. She's also been featured in *Marie Claire*, mentioned in the *New York Times* and performed on the Saturday Night Live stage. She recently performed at the Boston Women in Comedy Festival and this summer she'll be performing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. www.robinglefellenbien.com

The Last Standing Protestor- A Staged Reading

LYDIA STRYK is the author of over a dozen plays including *Monte Carlo*, *The House of Lily*, *The Glamour House*, *American Tet* and *An Accident*, which will premiere at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco in April. Her work has been seen at festivals and produced across the country and in Germany. She is the recipient of a Berrilla Kerr Playwright Award and a member of PEN American Center. www.lydiastryk.com

BRENNY RABINE is honored to help inaugurate WAM Theatre. Recently she appeared as Jean Louise in *To Kill a Mockinbird* at Capital Rep. She burst through the doors as Catherine in *Boston Marriage* (Capital Rep), under the direction of Terence Lamude. Brenny played Kitty/Kendra/Various Women in Lake George Dinner Theatre's regional premiere of *Old Love* and has been a professional improviser with THE MOP & BUCKET CO., with whom she has performed all over the Capital District, and in New York, Orlando, Little Rock, San Francisco, Denver, and elsewhere. Local TV audiences may recognize her in commercials, and Brenny has performed in training and industrial videos, independent films, and for the National Geographic channel. She's performed improv for conferences, award dinners, and as part of training initiatives. Her plays include the NYSCA grant winner *Catching Babies* and holiday favorite *Santa's List*. Visit her at www.brennyrabine.com

Mirror, Mirror

SARA ANDERSON is a freshman Musical Theatre major at Russell Sage College where she has participated in David Baecker's production of *Cell Cycle* (Sounds Manager), Michael Musial's musical *The 20th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Props Manager), and Leigh Strimbeck's latest workshop production of *I'm Not a Feminist, But...* She is a member of the Troy Acting Guild.

BRITTANY BEYUS is an English major in the freshman class at Russell Sage College. She's appeared in *Peter Pan*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Grease*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Guys and Dolls*.

KYRIE ELLISON is a first year at Russell Sage college pursuing a B.A. in Musical Theatre. Her favorite past credits include *The Wedding Singer* and *CATS*, as well as many other shows. She hopes one day to be seen on Broadway!

HEATHER GUARNI is a first year Forensic Science student at Russell Sage. Beginning in 8th grade, she took an interest in theater by participating in The Highland Stage's production of *The Secret Garden*. In high school, she performed in *Silver Linings*, *Voices from the High School*, and did tech work including lights, set building, and sound.

MARIAN RAVENWOOD is a sophomore theatre major at Russell Sage College, where she has been involved with *The Visit*, *I'm not a Feminist, But...* and *Mirror Mirror*. Shyulerville Community Theatre: *Annie Get Your Gun*, *A Christmas Story*, *Beaty and the Beast*

ANNA SHIELDS is a theater major freshman at Russell Sage College. She has done productions with Barrington Stage Company and Berkshire Theater Festival. Some of her favorite roles are Magenta from *The Rocky Horror Show*, Emily from *Our Town*, and Sister Mary from *Sister Mary Explains It All For You*.

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KAITLIN STEWART is a junior Theatre major at Russell Sage College. She has twice stage managed and some of her past roles have included Ms. Scarlett (*CLUE*), Christine (*The Phantom of the Op'ry*), the Uncle (*The Turn of the Screw*), Judge Millhouse (*Whose Life is it Anyway?*)

RAYSHEA TURNER is currently a Junior Theatre Major at Sage. She has a passion for bringing awareness through performance. She feels blessed to be a part of this show.

CAITLYN CASH is a junior Women's Studies major at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY. Her theatre credits include Beth in Russell Sage's production of *Little Women* and Musical Director of Russell Sage's *The Visit*. She is an accomplished musician, holding an Area All State chair in Oboe, as well as section leader positions on French Horn and Saxophone.

A Message from the Cast of MIRROR, MIRROR:

We are honored to bring this show here for the inaugural production of WAM Theatre. We are not only proud of *Mirror Mirror* itself, but also happy about the response we have had from people of all ages. We feel it sends an important message to women about their bodies, self-esteem and the power of the media. No woman should spend time feeling insecure or ugly – there is so much else we could do with our energy! Thanks to our director and fearless leader Leigh for working with us. Thank you to the support of friends and partners both on stage and off. “You’re beautiful, damn it!”

PRODUCTION TEAM

JOE AND JAN JURCHAK- *A WAM Welcome* is the first theatrical collaboration for this father and son duo. Joe, the elder, has been designing sound for professional regional theatre since 1994 in combination with sound system installations and television and radio credits. Jan is a student of piano, sax, accordion and electric bass. A member of the Ichabod Crane Middle School Jazz Band, he made his sound design debut with the production of *Waiting for Joe*, written and directed by Leigh Strimbeck at Theatre 440, Proctor's, Schenectady, NY.

NICK WEBB-This is Nick's first design for WAM Theatre. Before moving to the US, Nick served as lighting designer for various theatre companies in the UK, where notable designs included Whelan's *The Herbal Bed*, Pinter's *A Kind of Alaska* (SADATA award winner) and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. In the last five years, Nick has designed a number of shows for theatres in the region, including several productions at SCP (*Our Country's Good*, *Stage Door*, *Triangle Factory Fire*), and SLOC's production of *The Music Man*, at the GE Theatre at Proctors.

LEIGH STRIMBECK is an actor, director, writer, acting teacher and newly appointed assistant professor of theater at Russell Sage College. Plays directed: *Fools Rush In*, *Voice of the Prairie*, *Sea Marks*, *The Nest*, *Daytrips*, *The Baltimore Waltz* and *Death of a Salesman* for the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE) in Pennsylvania. Other plays directed include *Children of a Lesser God*, *On the Verge*, *Tonight We Improvise*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Hippolytus*, *Noises Off* and *Private Eyes*. During her 12 year tenure with BTE Leigh acted in dozens of plays and served as Ensemble Director for 3 years; was co-writer and director of *Berwick, America*; *This House Built*, and *Here Be Dragons* and served for three years on the theatre panel of the National Endowment for the Arts. www.leighstrimbeck.com

KRISTEN VAN GINHOVEN is an actor, director and educator. Plays directed: *Vendetta Chrome* (Emerson College), *Footloose* (Cohoes Music Hall), *If We Are Women* (Theater Voices), *The Real Inspector Hound*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Sneeze* (ISB). She assisted Melia Bensussen, *Taming of the Shrew* (ASP), Edward Hall, *Two Men of Florence* (Huntington), Jesse Berger, *Sleuth* (BSC), whom she will assist again this summer on *Absurd Person Singular* at BSC. Kristen's CAEA acting credits include *Proof* (Claire), *A View from the Bridge* (Beatrice), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolyn), *Molly Sweeney* (Molly), *Noises Off* (Dottie Otley) and *As You Like It* (Rosalind). Kristen works with ISTA (www.ista.co.uk), leading ensembles at theatre festivals around the world. She graduates in May with a Master's in Theatre Education from Emerson College, where she was awarded the Presidential Fellowship and will be adjunct faculty next fall. www.kristenvanginhoven.com

WAM THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT:

Every time an audience comes together for a theatrical event, a community is formed. WAM Theatre engages that community by 1) producing theatrical events by, with, for and about women and girls and 2) contributing a portion of proceeds from those events to organizations that work to benefit the lives of women and girls here or abroad.

Are you interested in getting involved in our fall production of *MELANCHOLY PLAY* by Sarah Ruhl? Our beneficiary for that event is The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts. From **sponsorship to production**, there are many ways you can be involved. Please **contact Kristen at kristen@wamtheatre.com** or at **518 243 9627**. We look forward to hearing from you.