JULY 2011 a r t s p r o g r a m s

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Vanities: A New Musical The Prisoner of Second Avenue Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World In the Next Room, or the vibrator play Mary Stuart Double Indemnity



In the Next Room, or the play by Sarah Ruhl Directed by Kurt Beattie

Kurt Beattie Artistic Director Gian-Carlo Scandiuzzi Executive Director

ACT A Contemporary Theatre presents

In the Next Room, or the Development of the Develop

by Sarah Ruhl Directed by Kurt Beattie

Beginning July 29, 2011 Opening Night August 4, 2011

PRODUCTION SPONSOR:



SEASONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:



A Contemporary Theatre Foundation Eulalie Bloedel Schneider Artists Fund



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Original Broadway Production by Lincoln Center Theater New York City, 2009

IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play was originally commissioned and produced by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA

Tony Taccone, Artistic Director / Susan Medak, Managing Director

IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play was developed at New Dramatists

IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Welcome to ACT

"Perfect love means to love the one through whom one became unhappy." —Kierkegaard

The flywheel of 19th century science and technology seemed to spin the globe faster: its momentous objectivity began to conquer diseases and accurately plumb complicated physical phenomena like electricity, chemistry, and the biological processes of life. Was all life fundamentally knowable? And words like soul, spirit, morality, religion and so on, merely fuzzy primitive generalizations of the past? Could even the matted loam of the emotions have something like a mechanical basis, able to be unearthed and manipulated, as Freud suggested?

Bourgeois civilization, clothed in the energy of its new materialism made possible by industrialization, exacted sacrifices of its citizens if they were to get on in it. The individual conformed, fitted in, put on hold or submerged those parts of his being that didn't help with the basic necessities of getting and spending. But as the buildings got bigger and the locomotives faster and the din of the factories and pile drivers deafening, a parallel need to make aggressive claims for the Self asserted itself violently.

A counter movement throughout the era emerged, as though to protect something the culture discovered in itself as important, perhaps more important, than the periodic table of elements. One of its guises was Romanticism, which plunged into the subjective, and that mysterious sense in each individual that the experiences he is having are *his alone*. The exploration of humanity's interior life, particularly its tangled dark flora of love and sex, became a principal obsession of 19th century mass culture and high art alike. The triumphant mass entertainment was the melodrama, which was devoted to creating pure sensation by enthralling large audiences throughout the century with its orgy of murdering, gambling, drinking, white slavery, and cliff hanging situations. Blake's



writing, extolling the divinity of children and the senses, and Goya's drawings of nightmares, surround the beginning of the century; and Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and Mahler's poignant inward 4th Symphony, the last movement of which voices itself as a series of children's songs, ends it.

Electricity extended man's active life deep into the night. It was immediately used to expand human pleasure as well as productivity; commercial lighting made the department store and the amusement park intense focal points of escape and stimulation. And it filled the language

with expressions all having to with erotic excitement. Lovers "sparked." A new affair could "recharge" you, because you "made the connection." A certain person "turned you on." Even Whitman sang of "the body electric."

The two main characters in Sarah Ruhl's play, Dr. Givings and Mrs. Givings, are perched on the edge of a new light, a new consciousness. Dr. Givings could be thought of as the new hero who would appear in popular literature in the 19th century: the scientist/ engineer who would bring rationality to the fore in transforming society. Mrs. Givings has the seeds of the new progressive woman, who will call for equality, intellectual opportunities, and a broad reaching freedom. But in fact, there is a much richer journey underway in this play than simply an evocation of history. They must live with the problem of the ideal of conjugal love, and the reality, so well put by Anton Chekhov: "If you are afraid of loneliness, don't marry."

And that is where we turn the lights on, and the story begins.

Kunt Beat

Kurt Beattie, ACT Artistic Director

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The Company

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Jeff Cummings	Dr. Givings	
Tracy Michelle Hughes	Elizabeth	
Mary Kae Irvin	Kae Irvin Annie	
Jennifer Sue Johnson	Catherine Givings	
Deborah King	Sabrina Daldry	
Michael Patten	Mr. Daldry	
Connor Toms	Leo Irving	

Creative Team

Kurt Beattie	Director
Matthew Smucker	Scenic Designer
Catherine Hunt	Costume Designer
Ben Zamora	Lighting Designer
Brendan Patrick Hogan	Sound Designer
Evan Ritter	Assistant Lighting Designer
Jeffrey K. Hanson	Stage Manager
Verhanika Wood	Production Assistant

Setting:

A prosperous spa town outside of New York City, perhaps Saratoga Springs The dawn of the age of electricity; and after the Civil War; circa 1880s

Running Time:

This show runs two hours. There will be one intermission.

The Actors and Stage Managers in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Audience members are cordially reminded to silence all electronic devices such as cell phones, watch alarms, and pagers prior to the performance.

All forms of photography and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited.

Please do not walk on the stage before, during or after the show.

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THE WONDERFUL "O"

Hysteria. It is one of the oldest diagnostic terms in medicine. The condition it describes first appears in an Egyptian medical papyrus from about 2000 BCE, noting peculiarities masturbate, depression, heart palpitations, headaches, weepiness, confusion and a general "tendency to cause trouble" – in short, almost any female behavior that

in female behavior that were ascribed to a wandering of the uterus, causing disturbance and distress throughout the body. The ancient Greeks gave it its modern name, derived from the Greek hystera ("womb"), and in the 4th century BCE, Plato further developed the somewhat horrorfilm notion of an under-stimulated uterus going rogue and roaming at large through the system in search of satisfaction: "The animal within [women] is desirous of procreating children, and when remaining unfruitful...gets discontented and angry, and wandering in every direction through the body drives them to extremity, causing all varieties of disease." Galen, the great 2nd century physician, rejected the idea of the wandering womb, but observed that hysterical symptoms appeared more often among virgins, nuns, widows, and unmarried

or unhappily married women, concluding that the condition was a result of sexual deprivation; abstinence or frustration, he theorized, led to a toxic accumulation of vapors in the uterus that affected physical and mental well-being.

All the ancients agreed that the most effective treatment was external pelvic massage to lure the vagabond womb back to its proper place or to encourage the congesting vapors downward and clear the system. The prescription in medieval and renaissance medicine was intercourse for married women, marriage (and intercourse) for unmarried women, or as a last resort, massage by a midwife. Sneezing, vigorous outings on horseback, and prolonged sessions in a rocking chair were also considered viable alternatives.

Over the ensuing centuries, the clinical definition of hysteria expanded to include an ever-lengthening list of female complaints and behaviors: anxiety, surliness, faintness, nervousness, insomnia, fluid retention, restlessness, heaviness in the abdomen, muscle spasms, shortness of breath, irritability, loss of appetite, inability to climax during intercourse, erotic fantasies, an urge to



BY MARGARET LAYNE

men found bewildering or irritating. To a modern understanding, the "symptomology" clearly describes various physical and psychological conditions occurring in a healthily sexualized woman, including the normal hormonal cycle, PMS, postpartum depression, and sexual frustration. But by the late 1800s, when Sarah Ruhl's In the Next Room, or the vibrator play takes place, the catalogue of "hysterical symptoms" was 75 pages long and still growing: normal female sexuality transformed into a pathology by a social context in England and America that was in every respect, including in the bedroom, based on the superiority of the male.

In the latter half of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th, things had been very different. While they had never enjoyed social or political parity with men, there had been an acknowledgement of equality for middle and upper class women in certain

respects. A lively wit and nimble intellect were admired and appreciated in a woman; depending on her social status, a woman could, in fact, become a significant offstage political force as a hostess and as an influence on her husband and the powerful men in his circle; and she was welcomed as a full and enthusiastic participant in sexual relations, which were viewed as a healthy and natural activity among consenting partners. So-called "marriage manuals" of the time display an exuberant relish for the erotic pleasures a man and woman might enjoy together. This was the era of Henry Fielding's rowdy, romping *Tom Jones* (1749), Lawrence Sterne's ribald *Tristram Shandy* (1765), and the extraordinary correspondence between a husband and wife who clearly shared a full and equal partnership in every sense, John and Abigail Adams.

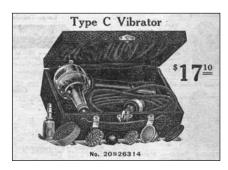
But the pendulum swings to the left, the pendulum swings to the right, and the late 1820s saw the beginning of a shift in the socio-sexual paradigm towards what Dr. Rachel Maines, in her fascinating book *The Technology of Orgasm*, calls "an androcentric model": an institutionalization

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of the centrality and superiority of the male physically, mentally, politically, socially, and of course, sexually. In this androcentric world, where women had been recast as pure and passive domestic helpmeets – "The Angel in the House," as one popular poem had it – the deck was stacked against their sexual self-realization in almost every way. "Real Sex" was defined solely as the act of male penetration and orgasm. Women were not thought to possess sexual desire or to experience sexual pleasure; innocent of the primitive urges that drove the male, they nobly endured the animal attentions inflicted on them by their husbands in order to achieve the one thing they did desire above all else: Motherhood.

"I should say that the majority of women...are not very much troubled with sexual feeling of any kind," wrote the distinguished physician William Acton in 1857. "What men are habitually, women are only exceptionally...There can be no doubt that sexual feeling in the female is in the majority of cases in abeyance, and that it requires positive and knowledgeable and risk her reputation as a "nice woman." Men, for their part, were taught to respect their wives and show sexual restraint towards them, discharging their husbandly duties as quickly and efficiently as possible, preferably in under five minutes, in order to spare their spouse's tender sensibilities and not expend too much valuable male life force. (There was a prevailing belief that an ounce of semen equaled more than a quart of blood; too much marital sex could lower a man's life force to dangerous levels and expose him to weakness of the brain, disease and premature death.)

Add to this discouraging scenario the statistics compiled later in the 20th century by sexual researchers like Alfred



Kinsey and Shere Hite indicating that at least 50% of women, and possibly as many as 70%, require some valueadded activity in order to reach orgasm. Add as well the fact that Victorian women were discouraged from taking matters into their own hands, so to speak, both for religious reasons (onanism, as it was called, was considered a sin) and for medical

"Women were not thought to possess sexual desire or to experience sexual pleasure; innocent of the primitive urges that drove the male, they nobly endured the animal attentions inflicted on them by their husbands in order to achieve the one thing they did desire above all else: **motherhood**."

considerable excitement to be roused at all; and even if roused (which in many instances it never can be) it is very moderate compared with that of the male." In other words, a free pass for the male partner to not expend energy on a futile task. The female's alleged indifference to sex was, the argument went, naturally ordained to preserve the male's vital energies.

It had, of course, been observed that some women did experience both pleasure and release during intercourse, which presented a challenge to the notion that they were without the capacity for sexual pleasure, but the medical establishment was ready with an explanation: a wife who appeared to be enjoying sex was not showing pleasure in the act, but in the anticipation of pregnancy and motherhood that would result.

So let us consider the sexual situation of middle and upper class women in the U.K. and the U.S. at this time. Most came to their wedding night entirely unaware of the mechanics and potentialities of their own bodies and with virtually no idea of what was about to happen, which meant that unless they were very lucky in their new husband, what did happen would not have been very far from rape - hardly a felicitous introduction to the joy of sex. Even a woman who was fortunate enough to share a physical attraction with her husband still had to tread very carefully into the arena of sexual pleasure lest she appear to be improperly ones: it could lead to sexual mania and cause them to make unreasonable sexual demands on their husbands. Small wonder, then, that by the early 1900s almost three-quarters of the female population in Britain and America was thought to be suffering from some form of "hysteria" – or, as we might describe it now, profound orgasm deficit.

In a male-dominated sexual world, the female orgasm was considered incidental to successful male climax and not as a thing unto itself which could in fact be achieved *without* penetration, or indeed the participation of a man at all. Husbands by and large felt no interest in or responsibility for their wives' sexual satisfaction, and so the task of relieving women's frustrations fell to doctors. Such treatment was not perceived as sexual, suspect, or perverse: it was a medical therapy, performed in a doctor's office by medical personnel, to treat a medical condition. And, since sex meant penetration, and only penetration could create sexual gratification in women, where no penetration occurred there was no sexual component and, *voila!*, the resulting paroxysm was not an orgasm.

It is important to note that most Victorian doctors treating women's complaints were not charlatans; they genuinely wanted to relieve the obvious distress of their patients. Some even suspected that women might experience sexual pleasure differently and on a different timeline than men. However, the understanding of what caused "hysteria" had not advanced much beyond Galen's congestive theory of 2000 years earlier – and the most effective treatment remained external pelvic massage to create an "hysterical paroxysm." Fortuitously for the doctors' income, this was only a temporary fix and required repeated office visits to maintain its positive health benefits.

The problem with this was that it was tedious, tiring and time-consuming; many doctors delegated the task to their nurses, or to midwives. Rachel Maines suggests that the universal complaints about the time issue, coupled with the uniform failure of these doctors to identify the

resulting restorative paroxysm as what it so patently was, implies that they had never actually induced or observed an orgasm in their own sexual partners. More probably the difficulty was that there was so little detailed understanding of the female anatomy, or of where the true seat of the female orgasm was located; successful "treatments" were likely achieved more often by accident than by design.

At this challenging juncture, enter Dr. Joseph Mortimer Granville, a British physician who invented the first electrical massage device for the treatment of joint and muscular ailments. Granville did not intend his invention for the treatment of hysteria, and in fact advised against it for fear of its creating onanistic tendencies in female patients, but

gynecological doctors immediately saw its potential: it required no physical effort to use, offered more targeted treatment, and got much quicker results, so that more patients could be treated (and charged for it) in a day's work. Within 15 years of Granville's innovation, more than a dozen manufacturers were producing electrical and battery-operated vibrators in all shapes and sizes for professional use: vibrators that hung from the ceiling, footpedal vibrators, oscillating vibrators, counterweighted vibrators, table-top vibrators, floor models on rollers, portable devices that fit in the palm of the hand, and, in a particular burst of whimsy, vibrators that played music.

As the technology advanced, smaller and smaller vibrators were invented that could be used for less expensive self-treatment in the home. In 1902, Hamilton Beach patented the first electrical vibrator for retail sale. Only the fifth domestic electrical appliance on the market, it arrived, in an interesting commentary on consumer priorities, just behind the sewing machine, the fan, the tea kettle and the toaster, and about ten years ahead of the vacuum cleaner and electric iron.

For the next two decades, personal vibrators were marketed freely as health and relaxation aids in such



respectable periodicals as *Needlecraft, Home Needlework Journal, Modern Women,* and *Woman's Home Companion.* The ads usually featured a young woman seated at her vanity, with the tip of her vibrating device placed coyly against her chin or her cheek. Accompanying copy was similarly ambiguous, but everyone knew what was really being advertised: "All the pleasures of youth will throb within you!;" "For the good of your family!;" "Makes you fairly tingle with the joy of living!;" and, in a rather more direct pitch from La Vida, "It is the rapidity of the action, not the force of the blow, that produces the

> most successful results." Even the hardy Sears & Roebuck Catalogue of Electrical Goods for 1918 had a versatile model on offer designed for the post-war multi-tasker: it came as part of a set of attachments for a home motor that also operated an electric mixer, an egg beater, a grinder, a buffer, an electric fan, and in a piece of subliminal advertising that should win some kind of retroactive prize, a butter churn.

> By the 1920s the careful and tacitly understood social camouflage of the vibrator began to fall apart as physicians' understanding of women's sexuality evolved and as the devices began to appear in a purely sexual context in "stag films" which made their identity as sex toys explicit and associated them with the loose moral fiber that would shortly be

giving the Hayes Office fits. For almost four decades they went "underground," only reemerging in the 1960s, freed of any association with medical treatment and coming into their own as sex aids. In 1976, sexual counselor Joani Blank published *Good Vibrations: The Complete Guide to Vibrators*, and the following year opened her San Francisco store of the same name devoted to the vibrator, now in several locations. Blank's substantial collection of antique vibrators is often on display. Blank acknowledges that she has tried most of them out, and all of them still provide the same satisfaction as their contemporary descendants, although "some of them are noisier and shoot off sparks and stuff. So you have to be careful with them."

Note: The American Psychological Association officially deleted Hysteria from its list of psychological diseases in 1952. As of 2007 there were still seven states where it was illegal to buy or sell vibrators. It is still illegal in Alabama.

Margaret Layne is ACT's Casting Director and Artistic Associate. She holds a B.A. Cum Laude in English Literature from Yale University.

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Who's Who in In the Next Room, or the vibrator play



Jeff Cummings

(*Dr. Givings*) returns to ACT where his credits include *Arcadia* and *Betty the Yeti*. Other Seattle credits include: Telemachus/Hermes in

The Odyssey and Mozart in Still Life with Iris at Seattle Children's Theatre, and Albert Enstein in Picasso at the Lapin Agile at Tacoma Actors Guild. Recent regional credits include: Phileas Fogg in Around the World in 80 Days (Indiana Repertory Theatre). Fox in The Madness of George III (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), and Cassius in Julius Caesar (Utah Shakespearean Festival). In seven seasons with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival favorite roles include: Berowne in Love's Labour's Lost, Jack Worthing in The Importance of Being Earnest, and Dr. Paramore in The Philanderer. Cummings also narrates audio books including Finnikin of the Rock (Audiophile Award) by Merlina Marchetta, Breathless by Dean Koontz, and Spellbound by Nora Roberts. Cummings currently calls Chicago home.



Tracy Michelle

Hughes (Elizabeth) is glad to be back home at ACT and is excited to be playing Elizabeth. You may have seen her in *Flight* as Alma. The

Mojo and the Sayso as Awilda, or Stuff Happens where she played Condoleezza Rice. Hughes has also performed in such shows as Godspell, Gee's Bend, Big River, A Rock and Roll Twelfth Night, Tintypes, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill, Little Shop of Horrors, Jesus Christ Superstar, From the Mississippi Delta, Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, and Home, among numerous others. However, the show that influences her the most and that she hopes to do again is the one-woman show Pretty Fire. Although Hughes has also worked in commercials, film, industrials, educational videos and TV, her second love, next to theatre, would be voice-overs.



Mary Kae Irvin

(Annie) is delighted to be back on the boards at ACT having been seen previously at ACT in The Trip to Bountiful and The Summer Moon.

She has worked regionally as well as locally at many Seattle area theaters including Seattle Children's Theatre, Village Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, Bathhouse Theatre and The Group Theatre. Irvin also works frequently on camera and her voice can be heard on many video games, audio books and commercials. She holds an MFA from the University of WA. Professional Actor Training Program.



Jennifer Sue Johnson (*Catherine Givings*) Recent performances include Joanne in Vanities: A New Musical, a co-production of ACT

and The 5th Avenue Theatre; Lucy Schmeeler in On the Town at The 5th Avenue Theatre; Gutrune in Das Barbecü at ACT; Columbina in Pero, a coproduction of Seattle Children's Theatre and Speeltheater Holland; and Constance in The Three Musketeers at Seattle Repertory Theatre. Roles at Seattle Shakespeare Company include Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Desdemona in Othello, Viola in Twelfth Night, and Elise in The Miser, among others. Johnson is a longtime Book-It Repertory Theatre company member, originating roles in Broken for You, House of the Spirits, Lady Chatterley's Lover (Seattle Times Footlight Award), Pride and Prejudice, and Ethan Frome. Also Pygmalion at Seattle Repertory Theatre, Voice of the Turtle at Tacoma Actors Guild, Noises Off and Diary of Anne Frank at Village Theatre, and I Was a Rat, Big Friendly Giant, Into the West (Seattle Times Footlight Award) and more at Seattle Children's Theatre. Love to Russ and Mia.



Deborah King

(Sabrina Daldry) is thrilled to make her ACT debut with In The Next Room, or the vibrator play. Recently, she appeared as Betsy

Ames in Women Seeking...A Theatre Company's production of *Ladies of the Corridor*. King spent most of her life as a professional actor in Chicago, where she appeared at Steppenwolf Theatre Company (*The Berlin Circle, Mizlansky*/*Zilinsky*), Apple Tree Theatre (*Nine Armenians, The Diary of Anne Frank*), and Vitalist Theatre (*King Lear*), along with many others, including Famous Door Theatre, Thunder Road Ensemble, Transient Theatre Company, and Chicago Children's Theatre. Her film work includes the award-winning independents *Spaceman* and *The Rest of Your Life*. For the past several years, she has been at home with her greatest creations, her two fabulous boys, Griffin and Kiran, and is looking forward to learning to balance it all. She would like to thank her husband, Bill Mann, for all his different ways of being there, and for helping her to forge the possibilities.

Michael Patten



(*Mr. Daldry*) is delighted to be making his ACT debut with this production. Recent Seattle stage credits include *O Lovely*

Glowworm for New Century Theatre Company and Great Expectations for Book-It Repertory Theatre. Seattle theatre: Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, New Century Theatre Company, Book-It Repertory Theatre, Strawberry Theatre Workshop, Seattle Opera, Seattle Shakespeare Company, and others. Regional theatre: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Camden Shakespeare Festival, McCarter Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, Mill Mountain Theatre. Film/TV: Prefontaine, Georgia, The Commish, Soda Springs, As The World Turns, Ryan's Hope, Highlander, The Beans of Egypt, Maine, Countdown, Highway, Inheritance. Patten will be appearing as Schultz in Annie Baker's Circle Mirror Transformation at Seattle Repertory Theatre this coming October and November.



Connor Toms

(*Leo Irving*) Toms is thrilled to be working at ACT for the first time with such a great group of artists. Previously he has worked at Seattle

Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Seattle Children's Theatre, Wooden O Shakespeare, Theater Schmeater, 14/48, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, The New Victory Theater and recently starred in Book-It Repertory Theatre's award-winning *The Cider House Rules parts 1 & 2.* Toms is also one half of the freakishly awesome marriage known as Slamtoss.



Kurt Beattie

(Director) Beattie's past productions at ACT include The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Rock 'n' Roll, Becky's New Car, Intimate Exchanges,

First Class, The Pillowman, Mitzi's Abortion, The Underpants, Vincent in Brixton, Bach at

Who's Who in In the Next Room, or the vibrator play

Leipzig, Black Coffee, Alki, Fuddy Meers, Fully Committed, Via Dolorosa and A Christmas Carol. Elsewhere he has directed Things Being What They Are and Art at Seattle Repertory Theatre, as well as productions at The Empty Space Theatre, Intiman Theatre, the Hugo House, and the University of Washington. As an actor, he has appeared in leading and major roles at ACT, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre and The Empty Space Theatre. Beattie was the co-recipient of the 2004 Theatre Puget Sound Gregory A. Falls Sustained Achievement Award. This season he'll also direct Double Indemnity.

Jeffrey K. Hanson (Stage Manager) Now in his 22nd season at ACT, Hanson has stage managed more than 60 shows including Becky's New Car, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Das Barbecü, The Women, Stuff Happens, The Pillowman, Mourning Becomes Electra, A Skull in Connemara, Quills, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Gospel at Colonus, Halcyon Days, The Revengers' Comedies and Lloyd's Prayer. At The 5th Avenue Theatre, he has been production stage manager for Candide, Irving Berlin's White Christmas, Hello Dolly! and Mame. He has stage managed at Seattle Repertory Theatre (Metamorphoses, The Cider House Rules, Parts I and II), Seattle Children's Theatre, Intiman Theatre, and Arizona Theatre Company.



Sarah Ruhl

(*Playwright*) Ruhl's plays include *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (Tony Nomination, 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 an NAACP award), Eurydice, Melancholy Play, Late: a Cowboy Song, Orlando, and Passion Play (Kennedy Center Fourth Forum Freedom Award). Her plays have premiered at Lincoln Center Theater, Playwrights Horizons, Second Stage Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Cornerstone Theater Company, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, La Jolla Playhouse, the Piven Theatre Workshop in Chicago, and have been produced at many other theaters across the country. Her plays have also been performed in England, 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 Samuel French, and she is a proud member of New Dramatists.

Matthew Smucker (Scenic Designer) is pleased to return to ACT where his work has included designs for The Prisoner of Second Avenue, Vanities: A New Musical, Yankee Tavern, The Trip to Bountiful, Rock 'n' Roll, Below The Belt, Jekyll & Hyde, Eurydice, Fathers and Sons, The Women, The Clean House, The Pillowman, Wine in the Wilderness, Flight, Bach at Leipzig, The Ugly American and Jumpers. Smucker's designs have appeared locally at The 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Village Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, New Century Theatre Company, Book-It Repertory Theatre, The Empty Space, and Tacoma Actors Guild, and nationally at Arizona Theatre Company, Portland Center Stage, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre and Childsplay. Smucker was a founding ensemble member of Deus X Machina and a company member with Annex Theatre. Smucker received his MFA from the UW School of Drama.

Catherine Hunt (Costume Designer) is pleased to be back at ACT working with Kurt Beattie. Favorite shows at ACT include: The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Stuff Happens, directed by Victor Pappas, and Vanities: A New Musical, a co-production with ACT and The 5th Avenue Theatre, directed by David Armstrong. Hunt's work has also been seen at Seattle Children's Theatre, Village Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, and Seattle Opera. Hunt designed the awardwinning computer game Riven, and was a National Endowment of the Arts, Theatre Communications Group design fellow. She holds an MFA from the University of California, San Diego, and has been a guest lecturer at Cornish College of the Arts and the University of Washington.

Ben Zamora (*Lighting Designer*) Zamora's designs have been seen internationally at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, Royal Festival Hall in London, Konzerthaus in Germany, the Lucerne Festival in Switzerland, Walt Disney Concert Hall with the Los Angeles Philharmonic,

De Doelen in The Netherlands, Intiman Theatre, Connecticut Grand Opera, Off-Broadway at Theatre Row, Joyce SOHO in New York, Sushi Performance and Visual Art in San Diego, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, The Moore Theatre, Washington Ensemble Theatre, and various premieres at On The Boards. For the past few years, Zamora has been designing *The Tristan Project* in collaboration with director Peter Sellars and video artist Bill Viola. Zamora was listed on *The Stranger's* 2009 Genius Awards Shortlist along with his artistic collaborator, Etta Lilienthal.

Brendan Patrick Hogan (Sound Designer): Designs and compositions for the stage include: Yankee Tavern, Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World, Rock 'n' Roll, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, The Lieutenant of Inishmore and Below The Belt (ACT); RoboPop!, Titus, God's Ear, Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom, Mr. Marmalade (Washington Ensemble Theatre); Demonology (Next Stage); Chamber Cymbeline (Seattle Shakespeare Company); The River Why (Book-It Repertory Theatre). Brendan is the staff sound designer at ACT Theatre. He is married to actress Samara Lerman.



Gian-Carlo Scandiuzzi

(Executive Director) is a founder of Agate Films and Clear Pictures, producing such films as Prototype, Dark Drive,

Outpatient and The Flats, and Indieflix, a distribution company. In 1979, Scandiuzzi started Modern Productions, bringing to Seattle such legendary bands as The Police, Devo, Nina Hagen, Iggy Pop, The Ramones, John Cale, Robert Frip, James Brown, Muddy Waters and many more. He performed in several plays at The Empty Space Theatre including Aunt Dan and Lemon, The Return of Pinocchio and Dracula. In the early '80s, he collaborated with many Seattle performance artists such as Norman Durkey, Alan Lande and Jesse Bernstein. He also acted in various films including Bugsy, The Public Eye, Another You, Casanova's Kiss and Killing Zoe. He graduated from the Ecole Superieure D'Art Dramatique of Geneva.

sove the active september 26

ACT IN! A Gala & Benefit for ACT — A Contemporary Theatre Monday, September 26, 2011

Get ready for **ACT IN!** a building-wide party featuring live music, must-have auction items, dancing on the stage, and performances on every level of ACT by some of Seattle's most talented artists. This year's gala is going all-out with a special theme that will be announced soon. For now, SAVE THE DATE, tell your friends and get your tickets. This is a party not to be missed!



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Tickets available at: www.acttheatre.org/ACTGala

For information contact Jennessa West: (206) 292-7660 ext. 1330 or jennessa.west@acttheatre.org



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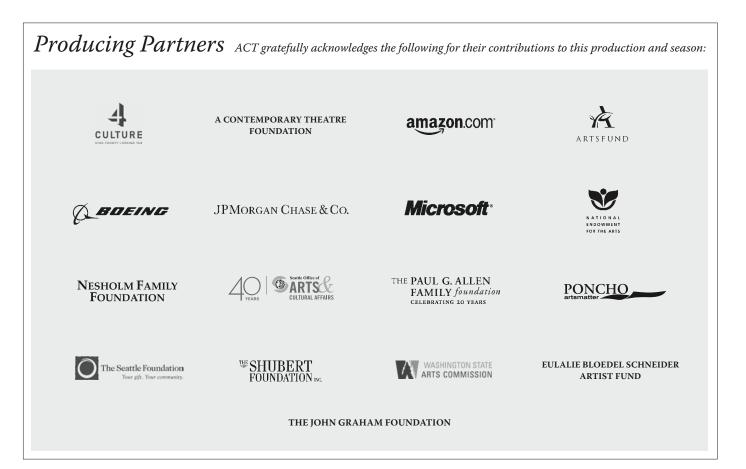
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Notify ACT of your arrangements by calling (206) 292-7660 ext. 1321.

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In person: on performance days, the ticket office is open from noon until show time. *Closed Mondays and major holidays*.

Phone: (206) 292-7676, Tue.-Sun., noon – 7:00 p.m. E-mail: service@acttheatre.org Online: www.acttheatre.org

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