



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

CONTACT: Patrick Finlon, Marketing Director
315-443-2636 or pjfinlon@syr.edu

Syracuse Stage Presents a Special Project at the Everson Museum of Art:

Woman in the Blue Dress

Written by Lauren Unbekant
Script Dramaturgy by Kyle Bass
Directed by Leslie Noble

October 11 - November 8
HOSMER AUDITORIUM at EVERSON MUSEUM OF ART



(Syracuse, NY)—This October Syracuse Stage presents a special project at the Everson Museum of Art, in conjunction with the upcoming exhibit *Turner to Cézanne: Masterpieces from the Davies Collection, National Museum Wales*. The Syracuse Stage piece, entitled *Woman in the Blue Dress*, is a multi-media theatre work that brings to life Henriette Henriot, a fledgling actress at the Théâtre de L'Odéon in Paris, and model for artist Pierre-August Renoir's *La Parisienne*. In the work, Henriette shares her provocative story of life in the theatre, her experience in the Parisian art world of the 1870s, and what it was like to model for Renoir, the most shocking Impressionist painter of his day. *Woman in the Blue Dress* is an original 30-minute piece by Stage's Director of Educational Programming Lauren Unbekant. This project has been made possible in part by a grant from the Chancellor Leadership Project of Syracuse University in conjunction with Imagining America.

Woman in the Blue Dress will make an appearance at the Everson's members' only opening night, 7 p.m. on October 8 (reservations required). Performances will run October 11-November 8 in Hosmer Auditorium at the Everson Museum of Art, 401 Harrison Street. Admission for *The Woman in the Blue Dress* is \$5. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Everson Box Office starting October 9 during regular gallery hours. To reserve seating for schools or groups call Everson Education Manager Amy Goodall-Ayres at 315-474-6064.

"We are very proud to be partnering with the Everson on this major exhibition that is sure to attract a large number of patrons," said Stage's Producing Artistic Director Timothy Bond. "There has been a growing sense of collaboration among arts organizations in Syracuse, new models for presenting and promoting our work that are both exciting and challenging. This type of joint-programming only makes the participating organizations stronger. It allows us to better serve our communities by creating an opportunity to immerse oneself in the arts that is both educational and entertaining."

The Everson's promotional materials sparked the idea for *Woman in the Blue Dress*. "Some of the press materials included the image of Renoir's *La Parisienne*," said Unbekant. "I thought it would be interesting to explore who this woman was, and to look at visual art from a theatrical point of view. Theatre and Impressionism are alike—they require that viewers bring their own perspective to the work. My intention with *Woman in the Blue Dress* was to mirror the breakthrough innovations of the Impressionism movement."

In the late 1800s, Impressionism was a burgeoning form of visual art that many viewed with distaste. The Franco-Prussian War had recently ended, followed by an economic recession that affected the whole of Europe. Women were becoming more active in society which is reflected in Renoir's painting of Henriette, *La Parisienne*.

"The painting is unique for several reasons," notes Unbekant. "The blue color of her dress is striking for the time, particularly eye-catching. The background is non-descript placing added attention on Henriette, and her gaze is straight at the viewer instead of off to the side which had been the custom. All of these factors contribute to making Henriette the singular subject in the painting."

Audience members for *Woman in the Blue Dress* can also look forward to a good dose of humor in the piece. Unbekant concludes, "I think it's going to be not only informative but there's a real entertainment factor as well."

PLAYWRIGHT

Lauren Unbekant (*Playwright*) is the Director of Educational Outreach for Syracuse Stage and adjunct faculty for Syracuse University's Drama Department. Lauren has worked extensively as a professional development consultant with organizations such as The Lincoln Center Institute for Aesthetic Education, Harvard's Project Zero, the National Performance Network and Partners for Arts Education. Ms. Unbekant is a Master Teaching Artist with nearly 20 years of experience connecting the Artist Process with all kinds of learning and has developed course work for educators in Critical thinking Through the Arts. As a co-founder of the physical theatre company Gams On The Lam and a solo performing artist with MoveInk, she has performed nationally and internationally at such festivals as the Humorologie Festival in Belgium, The International Festival De Pallassos in Barcelona, The International Movement Festival in London, The Festival of International Art in Leon and Puebla, Mexico and the HBO Comedy Festival in Aspen, CO. Lauren Holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Syracuse University.

DRAMATURG

Kyle Bass (*Dramaturg*) was the Production Dramaturg for the Syracuse Stage production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and Script Dramaturg for the Stage productions of *Tales from the Salt City*. Kyle wrote *Carver at Tuskegee*, a one-man monologue play about George Washington Carver that toured earlier this year as part of Syracuse Stage's *Backstory!* Program. Kyle is on the faculty at Goddard College in Vermont, where he teaches Dramatic Writing in the MFA Creative Writing program. He also teaches playwriting in the SU Department of Drama. Kyle holds an MFA in playwriting from Goddard College.

DIRECTOR

Leslie Noble (*Director*) is a director, actor and clown. With Patricia Buckley and Lauren Unbekant, she co-founded Gams on the Lam, a three-woman theatre ensemble that created and toured original clown pieces throughout the US, Mexico and Europe. Leslie's directing credits include *Sweet Table at the Richelieu* and *Mad Forest* for Le Moyne College, *The Girls* for Full Cast Audio Books, and *Twelfth Night* and *Stone Soup* for the Sterling Renaissance Festival. For SU Drama, where she teaches on the adjunct faculty, Leslie's direction includes *The Red Sun and the Green Moon*, *Shakespeare's R&J* (assistant director) and *Servant of Two Masters*. Leslie is the "station voice" for WCNY-TV, and later this holiday season she will appear in Syracuse Stage's production of *Little Women*.

CAST

Kathleen Wrinn (*Henriette*) is a 2009 graduate of Syracuse University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Favorite roles at SU Drama include Woman 3 in *The World Goes 'Round*, Grusha in *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and Jane Grey in *Jane, the Quene*, the one-woman show which Kathleen wrote and performed for her senior thesis last March.

EVERSON MUSEUM OF ART

The Everson Museum of Art, whose roots extend to 1897, is internationally recognized for its extensive and significant collection of ceramics, its pioneering art video collection and its distinctive structural design by the noted architect I.M. Pei. In addition to exhibitions, the Everson presents a monthly Contemporary Film Series, regular Artists Open events and a wide variety of art education programs for adults and children.

October 9, 2009 - January 3, 2010, the Everson will be open to the public Tuesday and Wednesday: noon to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday: noon to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission to *Turner to Cézanne* is \$10 for Everson members; \$12 for children 5-18, seniors 65+, armed forces with ID, and college students with ID; and \$15 for non-members. A family rate including 2 adults and 4 dependent children is available for \$50. Admission to other galleries is free with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. For more information please visit www.everson.org.

SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded in 1974, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 36 seasons including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Each season 90,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and musicals featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. A solid core of subscribers and supporters helps keep Syracuse Stage a vibrant artistic presence in Central New York. Additional support comes from the government, foundations, corporations and Syracuse University. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

Fact Sheet

Syracuse Stage Presents a Special Project at the Everson Museum of Art:

Woman in the Blue Dress

Written by Lauren Unbekant
Script Dramaturgy by Kyle Bass
Directed by Leslie Noble

October 11 - November 8
HOSMER AUDITORIUM at EVERSON MUSEUM OF ART

Cast:

Kathleen Wrinn (*Henriette Henriot*)

Designers:

Gretchen Darrow-Crotty (*Costume Designer*)
Dave Huber (*Sound Designer*)
Brenna Merritt (*Projection Designer*)
Kristina Scalone (*Hair & Wig Designer*)

Stage Manager: Erin C Brett

Performance Times: October & November

Oct 11 - 2 pm & 4 pm
Oct 13 - 12:15 pm
Oct 15 - 12:15 pm
Oct 16 - 12:15 pm
Oct 18 - 11 am
Oct 22 - 12:15 pm
Oct 23 - 12:15 pm
Oct 24 - 11 am & 2 pm
Oct 25 - 11 am
October 27 - 12:15 pm
October 29 - 12:15 pm
October 30 - 12:15 pm
October 31 - 11 am
Nov 1 - 11 am, 2 pm & 4 pm
Nov 3 - 12:15 pm
Nov 5 - 12:15 pm
Nov 6 - 12:15 pm
Nov 7 - 11 am & 2 pm
Nov 8 - 11 am

Tickets: \$5, available for purchase at the Everson Box Office starting October 9 during regular gallery hours. To reserve seating for schools or groups call Everson Education Manager Amy Goodall-Ayres at 315-474-6064.

###

Syracuse Stage | Producing Artistic Director: Timothy Bond | Managing Director: Jeffrey Woodward
820 E. Genesee St. | Main: 315-443-4008 | Box Office: 315-443-3275 | www.SyracuseStage.org