



THEATRE FOR
EVERYONE
THAT BENEFITS
WOMEN AND GIRLS

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

"Holy Laughter is a must see! Funny and touching with a totally loveable cast of quirky characters that will capture your heart! Feel good and do good!"

Claire Wernik-Cantone, WAM volunteer/audience member



"I was impressed with the mission to highlight the contributions of women in the theatre arts, not to the exclusion of men, but as a worthy thing...the double philanthropic model of giving back to groups in need...WAM is not just another theatre company..."

Wendy Vittori, sponsor

2015 for WAM Theatre

JANUARY: *Writing Warrior Intensives with In Darfur Playwright Winter Miller*

By popular demand playwright Winter Miller returned to the Berkshires to offer what grew into two, sold-out, day-long writing workshops open to all genders, all writers, all genres, held in a beautiful space donated by Jan Seward of Embody Healing Arts in Great Barrington. Co-sponsored by WAM, Barbara Newman, and the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers.

FEBRUARY: *Emilie... on Tour, Special Event Staged Readings*

WAM Theatre was invited to present a staged reading of our critically acclaimed 2013 production of *Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight* by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Kristen van Ginhoven at Williams College, the Performing Arts Center at the University at Albany, and in Pittsfield, MA, as part of the 10X10 Upstreet Arts Festival. Timothy Carter joined the cast in the role of Voltaire and all the rest of the acclaimed original cast returned, including Kim Stauffer in the title role. This enhanced staged reading featured some audio and visual elements from the original production.

APRIL–SEPTEMBER: *Fresh Takes Play Reading Series*

Held in the gallery at No. Six Depot Roastery and Café in West Stockbridge on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm, our second sold-out *Fresh Takes Series*, featuring local professional actors and directors, gave a stage to ground-breaking works—which have been successfully presented elsewhere but are new to our Berkshire audiences—that tell women's stories. Curated by WAM Theatre Artistic Associate Molly Clancy, the 2015 series included *Silence* by Moira Buffini (April 19); *The Tall Girls* by Meg Miroshnik (May 17); *Noms de Guerre* by Jacqueline E. Lawton (June 17 – part of the Lift Ev'ry Voice Festival); *Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes (August 16); and *The Effect* by Lucy Prebble (September 13).

JULY: *Stars in the Orchard Benefit*

Our annual summer benefit was a magical midsummer night's cocktail party hosted by Hilltop Orchards in Richmond, MA, featuring a live auction, sunset hayrides, the jazz stylings of the Rich Vinette Quintet, the music of master guitarist Don McGory and Miles Lally on bass by the campfire, and clowns in the orchards. The crowd enjoyed hearty hors d'oeuvres, apple cider donuts, and wine made on site by Furnace Brook Winery, as local luminaries Josh Aaron McCabe, Kelly Galvin, Kim Stauffer, and Ryan Winkles delighted the crowd by presenting monologues and songs in which they would never be cast but had always dreamed of performing. The evening's guests were the first to learn about our 2015 beneficiaries—Hands In Outreach and Sisters For Peace—and to meet the cast and see a sneak peak of our fall mainstage production, *Holy Laughter*.

NOVEMBER: *First Developmental Workshop Production of Holy Laughter*

Director Megan Sandberg-Zakian led a talented cast of five in presenting this poignant comedy by Catherine Trieschmann about a newly ordained female Episcopal priest who finds that the reality of leading a church is radically and hilariously different than what she learned in seminary. Our eighth beneficiary—Hands in Outreach and Sisters for Peace—received a donation of \$5,560. This resulted in a direct check of \$24—which can feed a family of four for a month—to 125 Hands in Outreach families impacted by the earthquake in Nepal earlier this year; plus our donation will keep the five young Nepali women sponsored by Sisters for Peace in school for all of 2016.

READ ON FOR MORE →



Cover: Cast of *Holy Laughter*; photo by Enrico Spada. From top: Playwright Winter Miller; photo by Enrico Spada / Kim Stauffer, Timothy Carter, Brendan Cataldo, Joan Coombs in *Emilie...* Staged Reading; photo by Mark Schmidt, University at Albany / Molly Clancy and *Fresh Takes* cast; photo by Nick Webb / *Stars in the Orchard* Benefit; photo by Nick Webb / Cast of *Holy Laughter*; photo by Enrico Spada / *Holy Laughter* gift presentation; photo by Nick Webb.

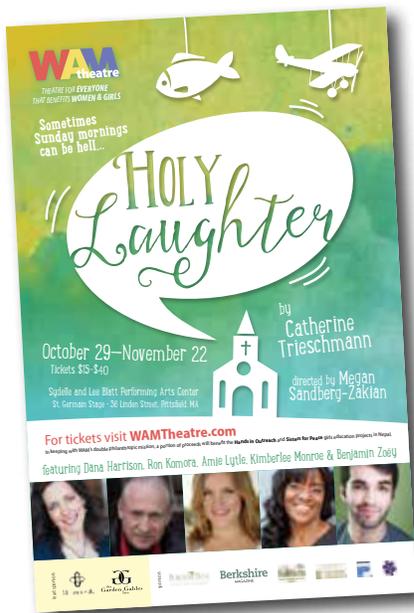
Holy Laughter

by Catherine Trieschmann

Over 1,000 audience members enjoyed the first developmental workshop production of *Holy Laughter*.

WAM did a reading of Catherine's play *How the World Began* as part of the inaugural 2014 Fresh Takes series, and it was very well received. In February 2015, WAM Artistic Director Kristen van Ginhoven saw the first staged reading of *Holy Laughter* at the Denver Center New Play Summit, where it had been commissioned.

Van Ginhoven knew the heartfelt story, witty humor and zany characters would be a terrific follow-up to last year's gripping hit *In Darfur*. WAM is thrilled that Catherine granted us the rights to do the first developmental workshop production.



For WAM Theatre, doing a developmental workshop production is an important step towards being a vital part of the national conversation around new plays written by women playwrights. Thanks to a few WAM sponsors, Catherine was able to join us twice during the rehearsal process to work on the play. We look forward to seeing where this play is produced next!

PRESS RESPONSE:

"...a well-wrought piece under the excellent direction of Megan Sandberg-Zakian... a fine show, worth enjoying and laughing through, just like the finest situation comedy plays of the past..."
— J. Peter Bergman, The Berkshire Edge

"*Holy Laughter* is a comedy... its characters broadly drawn and its laughs leading to a sentimental finale. It does, though, touch on more weighty issues of faith, commitment and, yes, community."
— Chris Rohmann, The Valley Advocate

"I was in the mood for some laughs, and the play provided them — along with some food for thought."
— Jennifer Browdy, The Berkshire Edge



Pictured, from top: Director Megan Sandberg-Zakian, Kristen van Ginhoven and playwright Catherine Trieschmann / Amie Lytle in *Holy Laughter* / Cast of *Holy Laughter*. Photos by Enrico Spada

Audience Feedback for Holy Laughter

"I highly recommend you see *Holy Laughter*. Not only will you be supporting one of our most innovative new theater programs and their mission, but you will walk away with ear to ear smiles. This was well written, very funny and irreverent story about a newly ordained female Episcopal minister and her first congregation." — Michele Mestman

"It was hilarious! Congratulations on a spectacular production. We had a ball!" — Maureen Phillips

WAMeducation

WAM Theatre aims to serve all of Berkshire County, including the growing number of underserved women and girls. We envision a world in which young women aspire to become confident leaders in their communities. In 2015, towards those aims, we launched our official comprehensive Education Program, which consists of three strands of outreach: Community, After School and Production.

community

In spring 2015, WAM teaching artist Barby Cardillo collaborated with ACT NOW at **GIRLS INC**, taking the WAM theatre piece created in fall 2015 and turning it into a movie called *Coming Together: A Tale of Divas and Vampire Lovers* as part of the ACT NOW MOVIEExperience project.



Barby then returned to **GIRLS INC** in downtown Pittsfield in the fall of 2015 for a third year leading a group of girls ages 8–11 in creating their own devised theatre piece. The group at Girls Inc had their invited sharing for friends and family of their original piece titled *A Girls Inc Fairy Tale* on November 24.

As part of our Community program, WAM Theatre also was part of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center **SOUTH COUNTY STORY PROJECT** in August 2015.

THURSDAYS WITH JOSIE

WAM also continued to be part of the Miss Hall's Horizon program, enjoying our work with Josie Dorsey, an eager junior who is a theatre and social justice enthusiast. Josie has been busy helping WAM with development and social media work as well as helping organize all our actor resume/headshot files.



production

Kimberly Ciola curated the **AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT SERIES** again this year, which included conversations after each Saturday performance of *Holy Laughter* with our actors, designers and beneficiaries. It also included a lobby display featuring our beneficiaries and information on the impact of the WAM donation.



Pictured, clockwise from top left: Barby Cardillo and the Girls Inc participants, photo by Kristen van Ginhoven / Talkback for Miss Labeled, photo by Enrico Spada / Girls Inc sharing / Holy Laughter cast with WAM Board, photo by Kristen van Ginhoven.



Miss Labeled



out of school

Barby Cardillo also teamed up with new WAM Theatre teaching artist Amy Brentano to lead WAM's inaugural **GIRLS ENSEMBLE** for ages 14-20. After teaching mini-workshops for our pilot schools in spring 2015, auditions were held in September and 6 girls were accepted into the inaugural cohort.

They spent the fall working with Barby and Amy and then took the stage at the Bernstein Theatre at Shakespeare & Company on December 11 for an evening performance of their original piece *Miss Labeled*.

WAM Girls Ensemble participant Lucy Schwartz in a thank you letter to a sponsor:

WAM Girls Ensemble has been an amazing and unique experience. I have had so much fun participating in this program, and on behalf of all the ensemble girls, I would like to thank you for helping to make it possible. I hope future girls and groups will have the great experience that I have had! WAM Theatre is the best!



Pictured, from top: Amy Brentano, Claudia Maurino, Lucy Schwartz, Brittany Dorwin, Iris Courchaine, Isabelle Lapierre, Barby Cardillo / Girls Ensemble participants in Miss Labeled. Photos by Enrico Spada.

A Message from Our Beneficiary

This letter from the Executive Director Ricky Bernstein of Hands in Outreach was shared with our audience during the gift presentation following the closing performance of *Holy Laughter*.

Dear Ones ALL...

SOOOO many thanks for your kind generosity.

It's been an amazing journey, these past 25 years traveling to Nepal and seeing girls that I first met at 5 or 6, now grown women with children, meaningful jobs and lives of their own.

But what I love most... is knowing that someone half way 'round the world, like Caroline and her Sisters For Peace and everyone at WAM, are thinking about a girl and her family — and as Bimala, Nirmala, Manisha and Nisha go about their daily lives, they have no clue that this heartfelt energy is being sent their way. How fun is that! Like a guardian angel, trying to make another human being's life just a bit brighter. Oh I love that thought !!!

What makes the holistic approach so unique, is our ability to

create lasting trust with the HIO girls and their families. We vigilantly work to encourage her to remain in school.

We preserve the family structure with our girls attending school as day students rather than boarders. This focused and careful mentoring is providing successful outcomes for keeping our girls in school, and on track to become independent, self-reliant women. We're still a very long way toward achieving gender equality... but our wonderful efforts, like the WAM donation today -- are certainly active & profound steps in the right direction.

Love & hugs ...Ricky



Caroline Wheeler, Sisters for Peace, with Kristen van Ginhoven.



Cast of *Holy Laughter*; photo by Enrico Spada.

LEARNING FROM OUR BLOG INTERVIEWS

www.WAMtheatre.com/blog

We have learned so much about WAM – how others perceive us and why they choose to work with us and support us – from our Blog Interview posts on the WAM Website. Here’s just a sample.

The Appeal of our Double Philanthropic Mission

James and Kristin Hatt

Fresh Takes Series Sponsors

FEBRUARY 2015

“WAM’s double philanthropic mission is very important to us. We are huge fans of *Half the Sky* and the work that Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn are doing in the world. We would love to see the WAM model duplicated in other parts of the country. It’s a different way to engage the audience and that is a difficult thing to do these days.”

Brad Berridge

Associate Artist/Sound Designer Holy Laughter

OCTOBER 2015

“My greatest joy has been knowing that my work will result in helping girls through WAM’s mission.”

Dana Harrison

Actress, Holy Laughter

OCTOBER 2015

“[Holy Laughter] is about people of diverse backgrounds coming together with the underlying common goal to form a spiritual community. And with our company

we have remarkable artists...of varying backgrounds (in faith, age, geography etc) united toward helping tell this story and the larger cause of helping the two charities. In both cases there is something bigger than our individual selves at stake.”

Daniela Malave

Actress, Fresh Takes reading of Water by the Spoonful

AUGUST 2015

“Producing theatrical productions where women are at the center and proceeds are donated to organizations that benefit women and young girls. How could you NOT want to be part of WAM?!”

Kristen’s Voice and Leadership

Wendy Vittori

Sponsor

DECEMBER 2015

“I am very impressed with Kristen’s energy and passion. I can see the gleam in her eye that is the key to success in any new venture - for profit or nonprofit - that “I’m just gonna make it happen” attitude that she has.”

James and Kristin Hatt

Fresh Takes Series Sponsors

FEBRUARY 2015

“...Kristen van Ginhoven brings a level of intelligence, exuberance, hard work, and sophistication to the business of creating a new theatre that is hard to turn away from. Her energy defines WAM.”

Why Our Volunteers Support Us

Dawn Martin

Volunteer Coordinator

FEBRUARY 2015

“WAM has a mission people want to be a part of and volunteering is an entry point... Developing this circle of [volunteer] support for WAM is a creative act for me; I feel about it the same way as when I create a piece of art. I can hardly wait to get started!”

Sarah Shiner

Volunteer/Fresh Takes House Manager

SEPTEMBER 2015

“[E]verything about [WAM] is genuine. The enthusiasm for theater, for new plays, emerging playwrights, female artists, philanthropy...everything about it is sincere, authentic and dedicated.”



Volunteers at a *Summer of 100 Dinners* event.

Our Feminist Voice

Dawn Martin

Volunteer Coordinator

FEBRUARY 2015

“The tone of feminism WAM espouses is just right for me. WAM’s feminism is practical—it’s clear, strong, active, reflective, and direct, always with a positive tone.”



Kristen van Ginhoven, Kim Stauffer, Suzanne Ankrum; photo by Mark Schmidt, University at Albany.

Why Our Sponsors Support Us

Peter Stasiowski

Interprint

FEBRUARY 2015

"There are a lot of mouths to feed in Berkshire County, a lot of worthy organizations seeking corporate support. At Interprint... we support education in all its forms. We want to address social justice issues of poverty, hunger, and oppression. And our cultural institutions provide that quality of life that is so important to us. WAM... cross[es] over all the categories we care about, not just the arts, not just the education, not just the charity to those in need, but all of the above."

Why Artists Choose to Work with WAM

Hope Rose Kelly

Stage Manager/Company Manager

Holy Laughter

OCTOBER 2015

"WAM is a unique company in that there is no room for negativity or angst or anything that can make someone feel bad at the end of the day... We are a team from beginning to end."

Catherine Treischmann

Playwright, Holy Laughter

SEPTEMBER 2015

"WAM Theatre has a gutsy,

bold and empowering mission, which I really admire. I also appreciated how receptive Kristen was to the play's needs moving forward. I told her what I needed in order to have a productive workshop experience, and she made it happen even though it's something the theatre has never done before."

Kimberlee Monroe

Actress, Holy Laughter

OCTOBER 2015

"WAM is a First Class Theatre Company that treats their artists with such respect!"

Our Community Connections

Jacqueline E. Lawton

Playwright, Fresh Takes reading of

Noms de Guerre

MAY 2015

"I think it's wonderful that WAM has partnered with Lift Ev'ry Voice, and I am excited that this is the play you chose."



Gideon Bautista, Daniela Malave in Fresh Takes reading of *Water by the Spoonful*; photo by Nick Webb.

Noms de Guerre is about middle class black people, two educated couples, children being raised in an intact family. Too often when people of color are represented in art they are shown in poverty or involved with crime. The class strata at which black people are represented is crucial... I am excited that WAM wants to engage with the community about these topics and that you have an audience in the Berkshires who are ready to hear something new and different."

Tom Sherman

Volunteer

MAY 2015

"[WAM] is a very novel and creative force in the arts. We are astounded at the reach, talent, and impact of this group of artists to do good works, both on stage, and on the world stage."

The Importance of our Fresh Takes Play Reading Series

Tod Randolph

Director, Fresh Takes reading of Silence

APRIL 2015

"I love WAM and I've wanted to get more involved for many years... These [Fresh Takes] readings are a great way for me to support WAM and have fun with other actors."

Sarah Shiner

Volunteer/Fresh Takes House Manager

SEPTEMBER 2015

"Honestly, I've learned just as much as the audience at the talkbacks with the director and the actors at the end of each reading! I love learning the reasons behind certain decisions, what the actors' thought processes were, or why the director did that particular staging. And in talking to a different audience each time, I learn a lot from peoples' experiences and observations when they contribute to that discussion. I'm still surprised at every show by how differently people can experience the same play. Stay for talkbacks when you can, they're fascinating!"

DONOR INFORMATION

Our sincere appreciation goes out to each donor who made a contribution in our sixth year. Only through the support of these individuals are we able to create theatre for everyone that benefits women and girls. Thanks to our 250+ donors in 2015 for helping us make an impact!

HEROINES & HEROES

Vicki Bonnington
Kristin and James Hatt
Lucy Holland and Charles Schulze

1000 CLUB

Lyn and Richard Atkinson
Sara and Jon Budish Jtwros
Bobbie Hallig
David Andrew Harris
Joan and Jim Hunter
Dorothea Greene and Linda Morse
Hannalore Voness
The International School of Brussels

ANGELS

Ashley and Brad Berridge
Bruce Garlow
Lynn Gernert
Linda and John Gillespie
Kristine and Lawrence Hazzard
Mary Lincoln
Lisa and Jim Lytle
Deborah L. Melone
Maureen Phillips
Lynn and Bill Power
Susan Rose-Lafer
Tammy and Dave Valicenti

CHAMPIONS

Valerie Barr
Sydelle and Lee Blatt
Barbara Bonner
Carolyn Butler
Kate Barton and Sam Craig
Susan Dworkin
Michelle Iglesias
Nancy Kalodner
Kara and David Levin
Eleanor Lord
Dawn A. Martin
Serene Mastrianni
Michele and Steven Mestman
Corliss Parker
Diane Provenz
Ellen Ring
Karen O'Donnell and Peter Sheffer
Jonathan Swartz
Nick Webb
Marion Adler and Scott Wentworth
Rhea and Ken Werner
Dale and Marvin Winell

100 CLUB

Ilana Ackerman
Gail and Joel Appelbaum
Linda and Richard Ankrum
Mary Garnish Bauman and Alan Bauman
Linda and Robert Benton
Naomi and Edward Bernstein
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and Darnell Blackwell
Claire and Victor Cantone
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Rachel Winell and Andrew Chanyi
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Ellen Crobier-Fischman
Edward Sedarbaum and Howard Cruse
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Michele Krieg Bauer and Chris Fader
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Lynn Festa
Barbara Jean Fulton
Carol Gemelli
Nancy Gendron
Jayne Atkinson-Gill and Michel Gill
Edna Godley
Rebecca Gold
Jennifer Goodall
Anne Messer and Daniel Gordon
Deborah Grausman
Oskar Hallig
SuEllen Hamkins
Anne Harrison
Joni Thomas and Brian Harrison
Norm Hatch
Amy Rudnick and Ben Hillman
David Jadow
Audrey Jasey
Cast and Crew of Holy Laughter
Cranwell Ladies Golf League
Mary DeMarco Lee
Mary Ellen and Joe Levin
Carol and Lance Liebman
Bill Loeb
Susan Lyon
Tanyss and David Martula
Marilyn and Frederick Moran
Judith Nardacci
Lisa Nelson
David and Natalie Johnsonius Neubert
Elna Nugent
Jennifer Owen
Yvonne Perry
Judy Rettig
Tracey and Christopher Richards
Karen Richards
Karen Rutschmann
Marjorie Safran
R.N. Sandberg
Carol and Merrill Sanderson
Lucy and Philip Sandler
Lin and Richard Schreiber
Eileen Schuyler
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Leigh and Joe Strimbeck
Kavitha and Brian Taschner
June Thomas
Abby and Richard Tovell
Susan Valicenti
Mollie and James Venglar
Elizabeth and Marshall Webb
Susie Walker Weekes
Emma Weiskopf
Suzanne Werner
Marjorie Wexler
Kimberly Ciola and Nate Wiessner
Nadia Winslow

Terry and Jay Wise
Adrienne and William Wootters
Estelle Yarinsky
Unitarian Universalist Meeting
of South Berkshire
Anonymous

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Valle Dwight and Philip O'Donoghue
Kel and Allan Pero
Seana McKenna and Miles Potter
Mairin and Patrick Quinn
Courtney and Daniel Randall
Kim and Greg Rockwell
Christina Ann Root
Leonard Rosenfeld
Joyce Reisman and Tom Sachs
Roselyn and Joseph Sax
Lois and James Scalise
Tonia Scalise
Joanna and Joseph Schwartz
Don Paul Shannon
Carole G. Siegel
Dorothy Sklar
Richard Skoler
Stacy Smith
Danna and Brian Snow
Bronwyn Steinberg
Theresa M. Tatro
Catherine and Henry Terwedow
Nancy Vale
Truus and Martin van Ginhoven
Linda and Tony van Werkhoven
Mary Vasquez Slack
Barbara Waldinger
Ian Watson
Lawrence Webster
Chris Foster and Patrick White
Linda White
Brigit Wilson
Meg Agnew and Paul Wisswaesser
Melissa Wolff
Anonymous

As of 1/13/16. We have carefully prepared this list. If your name was misspelled or inadvertently omitted, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us at info@wamtheatre.com or 413-274-8122 so that we may correct our records.

WAM THEATRE PRODUCTION HISTORY

APRIL 2010: *A WAM Welcome*

\$1,000 for Women for Women International

NOVEMBER 2010: *Melancholy Play* by Sarah Ruhl

\$1,500 to The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts

MARCH 2011: *I'm Not a Feminist, But...*

Created and Directed by Leigh Strimbeck

Berkshire Women's Writers Festival with WAM Theatre

MARCH 2011: *First Annual*

24Hr Berkshire/Capital Region Theatre Project

A co-production with The Mop & Bucket Company

APRIL 2011: *O Solo Mama Mia Festival*

\$650 to Edna's Hospital in Somaliland, to train one community midwife and provide her uniform and bus fare

AUGUST 2011: *Women and Words:*

An Instant Theatre Piece

Part of the Pittsfield WordxWord Festival

NOVEMBER 2011: *The Attic, The Pearls, and Three Fine Girls*

by Martha Ross, Ann-Marie MacDonald, Jennifer Brewin, Alisa Palmer and Leah Cherniak

\$1,750 to Berkshire United Way's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

APRIL 2012: *Second Annual*

24Hr Berkshire/Capital Region Theatre Project

A co-production with The Mop & Bucket Company

AUGUST 2012: *Like/Unlike*

created and directed by Leigh Strimbeck

Company in residence at the Pittsfield WordxWord Festival

OCTOBER 2012: *The Old Mezzo* by Susan Dworkin (World Premiere)

\$2,400 to Shout Out Loud Productions: Taking Action to Address Sexual Trafficking

FEBRUARY 2013: *10x10on10*

in the 10x10 Upstreet Art Festival

A multi-media theatre and art exhibition in collaboration with Alchemy Initiative

FEBRUARY 2013: *One Billion Rising Dance Party*

Hosted in collaboration with various community organizations

MARCH 2013: *Half the Sky Film Showing*

in collaboration with Sisters of Peace

Part of the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers

MAY 2013: *Third Annual*

24Hr Berkshire/Capital Region Theatre Project

A co-production with The Mop & Bucket Company

AUGUST 2013: *Claiming Her Place*

WAM's first benefit and panel discussion at the Mahaiwe

NOVEMBER 2013: *Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet*

Defends Her Life Tonight by Lauren Gunderson

(Northeast Regional Premiere)

\$3,400 to Rite of Passage and Empowerment Program for Girls

MARCH 2014: *Motherhood Out Loud*

A collaboration to benefit WAM Theatre and the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers

APRIL 2014: *Everywoman* by Carolyn Yalkut

A staged reading in conjunction with University of Albany

APRIL–SEPTEMBER 2014: *Fresh Takes*

A series of six play readings of new and reimagined works

AUGUST 2014: *Change Makers*

WAM's second benefit evening and panel discussion

NOVEMBER 2014: *In Darfur* by Winter Miller

(New England Premiere)

\$5,005 to Mother of Peace Orphanage in Illovo, South Africa

FEBRUARY 2015: *Emilie* by Lauren Gunderson (Staged Reading Tour)

Williams College, University of Albany, 10x10 Upstreet Arts Festival

APRIL–SEPTEMBER 2015: *Fresh Takes*

A series of five play readings of new and reimagined works

JULY 2015: *Stars in the Orchard*

A magical midsummer night's cocktail party to benefit WAM

NOVEMBER 2015:

Holy Laughter by Catherine Trieschmann

\$5,560 to Hands in Outreach and Sisters for Peace

and their girls education projects in Nepal

WAM's 100 CLUB

This year's annual **100 Club Party** took place at Methuselah Bar and Lounge on November 17.

A toast was made to outgoing Board President **Ashley Berridge**, who, in her five years of service, was instrumental in WAM's growth and success.



WAM supporters at 100 Club Party / WAM Board members Ashley Berridge and Tammy Valicenti / WAM supporters. Photos by Nick Webb.

PHILANTHROPY THROUGH THEATRE

To read more about our beneficiaries go to www.wamtheatre.com/our-beneficiaries/

If you attended our 2014 production of *In Darfur*, here's what your ticket helped make possible:



Susie: The majority of the housemothers have invested [WAM's donation] in their children's education. Two mothers have worked on the structure of their homes – for example, building an additional room or moving from a mud structure (house made of mud) to a house made of bricks. One of the mothers asked for help with a business plan because she has been saving her money and wants to build six rooms to rent out at R350 per room! She has a big yard and a mud structure but wants to build with blocks to rent them out.

Left: Check presentation to Susie Weekes for the Mother of Peace Orphanage in Illovo, South Africa with the *In Darfur* cast and crew.

If you attended 2013's *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight*, here's what your ticket helped make possible:



Shirley: We didn't just get a check from WAM, we got an ongoing relationship. Our girls love seeing your great productions, like *Emilie*... and *In Darfur*. Your monetary gift enabled us to go on our college tour when we received it, for which we are eternally grateful. It is important to have the girls travel to historically black colleges and universities where the students and administrators reflect who they are and who look like them. It gives them hope for their futures.

Left: Check presentation to Shirley Edgerton for ROPE at the closing performance of *Emilie*.

"Thanks to the whole WAM Team for supporting us!"

— Jeanet Ingalls, from *Shout Out Loud Productions*, beneficiary for *The Old Mezzo* in 2012

If you attended our 2011 production of *The Attic*, *The Pearls* and *Three Fine Girls*, here's what your ticket helped make possible:



Kristine: The timing of the gift from WAM Theatre was just perfect. Your gift funded vital consultations from the Mass Alliance on Teen Pregnancy, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies, and enabled us to hire BookMarc Creative to create a name, logo and marketing materials which raised local visibility and awareness of the issue. But WAM gave us more than money. We really value our ongoing relationship and our continued collaboration and discussion about how to empower girls to make educated choices about their bodies and their futures.

Left: Kristen van Ginhoven and WAM Board members present check to Kristine Hazzard and The Berkshire United Way Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative.

2015 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Through the generosity of our patrons and supporters, WAM Theatre garnered over \$156,000 in individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorship and ticket sales in 2015. Through continued strategic development efforts, our individual donations increased by over 70% and our foundation and grant support by over 160%.

In 2015, we provided paid contracts to 37 theatre professionals, including 6 Equity members. We continue to use the American Actor's Equity Association's Small Professional Theatre Contract, moving up one more level this year. We ended our successful sixth year with a donation to our beneficiary of \$5560. In total, since launching in 2010, WAM Theatre has donated over \$21,000 to eight beneficiaries and provided over 175 contract jobs to theatre professionals, over 75% of whom have been women.

Income \$156,572 | **Expenses** \$135,790 | **Surplus** \$20,782

In-Kind donations in 2015 valued at around \$30,064

WAM THEATRE, INC. 2015 BUDGET OVERVIEW

INCOME

Contributed Income

Individual Donations	\$55,949
Foundation and Government Grants	\$32,218
Corporate Support	\$19,545

Earned Income

Ticket Sales	\$38,120
Contract Services	\$10,740

Total Income \$156,572

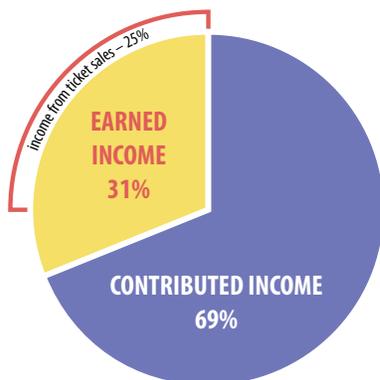
EXPENSE

Annual Operating Costs

Contract Services/Professional Fees	\$49,250
Production Expenses	\$28,528
Donation to Women's Organizations	\$6,202
Administration	\$50,332
Other	\$1,478

Total Expense \$135,790

Surplus \$20,782



These percentages are in line with theatres that have a budget of \$500,000 or less, according to the Theatre Communications Group *Theatre Facts 2011: Report on the Fiscal State of the Professional Not for Profit American Theatre*.

2015 MISSION OVERVIEW

WAM THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT

WAM Theatre's philanthropic mission is two-fold. First, to produce professional 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 worldwide.

VALUES

Through theatre and in theatre we strive for equality in opportunity and treatment:

We are champions for human rights, working to create change by creating opportunity for women and girls which lifts all of humanity. We work diligently and tirelessly for fairness and equal access through our dual mission of theatrical and philanthropic endeavors.

We make an impact locally and globally:

Every time an audience comes together a community is formed. We recognize that we are part of a myriad of communities and we therefore create change by telling stories about and across local, global, gender, ethnic, artistic and international communities.

We stand up with integrity, honesty and respect:

Our conviction and integrity guide what we do and how we do it, every day. We adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and personal responsibility.

WAM Theatre provides philanthropy through the arts by using theatre to benefit women and girls worldwide. Our sponsors support women and girls by supporting the arts. Double Philanthropy.

AND ONLINE...

Overall in 2015, we had 17,639 visits to our WAM website.

We finished the year with 298 followers on our new Instagram account, 849 Twitter followers, 1,677 Facebook fans, a Pinterest page and 1,850 subscribers to our e-blast.

2015 CORPORATE SPONSORS

PRODUCER

Greylock Federal Credit Union
The Garden Gables Inn

PARTNER

Berkshire Bank Foundation
Berkshire Magazine
International Schools Theatre Association
Petricca Industries, Inc.
RBC Wealth Management
The Rookwood Inn

LEADER

Interprint
Custom Business Solutions
Massachusetts Cultural Council

PATRON

Adams Community Bank
Cohen, Kinne, Valicenti, Cook, Attorneys
Pittfield Co-op Bank
The Rogovoy Report

SUPPORTER

Regina Burgio
Jon Gotterer, D.M.D., P.C.
Nina Molin, MD
Dr. Jay Wise, DDS

2015 FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT GRANT SUPPORT

Alford-Egremont Cultural Council
Berkshire Bank Foundation
Brabson Library & Educational Foundation
Dylandale Foundation
Feigenbaum Foundation
International School Theatres Association
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Mass Humanities
Otis Cultural Council
Pittsfield Cultural Council
Stockbridge Cultural Council
Verizon Foundation

2015 IN-KIND SUPPORT

528 Cafe	Harry LaGess
6 Depot Roastery and Cafe	Jane Iredale
Alison Larkin	Kimberlee Monroe
Arthur Oliver	Leigh-Anne Robert Nicastro
Blue Q	Lucy Holland and Charles Schulze
Bradley Street Studios	Old Inn on the Green
Canyon Ranch	Paul Rapp
Carr Hardware	Peter Alvaraz
Chocolate Springs Cafe	Rookwood Inn
Dettinger Lumber Company	Rouge
Edward Acker	The Mount
Guidos	Tristan Burns

Plus the local cultural organizations with whom we do ad trades:
Barrington Stage Company, Berkshire Theatre Group, Berkshire Fringe,
Capital Repertory Theatre, Chester Theatre, Shakespeare & Company,
Oldcastle Theatre Company

WAM TEAM 2015

artistic director **KRISTEN VAN GINHOVEN**
artistic associate & *Fresh Takes* curator **MOLLY CLANCY**
office manager/development associate **FREDA M. GRIM**
company administrator **HOPE ROSE KELLY**
marketing and publicity associate **GAIL BURNS**
social media manager **SHANAE BURCH**
graphic designer **ENRICO SPADA**
education associate & teaching artist **BARBY CARDILLO**
volunteer coordinator **DAWN MARTIN**
teaching artist **AMY BRENTANO**
accountant **CUSTOM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

WAM THEATRE BOARD

Ashley Berridge (President), Tammy Valicenti (Vice President),
Nick Webb (Secretary), Vicky May (Treasurer),
Bruce Garlow, Kristen van Ginhoven, Hannalore Voness

Leigh Strimbeck

Board Member Emeritus, WAM Theatre Co-Founder

ADVISORY BOARD

Jayne Atkinson, Serene Mastrianni, Abbie von Schlegell,
Marsha Norman, Kevin Craig West

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Brad Berridge, Juliana von Haubrich

440 Spring Street · Lee, MA, 01238
www.WAMTheatre.com

