

2011-2012 Season

Frozen, by Bryony Lavery

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Ithaca Mayor & Police Department Support Readers' Theatre's Production of FROZEN

The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca is very pleased to begin their second season with performance readings of the riveting, 2004 Tony nominated play FROZEN by Bryony Lavery. The play will run on Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th at 8pm, and on Sunday, September 18th at 6:30pm. FROZEN is being supported by Mayor Carolyn Peterson, Chief Edward Vallely, Deputy Chief John Barber, and Deputy Chief Pete Tyler of the Ithaca Police Department (IPD) as well as Citizens Concerned for Children, Inc.

FROZEN addresses very important issues that affect communities all over the world: the disappearance of a child and its repercussions. Following the Friday, September 16th performance reading, Chief Edward Vallely will give a brief speech and Mayor Carolyn Peterson will lead a talk-back discussion with the cast. Following the Saturday and Sunday performance readings, an IPD police officer will read important facts relating to themes of the play from Amber Alert and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The play unfolds as a counterpoint of three voices. Nancy (*Anne Marie Cummings*) is the mother of Rhona, a 10-year-old who disappears on her way to her grandmother's house nearby in a British suburb. Agnetha (*Judith Andrew*) is an American in London to research her thesis titled, "Serial Killing: A Forgivable Act?" Ralph (*Ruby Max Fury*) is a tattooed drifter who becomes a dominant figure in both women's lives.

Mayor Peterson stated that she is honored to have been invited to lead a discussion following one of the performance readings of FROZEN on Friday, September 16th. "I hope as many people as possible in this community will see this heart-wrenching, but intelligent drama. I also hope they will walk away not only with awareness about missing children and adults in this country and what they can do about it when it happens, but also with the understanding that forgiveness, even after an act that would seem to rule it out entirely, is possible," said Peterson.

Zachary Sweet will play the cello LIVE. Sweet began his cello studies in Berlin, Germany with Nella Hunkins at the age of eight and completed his Master's in Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music in 2006 where he served as a departmental assistant for the strings department under the distinguished professor Alan Harris. During his studies there he became a member of the Eastman Chamber Society. Sweet has performed extensively throughout the Tri-State area; currently he plays with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, the Binghamton Symphony, and the New Violin Family Orchestra. He is also on faculty at Ithaca Talent Education, teaching non-major students at Cornell University and for Music Together at Ithaca.

Performance readings of FROZEN are at THE SPACE, 700 West Buffalo Street (across from Court and Fulton Streets). All tickets are \$12. Reservations are highly recommended since seating is limited. They can be made by calling 607.217.6272. *Please be advised: FROZEN contains mature content, anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.* FROZEN is directed by Anne Marie Cummings and assistant directed by actor Tim Perry. Stage directions will be read by actress Payal Ballaya.

The Readers' Theatre's 2011-2012 season also includes STEADY RAIN by Keith Huff, December 2-4 (live music: Pete Panek on guitar); ART by Yasmina Rezy, February 10-12 (live music: John Bunge on banjo); and UNCLE VANYA, April 27-April 29 (live music: TBD). For more details visit thereaderstheatre.blogspot.com.

The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca is an ensemble-based group which focuses on performance readings of current, contemporary, and classic plays. The actors focus on the written word and perform their characters to the fullest while reading from their scripts. They utilize music stand and stools, yet omit sets and props. They interact with one another in a black box setting illuminated with theatrical lights.

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