

NEW PLAY ‘SINKHOLE’ TO BE PERFORMED FOR THE READERS’ THEATRE’S SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BENEFIT

The Readers’ Theatre of Ithaca (RTI) will be holding their second annual fundraiser benefit on Thursday, December 4th at 7pm at Cinemapolis, located at 120 East Green Street in downtown Ithaca.

In celebration of their fifth season, RTI will present **Anne Marie Cummings’** (Founder & Artistic Director of RTI) new play, **SINKHOLE**. The dark comedy is directed by Cummings and stars **Brenda Aulbach** (as Jane), **Moira Haupt** (as Sofi), **Chris Nickerson** (as Jerry), and **Jacob White** (as Mark). Stage directions will be read by **Deb Simon**. To start the evening, **Hank Roberts** will perform a 10-minute cello solo. **Tax-deductible tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased online at www.thereaderstheatre.com or in advance, in-person at Cinemapolis.**

In **SINKHOLE**, a couple (Mark and Jane) have recently moved to Los Angeles with their two young boys. Jane was held at gunpoint when returning home one afternoon and was almost killed. Seeking help, she calls Mark’s sister (Sofi) and her husband (Jerry). The play begins shortly after Sofi and Jerry have arrived to L.A. from NYC. Jerry, a police officer with the NYPD, freely gives his advice to Mark and Jane when they stop to talk to Sofi and Jerry before heading off to bed: to buy a gun. After a long night, everyone has revealed their dark secrets and the gaping holes in their lives are all too apparent. By the end, the characters find themselves on the opposite side of the spectrum regarding one of the most controversial issues in America today.

For The Readers’ Theatre’s first annual fundraiser, the not-for-profit theatre company presented a performance reading of a new play: **‘SHOULD’VE,’** by **Roald Hoffmann**. Said Cummings: *“Since I began The Readers’ Theatre with one of my plays – **EXTREMES** - I thought it would be nice to celebrate another important marker – the fifth season – with one of my new plays as well, a play I wrote two summers ago and have been revising since.”*

Cummings explained that the themes running through **SINKHOLE** are similar to those of other plays she’s written, breaking free. *“**SINKHOLE** is about how far people are willing to go in order to feel safe. It’s also about four characters trying to free themselves from the confines they find themselves in,”* she said, adding, *“And for more than a decade I’ve paid close attention to the issues of our country’s ongoing debate surrounding guns. **SINKHOLE** doesn’t offer solutions; it provides a glimpse into the conversations that many people and families are having today.”*

The Readers’ Theatre of Ithaca is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and a NYS registered charity. The \$50 per-person ticket price for the fundraiser benefit is considered tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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