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## **THE READERS' THEATRE ANNOUNCES FIFTH SEASON & MORE**

**The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca** (RTI) is proud to announce their 2014-2015 season, their fifth season and first full season at their new location in the heart of downtown Ithaca – **CINEMAPOLIS**.

The selected new, modern, and edgy works for 2014-2015 are **PHOTOGRAPH 51**, by **Anna Ziegler**; **WRECKS**, by **Neil LaBute**; **CHATROOM**, by **Enda Walsh**; and **H20**, by **Jane Martin**. A history play, a romance with a twist, a dark comedy about bullying, and a theatre love story said to be Martin's best yet. RTI's second annual fundraiser benefit performance reading will be **SINKHOLE**, by **Anne Marie Cummings** (RTI's Founder and Artistic Director), a play about the lengths we go to in order to feel safe in America. The season begins in September and dates will be announced soon.

New to the performance readings will be **ON SCREEN TALK-BACKS**. RTI will conduct and film 10-minute Skype interviews with all four playwrights. Following each performance reading, the curtain will come down and the interviews will be shown on screen in Cinemapolis' Movie Theatre #1, the 96-seat movie theatre which RTI transforms into an intimate theatre for live performances.

**PRE-SHOW TALKS** by directors will continue to be posted on RTI's BLOG at least one week prior to performances, and in an effort to be green, all programs for plays will continue to be downloadable from iPhones, smartphones, and computers from RTI's homepage.

Another new feature to RTI's season of performance readings are plays performed **OFF-BOOK**, plays that are **FILMED & SCREENED** (mixing the mediums of film and theatre – done exceedingly well by a supporter of RTI, writer/director Neil LaBute), and a performance reading that's **ACTOR-DIRECTED**.

LaBute's **WRECKS** will be performed off-book and Walsh's **CHATROOM** will be filmed and screened. The Irish-born playwright, Walsh, and his agent in the UK, Curtis Brown, gave RTI full permission to film his new play which was first seen as part of the Shell Connections series at the National Theatre in London in 2005. The 2013 new play **H20** will be directed as by its two actors starring in the production.

In addition to a full season of performance readings, **Cummings** created a new initiative that will be spearheaded by **Tim Mollen** (Binghamton director, writer, and actor): **THE WRITER'S CAFE**, a podcast of new and unproduced works by New York State playwrights that will be recorded in the lobby of **CINEMAPOLIS**. A select number of readings each year will be recorded and aired on RTI's website. RTI is now accepting new works (send to [thereaderstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:thereaderstheatre@gmail.com)) in the form of shorts, one acts, and full length plays with no more than four characters.

Said **Brett Bossard**, **Executive Director of CINEMAPOLIS**: *"The lounge area in our lobby encourages thoughtful discussions surrounding the great films screened at Cinemapolis. It seems like a natural transition to host The Writer's Cafe and provide a home for talented voices to bring great art to life."*

RTI is pleased to collaborate with a number of new and professional actors to the area and actors from neighboring communities. The music underscoring a number of RTI's performance readings will continue to come from **Hank Roberts** and all trailers and the play **CHATROOM** will be edited by former Cornell University film professor **Marilyn Rivchin**.

*"Even though we are entering our fifth season, RTI is continually evolving as a company. We are geared towards intimate theatre that highlights playwrights and performances at an affordable price. While many people know that we produce exciting new work as a not-for-profit, not many people know that RTI is also a registered NYS charity,"* said Cummings.

Tickets for **PHOTOGRAPH 51** go on sale August 11. Also stay tuned for more information about a special one-night-only screening of **EASY PREY** at Cinemapolis one week following **PHOTOGRAPH 51**. This screening will be free and open to the public. **EASY PREY** is about five fictional characters who tell their side of the story regarding one tragic bullying incident. To learn more about **EASY PREY** and its important anti-bully message, visit RTI's BLOG for an audio recording by director Cumming. Talk-backs will be held at the one-night screening with the cast and writers. **EASY PREY** is supported by **Cornell University, Mighty Yoga, and Silk Oak**.

Learn more at [www.thereaderstheatre.com](http://www.thereaderstheatre.com).

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