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THE READERS' THEATRE HOLDS FIRST FUNDRAISER BENEFIT

On **Thursday, December 5 at 8pm**, The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca will perform **SHOULD'VE** by **ROALD HOFFMANN**. An unprecedented event, this one-night only benefit will help raise funds for the not-for-profit theater company that began in Ithaca in 2010.

The benefit will take place at **The Black Box Theatre at Lehman Alternative Community School, 111 Chestnut Street, City of Ithaca**. The doors of the theatre will open at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$50 per person. Reservations must be made by calling 607.217.6272. Guests will then be asked to go to the 'Donate' page on www.thereaderstheatre.com to make their \$50 donation via PayPal, in advance to attending the fundraiser.

The story of **SHOULD'VE** centers around three people: Katie (a scientist), Stefan (Katie's lover), and Julia (Katie's stepmother). The three experience a tremendous strain after Katie's father commits suicide; thinking he was responsible for putting a formula for a dangerous neurotoxin into the hands of terrorists.

Hoffmann is a scientist himself, and won the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He is also the Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters, Emeritus, at Cornell. Born to a Polish-Jewish family, Hoffmann and his relatives were displaced into a labor camp during the Nazi takeover and he came to America when his family relocated in 1949.

Starring in this piece is **Effie Johnson**, RTI ensemble member; **Anne Marie Cummings**, RTI's Founder and Artistic Director; and **Tony Simone**, RTI ensemble member and president of RTI's Artistic Board. **Hoffmann** himself will be reading the stage directions and will hold a talk-back following the performance reading with the audience.

A very special addition to the performance reading is music from internationally acclaimed cellist **Hank Roberts' award-winning album "Green."** The album came out in May of 2008 and won the German Recording Critics' Award in the Jazz category. Roberts has played all over the world and performed with many big names in the music business including U2, Gavin Friday, and Sting. Not only is Roberts a cellist, but he has mastered vocals, the guitar, and the trombone as well.

Presently, Roberts is a member of Bill Frisell's 858 Quartet and he serves as the Music Advisor for The Readers' Theatre. Additionally, educational institutions such as Ithaca College and Cornell University have been fortunate enough to have him share his experience and knowledge with their young musicians.

SHOULD'VE has elements that will draw in audience members of all different interests. The artistic theater-lover and the rational, reason-loving scientist alike will love this, "mystery, a savant mélange of people from different generations and backgrounds, who have to deal with issues of the past and the present, in science, art, and life" as described in an article entitled "Roald Hoffman's *Should've*: Ethics and Science on Stage" which appeared in the 2007 publication, *Chemistry International*.

Cummings said that Hoffmann sent her **SHOULD'VE** in 2012. "I read it, spoke to Roald about it, and we agreed that it would work well as a fundraiser benefit for The Readers' Theatre," she said, adding that it's a nice way to incorporate a new work during The Readers' Theatre's season of plays by acclaimed playwrights such as Yasmina Reza, Donald Margulies, Neil LaBute, and Lisa D'Amour.

The Readers' Theatre was formed for the purpose of promoting and fostering understanding and public interest in the field of live theatre. The company is inspired to do public good and is dedicated to bringing theatre to audiences at a low cost so that those who may not be able to manage the high price of the average theatre ticket, can experience quality theatre affordably.

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