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READERS' THEATRE OF ITHACA MOVES TO DOWNTOWN CINEMAPOLIS

The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca (RTI), now in the middle of its fourth season, is thrilled to announce their move to **CINEMAPOLIS** located in downtown Ithaca, 120 East Green Street. RTI will launch their move to the independent movie house with **IN A FOREST, DARK AND DEEP, by Neil LaBute** running **March 7-9, 2014**.

Said Anne Marie Cummings, RTI's Founder and Artistic Director: "It's very exciting for us to move downtown to Cinemapolis. Now RTI audiences can walk, take TCAT, park for free in the Green Street parking garage, shop, wine, and dine on The Commons before seeing an RTI production, and last, but not least, RTI audience members will now be able to purchase their theatre tickets on our website using Cinemapolis' online ticketing system."

RTI will occupy the 90-seat, movie theatre number one in Cinemapolis. The company will bring in theatre lights, a stage, and a modern, flat, floor-to-ceiling curtain which they purchased with the help of BSI Productions, in Ithaca, NY.

The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca started in 2010 at Buffalo Street Books, moved on to CSMA for one performance, and then found themselves for a season and a half at GreenStar Natural Food Market's warehouse space. As soon as GreenStar announced they would be transforming the space into a kitchen and community space, RTI moved to Lehman Alternative Community School's black box theatre.

"We've bounced around, but we feel that Cinemapolis is going to be a long-term location for us. It has a little bit of everything we've liked about each space we've been at," said Cummings. "What it offers us is a downtown location, accessibility for RTI audiences, a lobby, concessions, marquee advertising, comfortable seats, and a performance space that's certainly smaller than what we've been used to, but big enough for what we do. It brings us back to performances that focus on the playwrights' words."

Said Tony Simone, president of the RTI artistic board: "RTI's move to Cinemapolis brings us closer to our goal of reaching a broader audience – an audience that can benefit from exposure to the powerful plays we present. For Cinemapolis, this is an opportunity to work with local artists, local performers, local musicians in a personal way. Film is the next best thing to live theatre – and now Cinemapolis can present both. Anne Marie Cummings and Brett Bossard are powerful stewards for the arts in Ithaca and I'm glad they've found this collaboration."

Brett Bossard, Executive Director of Cinemapolis, added: "This partnership with RTI provides a great opportunity for Cinemapolis to stretch a little. We're still Ithaca's member-supported independent movie theater, but through events like these, our unique downtown space can function as a community resource where audiences and arts of all kinds can come together."

Cummings is also excited to use Cinemapolis' screen for two plays they'll be filming next season and to screen their first anti-bully film, launching July 9th at Cinemapolis. RTI is the first theatre in Ithaca, NY to film theatre and post it on their website for viewers not only in Ithaca, but all across the globe. Following the free screening of their anti-bully video at Cinemapolis, in partnership with local organizations Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service and Acting Out NY, and national organization PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, RTI will post their anti-bully video on their website for viewers to enjoy for an entire year, at no cost.

"Next season, we will be filming one play from Irish playwright, Enda Walsh, and we will also be filming my new play, 'SINKHOLE,' for our fundraiser benefit," said Cummings. "For the latter, we will have a one night only screening at Cinemapolis and for the entire month of December, 2014, the play will be available on RTI's website, but the film of the play will be blocked so that viewers will only be able to watch it by paying first."

Corporate sponsors for **IN A FOREST, DARK AND DEEP** are **ALTERNATIVES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** and **JOSH AND KRISTI LOWER**. Supporting sponsors are local organizations **DREAM CATALYST**, the **MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER**, and **TOMPKINS CONNECT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**. Tickets for LaBute's psychological thriller go on sale January 22nd and can now be purchased through RTI's website via Cinemapolis (thereaderstheatre.com). Prices for students are \$10 advance payment (student ID required at the door) and \$12 at the door. Prices for adults and seniors are \$12 advance payment and \$15 at the door (cash and credit cards). For directions and to follow audio interviews on RTI's blog, visit www.thereaderstheatre.com.

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