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RIVENDELL THEATRE ENSEMBLE ANNOUNCES 2014-2015 SEASON

**20th Season comprises Megan Carney's *WOMEN AT WAR*
the World Premiere of *Look We Are Breathing* by Laura Jacqmin,
the return of the acclaimed *Rasheeda Speaking*
and Catherine Trieschmann's *How The World Began***

Chicago, IL— Rivendell Theatre Ensemble proudly announces its 2014-15 Season, opening with ensemble member Megan Carney's *WOMEN AT WAR* directed by **Artistic Director Tara Mallen**; the World Premiere of *Look We Are Breathing* by **Laura Jacqmin**, directed by **Megan Schuchman**; the remount of *Rasheeda Speaking* written by **Joel Drake Johnson**, and directed by **Sandy Shinner** in the Steppenwolf Garage; and the Midwest Premiere **Catherine Trieschmann's *How the World Began***.

WOMEN AT WAR, *Look We Are Breathing* and *How the World Began* will be performed at Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, located at 5779 N. Ridge Avenue in Chicago. *Rasheeda Speaking* will be performed in the Steppenwolf Garage, 1624 N. Halsted St.

The Rivendell 2014-15 season is:

WOMEN AT WAR

Written by ensemble member Megan Carney
Directed by Artistic Director Tara Mallen
November 5, 2014-December 6, 2014
Press Opening Saturday November 8, 2014

As a debate rages over whether females should serve on the frontlines, more women are being sent into active combat zones than ever before. Woven from first-person interviews with women who have laid their lives on the front lines, *Women at War* is the result of four years of intensive research and development. Working closely with veterans and organizations, Megan Carney explores the multifaceted world of women who serve — from enlistment to deployment to the often complicated return home.

The World Premiere of

Look, we are breathing

Written by Laura Jacqmin
Directed by Megan Shuchman
April 2-May 16, 2015
Press Opening: Saturday, April 11, 2015

Those who die young are mourned for their lost potential. But Mike, a high school hockey player who gets drunk and crashes his car before the play begins, did not show much potential. As they learn to grieve, his mother Alice, his AP English teacher Leticia, and Caylee (who had a crush on Mike for years), try to learn who Mike truly was and who he might have become. The three women realize that the day-to-day moments they missed or ignored may show they were wrong about their initial feelings toward Mike.

Rasheeda Speaking

Written by Joel Drake Johnson

Directed by Sandy Shinner

Featuring Artistic Director Tara Mallen, Eric Slater and Steppenwolf ensemble member Ora Jones

Presented in the Steppenwolf Garage, 1624 N. Halsted

May 30-June 28, 2015

Press Opening: Saturday, June 6, 2015

After a critically-acclaimed and sold-out run and a 2014 Jeff nomination for Best New Work, *Rasheeda Speaking* is remounted in the Steppenwolf Garage, directed by returning director Sandy Shiner and featuring Rivendell Artistic Director Tara Mallen, Rivendell ensemble member Eric Slater and Steppenwolf ensemble member Ora Jones. A doctor, uncomfortable with his black receptionist, enlists the aid of his office manager to get rid of her. Tensions rise as relations between the two women deteriorate. With his trademark wit and incisive humor, Joel Drake Johnson mines the subtleties of “post-racial” America to explore what we are really saying when we refuse to talk about race.

The Steppenwolf Garage is dedicated to emerging artists and new plays and audiences for the American theater. It offers artists the opportunity to present their work with the scale, space and resources it merits. For audiences, it provides opportunities to engage in multigenerational conversation about the new, provocative work emerging from Chicago’s diverse and vibrant theater scene.

The Midwest Premiere of

How the World Began

Written by Catherine Trieschmann

Featuring RTE ensemble member Rebecca Spence

September 3-October 17, 2015

Press Opening: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Religion and science collide in a visceral examination of the way in which we navigate interpersonal relationships involving seemingly irreconcilable beliefs – and just how hard it is to truly listen to one another in an increasingly polarized world. Looking to rebuild her fractured life, high school biology teacher Susan relocates from New York City to a small Kansas town reeling in the aftermath of a devastating tornado. Ready for more than a little culture shock, Susan finds herself unprepared for the firestorm that engulfs the town after she makes an off-handed comment about the origin of the universe.

Tickets

General Admission

Previews: \$25

Pre-sale: \$32

Walk-up: \$35

Student, Senior, Active Military, Veteran

Preview: \$15

Pre-sale: \$22

Walk-up: \$25

Box Office: (773) 334-7728 or www.RivendellTheatre.org

Flex Pass

Flex Passes are now on sale for the 2014-15 Season. The Flex Pass (**\$110; \$80 for Students, Seniors, Active Military and Veterans**) gives patrons access to four tickets to use in any combination throughout the 2014-15 Season. See each show once, bring a guest to a particular show or bring a date to two shows.

Other benefits include:

No fee ticket exchange up to 48 hours prior to the performance

Reserved seats

10% discount for additional tickets purchased through the box office

RTE@20: You Are Here

This year Rivendell Theatre Ensemble turns twenty years old. When it came to planning the 20th season, we found ourselves at a crossroads, reflecting back on the journey so far...and looking ahead to the future. So in honor of this milestone anniversary, we've mapped out three exciting new plays as well as a remount of last season's Jeff-nominated world premiere. Each work explores the tricky topography of personal choice--and the often uncharted biases that drive how--and why--we make our most life-changing decisions.

About Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

Founded in 1994, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble advances women's lives through the power of theatre. Rivendell cultivates the talents of women artists -- writers, actors, directors, designers and technicians -- by seeking out innovative plays that explore unique female experiences and producing them in intimate, salon environments.

Rivendell fills an important role in the Chicago region as the *only* Equity theatre dedicated to producing artistically challenging and original plays created by and about women. After years of being an itinerant company, we moved into our own theater space in 2010 in the Edgewater neighborhood. As new members of the community, we are focused on becoming an integral community partner and serving as a catalyst to engage our audiences in a discussion of local social issues.

For more information about Rivendell Theater Ensemble, visit <http://rivendelltheatre.org>. Follow RTE on Facebook at [Facebook.com/rivendelltheatre](https://www.facebook.com/rivendelltheatre) and on Twitter @RivendellThtr

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble is supported by generous grants from The Alphawood Foundation; The Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development; The Chicago Community Trust; The Chicago Foundation for Women; The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation; The Reva and David Logan Foundation; The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust; The University of Illinois at Chicago Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement; A CityArts Program 1 Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Rivendell is also grateful for the support of 100 Women Who Care.

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