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RIVENDELL THEATRE ENSEMBLE ANNOUNCES 2015 SALON BENEFIT

**Willa Taylor to receive WREN Award for extraordinary work
on behalf of women in the arts at Rivendell's SALON 2015**

**Thursday, March 19 at Level Office, 73 West Monroe
VIP Reception at 5:00pm, Benefit at 6:00pm**

Chicago, IL— Rivendell Theatre Ensemble announces the 2015 Salon fundraiser to benefit programming at Rivendell Theatre. The Salon this year celebrates Rivendell's 20 years of advancing the lives of women through theatre. The evening will include live music, hors d'oeuvres, wine, a specialty cocktail, raffles and door prizes, a silent auction and more. **SALON 2015 will be held on Thursday evening, March 19 at Level Office, 73 West Monroe, Chicago, IL.**

Willa Taylor, Director of Education and Community Engagement at the Goodman Theatre, U.S. Navy veteran, and discussion panelist for Rivendell's production of *WOMEN AT WAR*, will be honored with the **2015 WREN Award** on behalf of her remarkable work advocating for women theatre artists in Chicago.

Tickets and raffle entries are available from the box office 773-334-7728 or online at www.RivendellTheatre.org.

Tickets: General Tickets \$80
VIP Tickets \$125
Day of Tickets \$100

Schedule: 5:00 pm VIP Reception
6:00 pm Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, and Silent Auction
7:30 pm Presentation of the WREN Award

Parking: Valet Parking is available next door at Italian Village (71 West Monroe). The nearest public garage is located at 181 West Monroe, a three-minute walk from Level Office.

Box Office: 773-334-7728 or RivendellTheatre.org

Willa J. Taylor is the Director of Education and Community Engagement at Chicago's Goodman Theatre. In partnership with strategic community partners, she develops and deploys arts-based interventions to address challenges in education and social exclusion. Programs include: Student Subscription Series, the 28-year old program that develops standards-based social justice curriculum materials and trains

teachers to use artistic practices to engage students in authentic learning; InterGENS, which partners seniors and teens to create original narrative performances that address community concerns; and Divergent Discourse, an initiative that uses storytelling and theatrical practices to build capacity for social service organizations like Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers. She created the Allen Lee Hughes Fellows Program for Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.; designed the education program for the inaugural season of the New Victory Theater in New York City; developed curriculum materials for the Broadway production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, starring Natalie Portman; and spent seven seasons as Education Director for Lincoln Center Theatre. While serving as a linguist in the U. S. Navy, she produced USO shows at military bases in Turkey, Greece, and Italy. As Cultural Festival Director for Gay Games IV in New York City, Ms. Taylor oversaw the production of more than 200 cultural events during the 16-day festival, including the Broadway premiere of Sir Ian McKellen's one-man show, *A Knight Out*, and the world premiere of a new dance work by Bill T. Jones commissioned for the festival. Ms. Taylor has taught high school English, and has lectured on Theater and Social Change at colleges and universities around the country. She has a B.S. in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College, a culinary degree from Kendall College, and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University.

The Sponsors for Salon 2015 are: Northern Trust, OpenText GXS, Jack & Kathryn Lavin, Amazing Edibles Gourmet Catering, Fig Catering and Lagunitas Brewing

Salon 2015 Co-Chairs: Sharon Furiya, Elvia Moreno, and Don Wiener

Special thanks to our 2015 Host Committee:

Drew Baker & Jessica Parent, Beth Basta, Aleen Bayard, Tim Bresnahan, JB & Toni Burt, Joan Callahan, Megan Carney & Michal Eskayo, Jason Cox, Erica Daniels, Silvino da Silva, Elana Dor, Judith Gethner, Brenda Grauer, Marguerite Grin, Andrea Herrera, Linda Kozloski, Kathy Lavin, Andrew Lehrer, Brad McLaughlin, Emily Moreno, Mary Morten, Katie Mueller, Mary Paskell, Daniel Robinson, Laurence Saint Germain, Anna Sharp, Susan Shevelenko, Michael Szott and Shelley Ziacek

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 MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation; The Reva and David Logan Foundation; The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust; Cultural Outreach Program Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events; and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Rivendell Theatre Ensemble is also very grateful for the support received from 100 Women Who Care.

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