RIVENDELL THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS THE SECOND PRODUCTION IN THEIR 2012 – 2013 SEASON OF REINVENTION: LISA DILLMAN’S AMERICAN WEE-PIE

Hope Is A Thing With Sprinkles In Dillman’s New Comedy, Directed By Megan Carney, Receiving Its World Premiere January 10 – February 16, 2013 At The New Rivendell Theatre.

CHICAGO,— Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (RTE ), Chicago’s only Equity theatre devoted to the work of women theatre artists, is proud to announce American Wee-Pie as the second production in its 2012-2013 Season of Reinvention. The production reunites the core artistic team from Rivendell’s critically acclaimed 2009 world premiere of The Walls—RTE Resident Playwright Lisa Dillman and director RTE member Megan Carney. American Wee-Pie runs January 10 – February 16, 2013, at Rivendell’s new performance venue, 5779 N. Ridge. Previews are $15 and run Thursday, Jan. 10 – Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013 at 8 p.m. There is a gala benefit performance, tickets for the gala benefit are $50, Sunday, January 13, at 6 p.m., and the press opening is Monday, January 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets for regular performances are $30 with the schedule Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are now on sale online at www.RivendellTheatre.org or by phone, 773.334.7728.

Lisa Dillman’s American Wee-Pie explores the story of a disenfranchised textbook editor (Kurt Brocker) returning to his small midwestern hometown to bury his mother, having no reason to expect this visit might change his life. However, after a chance encounter with an old high school acquaintance (Jennifer Pompa), he finds himself pulled along on a journey of self-discovery—a personal renaissance that eventually transforms him from a lonely wrangler of commas and semicolons to an intuitive cupcake chef with a passion for making others happy one delicious confection at a time. American Wee-Pie is a big-hearted comedy about economic recession, career second acts, and the sometimes life-altering wonder of a small, good thing.

The play was originally commissioned by and developed with the Goodman Theatre as part of the theatre's inaugural Playwrights Unit in 2011, and was later presented as part of Philadelphia’s prestigious PlayPenn Conference and in public staged readings at theatres around the country.

Rivendell’s production of American Wee-Pie will reunite playwright Dillman with director and fellow RTE member Megan Carney, following their successful collaboration on The Walls, an ensemble-based work about women and mental illness, which Rivendell produced to wide acclaim in 2009. The cast includes RTE members Keith Kupferer, Mark Ulrich, and Jane Baxter Miller.

The production team includes Regina Garcia (set), Jessica Carson (lights), Lauren Lowell (costumes), Josh Horvath (sound), Joanna Iwanicka (props), Stephanie Hurovitz (production stage manager), and Jen Seleznow (production manager).
American Wee-Pie is the latest in Rivendell’s long history of world and regional premieres—a history that in addition to Wrens; includes the American Critics Association “Best New Play,” My Simple City by Richard Strand; Carson Kreitzer’s Self-Defense (2004-05 season, with Steppenwolf); Quiara Alegría Hudes’ Elliot, a Soldier’s Fugue (2006-07 season, with Steppenwolf); Melanie Marnich’s These Shining Lives (2008-09 season, remounted in 2010), Stephen Massicotte’s Mary’s Wedding (2009-10 season) and Catherine Trieschmann’s Crooked in spring 2012.

In the past year, thanks in huge part to the generosity of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation PAV Fund, RTE transformed two adjoining storefronts that had been empty for 30 years into a state-of-the-art 50-seat flexible theatre space at 5779 North Ridge Avenue in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. RTE is rapidly becoming a major destination for new women writers, and today offers an actual artistic home for women actors, directors and designers.

For more information about Rivendell’s and its 17th season, visit www.RivendellTheatre.org.
Rivendell season continues with Lisa Dillman’s American Wee-Pie, page 3 of 3

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble’s American Wee-Pie by Lisa Dillman and directed by Megan Carney, runs January 10 – February 16, 2013, at Rivendell’s new performance venue, 5779 N. Ridge. Previews are $15 and run Thursday, Jan. 10 – Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013 at 8 p.m. There is a gala benefit performance, tickets for the gala benefit are $50, Sunday, January 13, at 6 p.m., and the press opening is Monday, January 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets for regular performances are $30 with the schedule Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are now on sale online at www.RivendellTheatre.org or by phone, 773.334.7728.

Free parking is available in the Senn High School parking lot (located a block and a half from the theatre behind the school off Thorndale Avenue). There is limited paid and free street parking in the area and the theatre is easily accessible via the Clark (#22) or Broadway (#36) bus and a short walk from the Bryn Mawr redline El Station.

# # #

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble is supported in part by generous grants from:
3Arts; The Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; The Chicago Foundation for Women; The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation; The Ronald A. Greene Memorial Fund, a Donor Advised Grant from the Chicago Community Trust; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation PAV Fund; The Saints; A CityArts Program 1 Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; The Illinois Arts Council, A State Agency.