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**WOMEN'S PROJECT THEATER ANNOUNCES
ADDITIONAL CASTING FOR THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF**

DEAR ELIZABETH

WRITTEN BY SARAH RUHL

DIRECTED BY KATE WHORISKEY

FROM NOVEMBER 9 – 14

BECKY ANN BAKER & PETER SCOLARI



JOIN PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED ROTATING CASTS OF LUMINARIES:

**DAVID AARON BAKER, KATHLEEN CHALFANT, RINDE ECKERT,
CHERRY JONES, MIA KATIGBAK, ELLEN MCLAUGHLIN, J. SMITH-CAMERON,
JOHN DOUGLAS THOMPSON, HARRIS YULIN AND POLLY NOONAN**

OCTOBER 26 – DECEMBER 5, 2015

****TICKETS ARE NOW ON-SALE****

(New York, NY) **Women's Project Theater**, under the leadership of **Producing Artistic Director Lisa McNulty** and **Managing Director Maureen Moynihan**, announced today that "Girls" co-stars **Becky Ann Baker** and **Peter Scolari** will join the rotating casts for the New York premiere of **DEAR ELIZABETH**, the inaugural production at the WP's new theatrical home the McGinn/Cazale Theatre, 2162 Broadway (at 76th Street) from November 9 to 14, 2015. Written by two-time Pulitzer Nominee and Tony Nominee **Sarah Ruhl** (*The Oldest Boy, In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*) and directed by **Kate Whoriskey** (*Ruined, Sweat*), this insightful and impassioned examination of the famed correspondence between Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell - two of the twentieth century's most brilliant poets - will be presented from October 26 through December 5, 2015 with six rotating casts of stage and screen luminaries.

DEAR ELIZABETH tells a tale of unconventional friendship and intimacy that spanned thirty years and more than 400 letters, with postmarks from Maine to Key West, from London to South America. This portrayal of Bishop and Lowell's lives, work, and the true nature of friendship will also be performed by the following luminaries: from October 26 – 31 by WP Theater founding artist, Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk, Obie & Outer Critics Circle Award winner **Kathleen Chalfant** (*Wit, Angels in America*) & Drama Desk nominee **Harris Yulin** (*Hedda Gabler, Diary of Anne Frank*); from November 2 – 7 by Obie Award & Drama

Desk Award winner **J. Smith-Cameron** (*Juno and the Paycock*, *Fuddy Meers*) & Obie Award winner **John Douglas Thompson** (*Othello*, *Satchmo at the Waldorf*); from November 16 – 21 by two-time Tony Award winner and Emmy Award winner **Cherry Jones** (*Doubt*, “24”) & **David Aaron Baker** (*Once Upon A Mattress*, *A Raisin in the Sun*); from November 23 – 28 by real-life married couple **Ellen McLaughlin** (*Angels in America*) & Grammy winner and Pulitzer finalist **Rinde Eckert** (*Slow Fire*, *And God Created Great Whales*); and from November 30 – December 5 Obie & Lortel Award winner **Mia Katigbak** (*Awake and Sing!*). Helen Hayes Nominee **Polly Noonan** (*Dead Man’s Cell Phone*) will play the “Stage Manager” role for all six weeks.

The *DEAR ELIZABETH* design team features Set Design by **Antje Ellermann** (*Abigail/1702*, *Liberty City*), Costume Design by **Anita Yavich** (*Venus in Fur*, *Fool for Love*), Lighting Design by **Mary Louise Geiger** (*The Constant Wife*, *Buffalo Gal*), Sound Design by **Jill BC Du Boff** (*Hand to God*, *Disgraced*) & **Emily Auciello** (Assoc., *Of Good Stock*) and casting by **Kelly Gillespie** (Assoc., Manhattan Theatre Club) & **David Caparelliotis** (*Disgraced*, *It’s Only A Play*).

Tickets for *DEAR ELIZABETH* are now on sale via WWW.WPTHEATER.ORG / (212) 765-1706. The performance schedule is as follows: Monday – Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday at 8:00pm and Saturday at 3:00pm & 8:00pm.

CAST PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

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| OCTOBER 26 – 31: | KATHLEEN CHALFANT & HARRIS YULIN |
| NOVEMBER 2 – 7: | J. SMITH-CAMERON & JOHN DOUGLAS THOMPSON |
| NOVEMBER 9 – 14: | BECKY ANN BAKER & PETER SCOLARI |
| NOVEMBER 16 – 21: | CHERRY JONES & DAVID AARON BAKER |
| NOVEMBER 23 – 28: | ELLEN MCLAUGHLIN & RINDE ECKERT |
| NOVEMBER 30 – DEC. 5: | MIA KATIGBAK & TO BE ANNOUNCED |

BIOGRAPHIES

BECKY ANN BAKER (*Elizabeth*) is most recognized for her mothering skills, or lack thereof, on two Judd Apatow series, “Freaks and Geeks” and “Girls,” where she plays creator Lena Dunham’s mom, and for which she received a Critics Choice nomination. But Becky has appeared on Broadway in both musicals and plays, including *Good People*, *All My Sons*, *Assassins*, *Titanic*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Her Off-Broadway credits include: *Barbecue* at the Public Theater, *Suddenly Last Summer* for The Roundabout; *Comedy of Errors*, *Othello* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* for New York Shakespeare Festival; *Wonderful Town* for City Center Encores; *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* for New York Theatre Workshop; *Shanghai Moon* and *June Moon* for Drama Dept.; *Durang*, *Durang* for Manhattan Theatre Club; *To Whom It May Concern* and *Laura Dennis* at the Signature; *The Vagina Monologues* at Westside Arts; and more. Becky has performed regionally at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, where she is an artistic associate, the Old Globe, the South Coast Rep, Arena Stage, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey and the Goodman Theater in Chicago. Film credits include *The End of the Tour*, *23 Blast*, *Hope Springs*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Spinning into Butter*, *Stay*, *The Night Listener*, *Gretchen*, *War of the Worlds*, *Two Weeks Notice*, *A Simple Plan*, *Celebrity*, *Men In Black*, *In and Out*, *Sabrina*, *Unstrung Heroes*, *White Squall*, *Lorenzo’s Oil*, and *Come See the Paradise*. Other TV appearances include: “Gotham,” “Madam Secretary,” “Person of Interest,” “Elementary,” “The Good Wife,” “Smash,” “Black Box,” “A Gifted Man,” “Kings,” “Nurse Jackie,” “Mercy,” “Storm of the Century,” “Soul Man,” “Ruby Ridge,” “Frasier,” “Star Trek: Voyager,” “Sex and the City,” “Law & Order,” “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit,” “Oz,” and “Mind Games.” She is a member of the Actor’s Studio, Drama Dept. and Usual Suspects –NYTW. Becky’s best and favorite production: *Willa*, co-produced with actor/director Dylan Baker.

PETER SCOLARI (*Robert*) Broadway/NY: *Hairspray*, *Sly Fox*, *Magic Bird*, *Out of This World*, *Ziegfeld Follies of 1937* (City Center Encores!), World Premiere of A.R. Gurney’s *Family Furniture*, *Lucky Guy*. Regional: World Premieres of Daniel Sullivan’s *Inspecting Carol*, Ken Ludwig’s *Fox on The Fairway* at The George Street Playhouse. Winner Best Actor, Berkshire Theater Festival for *The Foreigner*. VQT Emmy Award Winner for “Newhart”, Three Time Emmy Nominee, Film Critic’s Award Nomination as Best Featured Actor for “Girls” (HBO), recurring on “Gotham”, also “Bosom Buddies”, “Honey, I Shrunk the Kids”, “The West Wing”, “E.R.”, “Family Ties”, “White Collar”, “King of Queens”, “Reba”, “Ally McBeal”, “From the Earth to the Moon” (HBO), “Stop the World, I Want to Get Off” (Showtime). Selected Film: *That Thing You Do*, *Polar Express*, *Suburban Girl*, *Camp Nowhere*, *The Ryan White Story*, and upcoming *Madoff* for ABC films.

WOMEN'S PROJECT THEATER (WP) is the nation's oldest and largest theater company dedicated to developing, producing and promoting the work of female theater artists at every stage in their careers. WP Theater supports female-identified theater artists and the world-class, groundbreaking work they create, and provides a platform where their voices can be heard and celebrated on the American stage.

Founded in 1978 by visionary producer, Julia Miles, WP has been the launching pad for many of our nation's most important theater artists. Eve Ensler, María Irene Fornés, Katori Hall, Pam MacKinnon, Lynn Nottage and Leigh Silverman, among many, many others, all found early artistic homes here. Throughout its 38 year history, WP has produced over 600 main stage productions and developmental projects, and published 11 anthologies of plays. No other producing institution in the country can claim this kind of ongoing history of advocacy and support for women in the theater, and we look ahead to the next generation of artists who will also begin their careers here.

WP Theater accomplishes its mission through several fundamental programs: the WP Lab, a two-year mentorship and new play development program for women playwrights, directors, and producers; the Playwright In Residence commissioning program; the Developmental series; and the Main Stage series, which features a full season of Off-Broadway productions written and directed by extraordinary theater artists.

LISA MCNULTY (Producing Artistic Director). Lisa is in her second season as Producing Artistic Director of Women's Project Theater. Lisa comes to WP from MTC, where she served as Artistic Line Producer for eight seasons, working on more than 30 productions both on and off Broadway, including plays by Lynn Nottage, Sarah Treem, Harvey Fierstein, and Tarell Alvin McCraney, among many, many others. Lisa has a long history with WP Theater. She was originally hired by the company's founder, Julia Miles, as the Literary Manager from 1997-2000, where she dramaturged work by María Irene Fornés, Julie Hébert, and Karen Hartman, among others, and in 2004, she returned to WP as its Associate Artistic Director. From 2000-2004 she was McCarter Theater's Producing Associate, and her independent producing career includes projects with Sarah Ruhl, Todd Almond, and Lucy Thurber.

MAUREEN MOYNIHAN (Managing Director) Maureen started her career in Chicago working for the Steppenwolf Theatre Company and commercial producer Fox Theatricals. Prior to joining WP Theater, Maureen spent over a decade working for Blue Man Productions in several positions including serving as their Executive Director for five North American Productions. Since moving to New York, she has worked for several nonprofit and commercial organizations including Manhattan New Music Project, York Theatre Company and the immersive theatrical experience *Queen of the Night*.

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