

Contact: Vivacity Media Group | 212-812-1483

Leslie Papa, Leslie@VivacityNY.com

Whitney Holden Gore, Whitney@VivacityNY.com

Ailsa Hoke, Ailsa@VivacityNY.com



**WOMEN'S PROJECT THEATER PRESENTS THE
31st ANNUAL WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GALA
TO HONOR**

Emmy Award-winning Stage, Screen, and TV Actress & Founder of A Is For..

MARTHA PLIMPTON

Celebrated Film, Television and Theater Producer, President of Segal NYC and Gatherer Entertainment

JENNA SEGAL

Award-Winning Actress, Film Producer, and Director & Founder of The Rainforest Fund

TRUDIE STYLER

HOSTED BY

Celebrated comedienne, Two-time Grammy Nominee & Comedy Central Roast Star

LISA LAMPANELLI

WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCES & APPEARANCES BY

Fun Home's Tony Award Nominee & Tony Award Winner

BETH MALONE & JEANINE TESORI

Acclaimed Dance Company

MONICA BILL BARNES & CO.

Emmy Award Nominated creator of "Call The Midwife"

HEIDI THOMAS

AND MORE SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED

**MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016
AT THE EDISON BALLROOM, NYC**

TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA WPTHEATER.ORG

(New York, NY) **Women's Project Theater** (WP Theater), under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Lisa McNulty and Managing Director **Maureen Moynihan**, is thrilled to announce the **31st ANNUAL WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GALA**. The gala will honor Emmy Award winning actress **Martha Plimpton**; celebrated film, television and Broadway producer **Jenna Segal**; and actress, producer, environmentalist and UNICEF ambassador **Trudie Styler**. Hosted by Grammy nominated comedienne **Lisa Lampanelli**, with special performances by *Fun Home*'s Tony Award Nominee **Beth Malone** and Tony Award winner **Jeanine Tesori**; dance company **Monica Bill Barnes & Co.** and a presentation by Emmy Award nominee **Heidi Thomas** (creator of "Call the Midwife"), the Gala will take place on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 6:30pm at **The Edison Ballroom**, 240 W 47th Street.

Each year WP honors truly outstanding women who have taken risks, pushed limits, and broken ground in a wide variety of fields, celebrating their unique accomplishments at the WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS. Over the past 30 years, WP Theater has paid homage to luminaries such as **Gloria Steinem**, **Whoopi Goldberg**, **Audra McDonald**, **Eve Ensler**, **Dame Judi Dench**, **Kerry Washington**, **Vanessa Redgrave**, and **Chita Rivera**, to name but a few. The WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS delivers an inspiring, entertaining, star-studded night that celebrates the accomplishments of vital women across many disciplines in New York and beyond.

Award winning television, stage, screen actress and activist, **Martha Plimpton** won an Emmy Award for her memorable appearance on television's *The Good Wife*, and was nominated two additional times for her work in *Raising Hope* and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. Also a three-time Tony Award nominee, she has appeared on Broadway in *A Delicate Balance*, *Pal Joey*, *The Coast of Utopia* and *Top Girls*. Plimpton has appeared in over 30 films, including *The Goonies*, *Running on Empty*, *Beautiful Girls*, *Parenthood* and *200 Cigarettes*. She currently stars in ABC's new comedy *The Real O'Neals* and will next be seen in the film adaptation of the musical of *Hello Again* opposite **Audra McDonald**. Politically active since she was a teenager, Plimpton is on the Board of Directors for *A is For..*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing women's reproductive rights and ending the stigma against abortion care.

Named "a producer to watch" by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Variety*, **Jenna Segal** serves as President of Segal NYC, a theater, television, film and internet production company that makes content with a focus on women. Having begun her career in political talk shows in Washington, DC including CNBC and CNN, Segal later moved to the VIACOM networks (MTV, VH1, Nicktoons, Nickelodeon) working in production management development on live shows, animation, live events, reality competitions, variety shows, documentaries, live action gaming, non-fiction programming, extreme sports and reality programming, escalating to the position of Director of Production Management Development. She recently produced *Gigi* starring **Vanessa Hudgens**, which played a sold-out engagement at The Kennedy Center and then moved to The Neil Simon Theater on Broadway as part of the 2014-2015 Season.

Trudie Styler is an actress, film producer, human rights activist, environmentalist, and UNICEF Ambassador. In 1989, Trudie and her husband Sting started the Rainforest Fund, an organization devoted to protecting rainforests and their indigenous peoples in South America, Africa and Asia, raising more than \$30 million for the cause. She has produced award-winning documentaries and feature films through her company Xingu Films and is now a partner in New York-based production company Maven Pictures, whose first feature *Girl Most Likely*, starred **Kristen Wiig**, **Annette Bening** and **Matt Dillon**; closely followed by *Filth*, which starred **James McAvoy**; and *Black Nativity*, which starred **Forest Whitaker**. Maven Pictures currently has several films in various stages of development and production, including *Freak Show* based on the bestselling book by James St. James, as well as *Wilding*, starring Liv Tyler. Trudie has numerous stage credits in both the US and UK, including roles for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Lisa Lampanelli is best known as "Comedy's Lovable Queen of Mean." A two-time Grammy nominee for "Best Comedy Album," Ms. Lampanelli is a regular on Sirius XM's "Howard Stern Show" as well as Comedy Central's Roasts. Over her 25 plus years in show business, she has appeared on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Chelsea Lately," "Jimmy Kimmel Live,"

“Good Morning America” and more. She was a cast member on NBC’s “Celebrity Apprentice,” Season Five and raised \$130,000 for her charity, the Gay Men’s Health Crisis. Most recently she has written *Stuffed*, the first of a four play series that tackles body image from the perspectives of four different women.

Called “an important, risk-taking organization” by *New York Magazine*, **WP Theater** is the nation’s oldest and largest theater company dedicated to developing, producing and promoting the work of women in theater 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. This year launched the first ever **WP Pipeline Festival**, in which WP Lab playwrights, directors and producers’ two-year residency culminated in the presentation of five brand new plays – written, directed and produced by the fifteen women of the WP Lab. The acclaimed 2015-2016 season also included two-time Pulitzer Nominee **Sarah Ruhl’s *Dear Elizabeth***, featuring a rotating cast of theatre luminaries including **Cherry Jones, Kathleen Chalfant** and **David Aaron Baker** and, in co-production with Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Martina Majok’s *Ironbound* starring **Marin Ireland**. The play was selected as a *New York Times Critics’ Pick*, received a nomination for Outer Critics Circle’s John Gassner Playwriting Award and Drama Desk and Drama League Award nominations for Ireland’s performance.

Sponsorship and support of WP’s premiere event complements WP Theater’s unwavering commitment to develop, produce, and promote the work of female theater artists at every stage in their careers. For information regarding tickets to the GALA, visit <http://wptheater.org/special-events/2016tickets/> or contact 917-818-0572.

WOMEN’S PROJECT THEATER LEADERSHIP

Lisa McNulty, Producing Artistic Director; Maureen Moynihan, Managing Director

Gala Co-Chairs: Annette Green, HBO, Donald J. Loftus & Time Warner

Gala Committee: Sandy Ashendorf; Kelly Miller; Onute Miller; Nancy Schmidt; Craig Thompson; Lisa Timmel; S. Jean Ward, Esq.

Board of Directors: Casey Kemper, Chair & Treasurer; Sandy Ashendorf; Fernando Garip; Leigh A. Giroux, Esq.; Jessica R. Jenen; Donald J. Loftus; Kelly Miller; Onute Miller; Stephen M. Rosenberg, Esq.; Nancy Schmidt; David Singleton; Craig Thompson; Lisa Timmel; S. Jean Ward, Esq.

Founder's Circle: Jann Leeming, Chair; Sallie Bingham; Jennifer Chambers; Tina Chen; Marya Cohn; Annette Green; Joan Vail Thorne

WPTheater.org
@WomensProject
#WPAwards

HEADSHOTS:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/muxh751kj52qkat/AABdMZoFSS5djWifjUhkWkxUa?dl=0>

BIOGRAPHIES:

MARTHA PLIMPTON An accomplished and Award-winning actress, Martha Plimpton has achieved success across stage, screen and television. Plimpton can now be seen starring in ABC's new comedy series *The Real O'Neal's*. For her work in the television series *Raising Hope*, she was nominated for an Emmy® Award for "Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series" and twice for a Critics' Choice Television Award for "Best Actress in a Comedy." Her memorable TV appearances include "The Good Wife," for which she won the Emmy® Award, "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" for which she earned an Emmy® Award nomination and *How to Make it in America*.

Plimpton has appeared in over 30 films, including *The Goonies*, *The Mosquito Coast*, *Running on Empty*, *Beautiful Girls*, *Parenthood*, *200 Cigarettes*, *Pecker*, *Eye of God* and *Small Town Murder Songs*. She will next be seen in the film adaptation of the musical of *Hello Again* opposite Audra McDonald.

On stage, Plimpton's work has garnered three consecutive Tony® Award nominations. In 2014, she starred alongside John Lithgow and Glenn Close in the Broadway revival of Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. Previously, she starred alongside Stockard Channing in *Pal Joey* for the Roundabout Theatre Company, garnering her third Tony® Award nomination in as many years, as well as a Drama Desk nomination for "Best Featured Actress in a Musical" and a Drama League nomination. In 2008, Plimpton starred in *Top Girls* for the Manhattan Theatre Club and received Tony® and Drama Desk Award nominations, and in 2007, Plimpton appeared in Tom Stoppard's nine-hour trilogy, *The Coast of Utopia* at Lincoln Center Theater, for which she earned a Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and Tony® Award nomination.

Plimpton recently starred in the UK premiere of Jon Robin Baitz's acclaimed play, *Other Desert Cities* alongside Sinéad Cusack, Peter Egan, Clare Higgins and Daniel Lapaine at The Old Vic in London. *Company* opposite Patti LuPone and Stephen Colbert, Shakespeare in the Park's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Shining City*, *The False Servant* (Drama League nomination), *HurlyBurly*, *Hobson's Choice* (Obie Award, Lortel nomination) and Lincoln Center Theater production of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*. She is also a proud member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Ensemble since 1998, where she has appeared in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, Stephen Jeffries *The Libertine* opposite John Malkovich, and made her directing debut there with *Absolution* in 2001.

Plimpton lives in New York City.

JENNA SEGAL Jenna Segal heads Segal NYC, which develops and produces: theater, digital content, television, and film with a focus on female audiences. Currently, she is focused on her new production company Gatherer. Segal was the lead producer of the musical *GIGI*, starring Vanessa Hudgens and written by celebrated scribe Heidi Thomas ("Call The Midwife", "Cranford"), which enjoyed a sold-out run at the Kennedy Center and then moved to the Neil Simon Theater in Broadway's 2015-spring season. She's been featured in *Variety*, the *Star Ledger*, the *Bergen Record*, and the *Wall Street Journal* as a new producer to watch. Currently, Jenna is an Associate Producer on the web series "Lady Parts" and producer of "Out on the Wing."

After beginning her career in political talk shows in Washington, DC, including CNBC and CNN, Jenna moved to VIACOM networks in both Los Angeles and New York (MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, Nicktoons) working in Production Management Development and Series on live shows, animation, live events, reality competitions, variety shows, documentaries, live-action gaming, non-fiction programming, extreme sports and reality programming, where she rose to the position of Director of Production Management Development.

Jenna serves on the Board of Directors for the Birthright Israel Foundation and co-chairs the Board of Directors of the NEXT platform. In the development spirit, she created the successful Passport Program currently being implemented at the JCC Manhattan. Segal also serves on the Board of Directors of A Better Balance. She is a member of the Broadway League and a Tony Voter, as well as a member of the Central Park Conservancy Women's Committee and Emily's List Majority Council. Jenna Segal has three children and lives with her husband in New York City.

TRUDIE STYLER Trudie Styler is an actress, film producer, director, human rights activist, environmentalist, organic farmer and UNICEF Ambassador. In 1989, Trudie and her husband Sting started the Rainforest Fund, an organization devoted to protecting rainforests and their indigenous peoples in South America, Africa and Asia, raising more than \$30 million for the cause. Trudie produced award-winning documentaries and feature films through her company Xingu Films and is now a partner in New York-based production company Maven Pictures, whose first feature *Girl Most Likely*, starred Kristen Wiig, Annette Bening and Matt Dillon, closely followed by *Filth*, which starred James McAvoy and *Black Nativity*, which starred Forest Whitaker. Maven Pictures currently has several films in various stages of development and production, including *Freak Show* based on the bestselling book by James St. James, starring Abigail Breslin and Bette Midler, as well as *Wilding*, starring Liv Tyler. Trudie has numerous stage credits in both the US and UK, including roles for the RSC. Recent film work includes her highly acclaimed performance in *Living Proof* and Paul Haggis' *The Next Three Days*.

Trudie has made seven hugely popular mind-body fitness videos released by Gaiam. She is also an organic farmer and producer of highly acclaimed Italian wines under the Il Palagio label which are exported throughout Europe and the US.

LISA LAMPANELLI Comedian/writer/actor Lisa Lampanelli is best-known as "Comedy's Lovable Queen of Mean." A regular on the Comedy Central Roasts and frequent guest on Sirius satellite radio's "Howard Stern Show," Ms. Lampanelli has recently written, "Stuffed," a play that tackles weight, body image, and food issues from the perspective of four different women. The four-person play is the first in a series of four she is penning about important issues to women. Over her more than 25 years in show business, Ms. Lampanelli has appeared on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "Late Show with David Letterman," "Chelsea Lately," "Jimmy Kimmel Live," "The Dr. Oz Show," "Today," and "Good Morning America," and was also a member of the cast of NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice," Season 5, raising \$130,000 for her charity, the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Ms. Lampanelli also made headlines when she donated \$50,000 to the GMHC after protesters from the Westboro Baptist Church picketed her comedy show in Topeka, KS, in 2011. Ms. Lampanelli has also been nominated twice for Grammy Awards for "Best Comedy Album," and has five one-hour televised specials, including her HBO special, "Long Live The Queen."

BETH MALONE is currently starring as Allison in Broadway's Tony Award Winning Best Musical *Fun Home*. Prior to that she spent a year at The Denver Center, starring as Molly Brown in the world premiere of a wholly reimagined version of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, directed by Kathleen Marshall. Other original Broadway and Off Broadway credits include June Carter Cash in *Ring of Fire*, Betty Jean in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and Alison in *Bingo!*. Regional theatre appearances include *9 to 5*, *The Break Up Notebook*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Les Miserables*, and the world premiere of *Sister Act*. Beth holds an MFA from UC Irvine. Original Cast Recordings: *Fun Home*, *Ring of Fire*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Bingo!*.

JEANINE TESORI won the Tony Award for Best Original Score with Lisa Kron for the musical *Fun Home*, which is currently playing on Broadway. She has also written Tony-nominated scores for *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan); *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner); and *Shrek The Musical* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abaire). The production of *Caroline, or Change* at the National Theatre in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her 1997 Off-Broadway musical *Violet* (lyrics, Brian Crowley) opened on Broadway in 2014 and garnered four Tony nominations, including Best Musical Revival. Opera: *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (libretto, Tony Kushner; Glimmerglass) and *The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me* (libretto, J. D. McClatchy, Kennedy Center). Music for plays: *Mother Courage* (dir. George C. Wolfe, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline), John Guare's *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center Theater, dir. George C. Wolfe), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Delacorte Gala). Film scores: *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Every Day*, and *You're Not You*. Ms. Tesori is a member of the Dramatists Guild and was cited by the ASCAP as the first female composer to have two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway. She is the founding artistic director of Encores! Off-Center at New York City Center, and is a lecturer in music at Yale University.

MONICA BILL BARNES & CO is a contemporary American dance company that brings dance where it does not belong. We create and produce each work entirely from its own rulebook - dancing to radio interviews on the biggest stages in the world, hosting a weekly show in a crowded office party, or leading a choreographed exercise routine in an art museum. Within each of these new contexts and borrowed environments, we constantly find humor in our awkward, everyday triumphs and failures.

The company consists of a team of collaborators: Artistic Director/Choreographer, Monica Bill Barnes; Associate Artistic Director/Performer, Anna Bass; designers Kelly Hanson (Set/Costume) and Jane Cox (Lighting); and our newest company member Robbie Saenz de Viteri (Creative Producing Director). Together, this team creates the most unlikely experiences for every kind of audience.

LISA McNULTY (Producing Artistic Director, Women's Project Theater). Lisa is in her second season as Producing Artistic Director of Women's Project Theater. Lisa comes to WP from Manhattan Theatre Club, 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, Terrence McNally, 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. In 2004, she returned to WP as its Associate Artistic Director where she served as the company's casting director and literary manager and again ran WP's Playwrights Lab. Her independent producing career includes projects with Sarah Ruhl, Todd Almond, and Lucy Thurber, all at 13P. Lisa has also served as the Producing Associate at the McCarter Theatre, acting as Line Producer on McCarter's mainstage, as well as developing McCarter's commissioned short series.

WOMEN'S PROJECT THEATER (Lisa McNulty - Producing Artistic Director; Maureen Moynihan - Managing Director) is the nation's oldest and largest theater company dedicated to developing, producing and promoting the work of theater artists who identify as women. WP Theater supports these artists and the world-class, groundbreaking work they create, and provides a platform where women's voices can be heard and celebrated on the American stage throughout their careers. In service of that important mission, over the past 37 years WP has produced over 600 main stage productions and developmental projects, and published 11 anthologies of plays by women. WP has been the launching pad for many of our nation's most important female theater artists. Eve Ensler, María Irene Fornés, Katori Hall, Pam MacKinnon, Lynn Nottage, Leigh Silverman and Anna Deveare Smith, among many, many others, all found early artistic homes here. 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 female artists who will also begin their careers here. WP Theater accomplishes its mission through two fundamental programs: the WP Lab, a two-year mentorship and new play development program for women playwrights, directors, and producers and the Main Stage series, which features a full season of Off-Broadway productions written and directed by extraordinary theater artists.

#