

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK

BERKSHIRE

THEATRE GROUP

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**Berkshire Theatre Group and WAM Theatre
Present the American Premiere of
The Bakelite Masterpiece
by Kate Cayley
directed by Kristen van Ginhoven
with David Adkins and Corinna May**

Pittsfield, MA– Berkshire Theatre Group and WAM Theatre present the American Premiere of *The Bakelite Masterpiece*, by Kate Cayley and directed by Kristen van Ginhoven, featuring David Adkins and Corinna May. *The Bakelite Masterpiece* runs at the Unicorn Theatre in Stockbridge, September 29 through October 23.

Tickets to *The Bakelite Masterpiece* are \$50, all preview tickets are \$45. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield; by calling (413) 997-4444 or online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.

After a critically acclaimed World Premiere at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, Canada, Berkshire Theatre Group and WAM Theatre are joining forces to present the American Premiere of *The Bakelite Masterpiece*. This stirring production is directed by Co-Founder and Artistic Director of WAM Theatre, **Kristen van Ginhoven**, and features BTG Alums **David Adkins** (*Thoreau or, Return to Walden; Poe; Same Time, Next Year*) and **Corinna May** (*Same Time, Next Year; Homestead Crossing; Two-Headed*).

It's the end of World War II, and Holland is in chaos. The artist Van Meegeren is

arrested. His crime? Selling a long-lost painting by the Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer to the Nazi Leader, Hermann Goering. His defense? It was a perfect forgery painted by him. His proof? In front of his prosecutor Geert Piller, art historian and resistance fighter, he must paint another flawless Vermeer to save his life. *The Bakelite Masterpiece* is a play that debates beauty, faith, memory and the reconstruction of a country.

"As the daughter of Dutch parents who lived through WWII, I feel compelled to tell this story," said Kristen van Ginhoven. "The play came to me via a close colleague in Canada who acted in the original production and I immediately envisioned it at The Unicorn Theatre. WAM Theatre is very excited that Berkshire Theatre Group has opened their doors to make this a co-production. This collaboration makes it possible for this story to reach a wider audience."

In keeping with their double philanthropic mission, WAM Theatre will be donating 25% of the box office proceeds from this production to their ninth beneficiary, the Berkshire Immigrant Center and Suzi Banks Baum.

The Bakelite Masterpiece

American Premiere

by Kate Cayley

directed by Kristen van Ginhoven

with David Adkins and Corinna May

a co-production with WAM Theatre

at The Unicorn Theatre

The Larry Vaber Stage

BTG's Stockbridge Campus, 6 East Street

Previews: Thursday, September 29 and Friday, September 30

Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, October 1 at 7pm

Tickets: Preview: \$45

Tickets: \$50

Sponsored By: Lead Unicorn Sponsor Bobbie Hallig, Furlano & Arace PC, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Mass Humanties,

Performance Dates

- Thursday, September 29 at 7pm (Preview)
- Friday, September 30 at 7pm (Preview)
- Saturday, October 1 at 7pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)
- Sunday, October 2 at 2pm (Talkback)
- Thursday, October 6 at 7pm (Talkback)
- Friday, October 7 at 7pm

- Saturday, October 8 at 2pm (Talkback) and 7pm
- Sunday, October 9 at 2pm (Talkback)
- Thursday, October 13 at 7pm
- Friday, October 14 at 7pm (Talkback)
- Saturday, October 15 at 2pm (Talkback) and 7pm
- Sunday, October 16 at 2pm (Talkback)
- Thursday, October 20 at 7pm
- Friday, October 21 at 7pm
- Saturday, October 22 at 2pm (Talkback) and 7pm
- Sunday, October 23 at 2pm (Talkback) (Closing)

Talkbacks:

Sunday, October 2 after 2pm performance

Thursday, October 6 after 7pm performance

Saturday, October 8 after 2pm performance

Sunday, October 9 after 2pm performance

Friday, October 14 after 7pm performance

Saturday, October 15 after 2pm performance

Sunday, October 16 after 2pm performance

Sunday, October 23 after 2pm performance

Closing: Sunday, October 23 at 2pm performance

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organization merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County schoolchildren annually. BTG's celebrated stages reflect the history of the American theatre; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage, cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, has been home to the Berkshire Theatre Festival since 1928. Nestled at the corner of Main Street and Yale Hill Road in Stockbridge, this 318-seat theatre epitomizes summer theatre for many of its faithful patrons. The intimate 122-seat Unicorn Theatre in Stockbridge, is BTG's home for new and experimental works, showcasing world premieres and

reimagined classics. Built in 1903 and declared a National Historic Treasure in 1998, the 780-seat Colonial Theatre is a cornerstone of Pittsfield's revitalization. Re-opening to the public in 2006 after a \$21 million restoration, the Colonial serves as a cultural resource for the community. Located in the lobby of the Colonial, the 150-seat Garage is a convertible space that serves as a dance floor, stage for comedians, bands, theatre and more.

About WAM Theatre

Based in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, WAM Theatre is Where Arts and Activism Meet. The company was co-founded in 2010 by Canadian director, actor, educator, and producer Kristen van Ginhoven. WAM's vision is to create opportunity for women and girls through the mission of theatre as philanthropy.

Inspired by the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, WAM donates a portion of the proceeds from its theatrical events to organizations that benefit women and girls.

Over the past six years, WAM Theatre has donated more than \$21,000 to eight nonprofit organizations and provided paid work to more than 175 theatre artists. In addition to the main stage productions and special events, WAM Theatre's activities include a comprehensive educational outreach program and the Fresh Takes Play Reading Series. For more information, visit www.WAMTheatre.com