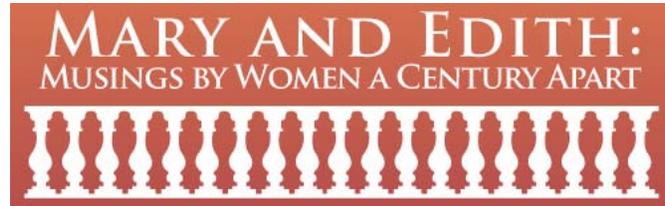


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For Immediate Release, Please Thursday, September 19, 2013

Berkshire Theatre Group Presents BTG's Artistic Director and CEO, Kate Maguire, acclaimed author Mary Mott, and esteemed artist Kim Taylor in *Mary and Edith: Musings by Women a Century Apart*

Pittsfield, MA— Berkshire Theatre Group presents *Mary and Edith: Musings by Women a Century Apart* at the Unicorn Theatre in Stockbridge. The production opens October 4 and closes on October 20.

Celebrate Berkshire women writers with an evening of stories old and new. Mary Mott will share stories of her life in *From Where I Sit* and Kate Maguire and Kim Taylor will perform a stage adaptation of a short story by one of the Berkshires' most well known authors, Edith Wharton in *Roman Fever*.

"From Where I Sit," written and performed by Mary Mott, is a memoir of the life of a young girl growing up in the '50s and '60s. The story progresses to her present day in the Berkshires. Based on her columns and writings, Mary longs for do-overs in her life, while she takes us through musings on the life she has led. Her words are hers, but resonate for all of us as we navigate the humorous and often bittersweet waters of life.

"I am thrilled to be working with my beloved hometown theater," said Mott. "What an honor to be working in Edith Wharton's auspicious company!"

In 1921, Edith Wharton was the first female author to win a Pulitzer Prize for literature for her acclaimed novel, "The Age of Innocence." BTG is presenting Wharton's last short story written in 1934, *Roman Fever*. This story explores the power of love and deception, all the while set on a beautiful Italian terrace.

The two longtime friends, Mrs. Ansley and Mrs. Slade are vacationing in Rome with their daughters. As the two reminisce, they begin to realize that the secrets they each hold about the past may not be as hidden as they thought.

"I am very excited to be supporting an evening of two wonderful Berkshire writers: Mary Mott and the Pulitzer Prize-winning, Edith Wharton," said Kate Maguire, BTG Artistic Director and CEO. "Each woman reflects on being a woman and navigating through the mirror of their times. For me, the program is a special honor to know I shall be in the company of my talented friends in *Roman Fever*. Keira Naughton directing and Kim Taylor on stage. I think our audiences are going to find the evening full of fun and surprises."

Both *Roman Fever* and *From Where I Sit* were previously produced at the new works festival, "Made in the Berkshires" in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Due to popular response, BTG is producing the two works as a two-part evening of theatre celebrating the works of women writers in the Berkshires and presents an insightful, dramatic look into the lives of women a century apart.

Mary and Edith: Musings by Women a Century Apart

With Kate Maguire, Mary Mott and Kim Taylor in stories by Mary Mott and Pulitzer Prize Winning

Author, Edith Wharton

From Where I Sit

by and with Mary Mott

directed by Robert Moss

Roman Fever

by Edith Wharton

adapted by Eric Hill

directed by Kiera Naughton

with Kate Maguire and Kim Taylor

Tickets

at The Unicorn Theatre

Opens October 4; Closes October 20

Tickets: \$30

Performance Dates

Friday, October 4 at 7pm

Saturday, October 5 at 2pm

Sunday, October 6 at 2pm

Friday, October 11 at 7pm

Saturday, October 12 at 7pm

Sunday, October 13 at 2pm

Monday, October 14 at 2pm

Friday, October 18 at 7pm

Saturday, October 19 at 7pm

Sunday, October 20 at 2pm

Artistic Staff Bios

Robert Moss (*From Where I Sit* Director) Robert Moss has enjoyed working on new plays since he directed his first one under the auspices of Edward Albee's Playwrights Unit. It was there that he learned that a director may ask anything of a playwright, but that the playwright is always free not to answer. A lesson that has stood Moss in good stead ever since. Currently he's working with Logan Medland on a musical about a tap dancer and a composer that will be opening shortly in Florida and with Ira Fuchs on a drama about the rapacious rascals at the top of the financial industry. For the past three months he's been reveling in the joyous company of Mary Mott, reliving the story of her life. Earlier in his own life, Moss founded and ran Playwrights Horizons for its first ten years.

Keira Naughton (*Roman Fever* Director) Keira Naughton has been seen at BTG in *Birthday Boy*, *Macbeth*, *Faith Healer* and *The Book Club Play*. New York credits include *The Rivals* (LCT), *Dance Of Death*, *Three Sisters*, *The Jammer*, *Hunting And Gathering*, *Lucy*, *Indoor/Outdoor*, *All My Sons*, and *The American Clock* among others. Her regional credits include *The Dining Room* at Westport Country Playhouse, *A Delicate Balance* at Yale Rep, *Becky Shaw* at the Huntington Theater, Company at Kennedy Center, and plays Shakespeare and Co., Barrington Stage, Arena Stage, and Williamstown. TV and film credits include *The Leftovers*, *Body of Proof*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Sex and the City*, *Cradle Will Rock*, and *Blair Witch 2*.

Cast Bios

Kate Maguire (Mrs. Slade) Kate Maguire is the Artistic Director and CEO of Berkshire Theatre Group. Her work in the theatre began many, many moons ago on stage as an actress. In the Berkshires, most recently, she has performed as Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Medea in *Medea*, and Mrs. Darling in *Peter Pan*— all directed by Eric Hill. Kate lives in Richmond with her husband Eric and their son Alexander Hill.

Mary Mott (as herself) Mary Mott grew up nearby in upstate New York. After college she moved into the world of writing, breaking into the business with commercials for Sears on an Albany radio station. She quickly moved into advertising, first in Albany and then in New York and San Francisco. For twenty-five years she followed this path. In 1994, she moved to Sun Valley, Idaho and resumed her writing, creating a weekly humor column for several years followed by a radio show. In moving to the Berkshires, she has continued her writing and has read her work for “Made in the Berkshires” for the last two years. She lives in Stockbridge with her husband Gordon and ball-obsessed lab Lola.

Kim Taylor (Mrs. Ansley) A Berkshire resident and avid Edith Wharton aficionado, Kim is delighted to join forces with the inimitable Kate Maguire in this reading of Miss Wharton’s last work, *Roman Fever*. Kim has joined the BTG’s *A Christmas Carol* for the last two seasons as Mrs. Cratchit. She spent 25 summers in Lenox with her work with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood. She currently lives in Washington, MA with her husband, James and their sons, Henry and Rufus Taylor.

With set design by Carl Sprague, costume design by Olivera Gajic, lighting design by Greg Solomon and sound design and composition by Scott Killian.

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. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts on five stages in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (400 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. BTG also performs at the outdoor Neil Ellenoff stage, located on the grounds of BTF in Stockbridge, and at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 17,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. For more information on BTG call (413) 448-8084. To purchase tickets, call (413) 997-4444 or go online to www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.

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