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RLT
Rogers Little Theater
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RLT's 2ndStage Diversity Unites '*A Walk in the Woods*' To Perform Jan. 7-9

ROGERS, Ark. — RLT will perform Lee Blessing's "*A Walk in the Woods*" Jan. 7-9, which is the second production in the theater's revamped 2ndStage Diversity Unites series.

Under the direction of Hope Holmes, the show highlights that we are diverse, yet the same because of our past actions.

The place is a "pleasant woods on the outskirts of Geneva," where two superpower arms negotiators – a Russian and an American – meet informally after long, frustrating hours at the bargaining table. The Russian, Botvinnik is a seasoned veteran who has mastered the Soviet "hard line." He is urbane and humorous. At the same time, he is profoundly cynical about what the current sessions can accomplish. His young American counterpart, Honeyman, a newcomer to the arms-control talks, is a bit stuffy and pedantic, but also fervently idealistic about what can—and must—be achieved through perseverance and honest bargaining.

They continue their informal meetings as the talks drag on and the seasons change, and through their absorbing and revealing conversations we become aware both of the deepening understanding between these two wise and decent men and also of the profound frustration that they increasingly feel. Honeyman is genuinely regretful in the end when Botvinnik announces that he is leaving his post. This is because the friendship that has grown between them and because he knows that he must now confront again the deep-seated mistrust and misconceptions which a "new man" will bring with him—and that the elemental differences in their two systems of government will continue to exacerbate as long as the real power rests in the hands of those burdened by the bitterness of the past.

Diversity Unites ties “*A Walk in the Woods*” with other productions in the 2nd Stage series later this year: “*I am My Own Wife*” by Doug Wright, and “*The Tricky Part*” by Martin Moran. While less well-known than the productions of RLT's MainStage series, these 2nd Stage scripts are award-winning or award-nominated and touch upon issues that are modern, sometimes difficult and issues that affect all people in some way.

Show begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday performances, and Sunday show time is 2 p.m. RLT is in planning an Opening Night Talk Back featuring panelists familiar with issues stemming from the scripts. The question-and-answer time will last no more than 30 minutes after the performance.

The Opening Night Talk Back for “*A Walk in the Woods*” may explore the issues of war and peace, with guest panelists addressing historical and political perspectives -- perhaps a veteran, a leader of a peace group or a professor of politics from a local college or university.

All performances are stage “in the round” so audience members will be on all four sides of the stage. Tickets for the 2nd Stage shows are \$10 a seat, and because of the mature nature of the scripts children 12 and under are not admitted.

To order tickets go online at www.rogerslittletheater.org. The RLT box office is closed for the holidays but will reopen Jan. 4. The theater and ticket office is located 116 S. Second St. Please call 631-8988 after the New Year.

RLT's 25th Anniversary Season is sponsored by NWA Media and CitiScapes Magazine. RLT provides live theater experiences for audiences, performers and students, enhancing the Rogers Historic District and creating a regional destination. RLT: Places... *Everyone!*

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