



Press Release

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RE: Rogers Little Theater to Present Pulitzer Prize Winning Drama
'WIT'

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Rogers, Ark: Rogers Little Theater (RLT) SecondStage/Diversity Unites will present the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and winner of the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Play, *Wit* by Margaret Edson January 6-8, 2012 at the Victory Theater in downtown Rogers. *Wit* is being sponsored by Starbucks of Rogers and will provide complimentary coffee in the lobby prior to the start of each show. Show times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday with a matinee at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by contacting the RLT Box Office at 479/631-8988 or www.rogerslittletheater.org. This production is recommended for mature audiences and children under 12 will not be admitted.

The SecondStage/Diversity Unites series presents contemporary thought provoking works, intimately staged in the round, with the audience seated on the Victory Theater stage, according to RLT Productions Chair Ed McClure. The performance space is accessible only via stairs.

In her extraordinary first play, Margaret Edson has created a work that is as intellectually challenging as it is emotionally immediate. "[A] brutally human and beautifully layered new play...you feel both enlightened and, in a strange way, enormously comforted." —NY Times. "A dazzling and humane new play that you will remember till your dying day." —NY Magazine.

Directed by Joseph K. Farmer, *Wit* tells the story of Vivian Bearing, Ph.D., a renowned professor of English who has spent years studying and teaching the brilliant and difficult metaphysical sonnets of John Donne, has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer.

Her approach to the study of Donne: aggressively probing, intensely rational. But during the course of her illness—and her stint as a prize patient in an experimental chemotherapy program at a major teaching hospital—Vivian comes to reassess her life and her work with a profundity and humor that are transformative both for her and the audience.

The cast features Amy Eversole of Fayetteville as Vivian and includes Kaye Cotton, John Dagen, Tom Jones, Travis Mitchell, Jason Nemece, Rob Swearingen, Denise Tremaine, Autumn Trout, and Jessica Vradenburg.

McClure said *Wit* is so compelling the [Manhattan Theatre Club](#) will give *Wit* its Broadway premiere in January 2012 in New York, starring Tony and Emmy Award winner [Cynthia Nixon](#) as a poetry professor facing cancer. MTC artistic director [Lynne Meadow](#) will direct the play, which had a healthy Off-Broadway run starting in 1998. It played more than 500 performances and was also named Best Play by the New York Drama Critic Circle, the Drama Desk Awards, the Outer Critics Circle Awards, and the Drama League Award.

For the past 26 years, Rogers Little Theater has focused on bringing high quality community theater to Northwest Arkansas. Housed at the historic Victory Theater in downtown Rogers, RLT produces a wide variety of plays, musicals and special events each year, and over 15,000 audience members attended RLT productions in the past two seasons. RLT is located at 116 S. 2nd St in Rogers, AR.

RLT continues to strengthen its connections to our communities through alliances with other arts and nonprofit organizations in Northwest Arkansas. The theater relies on more than 500 volunteers, including approximately 100 volunteer actors. Their donations of time, talents and financial resources bring vitality and strength to RLT and help fulfill its mission to provide live theater for audiences, performers and students, enhance the Rogers Historic District and create a regional arts destination.

RLT is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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