



PRESENTS

Wit & Wisdom: Monologues of Ruth Draper

Written by..... Ruth Draper
Directed by Catie O'Donnell
Music by..... Julia McConahay
Lighting Design by..... Patricia Micetic
Costumes by..... Rebecca Stanley
Poster and graphics by..... Jackie Harrison-Jewell
Video Promotion by..... Downtown Dailies

We gratefully acknowledge Patricia Norcia and The Draper Company for working with us to use *Three Women in a Court of Domestic Relations*, *Three Women and Mr. Clifford*, and *Three Breakfasts*.

Adapted by Patricia Norcia, David Kaplan and William Bixby Jr. Based on THE ART OF RUTH DRAPER by Morton Dauwen Zabel, published by Doubleday and Company. For further information about Ruth Draper, see www.ruthdraper.net

We wish to thank Annette Bening for generously granting the rights to *A Debutante at a Dance*, *The Italian Lesson*, *A Class in Greek Poise*, and *Doctors And Diets*

Wit & Wisdom: Monologues of Ruth Draper is made possible, in part, by support from The Great Performance Fund for Theater, a component fund of the Madison Community Foundation; the Wisconsin Arts Board, with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts; Dane Arts, with additional funds from the Endres Mfg. Company Foundation, the Evjue Foundation, Inc., charitable arm of The Capital Times, the W. Jerome Frautschi Foundation, the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation; Madison Arts Commission, with additional funds from the Wisconsin Arts Board; and the Neil Allen Peckett Memorial Fund of TAPIT/new works.



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CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Julia McConahay

Musician

Krystal Lonsdale

A Debutante at a Dance

Peggy Rosin

The Italian Lesson

Pam Adams

Jody Reiss

Liz Light

*Three Women in a Court
of Domestic Relations*

Donna Peckett

A Class in Greek Poise

Intermission

Danielle Dresden

Kiki Moritsugu

Nedra Bobo

Three Women and Mr. Clifford

Sarah Whelan

Three Breakfasts

Company

Doctors and Diets

This performance is dedicated to the memory of Jane Denny, a shining light unrivaled in the universe, and to the memory of Susan McQuade, gifted artist and devoted friend. We miss them.

NOTE ON THE PRODUCTION

This project is the result of nearly two years of research, administrative perseverance, rehearsal, and practice, to bring the remarkable work of Ruth Draper to the stage. It was over 30 years ago that Joel Gersmann of Broom Street Theater introduced me to Ruth Draper. Were it not for his interest in her, I would probably have never known of Ruth Draper. For that, I am forever grateful to him. This undertaking is also a tribute to the artistry of the women performing these works. We do not attempt to imitate Ruth Draper, but interpret her resonant words in our own fashion. We are grateful to our director, Catie O'Donnell, for embracing this choice with us.

Ruth Draper (1884-1956) was a solo performer long before it was cool. And, by the way, she was also the aunt of the accomplished tap dancer, Paul Draper. Ruth Draper literally performed before the crowned heads of Europe (Queen Mary and King George V) and counted Laurence Olivier and George Bernard Shaw among her fans. Agatha Christie modeled two characters after her, John Singer Sargent painted her portrait – and Lily Tomlin and Tom Waits both cite her as a major influence.

The monologues selected for ***Wit & Wisdom*** showcase Draper's evergreen understanding of the human experience and her wicked sense of humor, administered with a kindly touch.

— Donna Peckett

PROJECT OUTREACH

To honor Ruth Draper's ground-breaking work, and nurture the next generation of female writers and performers, TAPIT/new works artists Danielle Dresden and Donna Peckett are conducting monologue writing and performing workshops with Madison-area school-age students. Tune in to The Access Hour at 7 pm on Monday, November 12, on WORT 89.9 -FM, to hear their work!

ABOUT TAPIT/NEW WORKS ENSEMBLE THEATER

Artistic innovation and community connection are the forces that drive TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater. Founded by producing artistic directors Danielle Dresden and Donna Peckett in 1985, the Company pursues these goals through creation and presentation of multi-disciplinary theater, arts education, residencies, and outreach activities. TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater tours throughout the U.S. and abroad.

TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater Board of Directors

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Pam Adams has performed for over 30 years in Madison with a variety of theatre companies. She is delighted to be working again with TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater and this very talented group of women. Pam's recent credits include *Sister Felicity* in Stage Q's *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Esther* in *Esther's Descendants* at Broom Street Theatre. She studies and performs improv with Ark, too Improv and Take Two Improv.

Nedra Bobo, MBA (aka "Phenomenal NeBo") was last seen in TAPIT's *Now What* and *Take Care*. She's portrayed historical figures such as Rachel Robinson in CTM's *Most Valuable: The Story of Jackie Robinson* and Sojourner Truth in UW-Madison's *To Find Our Piece of Ground*. She wrote, directed and performed in two original works, *Million Dollar Miracle – The Life of Madam CJ Walker* and *The Turning Point*. Other creative talents include voiceovers and the rare art-form "hambone." Outside of theatre, she enjoys attending plays, traveling, bowling, and overseeing Capella Realty Group, where she is the broker/owner.

Danielle Dresden, co-producing and founding Artistic Director of TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater, is the author of more than 35 plays. A published playwright, actor, and residency artist, she was Guest Artist for the Blaine Quarnstrom Playwright Series at the University of Southern Mississippi in 2016 and has served as a featured artist at Alaska's Last Frontier Theater Conference since 2002. Playwrighting awards include Honorable Mention for the National 2016 New Works of Merit playwrighting contest, 2010 Wisconsin Arts Board Literary Arts Fellowship, 3 Council for Wisconsin Writers' Drama Awards, and 1999 Finalist for the Yukon Pacific New Play Award.

Jackie Harrison-Jewell (graphic designer) is an artist and designer living in the Madison area. She creates designs that focus on clarity, color, and, whenever possible, humor. See samples of her work at <http://jhjewelldesign.blogspot.com/>.

Liz Light received her BA in Theatre from Ohio State University. Past productions include *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Marat/Sade*, *Arabian Nights*, *Twelfth Night*, *Zombie Prom*, *Rachel's House*, *I AM THE RAT*, *Rumors of Truth*, *Ben Franklin & Baron von Steuben vs. the Paine County School Board*, *Typhoid Mary*, *Patient Zero...and the M Factor*, and *Let Them Eat Cake*. Liz centers her work in theatre and visual arts on social justice advocacy and engagement.

Krystal Lonsdale is delighted to be performing with the wonderful talent and creative team for TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater's production of *Wit & Wisdom!* Previous stage credits include NYC: *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Gemini) UK: *The Gondoliers* (Gianetta) Madison: *Ben Franklin and Baron von Steuben vs. the Paine Co. School Board* (Jamie) with TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater, Trina in Stage Q's *Falsettos*, Irene in Middleton Players Theatre's *Crazy for You*, Music Theatre of Madison's *A New Brain* (Waitress/Nurse) and *35mm* (soloist). Gracious gratitude is sent to the loves of her life: husband, Andrew and two children, Donovan and Bridget!

Julia McConahay (musician) was born to a classical pianist mom and classic rock-playing dad. She has been playing violin professionally for the past 20 years in a variety of settings including stage productions, bands, recording sessions, and solo features in collaboration with Madison Circus Space and Underground Aerial. She worked with three Music Theatre of Madison productions in the past two years, including *Striking 12* as a

band/cast member, and creating hair and makeup designs for *LIZZIE* and *Little Miss Sunshine*.

Patricia Micetic (Lighting Designer) has worked on productions with TAPIT/new works, Krass, and Stoughton Village Players, as well as other local productions. She won a Bartie award for her work on *House of Yes*. Looking forward to lighting and attending this cabaret of very talented women.

Kiki Moritsugu has performed on Broadway (*Shogun-The Musical*), Off-Broadway (*Tokyo Can Can*) and Off-Off Broadway (*Touch*); in Toronto, (*Cats* at Massey Hall & 2nd Canadian National Tour) and in regional theatres across Canada and the US. Film/TV credits: *Delight in the Mountain* (Frozen Stage Films); *Chicago PD* (NBC); *Sing* (Tristar); and *Cosby Mysteries* (NBC). Madison credits include *Xanadu* (Mercury Players/OUT!Cast Theatre), *Musical Library & Musical Rebellion* (Are We Delicious); *Avenue Q* and *Miss Saigon* (MPT), *Rocky Horror Show* (Mercury Players/OUT!Cast Theatre); *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Seussical*, and *42nd Street* (MPT); *Rock of Ages* (MTG/OUT!Cast Theatre); *Crazy for You* and *Legally Blonde* (MPT).

Catie O'Donnell (director), is a freelance theatre director, producer, and educator. She is the co-artistic director of Music Theatre of Madison (MTM) and directed nearly a dozen productions for the Company. She worked as a director for Forward Theater, CTM, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theatreworks, Skylight Theatre, and the Guthrie Theater. She is a theatre educator at Pius XI Catholic High School in Milwaukee, and she co-owns Center Stage Performing Arts, a voice and acting coaching company. Catie holds a BA in Theatre and Music from the University of Miami, Florida.

Donna Peckett was born in Atlanta, Georgia and grew up in Homestead, Florida. Co-producing artistic director and co-founder of TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater, she is a theater artist, choreographer, tap dancer, and devoted arts educator. Donna is on the faculty of the Theater Department of Edgewood College. She earned a BA in Art History and Anthropology from UW-Madison and has received a few commendations for her work along the way. Donna believes in the power of the arts to foster social justice.

Jody Reiss worked for many years in New York City with the Irondale Ensemble Project. She conducted arts residencies, taught theater in the NYC school system, and at Riker's Island Prison. In Madison she has appeared in several plays, directed many productions, and taught theater classes for all ages. She is excited to be in this production and working with all of the women involved!

Peggy Rosin first worked with TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater in 1986 appearing alternately as a giant mouse and a slinky cat in their production of *The Adventures of Mighty Mouse*. Thirty-plus years later, she continues to be thrilled working with them and also with this talented group of women. Along with stage acting, Peggy engages in improv, storytelling, commercial acting, voice work, writing, and directing. Most recently, she was Violet in *August: Osage County* and Violet in *Suddenly Last Summer*. Thank you to the awe inspiring Ruth Draper!

Rebecca Stanley (costume design) Rebecca Stanley is pleased to be working with this brilliant group of women in producing these timeless stories for stage. Somehow the more things change the more they stay the same, for better, for worse, and for our amusement. The costumes styled for this show are intended

to evoke the enduring nature of our characters' circumstances, to help see ourselves and our foremothers in these many leading ladies, as we consider our own roles in life, as women, as workers, as people, and as artists. May we be inspired by the wit, wisdom, and grace of these women, and their creator, Ruth Draper. Thanks, TAPIT for bringing another thought provoking show to our beautiful town!

Sarah Whelan has actively worked in theatre for over 70 years, both acting and directing. She performed in many states in the U.S. and a number of European venues.

She has done several independent films, commercials, training films, and radio programs. Sarah has performed with most of the theatre groups in Madison and was president of or served on the boards of many. She was instrumental in creating some of those organizations as well. Sarah is past president of the Bartell Theatre Foundation, which she was instrumental in founding. She is past national president of Phi Beta, the National Fraternity for Creative and Performing Arts. Sarah is delighted to be working with TAPIT/new works once again.

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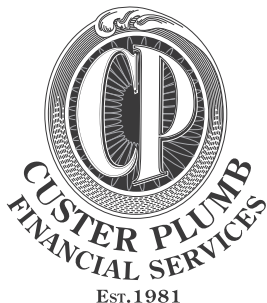
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generous support of TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater
November 2017 – September 2018**

(Please inform us if we have omitted your name)

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