

# PRESS RELEASE

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MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE marylandensemble.org

## MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS *IN THE NEXT ROOM* (or the vibrator play)

**Press Night:** Sunday, June 1 @ 7pm (Reception @ 6pm)  
RSVP to dbrick@marylandensemble.org or 301.694.4744

**FREDERICK, MD (May 6, 2014)** - Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET) is proud to present a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist and a 2010 Tony Nominee for Best Play, *In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play* by Sarah Ruhl. The smart, touching, and hilarious period play will be directed by MET Associate Artistic Director, Julie Herber. *In The Next Room* will run every Thursday through Sunday at Maryland Ensemble Theatre from May 30 through June 22, 2014.

*In The Next Room* is set during the Victorian era at the dawn of the age of electricity in a prosperous spa town outside of New York City where Dr. Givings is employing the new technology to remarkable effect in the form of an apparatus used to treat “hysteria”. The extraordinary sounds coming from the office in Dr. Givings’ home sparks a curiosity in Mrs. Givings that demands a satisfaction more intimate than any device can provide.

*In the Next Room* premiered at the Berkley Rep in 2009 and made it to Broadway that same year receiving high praise from critics and audiences alike. Sarah Ruhl’s other plays include, *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize Finalist, 2005); *Passion Play, a cycle*; and most recently, *Stage Kiss* and *Dear Elizabeth*. Maryland Ensemble Theatre produced her play, *Dead Man’s Cell Phone* in 2011. She is currently on the faculty at Yale School of Drama and lives in Brooklyn with her family. “I’ve always been a fan of Sarah Ruhl, having worked on MET’s *Dead Man’s Cellphone* and a production of *Eurydice* at Hood College”, said *In The Next Room* director Julie Herber. “Her use of the fantastical and lyrical in her storytelling is something I’m drawn to. She sets a great deal of that aside in ‘In the Next Room’ and approaches the play in a much more realistic nature than is usual for her. However, the essence of the play and its ideas of intimacy and connections we make or do not make certainly display that, especially in many of the characters and their behavior. One of the wonderful things that theatre artists get to do is step into another time, another place, and another slice of life. This peek into Victorian life is a wonderful exploration for us.”

Herber will direct a talented cast of actors in MET’s production of *In the Next Room* all of whom are company members of Maryland Ensemble Theatre. The cast is Reiner Prochaska as Dr. Givings, Allison Duvall as Catherine Givings, Lia Seltzer as Sabrina Daldry, Tim Seltzer as Mr. Daldry, Vanessa Strickland as Annie, Rona Mensah as Elizabeth and Jack Evans as Leo Irving. “The cast is truly a MET ensemble that I’m delighted to be working with. I love working on plays that are loaded with humor and fun, but also speak to us about deeper issues. The ideas of love, intimacy, marriage and longing flow throughout *In the Next Room* as well as the titillating laughs that the subject matter evokes!” said Herber.

Herber whose most recent MET directing credits include *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Antigone* will be ably assisted by the design team of Ira Domser (set), Jeanine Evans (properties), Tad Janes and Thom Huenger (sound), Paul Schillinger (lights) and Sherry Shaner (costumes).

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*In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play* will run every Thursday through Sunday from May 30 through June 22 at MET, located in the historic **FSK Hotel** at 31 W Patrick Street. Thursday, May 29 there will be preview performance at 8pm (\$5 cash only at door/no reservations). The first Sunday performance will be preceded by a reception hosted by MET Board Members **Suzanne Beal, Abby Sievers** and **Tina Lee** and sponsored by **The Perfect Blend**.

Tickets to *In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play* are \$16.50 (Thursdays) through \$25.50 and can be purchased at 301.694.4744, [marylandensemble.org](http://marylandensemble.org) or in person at the Maryland Ensemble Theatre box office. This show is made possible in part through the support of MET's season sponsors including **Comcast, The Frederick Gorilla, Key 103, Eagle 106.9, Mark A Pitts Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, The Frederick News Post** and both the **Frederick** and **Maryland Arts Councils**.

*In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play* is the sixth and final show in Maryland Ensemble Theatre's sixteenth Mainstage season. For more information on the MET's production of *In The Next Room* or any of the MET's other programs including the family theatre series, **Fun Camps**, or **Ensemble School** you can visit [marylandensemble.org](http://marylandensemble.org) or call **301-694-4744**.

## TICKETS/LOCATION/DATES INFORMATION

*In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play*  
**By** Sarah Ruhl  
**Directed by** Julie Herber

**Cast:** Reiner Prochaska (Dr. Givings), Allison Duvall (Catherine Givings), Lia Seltzer (Sabrina Daldry), Tim Seltzer (Mr. Daldry), Vanessa Strickland (Annie), Rona Mensah (Elizabeth) and Jack Evans (Leo Irving).

**Production Team:** **Emily Perper** (Assistant Director), **Ira Domser** (set), **Jeanine Evans** (properties), **Tad Janes** and **Thom Huenger** (sound), **Paul Schillinger** (lights) and **Sherry Shaner** (costumes), **Bailey Sterling** (Stage Manager), **Emily Perper** (Assistant Stage Manager)

**Where:** Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 West Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

**Dates:** May 30 - June 22, Every Thursday through Sunday

**Performances:** Thursday - Saturday at 8pm, first and last Sunday at 7pm, middle two Sundays at 2pm

**Ticket Prices:** Adults \$25.50, Students/Seniors \$21.50, Thursdays \$16.50 (includes \$1.50 ticketing fee)  
\$5 Preview tickets - No Reservations/Cash Only - Thursday 5/29/14 at 8pm

**Box Office:** 301-694-4744 or [marylandensemble.org](http://marylandensemble.org) or at MET (Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 3pm, Friday 11am - 3pm and 1 hour before each show.)

### Press Photos & Press Releases:

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