The Luther College Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents

IN THE NEXT ROOM
or the Vibrator Play
by Sarah Ruhl
directed by Bobby Ybarra

November 13 @ 7:30 p.m.
November 14 @ 9:30 p.m.
November 15 @ 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.

November 20 @ 7:30 p.m.
November 21 @ 9:30 p.m.
November 22 @ 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.
In the Next Room
By Sarah Ruhl

Cast

Dr. Givings, a specialist in gynecological disorders
Catherine Givings, his wife
Sabrina Daldry, a patient of Dr. Givings
Annie, Dr. Giving's midwife assistant
Leo Irving, Dr. Giving's other patient, an Englishman
Elizabeth, a wet-nurse
Mr. Daldry, Sabrina Daldry's husband

Understudy

TIM KOMATSU '15
EMILY EBERTZ '15
EVA GEMLO '17
MIM HARRIES '16
RYAN PIERCE '17
ZORA HURST '16
LUCAS CHASE '15
GILLIAN CONSTABLE '17
EHREN KLUGE '16

Act One

1880's New York
Living Room & Operating Theatre of the Giving's household

Scene One: Fall
Scene Two: One day later

There will be a 10 minute intermission.

Act Two

Scene One: November
Scene Two: December
Costume & Scenery Construction

Lynette Kennedy '18
Ehren Kluge '16
Timothy Komatsu '15
Dakota Lancour '15
Shannon Moser '17
Skye Newcomb '17
Chelsey O'Connor '15
Alice McNamara '17
Annikka Winokur '16
Brian Nnaoji '15
Megan Olson '18
Pedro Da Costa Cadalak '16
Christie Owens '16
Jacob Putnam '15
Rebecca Rye '17
Rachel Skinner '15
Stephen Ster '16
Maggie Sulentic '16
Josh Weisenberger '17
Natalia Ophaug '15
Jessica O'Brien '15
Nathaniel Koch '17
Kadie Smith '15
Collin Boyle '18
Ryan Pierce '17
Cierra Buckner '18
Meghan Gaffney '18
Sam Gathje '15
Miriam Harries '16
Jessie Hodgson '18
Lars Johnson '16
Becca Chapin '15
Hayley Ryan '15
Dakota Lancour '15
Clara Miller '15
Madeline Geier '17
Matthew Gutterson '18

Light Hang and Focus Crew

Chelsey O'Connor '15, Aaron Busch '15, Lucas Chase '15, Dakota Lancour '15, Evan Sowder '15, Josh Weisenberger '17, Lis Athas '15, Elaena Hoekstra '17

Notes from the composer...

In the Next Room provides an opportunity for a composer to inhabit the musical world of the late 19th century, and in particular, the genre of parlor music. In the Victorian era, in both Britain and the US, a wealth of music making happened in middle and upper class homes, often aided by the ubiquitous upright piano and the burgeoning sheet music industry. Much of the music from this era is unashamedly sentimental, inviting instrumentalists and singers to emote in a hyper-expressive and perhaps melodramatic manner.

In her script, Sarah Ruhl provides stage directions that indicate when piano music is heard on-stage; she further gives a clue as to what this music sounds like by describing it as "sad" and then having a character make up words that might be sung along with the tune. What you will hear on-stage is a musical pastiche that grows from Ruhl's veiled suggestions of a sentimental parlor song. What you will hear off-stage, between scenes and at the end of Act I, are musical elaborations of that song that suggest the musical worlds of such Romantic-era composers as César Franck and Johannes Brahms, both of whom wrote elaborate piano pieces that, while playable "in the next room," aspire to musical transcendence beyond the parlor.

- Brooke Joyce, Associate Professor of Music
The Cast

TIM KOMATSU is in his senior year and hails from Northfield, MN. He is pursuing majors in Theatre and Political Science, while being actively involved on campus as a member of SPIN Theatre, Undeclared, Top Banana, and LC Democrats. Tim's previous productions include Le Dispute (Toivo), Lysistrata (Kinesias), Much Ado About Nothing (Claudio), Arcadia (Valentine), and Secret in the Wings (Ensemble). He would like to thank the entire VPA department for teaching him so much and forgiving him even more, to his friends for accepting his snuggles, and Julia for putting up with him.

EMILY EBERTZ is a senior from Woodbury, MN, pursuing a Psychology and Theatre double major while also being a SPIN Theatre Executive, member of women’s rugby, and Alpha Beta Psi. Previous roles include Cardea in La Dispute, Texas in Cabaret, Mary in On The Verge, Police Officer in Much Ado About Nothing, and Various Roles in Secret in the Wings. She would like to extend a huge thank you to her mom for always supporting her and keeping her afloat, to Dr. Vrtis for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this incredible show, and to all of her wonderful friends for putting up with her crazy antics!

EVA GEMLO, from Saint Paul, MN, is in her second year of careening wildly through a major in Theatre. She was last seen onstage as a puppeteer and ensemble member in A Thread in the Dark, Lehnez in La Dispute, and Fritz in Cabaret. Eva is also a member of Cathedral Choir, and enjoys making educational mental health videos for her work position in Counseling Services. She would like to thank her wonderful roommates for making sure she gets sleep, Brooke Joyce for writing a beautiful piano piece that even she could play, and Gillian Constable for being supportive and wonderful every step of the way.

MIM HARRIES comes to Luther from Bloomington, MN, and is a junior pursuing a major in Mathematics/Statistics and Computer Science, with a minor in Theatre. She participates in SPIN Theatre, and has held previous roles onstage including Aodo Annie in Oklahoma, Calonice in Lysistrata, and Catherine in Proof. Mim would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her, and the rest of the cast and crew for making this show such a great experience.

RYAN PIERCE is from Altoona, IA, and is currently in his sophomore year, majoring in Music, with minors in Education and Theater. While involved in Competitive Ballroom, FMEA, and FOCUS Theatre Team, Ryan has finally been able to make his debut on the Jewel Theatre stage! He has played Conrad in Bye, Bye Birdie, Ellwood P. Dowd in Harvey, and The Dad in Leaving Iowa. Ryan would like to thank his RA staff in Larsen for all the support, along with all his friends and family wanting to come see the show. A special shout out to this awesome cast that kept him laughing at every rehearsal!
The Cast, cont’d.

ZORA HURST is a sophomore at Luther, with majors in Political Science and Economics and a minor in French. Zora is a Funk and Punk DJ for KWLC, Social Media Coordinator for CHIPS, and a Diversity Representative for Gender and Sexuality on Luther College Student Senate. She has held roles on campus in *The Vagina Monologues* and *Lysistrata*. Zora extends gratitude to the entire cast, as well as the lovely stage managers, the costume shop, Lisa Lantz, and Dr. Bobby Vrtis. She would also like to thank everyone involved in the memorization of her lines - you made everyone’s lives much easier!

LUCAS CHASE is currently a senior at Luther, from Menomonie, WI. He is pursuing majors in Theatre, German, and Business Management, while being a member of Collegiate Chorale and, of course, theatre department productions. Previous roles include Richard Noakes in *Arcadia* and Conrad in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Lucas would like to thank his family, friends, and teachers for their support and guidance in all that he does.

GILLIAN CONSTABLE hails from Sydney, Australia, and is in her sophomore year as a Theatre major and Music minor. She was last seen onstage at Luther as Neza in *La Dispute*; she can also be seen all around campus, working as an Olson RA, and singing as a member of Beautiful Mess and Cathedral Choir. Gillian would like to extend a thank-you to all of her supportive friends and family.

EHREN KLUGE is currently a junior at Luther, from Hudson, WI. He is pursuing a major in Computer Science, a Math minor, while also being actively involved in Ballroom/Swing Club. Ehren has last been seen onstage in *La Dispute* and Melodramatic’s production of *Our Town*. He would like to thank his friends and family for all of their support.

Production Team

Director ......................................................................................... Bobby Vrtis
Costume Design ............................................................................... Lisa Lantz
Set/Lighting Design ........................................................................... Jeff Dintaman
Technical Director ............................................................................ Tom Berger
Production Team, cont’d.

DAKOTA LANCOUR (Stage Manager) is a senior from Eau Claire, WI. He is pursuing a double major in Theatre/Dance and International Studies. You may have seen him on stage during Cabaret as Victor, or A Tragedy Like Macbeth as Banquo. This is his first time stage managing, though he has assisted behind the scenes in many Luther productions. He would like to thank his mother for always supporting him, his friends for keeping him sane, and Dr. Bobby for giving him this amazing opportunity! He would also like to thank his fabulous ASM’s who are as talented as they are beautiful!

MADELINE GEIER (Assistant Stage Manager) Madeleine is currently a sophomore at Luther, hailing from Preston, Iowa. She is pursuing a Theatre Major with a Writing Minor. Madeline was last seen onstage as part of the ensemble in A Thread in the Dark and as Bryla in La Dispute. She is also heavily involved on campus as part of the Student Philanthropy Council, and working as a Brandt RA, Writing Center consultant, and Phonathon Co-Chair.

RACHEL SKINNER (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior with a Communication Studies major and a double minor in French and Management. When she’s not buried by schoolwork, you can find her behind the scenes in Jewel Theatre working on sets or hanging out in the catwalks. She has been stage managing and working tech crew for every Luther production since Spring Awakening her freshman year, with the exception of La Dispute when she was gallivanting around Scotland on her semester abroad. She would like to thank the theater department for being a welcoming home for the last four years.

Dialect Coach.........................................................................................Kristen Underwood
Composer............................................................................................Brooke Joyce
Atrium Design........................................................................................Laura Thoms ’15

Running Crew

Light Board Operator............................................................................Aaron Busch ’15
Sound Board Operator........................................................................Alanna Spencer ’16
Sound Effects.........................................................................................Barbara Stier ’18, Abigail Suhr ’17
Stage Crew............................................................................................Tia Stenson ’16, Karl Nyklemoe ’18,
                                                          Miranda Poncelet ’18, Emma Brashear ’18
Hair/Makeup/Dressers........................................................................Becca Chapin ’15,
                                                          Elsaen Hoekstra ’17, Maggie Sulentic ’16
Notes from the Director...

One of the most compelling images from this play, for me, has been Leo’s description of Michelangelo’s unfinished paintings. Specifically, the character is enamored with Virgin and the Child with Angels, a painting in which the outline of two women floats unrealized on one side. Leo loves the mystery of it. He is drawn to the incomplete women on the verge of coming into being.

Sarah Ruhl’s play places us at the dawn of electricity and of the inventions and the societal shifts that will lead into a world more recognizable as “our time.” An era coming into being. She also gives us women who, in Leo’s words, are “on the verge of knowing [themselves].” Going into the play, I think it is worth remembering why they begin the play arrested on the threshold of discovering themselves.

To know yourself you must have the freedom to explore your identity. To know yourself it helps to hear stories about people whose experiences are like your own, or who at least seem like you. To know yourself you need to feel free from shame at what you discover.

At the opening of the play, none of the women have this entirely. These are not women who enjoy being Leo’s incomplete paintings. They suffer because of a lack of freedom to complete themselves. This play is an undeniably loving comedy, kind in its portrayals of human failings, but it would be a disservice to let questions go unacknowledged that this play asks:

Do we tell enough stories for and about women?
Do we create spaces for exploring female identity?
Do we shy away from female sexuality? Shame it?
Do we encourage women to remain unfinished mysteries? Or discover themselves?

- Dr. Bobby Vrtis

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Thank-You’s

A special thank-you to

the Luther College Music Department for providing the piano;
to Julie Spilde and Ace Hardware;
to Kendall Thompson (Center for Faith and Life);
to Evan Sowder ’15 for taking cast headshots — evansowder.com;
to Brittany Todd for taking production photos — www.brittanytodd.com;
and to Bjorn Myhre for creating the publicity video.
UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

2014-15 Season

Forgiveness Lunch An evening of original dance works
Conceived, choreographed, and directed by Blake Nellis
February 20-21

Body of Water An original dance work
Conceived and choreographed by Jane Hawley and students
Directed by Jane Hawley
March 5-7

Senior Projects: Class of 2015
April 10 & 12

Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman
Directed by Bobby Vrtis
May 1-2, 7-9

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Department of Visual and Performing Arts:

Theatre & Dance Personnel

Lisa Lantz, Associate Professor of Theatre, VPA Department Head
Blake Nellis, Adjunct Faculty in Dance
Dr. Bobby Vrtis, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Jane Hawley, Professor of Dance

Jeff Dintaman, Professor of Theatre
Paul Rude, VPA Administrative Assistant
Tom Berger, Technical Director
Robert J. Larson, Emeritus