

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Dead Man's Cell Phone

BY SARAH RUHL

DIRECTED BY ADRIANA BAER**

CAST

Jean	Dana Millican
Gordon/Dwight	Don Kenneth Mason*
Mrs. Gottlieb	Patricia Hunter*
Hermia/Other Women	Dana Green*
Ensemble	Jonathan Hernandez
	Shawna Holt
Ensemble	Jake Turner

DESIGNERS & PRODUCTION

Scenic, Properties & Costume Design......Rachel Finn Sound Designer.....Sharath Patel

SPECIAL THANKS Aimee Genter-Gilmore, Erin Stewart, Misty Tompoles, Artists Rep., Theri Humes, Portland State University.



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the professional union of actors and stage managers.



Playwright's Horizons Inc, New York City, produced the New York premiere of Dead Man's Cell Phone Off-Broadway in 2008. Originally produced by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, D.C. Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director; Kevin Moore, Managing Director.

> Dead Man's Cell Phone was commissioned by Playwright's Horizons with funds provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Commissioning Program.

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Dead Man's Cell Phone is presented in special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES BY ADRIANA BAER

This year, I am going to ask you to participate in a bit of a revolution. Together, we will, as Sarah Ruhl writes in her new book 100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write, "Fight the mania for clarity and help create a mania for beauty instead."

Sarah is interested in exploring a reciprocity with the audience. How can we invite you to be in relationship with the stage instead of just observing it from afar? Perhaps it is by casting a light onto something we all recognize—an object as basic as a cell phone— and using that to show something greater, something magnificent about the human condition.

In an article on the *Huffington Post*, Jim Luce writes, "Technology and humanity are not necessarily compatible. One is about an anonymous push forward into the unknown... to explore it, to develop and exploit it, which is important. The other is about paying undivided attention to the individual and world in front of you, developing relationships and increasing consciousness. Both are necessary. The challenge is figuring out how to use technology to enhance humanity, not degrade it."

In Dead Man's Cell Phone, we see a reverence for humanity with all its rocks and quagmires, and also for impermanence — a concept our culture has a hard time with. We often hold so tightly to things we deem important (merely objects) and to ideas (which could actually be changed at any time), but here in the world of this play, we are offered another perspective. What if the things we thought the most permanent in our lives were shifted, even slightly, to reveal something wholly different, strange, magical or full of possibility? Could we handle this with grace and ease? Could we give away our stalwart, seemingly unchangeable beliefs, for a moment of real connection?

Sarah's plays, in her own words, "try to interpret how people subjectively experience life." Because of this, we will show you magic and emotions, dreams and surrealist fantasies. We will show you everyday life in a new and nuanced light.

Welcome to our year-long journey into the fantastical world of this genius of form and imagery.

ABOUT SARAH RUHL

Forty-vear-old Illinois native and MFA recipient from Brown University Sarah Ruhl's original plan was poetry, but she was convinced to switch to studying playwriting under Paula Vogel. She began her first play at age twenty-one. The worlds in which her characters live are nonetoo-far from our own. But the magic she creates comes from a place that Ruhl describes best for herself: "I like to see people speaking ordinary words in strange places, or people speaking extraordinary words in ordinary places." Just as she's able to bridge the vast and the life-sized, the straightforward and the artful, Ruhl can seemingly fuse the lyrical and the starkly dramatic.

Her plays have been produced on Broadway at the Lyceum by Lincoln Center Theater, off-Broadway at Playwrights' Horizons, Second

Stage, and at Lincoln Center's Mitzi Newhouse Theater, and downtown at Clubbed Thumb and Classic Stage Company; regionally all over the country, with premiers at Yale Repertory theater, the Goodman Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Madison Repertory Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cornerstone Theater, and the Piven Theatre Workshop in Chicago. Her plays have also been produced internationally in London. Germany. Australia, Canada and Israel, and have been translated into Polish. Russian, Spanish, Norwegian, Korean, German and Arabic.

She was recently the recipient of the PEN center award for a mid-career playwright, the Feminist Press' Forty under Forty award, and the 2010

"I LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE
SPEAKING ORDINARY
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OR PEOPLE SPEAKING
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IN ORDINARY PLACES."

Lilly award. Sarah Ruhl is also a MacArthur 'Genius,' has received an NAACP nomination, and is a multiple Pulitzer Prize finalist. She is currently on faculty at Yale School of Drama and lives in Brooklyn with her family.



ABOUT PROFILE THEATRE

Now in our 18th season, Profile's mission is to produce a season of plays devoted to a single playwright, engaging with our community to explore that writer's vision and influence on theatre and the world at large. Founded in 1997 by Jane Unger, Profile is a nationally-recognized for engaging audiences to have a deep experience with a writer's work by presenting productions of exemplary artistic merit and quality.



DANA GREEN*
[Hermia/Other Women]
Dana is delighted to
be making her Profile
Theatre debut. Ms.
Green has spent four
seasons with the Stratford

Shakespeare Festival where some of her favorite roles included Isabella in Measure for Measure, Carol Cutrere in Orpheus Descending, and Viola in Twelfth *Night.* She has performed at numerous regional theatres including The Old Globe, South Coast Repertory, Yale Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, California Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Court Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, and Shakespeare Festival of Dallas. Here in Portland she has been seen in Othello and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Portland Center Stage) and Gidion's Knot (Third Rail Repertory Theatre).



JONATHAN HERNANDEZ [Ensemble]
Jonathan is thankful for the opportunity to work with Profile Theatre. He is currently a graduate student at Portland State

University focusing on performance. Before relocating to Portland in 2013 to pursue his studies, Jonathan primarily worked with the experimental troupe Theatre In My Basement located in Phoenix, Arizona. *Dead Man's Cell Phone* marks his debut with Profile and he's looking forward to working with them again.



SHAWNA HOLT [Ensemble]
Shawna is a senior theatre student at Portland State University. When she is not on stage, she can be found playing rugby for

PSU. Some of her notable roles include: Juliet in PSU's 2014 production of Romeo and Juliet directed by Jim Iorio, and Harper in New England College's 2010 production of Angels In America: Millenium Approaches directed by Alex Picard. Dead Man's Cell Phone is her first professional production and she is thrilled to be a part of such a talented cast and crew! She hopes to continue working with Profile Theatre in the future. Enjoy the show!



PATRICIA HUNTER*
[Mrs. Gottlieb]

Patricia Hunter is grateful to add Adriana Baer, cast and crew of Profile's *Dead Man's Cell Phone* to her favorites: The McCarter,

Princeton Rep, Theatre Virginia, Playwrights Horizons, New Dramatists, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Theatreworks-USA, Lincoln Center, Delaware Theatre Company, UBU Rep, Equity Library Theater, Shaking The Tree, JTC and 16 seasons with the Dorset Theatre Festival. Favorite roles: Harper in Far Away, Evelyn in Kindertransport, Maxine in Night of the Iguana, La Marquise de Merteuil in Les Liasons Dangereuses, Amanda in The Glass Menagerie. Television: Grimm, Leverage, Portlandia, Runestone, The Guiding Light, Ryan's Hope, Sudden Manhattan.



DON KENNETH MASON*
[Gordon/Dwight]
Don Kenneth Mason is
delighted to return to
Profile Theatre! He was
last seen on stage here as
Zachariah in Blood Knot

(Drammy Award, Outstanding Lead Actor). Other Portland credits include Wayne in *Dreamgirls* (Portland Center Stage), Munkustrap (the grey cat) in *Cats* (Broadway Rose) and Fred/Dream Curly in *Oklahoma!* (Portland Center Stage). He's done other shows in other theaters across the country and around the world, but that has nothing to do with the show you are about to see. All my love to Bruce and Buddy. Proud Member of Actors' Equity. Enjoy the show!



DANA MILLICAN

[Jean]

Dana was most recently

seen as Jessie in 'Night, Mother (CoHo Productions). Previous credits include Maria

in Twelfth Night (Northwest Classical Theatre Company & Willamette Shakespeare); Triona in The Hen Night Epiphany (Corrib Theatre); Lanie in the world premiere of Ithaka (Artists Rep); Sarah in the world premiere of *The Lost* Boy (Artists Rep); Emilia in Othello (Northwest Classical Theatre Company); Regan and Edmund in King Lear (Portland Shakespeare Project); June in Fifth of July (Profile Theatre); Constance in King John (Northwest Classical Theatre Company, 2012 Drammy Award – Actress in a Supporting Role); and Phoebe in As You Like It (Portland Shakespeare Project). This spring, she will be playing Sister Felicity in Suddenly, Last Summer (Shaking the Tree). Dana is a member of SAG-AFTRA. Film/TV credits include Grimm (NBC), Portlandia, (IFC), The Architect (Parker Film Company), Lily on Saturday (Entandem Productions), C.O.G. (Forty Second Productions), Signal Flare (3:11 Films), Leverage (TNT), and Final Witness (ABC). Dana graduated with a BA in theatre from Arizona State University.



JAKE TURNER
[Ensemble]
Jake Turner recently

graduated from Portland State University where he performed in shows such as *Romeo and Juliet*,

Urinetown: The Musical and The Servant of Two Masters. He annually works with Alaska Arts Southeast in his hometown of Sitka, Alaska, to bring theater and arts education to youth from rural communities around the state and across the country. Through the Sitka Fine Arts Camp and Musical Theater Program, Jake has worked on productions such as Bye Bye Birdie, Seussical the Musical and Children of Eden.

CREATIVE TEAM

ADRIANA BAER [Director]

Adriana is the Artistic Director of Profile Theatre where she has directed True West and Buried Child by Sam Shepard, and The Road to Mecca and My Children! My Africa! by Athol Fugard. New York directing credits include Romeo and Juliet, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Seagull, The Hairy Ape (Columbia Stages), and work at Atlantic Theater Company Acting School, the cell, and The Acting Company. Other directing credits include Woyzeck (Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Direction), The Maids, and No Exit at The Cutting Ball Theater (San Francisco) where she was the Associate Artistic Director during the 2004-2007 seasons. BA: Sarah Lawrence College. MFA in Directing: Columbia University.

RACHEL FINN

[Scenic, Costume and Props Designer]

Rachel is a scenic and costume designer based out of Portland, OR. Rachel's design credits include work with The Undermain Theatre, The House Theatre of Chicago, Renaissance Theaterworks, First Stage Milwaukee, Meadows Opera Theatre, SMU Theatre, Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, American Folklore Theatre, Post5 Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and Marquette University Theatre. She was awarded honors for design at the national

KCACTF festival in Washington DC, and traveled to Seoul, South Korea through the National Partners in American Theatre in 2011. Rachel has her MFA in Stage Design from Southern Methodist University and a BA in Theatre Arts and Sociology from Marquette University. Many thanks to Profile and Adriana for their earnest consideration of every magical possibility in this piece. You can view more of Rachel's work here: www.rachelfinndesign.com.

CARL FABER [Lighting Design]

Recent designs include Eyes for Consuela (Profile Theatre), Mary Poppins (NWCT), Trouble in Mind (Arena Stage), Wilderness (Uferstudios, Berlin), The Experiment (Boston Institute of Contemporary Art), Brother Brother (Theater Freiburg), AMC Television Upfront (NYC). Founding Member, Resident Lighting Designer and Director of New Technology for NYC-based immersive theater company, Woodshed Collective. Lighting Supervisor: Williamstown Theatre Festival ('08-'09). Touring: Bon Iver, The National. Broadway Assistant Designer: The Book of Mormon, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, August: Osage County. Education: Crossroads School, Catlin Gabel, Vassar College (Kazan Prize recipient). Upcoming: Orlando (Profile Theatre), 4,000 Miles (Artists Rep). www.carlfaber.com.

SHARATH PATEL [Sound Designer]

Sharath Patel is very enthusiastic to be back for his seventh design with Profile. Portland credits include *True West*, *Buried Child, The Road to Mecca, Blood Knot* (Profile Theatre), *The Mother F**ker with the Hat* (Artists Rep), *The Piano Lesson, The Brother/Sister Plays, Jitney* (Portland Playhouse), *Wait Until Dark* (Northwest Classical), *Oedipus el Rey*

(Miracle Theatre), A Pigeon and A Boy (Jewish Theater Collaborative). New York and International credits include designs at The Westside Theater, La MaMa, Playwright's Horizons, Theater Row, PS122, Columbia, Yale, Harvard, India, France, England. Binding at PS122 won the 2010 Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Performance Art Production in New York City. Sharath earned his MFA in Sound Design from the Yale School of Drama and is currently a Resident Artist at Artists Rep.

D WESTERHOLM*

[Stage Manager]

Portland Stage Management credits: True West, Buried Child, The Road to Mecca (Profile Theatre, dir. Adriana Baer); Festival of One Acts (Profile Theatre); Eyes for Consuela (Profile Theatre, dir. Mikhael Tara Garver); The Light in the Piazza (Portland Playhouse, dir. Brian Weaver). Oregon Shakespeare Festival, non-equity Assistant Stage Manager: The Unfortunates (2013), A Midsummer Night's Dream (2013), Troilus and Cressida (2012), The Very Merry Wives of Windsor, Iowa (2012), Julius Caesar (2011), The African Company Presents Richard III (2011). BA in Theatre Management from Western Washington University, MFA in Stage Management from Columbia University.

*Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

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(503) 242-0080 matthew@profiletheatre.org

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Profile Theatre's internship program is unique in its structure and its breadth of opportunity. An internship with Profile is entirely project based, giving our interns the chance to be a crucial part of the artistic and/or administrative team, while being provided with the guidance and supervision of a member of Profile's staff. We are now accepting intern applications for the 2015 Sarah Ruhl Season. Intern in any of the following areas:

Design (Scenic, Lighting, Props, Costumes, Sound)

Stage Management

Artistic Producing/ Artistic Direction

Directing

Dramaturgy

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To learn more contact Director of Education & Community Engagement Lauren Hanover at Lauren@profiletheatre.org

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In Dialoque Series

In Dialogue is our series of lectures, pre-show talks, post-show discussions, concerts and other supplemental programming that explore our featured writer's world. In Dialogue readings include new and contemporary plays in conversation with Sarah Ruhl's body of work, as well as readings of Ruhl's plays not included in our Main Stage season. **All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.**

EVENTS & PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT

Dead Man's Cell Phone



Opening Night Reception
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST | POST-SHOW

Mat Chat with *Dead Man's*Cell Phone director Adriana Baer
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST | POST-SHOW

Dinner Dialogue
[additional tickets required]
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH | 5:15PM

Poetry Reading by
Brittany Corrigan-McElroy
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH | 6:45PM

Local Live Music SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH | 6:45PM

Mix and Mingle with the Cast SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH | POST-SHOW

Mat Chat with Dead
Man's Cell Phone cast
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH | POST-SHOW

45th Parallel Chamber
Music performs their original
composition inspired by Dead
Man's Cell Phone.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11™| 6:45PM

Lecture with Hannah Fattor
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Lecture with Hannah Fattor
Love The Dead: The Rituals
of Grief and Mourning in
Dead Man's Cell Phone
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH | 6:45PM

Students from Metropolitan Learning Center perform pieces from their Hands On Theatre residency FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 6:45PM

Celebrate Valentine's Day with live music and romantic cocktails SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH | 6:45 PM



Profile Theatre is committed to providing our audiences with opportunities to engage with our featured writer in unique and varied ways. Our In Dialogue programming, we extend the event of a Profile production beyond the bounds of what is onstage, bringing the community together for an exciting, provocative and inspiring experience.