

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Profile Theatre**  
**Opens Sarah Ruhl's Epic**  
***Passion Play***  
**in collaboration with Shaking the Tree Theatre**

**PORTLAND, Ore., August 10, 2015** – Profile Theatre (Adriana Baer, Artistic Director) and Shaking the Tree (Samantha Van Der Merwe, Artistic Director) are thrilled to present Sarah Ruhl's *Passion Play* this September.

"This season, we have chosen *Passion Play* as our Fall Festival production. Profile's Fall Festival started as a way for us to present large-scale or artistically risky projects. We choose ambitious and unique programs that enhance our audience's relationship with our featured writer's work," says Profile Artistic Director Adriana Baer. "Among Sarah Ruhl's body of work, *Passion Play* is ambitious in scale and broad in scope - a perfect fit for our unconventional Fall Festival."

"When I met with Sarah Ruhl to talk about our Sarah Ruhl Season," says Adriana Baer, "She said she would love to see a *Passion Play* that takes place at different venues throughout a city. We are bringing this vision to life through our collaboration with Shaking the Tree Theatre."

### **About *Passion Play***

*Passion Play* by Sarah Ruhl is a collection of three plays which can be performed separately or together. Part I and Part II will be performed at Profile Theatre September 9-13 and Part III will be performed at Shaking the Tree Theatre September 25-October 24.

Traveling through time and around the world, centuries of religion, faith and politics collide. This three-part story travels from medieval England to World War II Bavaria and then to contemporary South Dakota as small towns prepare to perform their annual productions of the Passion of the Christ. Ruhl's writing exposes the transformative effect of creating theatrical events, while asking big questions about humanity, faith and doubt.

### **How the Festival Works**

While the project is a collaboration using the same cast, designers and director, the two events are ticketed separately and can be enjoyed in tandem or as individual evenings of theatre. Parts I and II of *Passion Play* comprise Profile's Fall Festival running September 9-13, 2015 in Profile's home at Artists Repertory Theatre. *Passion Play Part III* will take place at Shaking the Tree Theatre September 25 - October 24, 2015 at their warehouse in southeast Portland.

### **Tickets**

Tickets to Profile's *Fall Festival: Passion Play Parts I and II* are available at [profiletheatre.org](http://profiletheatre.org) and by calling the Box Office at 503.242.0080 Tuesday through Friday noon - 4pm. Tickets are \$32 for all performances. Students and 30-and-under tickets are \$15. Groups of ten or more receive a discount off single tickets.

Tickets to Shaking the Tree's *Passion Play Part III* are available at [shaking-the-tree.com](http://shaking-the-tree.com) and 503.235.0635

### **Cast:**

Foss Curtis, Sam Dinkowitz, Shawna Holt, Mickey Jordan, Colin Kane, Matthew Kerrigan, Diane Kondrat, Garland Lyons, Alexandra Ramirez and Paul Susi

### **Creative Team**

Samantha Van Der Merwe (Director, Scenic and Props Design), Sara Ludeman (Costume Design), Jeff Woods (Lighting Design), Annalise Albright Woods (Sound Design), D Westerholm and Natasha Stockem (Stage Managers)

### **About Sarah Ruhl**

Sarah Ruhl's Plays include *The Oldest Boy*, *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*, *The Clean House*, *Passion Play*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Melancholy Play*, *Eurydice*, *Orlando*, *Late: a cowboy song*, *Dear Elizabeth* and *Stage Kiss*. She has been a two-time Pulitzer prize finalist and a Tony award nominee. 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. Her plays have been produced regionally all over the country, often with premiers at Yale Repertory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theater, the Goodman Theater, and the Piven Theatre Workshop in Chicago. In 2014 she was the second most produced playwright in the country. Her plays have also been produced internationally and have been translated into over twelve languages. Originally from Chicago, Ms. Ruhl received her M.F.A. from Brown University where she studied with Paula Vogel. She has received the Susan Smith Blackburn award, the Whiting award, the Lily Award, a PEN award for mid-career playwrights, and the MacArthur "genius" award. You can read more about her work on [www.SarahRuhlplaywright.com](http://www.SarahRuhlplaywright.com). Her book of essays *100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write* was published by Faber and Faber last fall. She teaches at the Yale School of Drama, and she lives in Brooklyn with her family.

### **About Profile Theatre**

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. We do this through large-scale professional productions, In Dialogue Series readings and programs, and our vibrant and growing education program.

### **About Shaking the Tree**

Shaking the Tree seeks to meld the boundaries of theatre and visual art by presenting audiences with thrilling and immersive theatrical experiences. Founded in 2003, Shaking the Tree uses innovative ways to inhabit space, creating a heightened surrounding that allows audiences to experience a deeper, more active connection to the work. Shaking the Tree Studio is a laboratory for tomorrow's theatre makers. By using the same principles we hold dear for play-making, we seek to provide students with rich and varied literature, allow them to explore it through immersion, and witness them experience a deeper connection of thought, feeling, and action, as a result.

### **Locations**

***Fall Festival: Passion Play*** will be performed on the Morrison Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre, located at 1515 SW Morrison Street in Portland. For directions visit [Profiletheatre.org/plan-your-visit](http://Profiletheatre.org/plan-your-visit)

***Passion Play Part III*** will be performed at Shaking the Tree Theatre located 823 SE Grant Street in Portland. For directions, visit [shaking-the-tree.com/find-us.html](http://shaking-the-tree.com/find-us.html)

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