

EXPOSING OVARIAN CANCER

“Nothing but a breath – a comma – separates life from life everlasting.” WIT is a play about life. While this play takes on a journey that may sometimes feel antithetical to this statement, it breathes in a way that makes our souls flutter and our minds think.

Vivian Bearing has lived her entire life in her head and is now looking back on defining moments in her treatment and in her life that are humanizing her. She finds beauty in complex poetic statements and the works of John Donne. But Vivian is now finding that everything is much simpler than she thought. Did she live her life, or did she only analyze life itself?

WIT fits into the genre of contemporary theatre. Contemporary theatre prides itself on being neither a drama, nor a comedy, but in finding ways that the two forms coexist. As the Artistic Director, I find these pieces important for our audiences to see. This genre of theatre is cathartic and escapes to a place with no boundaries, showing us that the borders that separate drama and comedy are unnecessary and not entirely true to life. In our lives we live a three-dimensional existence where we sometimes laugh and sometimes cry, are sometimes selfish and sometimes empathetic, are sometimes cruel and sometimes generous. Contemporary theatre explores and exposes real life.

Our reality is this: we know people going through ovarian cancer treatments. We don't know specifically what these people are experiencing from day-to-day, but that is exactly what Margaret Edson is showing us. Edson shows us the reality of their treatment, while using the genre to make it both dramatic and comedic.

I dedicate this piece to one of the strongest women I know, **Melanie Bradley**, who is currently being treated for ovarian cancer for the fourth time. Edson has helped me understand what she is going through a little better.

David Button, Artistic Director

