

PRESS RELEASE

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May 8, 2017: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Friday, June 2, through Sunday, June 4, 11 women – all voiced by Elaine Faye – will speak their truths as THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES take the stage at Clear Space Theatre. Deriving from a series of interviews with over 200 women, Eve Ensler’s 1996 adult-themed play brings us tales of consensual and non-consensual sexual encounters, menstruation, reproduction, cheating spouses, body image and more – all told from the wildly diverse perspectives of the women who lived them: A 6-year-old child, a 70-something New Yorker, a Bosnian rape survivor, a sex worker, an outspoken feminist, a grandmother enthralled by the birth of her granddaughter – they all will be among us on the Clear Space stage!

Says Faye, “I was so excited to be approached by Clear Space’s Artistic Director, David Button, about doing another one-woman show! I’d had a great experience doing SHIRLEY VALENTINE with Clear Space in 2012. I just jumped at the chance to do another show, and to collaborate again with Director Dot Neumann.” Explaining the appeal this particular show holds for her, Faye notes, “Even after more than 20 years, THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES still is relevant in terms of the issues it explores – both deeply troublesome ones like equality, exploitation and abuse, and uplifting ones like love, childbirth, and the joy and humor available in everyday life. These are just such timeless, relatable stories!”

Faye also notes, however, that the show holds considerable challenges, even for a seasoned actress. “It’s exciting – and a very good challenge - to bring 11 different characters to life! But I’m always aware that each monologue is based on an interview with an actual person, and feel obliged to portray each as honestly as I possibly can. When I find each woman’s “voice” within me, it’s very satisfying. The “less-good” challenge is keeping track of all those voices in my head – sometimes it gets pretty noisy in there!”

“Another challenge,” Faye adds, “Is that some of the themes are very intimate – and at times embarrassing, even for me! Working through my pre-conceived and sometimes very surprising reactions to this material has made for an interesting journey.” Faye adds, “Despite our routine exposure to intimate material in today’s media, seeing a live performance dealing with these issues is just more intense – in ways that can be good, or that can be uncomfortable – or both! I find this show is about positive empowerment for everyone; I hope audiences will come away feeling like they found some kindred spirits to accompany them on their own journeys.”

Says Button, “We are thrilled that Elaine Faye is collaborating with us on this memorable, thought-provoking show. Clear Space is committed to creating a place in its performance schedule for a wide variety of theatrical styles and forms. This production marks one more piece of fine theatre at the beach; we are confident audiences will enjoy and be challenged by Elaine’s brilliant performance.”

Performances of THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES will be at 7:00 pm on Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, and at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 4. Following the Sunday performance, audience members can join Elaine Faye for a talk-back session, enjoying complimentary wine and cheese sponsored by Active Adults Realty and Jeanine O’Donnell, State Farm Agent. Tickets for all performances are \$17 - \$32, and are available at www.clearspacetheatre.org, or by calling the Box Office at 302-227-2270.