***BECOMING DR. RUTH* KICKS OFF SEASON**

**WITH PLAY ABOUT SEX THERAPIST, DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER**

*This comedy/drama marks the first production in the Maltz Jupiter Theatre’s brand new 198-seat Island Theatre.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 12th, 2024 (Jupiter, FL)** -

***Becoming Dr. Ruth*** by Mark St. Germain **(October 6th- October 20th)**, is a one-woman show that details the life-affirming journey of a woman who survived the Holocaust, and later became a world-renowned sex therapist. It is emotional and hilarious all at the same time. Importantly, it paints a picture of the human condition, and the ability to succeed against all odds.

In this production, Dr. Ruth’s imminent move to a new apartment in New York City will be displayed in a much more symbolic way. Originally, the play was staged with Ruth packing up boxes in her living room, but in this rendition, Dr. Ruth, portrayed by actor Naomi Jacobson, will be seen **unpacking** her life, and starting anew. Through the genius work of scenic designer Paige Hathaway, the backdrop of this story is covered with an array of cardboard boxes. This abstract setting symbolizes Dr. Ruth’s powerful “opening-up”about the amazing life-journey she’s endured.

Within the boxes live different objects from her life, tiny models of her previous homes and photos of her family that were tragically taken from her. Instead of going on a literal journey as a character, she’s forced to go on an emotional journey, looking at the objects that represent her life and reckoning with the memories they bring up during this new life chapter. In the most “Ruth Westheimer” way, she further explains this through many asides on her radio show offering sex advice to listeners in struggling relationships. Her wit and matter-of-fact remarks are what really exemplifies this personal feeling when watching the show.

**Naomi Jacobson** stars as Dr. Ruth Westheimer. The creative team includes: Director **Holly Twyford**; Scenic Designer **Paige Hathaway**; Projections Designer **Sarah Tundermann**; Lighting Designer **Colin K Bills;** Wig Designer **Kevin Foster;** Sound Designer **Kenny Neal;** and Stage Manager **Melissa Katherine Collins.**

Actor **Naomi Jacobson** says, “Dr. Ruth brought so much joy to sexual conversations, you know. She just brought so much levity, she made it fun, so it took the shame away.”

The play first premiered at Barrington Stage Company in 2012. It moved to the Westside Theatre in their off-Broadway production in 2013. After several other productions at Virginia Repertory Theatre and the Walnut Street Theatre, the play fell into the talented hands of Director **Holly Twyford**, Actor **Naomi Jacobson**, and Scenic Designer **Paige Hathaway** at **Theatre J** in Washington D.C.

As with every new interpretation of a play, the creative team is bringing a fresh new vision and approach with them to The Island Theatre stage. Most importantly, they want to continue the legacy that Dr. Ruth began. Dr. Karola Ruth Westheimer Siegel passed away recently on July 12th, 2024 at 96 years old. This show is a chance to honor her and learn from her story. It provides audiences a night of history, humor, nostalgia (for lovers of the radio show), and most importantly, a message of perseverance.

Director **Holly Twyford** says, “There’s a Hebrew phrase, Tikkun Olam, which means, ‘repair the world.’” She adds, “We can keep her legacy alive, by making the world a better place.”

This production kicks off the inaugural season of the Maltz Jupiter Theatre’s new intimate space, **The Island Theatre**. With 198 seats, and flexible seating, this theatre is more intimate and has the ability to change room configurations depending on the show. It allows a new type of audience connection in the theatre space that we’ve never had before. It is the ideal venue for a play of this style, as the character of Dr. Ruth speaks directly to the audience, breaking the fourth wall and inviting us into her story. It will establish the foundations for a powerful message and a shared experience among the audience: to take lessons from Ruth and integrate them into our daily lives.

“We have been looking forward, for years, to offer our audiences the chance to experience The Island Theatre. It gives us the opportunity to produce a more eclectic group of shows and events. It’s something new and different that we’ve never had before, which is very artistically freeing,” says **Andrew Kato**, Chief Executive.

**Ticket Information for *Becoming Dr. Ruth***

In observance of the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, the first week of performances has an adjusted schedule. There will be no performances scheduled on Friday, October 11 and only one performance at 8pm on Saturday, October 12. Single tickets for this production in The Island Theatre are $65 for gallery theatre seating. They can be purchased in person at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre Box Office, or online at: go.jupitertheatre.org or by calling: (561) 575-2223. The Box Office is open weekdays between 10 am - 4 pm. Group tickets are also available for groups of 10 or more at $40. Contact group sales at: (561) 972-6117 or sales@ jupitertheatre.org.

TheIsland Theatre will provide a wide array of performances throughout the 2024/25 Season*.*The second play in The Island Theatre is ***Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*** by Edward Albee (April 22 - May 4)***.*** *Also enjoy a wide selection of Limited Engagements* including: a artistic, aerial, cirque-style show, ***AIRE: AntiGravity*** *(*November 14-17: 5pm, 7:30pm, and 8pm performance), a benefit concert entitled ***No Regrets, Edith Piaf Starring Christina Andreas*** (November 22: 7:30pm), and a close-up magic show with Dennis Watkins, ***The Magic Parlour*** *(*January 2- January 5: 2pm, 5pm, 7:30pm, and 8pm performances).

There will also be two different themed series. The first is “Jingle Jams,” including three different events: ***Dueling Yule-ing Pianos*** (December 19: 5pm and 7:30pm), ***Classic Christmas by Candlelight***(December 20: 5pm), and ***Jazzy Christmas Concert*** (December 21: 7:30pm) Then, our “Cabaret Series,” including: ***Amore! Starring Anthony Nunziata*** *(*February 14: 5pm), ***Somewhere Between Jazz, Blues, and You: An Evening with Mikayla Smith* (**February 15: 8pm), ***Love Finds Judy Garland*** *(*March 14: 5pm), and ***Show Stoppers! Starring Avery Sommers* (**March 15: 8pm).

In the MainStage Theatre**,** our upcoming season productions include: ***Deceived*** (October 27 - November 10), ***Once - A Musical*** (December 3 - December 15), ***Disney’s Frozen: The Broadway Musical*** (January 7 - January 26), ***The Lehman Trilogy*** (February 16 - March 2), and ***Guys & Dolls*** (March 18 - April 6).

The Theatre will also be offering a variety of Free Events this season:**Mondays at the Maltz** are Backstage Tours around the theatre. Tours will be October 14, October 28, and November 4, 2024 at 12:00pm and 2:00pm. Also, the **Maltz Master Class Series** arelectures inspired by a wide range of theatrical topics offered on November 2, November 9, December 7, and December 14 at 11:00am. Advanced registration is required, visit: jupitertheatre.org/free-events.

**Holiday Communi-Trees**, a community holiday event will continue to celebrate the great work of 30 local not-for-profit organizations. It will run during the production of *Once –A Musical* where you can vote for your favorite holiday tree from December 3 – 15**. Enjoy! All We Offer,** are free opportunities to learn more about all the Maltz Jupiter Theatre is offering this season. For more information visit: jupitertheatre.org.

**About the Maltz Jupiter Theatre**

The not-for-profit Maltz Jupiter Theatre has become one of Florida’s preeminent professional regional theatres, committed to production and education through its collaborations with local and national artists. Currently a member of the prestigious League of Resident Theatres, the Maltz Jupiter Theatre draws 100,000 patrons annually, serves a subscription base of more than 7,200, and provides performing arts education to both youth and adult students through its Goldner Conservatory. The Island Theatre, a new 198-seat, Second Space has been added to the Theatre’s newly renovated 62,000 square foot facility for the 2024/25 season. Maltz Jupiter Theatre has earned numerous Carbonell Awards, South Florida’s highest honor for artistic excellence, including the prestigious Bill Von Maurer Award for Theatrical Excellence and The Ruth Foreman Award. For tickets and to learn more about all we offer, visit: [www.jupitertheatre.org](http://www.jupitertheatre.org), contact the Box Office at: (561) 575-2223.

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