

NOVA NIGHTSKY THEATER
PRESENTS



Director

HANNAH RUTH
WELLONS

SARAH RUHL'S
DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

FEBRUARY 9TH-11TH & 16TH-18TH, 2023
NOVA NIGHTSKY STUDIO FALLS CHURCH, VA

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

WHEN THIS PLAY WAS WRITTEN FOR LOCAL DC THEATER COMPANY WOOLLY MAMMOTH IN 2007, IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE THAT AN ADULT IN THE US DID NOT HAVE A CELL PHONE. NOW, SIXTEEN YEARS LATER, THE IDEA OF AN ADULT WALKING AROUND WITHOUT A CELL PHONE IS, IN A WORD, IMPLAUSIBLE. CELL PHONES HAVE BECOME ANOTHER APPENDAGE THAT WE GAIN WHEN WE TURN 16 (OR 15 OR 14 OR EVEN 10, IF YOU'RE A LATCHKEY KID), SOMETHING THAT WE CAN NO LONGER MOVE THROUGH THE WORLD WITHOUT. OUR PHONES ARE A PRIZED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION, A MEANS OF CONNECTION ACROSS ALL SORTS OF DIVIDES, A LENSE THROUGH WHICH A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT IS AT OUR FINGERTIPS. TO LOSE YOUR CELLPHONE IS TO BECOME UNTETHERED.

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE ASKS US TO CONSIDER JUST HOW TETHERED WE ARE TO OUR DEVICES AND HOW THIS BINDING AFFECTS OUR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND INTERACTIONS. AFTER ALL, FORGED FROM MATERIALS THAT BOTH PRE-DATE AND WILL OUTLAST THE HUMAN RACE, OUR DEVICES WILL LIVE ON AFTER WE DIE. PEOPLE WILL STILL TEXT OR CALL, OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES NEVER TRULY GO AWAY, AND EVEN A STRAY NOTIFICATION MAY COME THROUGH LONG AFTER THE DATA PLAN HAS BEEN CANCELED.

THIS HAS PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMAN CONNECTION. MANY CAN'T GO LONGER THAN AN HOUR WITHOUT LOOKING AT THEIR PHONES, EVEN WHEN ENGROSSED IN CONVERSATION WITH A LOVED ONE. LITTLE QUIPS TO A FELLOW METRO RIDER OR BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH A CAB DRIVER ARE, FOR MANY PEOPLE, A THING OF THE PAST. AND YET, OUR PHONE ALLOWS US TO CALL OUR FRIENDS IN LONDON OR OUR MOTHER IN JAPAN, TO SHARE MAKE-UP TIPS WITH PEOPLE IN ARGENTINA WHILE STREAMING FROM DC. THIS PLAY FORCES US TO CONSIDER THE PROS AND CONS OF THIS SORT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CONNECTION.

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO DIRECT AND A JOY TO EXPERIENCE. I INVITE YOU TO SIT FORWARD, ENGAGE, AND TURN YOUR CELL PHONES ALL THE WAY OFF. ENJOY THE SHOW!

-HANNAH RUTH WELLONS

"I want to remember everything. Even other people's memories." -Jean

Performed with permission from Concord Theatricals



CAST

JEAN

KEELY SULLIVAN
DEN BERGH

GORDON

CHRIS D'ANGELO

HARRIET

JESSIE ROBERTS

HERMIA

DANIELLE TAYLOR

DWIGHT

DREW CANNADY

**CARLOTTA/THE
STRANGER**

JACQUELINE YOUIM



TECH & CREATIVE TEAM

PRODUCTION DESIGN
SET/SOUND/LIGHTS/PROJECTION

Adam Ressa, Hannah Ruth Wellons

**SOUND/PROJECTION
CONSULTANT**

Jon Roberts

**SOUND/PROJECTION
OPERATORS**

Sophie Atiyeh, Ward Kay

**SET DECOR &
PROPS**

Steph Black, Hannah Ruth Wellons,
Adam Ressa, Keely Sullivan Den
Bergh, Rebecca Kalant

COSTUMES

Jaclyn Robertson, Hannah Ruth
Wellons

Design & Technical
Director

ADAM RESSA

Artistic Director

WARD KAY

Producing Director

JACLYN ROBERTSON



Special Thanks to:

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TURNER BRIDGFORTH FOR TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

SHOESTRING THEATER COMPANY

REFLEX IMPROV

DC METRO ARTS

OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND PETS FOR
SUPPORTING OUR TIME CONSUMING HOBBY

DONORS

***BRAD & AMY CURRIER
CHASSIE SMITH
CHUCK O'TOOLE
MARY FETTES
ILYA SHAPIRO
THE ADAMS FAMILY
ELIZABETH MEADE***

