

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

She's America's Favorite Sex Therapist!

Village Theatre Presents *Becoming Dr. Ruth*—The Unforgettable True Story of TV and Radio Personality Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer

By **MARK ST. GERMAIN**

Directed by **HOLLY TWYFORD**

Starring **NAOMI JACOBSON** as Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer

ISSAQUAH, WA (January 8, 2024) – Village Theatre proudly presents *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, the triumphant and life-affirming story of a woman who—through her perseverance, indefatigable spirit, and bravery—carved her own unique place in the world. Acclaimed actress **Naomi Jacobson** reprises the role that has garnered her ovations across the country in this tour-de-force one-woman play directed by **Holly Twyford**, one of Washington, D.C.'s most talented actors and directors. Performances will be held in Issaquah from January 16 to February 18, 2024, and in Everett from February 24 to March 17, 2024.

Before she became Dr. Ruth, Karola Ruth Siegel had to flee Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport, become a sharpshooter in Jerusalem, and survive as a single mother in America. Filled with irrepressible wit, joy, and honesty, *Becoming Dr. Ruth* promises an uplifting evening of theater that will touch your soul and heart.

This production premiered at Theater J in 2018, where it was later remounted in 2021. The Washington Post wrote, "Jacobson's got the Westheimer verve... [Her] perky, no-nonsense turn has us all believing all over again in this diminutive survivor's singular star power." And BroadwayWorld called this production of *Becoming Dr. Ruth* "an incredibly well told story of optimism, humor, and resilience."

"It's an honor to step into Dr. Ruth's shoes again," said Jacobson, "with new discoveries about this extraordinary woman, and also uniquely created for the beautiful Village Theatre stages."

"I am delighted to introduce the incredible artists of this production to the Pacific Northwest audience," said Village Theatre Artistic Director Adam Immerwahr. "Naomi Jacobson, Holly Twyford, and their astonishingly inventive team of designers have built a production of *Becoming Dr. Ruth* that is joyful, funny, moving, and life-affirming. It's a show for everyone, and one that you'll never forget."

The cast features the award-winning, Washington, D.C.-based actor **Naomi Jacobson** as Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer, with renowned Seattle theater actor **Mari Nelson** as the Understudy for Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer.

Creating the abstract and striking visuals of Dr. Ruth's life story are Set Designer **Paige Hathaway**, Lighting Designer **Colin K. Bills**, Sound Designer **Kenny Neal**, Projection Designer **Sarah Tundermann**, and Stage Manager **Jessica C. Bomball**.

The creative team also includes Wig Designer **Anne Nesmith**, Assistant Director **Jess K Smith**, Associate Lighting Designer **Casey Price**, Assistant Lighting Designer **Mel Williams**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Nicola Krause**.

Season subscriptions and single tickets can be purchased now through Village Theatre's Box Office in-person in Issaquah (303 Front Street N) or Everett (2710 Wetmore Avenue), by phone at (425) 392-2202, or online at VillageTheatre.org/Dr-Ruth. Masks are optional for all Village Theatre performances in the 2023–2024 season.

*This production premiered at Theater J, a program of the Edlavitch DC JCC
Adam Immerwahr, (Artistic Director); David Lloyd Olson, Managing Director*

ABOUT NAOMI JACOBSON

Naomi Jacobson is an Affiliated Artist at Shakespeare Theatre Company and a company member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. Most recently, she played Harriet in *POTUS* at Arena Stage. Credits include: *Scenes From An Execution* (Off Broadway), *The Guardsman* (Kennedy Center), *Ford's Theatre*, *Studio Theatre*, *Round House Theatre*, *Signature Theatre*, *Olney Theatre Center*, *Theater J*, *Center Stage Theatre*, *Guthrie Theater*, *Goodman Theatre*, *Milwaukee Rep*, *Cincinnati Playhouse*, *Indiana Repertory Theatre*, *Arizona Theatre Company*, *Delaware Theatre Company*, *Berkshire Theatre Festival*, and *Cleveland Play House*. TV/Film Credits: *I Fall To Pieces*, *Her Father's Eyes*, *Inside Out*, and *Homicide*. Jacobson has received three Helen Hayes Awards, numerous nominations, the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship, the Anderson-Hopkins Theatre Excellence Award, and a DC Arts Individual Artist grant. Voice Over work includes documentary narration for NPR, PBS, Discovery Channel, and the Smithsonian.

ABOUT HOLLY TWYFORD

Holly Twyford is a Washington, D.C.-based director and actor. Twyford's Washington area directing credits include: most recently, *Gloria: A Life* by Emily Mann (Theater J) as well as *The Upstairs Department*, a new play by Chelsea Mercantel at Signature Theatre where she previously directed *Escaped Alone*; *Stop Kiss* (No Rules Theatre Company); *A Lump of Coal for Christmas* (Adventure Theatre MTC); *Edgar and Annabel* and *Mary Kate Olsen is in Love* (Studio Theatre); and *The Amish Project* (Factory 449) for which she received a Helen Hayes Award nomination. Twyford directed a Zoom production of *Steel Magnolias* (Ford's Theatre) as well as an audio version of *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting). As an actor, she has performed in over 80 productions in many of the highly acclaimed theaters in and around the D.C. Metropolitan area as well as nationally. Most recently, she

played the title role in Ukrainian playwright Sasha Denisova's new play *My Mama and the Full-Scale Invasion* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and will reprise the role at the Wilma in Philadelphia in late January.

ABOUT VILLAGE THEATRE

Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, WA, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining, quality productions since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region's best-attended theatres. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having supported the creation of over 175 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its Youth Education programs, serving thousands of young people and their families annually.

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FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS

WHAT:

Becoming Dr. Ruth

By Mark St. Germain

Directed by Holly Twyford

Starring Naomi Jacobson as Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer

WHERE:

Village Theatre

Francis J. Gaudette Theatre

303 Front Street N, Issaquah

Everett Performing Arts Center (EPAC)

2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett

WHEN:

January 16–March 17, 2024

Issaquah: January 16–February 18, 2024

Everett: February 24–March 17, 2024

TICKETS:

\$53–\$115 - ON SALE NOW

For tickets and information >> VillageTheatre.org/Dr-Ruth

CONNECT WITH VILLAGE THEATRE

VillageTheatre.org

Facebook - /VillageTheatre

Instagram - @village_theatre

YouTube - /villagetheatre1

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

For available photography and video, please visit Village Theatre's online press room here >>
VillageTheatre.org/press-room/

VILLAGE THEATRE'S COVID SAFETY PLAN

Masks are optional for all Village Theatre performances in the 2023–2024 season. For Village Theatre's up-to-date health and safety protocols, please visit the Village Theatre website >>
VillageTheatre.org/covid19/

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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