

NEWS RELEASE
For immediate release

CONTACT: Patricia Milton
2playwrights@gmail.com
510.614.5775

<http://bit.ly/Np4LNE>
www.playwrightscentersf.org

PCSF Announces “Repro Rights!,” an Evening of Staged Short Plays by Bay Area Playwrights to Benefit Planned Parenthood

San Francisco, September 6, 2012 -- The Playwrights’ Center of San Francisco (PCSF) presents “Repro Rights!,” a provocative evening of staged readings of short plays and monologues by San Francisco Bay Area playwrights to benefit Planned Parenthood. The event takes place Monday, October 22, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at Brava! for Women in the Arts, 2781 24th Street, San Francisco. Tickets are \$25, available online at bit.ly/TS2JFT.

All proceeds from this volunteer-driven event will go to the nonprofit Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), the largest U.S. provider of basic health and reproductive health services, including cancer screening, HIV and sexually-transmitted infections screening and counseling, contraception, and abortion. PCSF’s evening of readings is prompted by a recent wave of legislative action aimed at limiting existing reproductive rights for U.S. women. In 2011, state legislatures introduced more than 1,100 anti-abortion provisions. Seven states either fully defunded or made moves toward defunding Planned Parenthood, whose low-income clientele will be most affected by restrictions on women’s access to affordable healthcare.

The seven short plays and monologues that comprise “Repro Rights!” examine the human dilemma at the heart of the polarized political issue.

“Repro Rights!” is produced by Tracy Held Potter, artistic director of All Terrain Theater, and dramaturgy is provided by Christine Young.

According to Potter: “As a mother of two young children, the topic of reproductive rights is very important to me. I know that it’s difficult to be pregnant and give birth when a woman WANTS to do those things, but to force a person to deliver a baby to term when she is a teenager, a rape victim, or is carrying a stillborn child is completely reprehensible.

“At the peak of my labor to my infant son, I was outraged by a political system and culture that would meddle in women’s lives in ways that would risk their own health and safety. The ‘Repro Rights!’ benefit is an opportunity for people to process some of their frustrations about the trend towards regulating women’s bodies,” Potter added.

Playwright Megan Cohen, author of the short play, *It’s Good to Know*, said, “Playwriting is fundamentally about giving voice, and as a part of ‘Repro Rights!,’ it’s exciting to me to create conversation between female characters about reproductive choices at a moment when the political dialogue about women’s rights is coming primarily from men’s mouths.”

WHAT: “Repro Rights!” an evening of choice theater: A PCSF benefit for Planned Parenthood, featuring staged readings of seven short plays and monologues by local Bay Area playwrights.

PERFORMANCE: October 22, 7:30 p.m. at Brava Theater, 2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA. (Walking distance from the 24th Street BART station.)

TICKETS: \$25, available online: <http://bit.ly/TS2JFT>

PLAY SUMMARIES

My Body, by Rachel Bublitz, directed by Brady Brophy-Hilton

In a world in which men are no longer trusted to make decisions concerning their own bodies, women hold all of the cards. A comedy about men being forced to wear collars to control their ability to have sex.

Prisoner of Love, by Dana Sack, directed by Neil Higgins

A court scene in which a lawyer cross-examines an expert witness about pain and risks of forcing a woman to go through pregnancy and childbirth.

Lunch at the Cafe Ova, by Margy Kahn, directed by Michaela Goldhaber

A woman reaches out to a long-lost friend to ask for an egg donation so she can have a baby.

Snip Snip, by Ignacio Zulueta, directed by Brady Brophy-Hilton

The five stages of grief and vasectomy in just 10 minutes. Snip, snip! A fast-paced exploration of what’s lost and what’s gained at the moment of one man’s final decision.

A Cry in Ramah, by Jeremy Cole, directed by Michaela Goldhaber

A dramatic monologue about a young woman from a small town who is dealing with an unwanted pregnancy, knowing that her mother and grandmother both died in childbirth.

Factory Farm: A Documentary, by Jennifer Lynne Roberts, directed by Brady Brophy-Hilton

A piece that compares women to livestock, highlighting reproductive discrimination against girls who are molested or raped, pregnant women who are abused through the legal system, and women in general who are oppressed by our current legal system.

It's Good to Know, by Megan Cohen, directed by Neil Higgins

A drama about two sisters reconciling their third sister's planned abortion and how the abortion affects their relationship with their sister and each other.

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