

INTIMAN : THEATRE : FESTIVAL

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DARIO FO'S HILARIOUS *WE WON'T PAY! WE WON'T PAY!* OPENS WITH BIG LAUGHS, CRITICAL PRAISE

"Director Jane Nichols is a clowning expert, and she's devised some dandy lazzi (comedic shtick) for her game cast." —*The Seattle Times*

Seattle, WA (July 19, 2013)— The reviews are in! Intiman Theatre's opening production, the outrageous Italian farce *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*, is "rich" and "heartily" with laughs, and *The Seattle Times* calls the play "a boisterous comedy and a political broadside." Written by Nobel Prize-winner Dario Fo, translated by Ron Jenkins (this is not a new translation), and directed by recent Seattle transplant, Jane Nichols (Washington Ensemble Theatre's *Tall Skinny Cruel Cruel Boys*, 2013), *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* will run now through September 14 at the Cornish Playhouse at Seattle Center (formerly Intiman Theatre).

Fo's story is a sidesplitting, chaotic comedy of errors. After all, with the price of groceries on the rise, what's a gal to do? In *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*, spontaneously protest by stuffing food down her shirt and pretend to be pregnant, of course! The play follows Antonia (Tracy Michelle Hughes) as she creatively attempts to hide stolen goods from her husband as well as the police. At the center of the chaos is a conflict between our need to feed, and the desire to keep our dignity intact.

In less than one week of its opening, *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* has been called "high-octane comedy" by *The Stranger* and "eye-poppingly colorful and nimbly physical" by *Seattle Weekly*. Former Harvard, Juilliard, Yale, Brown, and University of Washington clowning instructor and show director Nichols recalled, "I saw Dario Fo perform his one man show 20 years ago. My mouth never closed. It was a never-ending parade. It is our hope that this production will bring you as much delight as wonder, and that you shall leave the theatre amazed that in so much idiocy there can be so much dignity."

Nichol's hysterical cast features Seattle favorites: Burton Curtis (Intiman's *Miracle!* and *Romeo and Juliet*) as Giovanni, Tracy Michelle Hughes (ACT's *In the Next Room... The Vibrator Play*) as Antonia, Kylee Rousellot (BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University) as Margherita, G. Valmont Thomas (Oregon Shakespeare Festival's *Topdog/Underdog; The Merry Wives; Macbeth*), and the critically-acclaimed Adam Standley (Satori Group acting credits: *reWilding; Making of A Monster; Winky*) whose performance as the State Trooper et al has been called "a welcome blast of unbridled comic anarchy" by Misha Berson, *The Seattle Times* and "masterful" by Brendan Kiley, *The Stranger*.

Offering a "high degree of professionalism and coherence" (*Seattle Weekly*), all eyes are on Intiman's second annual summer theatre festival. "If the festival's subsequent productions maintain this level of

wit and workmanship, 2013 will be a memorable year for the evolving Intiman brand" (*Seattle Weekly*). Next up for Intiman, *Trouble in Mind* (directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton) now open on stage, the new musical *Stu for Silverton* (directed by Andrew Russell) will open tomorrow, Saturday, July 20, and *Lysistrata* (directed by Sheila Daniels) opens Wednesday, July 24. The four shows in the 2013 festival will run in repertory now through September 15 at Intiman Theatre (201 Mercer Street, Seattle). Tickets range from \$20-\$50 and are available at intiman.org or by calling the Box Office at 888-377-4510.

NORTHWEST HARVEST FOOD DRIVE

In honor of *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* and the food insecurity themes highlighted throughout the story, **Intiman Theatre has kicked-off a food drive that directly supports Northwest Harvest and Washington State families.** Now through September 15, Intiman will be accepting nonperishable food items on-site at every performance and encourage ticket buyers and non-ticket buyers alike to stop by the lobby to drop off a donation.

Learn more: <http://www.intiman.org/help-us-feed-seattle/>

About Intiman Theatre

Intiman Theatre is a Tony Award-winning regional theatre founded by Margaret Booker in 1972. Over the past 40 years the theatre has been host to artistic directors Liz Huddle, Warner Shook, Bartlett Sher and Kate Whoriskey. Intiman is known for producing bold classical productions and epic new works, including *Angels in America*, *The Kentucky Cycle*, *The Light in the Piazza*, and *Ruined*. The theatre has presented over 200 productions to Seattle audiences and in 2012 launched the first Intiman Theatre Festival, a summer theatre festival featuring four plays performed by a repertory company of actors.

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