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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Planet Connections Theatre Festivity 2017 presents the return of the Award-Winning, Critically-Acclaimed Solo Show:



HEDY!
The Life & Inventions of
Hedy Lamarr

Written and Performed by
Heather Massie

Sun. June 18 @ 5:00 PM
Tue. June 20 @ 7:15 PM
Sat. June 24 @ 9:30 PM
Tue. June 27 @ 7:00 PM
Thur. June 29 @ 7:00 PM
Fri. June 30 @ 5:15 PM

The LaTea Theater
at The Clemente,
107 Suffolk Street, NYC

www.planetconnections.org
www.heathermassie.com/hedy

“In Lily Tomlin-esque fashion ... Massie channels the iconic star ... vividly yet matter-of-factly, and often very humorously ... In a balance of high energy and poise, Heather Massie is no less than captivating.”

– Jed Ryan, The Huffington Post

“Richly realized ... Both convincingly real and larger than life ... she has us thoroughly swept up.”

– Jon Sobel, Blogcritics Magazine

“Highly entertaining ... compelling and humorous.” -- C.E. Gerber, Splash Magazine

“Lively and enlightening ... engaging performance.” – Jay Handelman, Sarasota Herald-Tribune

NYC ... Planet Connections Theatre Festivity is pleased to announce the return of the **critically-acclaimed, award-winning** solo play, **HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr - A True Story of Hollywood Glamour and Scientific Genius**, written and performed by **Heather Massie**. Presented Sun. June 18 @ 5:00 PM, Tue. June 20 @ 7:15 PM, Sat. June 24 @ 9:30 PM, Tue. June 27 @ 7:00 PM, Thur. June 29 @ 7:00 PM, & Fri. June 30 @ 5:15 PM at The LaTea Theater at The Clemente, 107 Suffolk Street, NYC - bet. Rivington & Delancy Streets on the Lower East Side. **TICKETS - \$18** at www.planetconnections.org or (866)811-4111.

Hedy Lamarr, glamorous siren of the silver screen, was more than the most beautiful woman in the world. She invented frequency hopping and spread spectrum technology that make the world of wireless communication tick. From Austria to Hollywood, WWII, torpedoes, ecstasy, and intrigue to the very cell phone in your pocket, she was there!

Ms. Massie was honored as the **Outstanding Actress in a Staged Reading** at the **2016 Planet Connections Theatre Festivity in New York City** for **HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr**, and is bringing it back to the city after its **award-winning National Tour**. The **World Premiere** was presented on Hedy Lamarr's 102nd birthday in the **United Solo Festival in New York City**, and was named a **2016 Festival Bestseller**. Ms. Massie was awarded as **Best Actress** in the **2017 SaraSolo Festival** in Sarasota, FL, and with the **Audience Choice Award** for the **2017 Shenandoah Fringe** in Staunton, VA.

HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr explores the life, inventions and person of Hedy Lamarr, Viennese-born Hollywood film star of the 1930s-1950s. Known as **The Most Beautiful Woman in the World**, Hedy Lamarr stored away knowledge of munitions while married to Austrian arms dealer, Fritz Mandl. She employed this knowledge to support the US Navy's war effort during WWII by inventing **The Secret Communication System** with composer George Antheil, to make torpedoes more accurate. Also referred to as **Frequency Hopping** or **Spread Spectrum Technology**, her invention is used today in cell phones, WiFi, CDMA, GPS, Bluetooth, military satellites, and a myriad of other wireless systems.

HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr has appeal for all audiences, with special interest for Immigrant, Austrian, Jewish, Film, History, Scientific, Wireless Communication, Military, Theatre, and LGBTQ Communities, as well as teenagers, adults, and retirees. It was developed in the Artist-in-Residence program in 2016 at the **Grange Hall Cultural Center in Waterbury Center, VT**, and performed there in March 2017. It was presented in **DivaFest 2017** in Indianapolis in March 2017; and is slated to perform at **Gamut Classic Theatre** in Harrisburg, PA July 7-9; in a special invited performance in **Dublin, Ireland** on July 17; in the **2017 Galway Fringe** in Galway Ireland, July 21-29; and in **IndyFringe 2017** in Indianapolis, IN, Aug 23-27. Plans are underway for further production in international festivals, regional theatres, universities, museums, libraries, schools, and scientific and cultural organizations. This project is recommended, and supported in part, by the **Austrian Cultural Forum New York**.

Heather Massie will star as Hedy Lamarr (*Greyhounds* and *Reflections of a Heart* – **Theatre Row**; *Martin: A New American Musical* by **Leslie Lee & Charles Strouse** – **Negro Ensemble Company**; developmental readings of *Legends*, and *Apples & Oranges* by **Leslie Lee** – **Signature Theatre**; *The Book of Lambert* and *Mina*, both by **Leslie Lee - LaMaMa**).

Having studied **Astrophysics** with dreams of becoming an astronaut, **Heather Massie** marries her loves of art and science in the person of Hedy Lamarr. She brings Hedy to life while interacting with the audience, and unearths the truth behind how such a glamorous actress could create an invention that is so ubiquitous today.

Artistic Consultation & Direction - **Blake Walton**, Artistic Consultation - **Leslie Kincaid Burby**, Projections - **Jim Marlowe & Charley Marlowe**, Sound Design - **Jacob Subotnick**, Dialects - **Page Clements**, Technical Assistance - **Dan Leary**, Photography - **Al Foote III & Charley Marlowe**, and Image Design - **David Chance**.

Heather Massie (Writer / Solo Performer) is a NYC Actor and Writer. Originally from Blacksburg, Virginia, Ms. Massie has always been fascinated by the sciences, especially Astronomy. She studied Astrophysics at the University of Virginia, and Theatre Arts at The Virginia Tech School of the Arts, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Ms. Massie has performed extensively regionally and nationally with: Mill Mountain Theatre, Allenberry Playhouse, Flat Rock Playhouse, Phoenix Theatre, Arizona Jewish Theatre Company, Nearly Naked Theatre, Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, Southwest Shakespeare, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival, and Gamut Classic Theater. In NYC she has performed with Signature Theatre in readings of the plays *Legends* and *Apples & Oranges* by playwright Leslie Lee. She is a member of WorkShop Theater, Manhattan Theatre Works, NyLon Fusion Theatre, Firebone Theatre, Abingdon Theatre, and the Negro Ensemble Company. She has also performed on Theatre Row, at LaMaMa, Metropolitan Playhouse, The Lamb's Theatre, 45th St. Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, The Dramatists Guild, New Dramatists, The Actors Studio, and more. She received the Jean Dalrymple Award for Best Supporting Actor and received three AriZoni Award Nominations. She served as a Cultural Envoy to Zimbabwe for the 2008 Intwasa Arts Festival, and worked in Ecuador and St. Petersburg, Russia. Ms. Massie collaborated for many years with late Tony-Nominated playwright Mr. Leslie Lee, another scientist turned artist. She performed at LaMaMa in his plays *The Book of Lambert*; and *Mina*, about the life of painter-poet, Mina Loy; and in Mr.

Lee's musical *Martin: A New American Musical* with music and lyrics by Charles Strouse, with the Negro Ensemble Company. Upon Mr. Lee's passing in 2014, Ms. Massie founded the Leslie Lee Legacy Foundation to foster the continued production of Mr. Lee's writings.

The **Planet Connections Theatre Festivity** is New York's premiere eco-friendly/socially conscious not-for-profit arts festival. Fostering a diverse cross-section of performances and events, the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity seeks to inspire artists and audiences both creatively and fundamentally, in a festive atmosphere forming a community of like-minded artists. At the heart of the Festivity are like-minded individuals striving to create professional, meaningful theatre, music and film, while supporting organizations which give back to the community at large.

Press Packet: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2mbLJa_qgo7LWFMQVdDajNVX0k

Show Website: www.heathermassie.com/hedy

For further photos, information, press interviews, or for press comps, please contact:

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Heather Massie - Show Producer

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Heather Massie as Hedy Lamarr – Photo L by Al Foote III; Photo R by Charley Marlowe



Heather Massie as Hedy Lamarr – Photo by Monica Callan

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