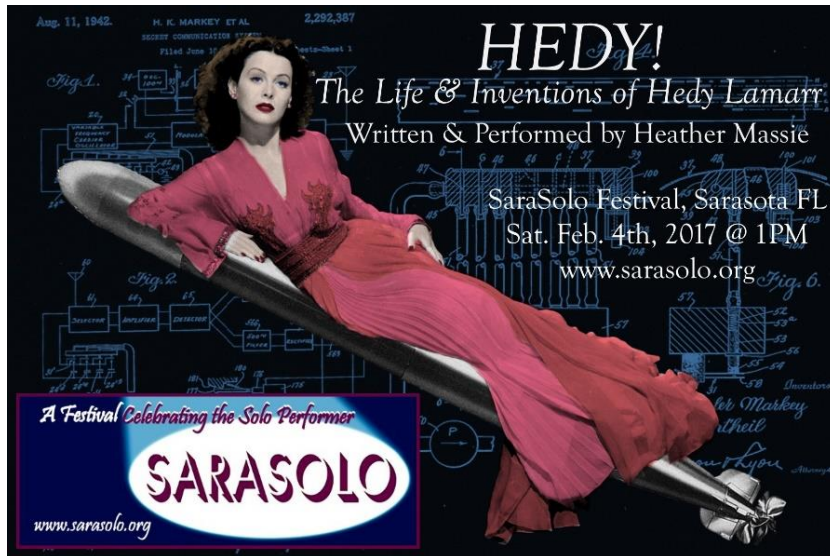


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2017 SaraSolo Festival Presents the Florida Premiere of



HEDY!
The Life & Inventions of
Hedy Lamarr

Written and Performed by
Heather Massie

Saturday, February 4th @ 1PM

at Crocker Memorial Church

www.sarasolo.org

www.heathermassie.com/hedy

Sarasota, FL... The 2017 SaraSolo Festival is pleased to present the **Florida Premiere** of the **award-winning** solo play, **HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr**, written and performed by **Heather Massie**. Presented in Sarasota's Pioneer Park at the historical **Crocker Memorial Church** 1260 12th Street in Sarasota, on **Saturday, February 4th, 2017 at 1:00PM**.

SaraSolo is a festival celebrating the solo performer and will be presented over two weekends: January 28 & 29 and February 3, 4 & 5.

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!

Heather Massie was honored as the **2016 Outstanding Actress in a Staged Reading** at the **Planet Connections Theatre Festivity** in **New York City** for **HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr**. The World Premiere was presented on Hedy Lamarr's 102nd Birthday in the **United Solo Festival** in **New York City**. It sold out twice, was granted extensions, and was named a **2016 Festival Bestseller**.

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 and a myriad of other wireless systems.

HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr has appeal for all audiences, with special interest for 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 at the **Grange Hall Cultural Center in Waterbury Center, VT**, and is slated to perform there in March 2017. Plans are underway for further NYC productions, as well International Festivals, Regional Theatres, Universities, Museums, Libraries, Schools, and Cultural Organizations. This project is recommended and supported in part by the **Austrian Cultural Forum New York**.

HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr will star **Heather Massie** 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.

The production features artistic consultation by **Blake Walton** and **Leslie Burby**, costume design by **Cat Fisher**, projections by **Jim Marlowe & Charles Marlowe**, sound design by **Jacob Subotnick**, dialects by **Page Clements**, and technical assistance by **Dan Leary**.

TICKETS are \$15 and are available at www.sarasolo.org

Heather Massie (Writer / Solo Performer) is a NYC Actor and Writer. Originally from 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, and Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival. In NYC: She has performed at 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.

For more information, press interviews, photos or for press comps, please contact Kathie Moon, Media Coordinator, SaraSolo.press@gmail.com (941)725-0177

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