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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Virginia Girl Returns with Award-Winning Solo Show.**  
The Shenandoah Fringe Festival presents the Virginia Premiere of



**HEDY!**  
**The Life & Inventions of**  
**Hedy Lamarr**

**Written and Performed by**  
**Heather Massie**

**Sunday, April 9 @ 7:30PM**  
**Monday, April 10 @ 1:00PM**

**The Kettle Stage**  
**19 W Beverley St., Staunton, VA**  
[www.shenfringe.com](http://www.shenfringe.com)  
[www.heathermassie.com/hedy](http://www.heathermassie.com/hedy)

**Highly entertaining ... compelling and humorous -- Splash Magazine**  
**Lively and enlightening ... engaging performance -- Sarasota Herald-Tribune**  
**A tribute to this amazing woman -- OffBrwy**  
**Heather Massie is the image of Hedy Lamarr -- Total Theater**  
**A truly remarkable performance -- Andy B Sports**

**Staunton, VA ... Shenandoah Fringe** is pleased to present the **Virginia Premiere** of the **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 on **Sunday, April 9 @ 7:30PM**; and **Monday, April 10 @ 2:00PM** at **The Kettle Stage, 19 W Beverley St.** in Staunton, VA. **TICKETS** and festival passes are available at [www.shenfringe.com](http://www.shenfringe.com)

**Shenandoah Fringe** seeks to create a home for experimentation and risk taking for our region's diverse makers and performers. To take the burden of production off the shoulders of the artist and allow them to flex their muscles on the work itself. An annual assemblage for the strange and wondrous to live out in the open.

***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** is originally from Blacksburg, VA. She is thrilled to return to Virginia to perform in the hometown of her parents Don Massie and Cynthia Mara. She spent many childhood holidays and weekends in Staunton with her grandparents Layton and Lillian Massie, and Alice Zeliff. **Ms. 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 102<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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 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 March 24-26, 2017. It will be presented in **DivaFest 2017** in Indianapolis, March 17-19; in the **2017 Planet Connections Theatre Festivity** in NYC mid-June to early July; at **Gamut Classic Theatre** in Harrisburg, PA July 7-9; and in the **2017 Galway Fringe** in Ireland in mid to late July. 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.

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

**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.

Press Packet: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2mbLJa\\_qgo7LWFMQVdDajNVX0k](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2mbLJa_qgo7LWFMQVdDajNVX0k)

Show Website: [www.heathermassie.com/hedy](http://www.heathermassie.com/hedy)

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

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Heather Massie as Hedy Lamarr – photos by Al Foote III



Heather Massie as Hedy Lamarr – photo by Charley Marlowe

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