

For Immediate Release: Sept. 16, 2011

S.T. A. R. (Southern Tier Actors Read) Presents
Staged Reading of New Play *Frack You!*
on October 2nd and 4th At 7:30 PM
as part of the Kitchen Sink Series
at the *Kitchen Theatre* in Ithaca, New York

Laura Cunningham's New Comedic Play *Frack You!* Tackles Controversial Issue

A new play by Binghamton playwright Laura Cunningham kicks off the Kitchen Sink Series at the *Kitchen Theatre* in Ithaca, New York. *Frack You!* will be presented as a staged reading by members of **Southern Tier Actor's Read (S.T.A.R.)**, the Binghamton professional theater group. There will be two performances of the reading on **Sunday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 4 at 7:30 PM**, followed by a "talk-back" with the director, playwright and cast. On October 4, Michael Smith, Associate Professor at Ithaca College's Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences will facilitate the "talk-back."

The staged reading stars **Claus Evans** (Nozmo), **Bill Gorman** (Charlie), **Brendan Byrnes** (Frick), **Mark Roth** (Frack), **Chris Nickerson** (Joe), and **Heidi Weeks** (Molly) and is directed by S.T.A.R. member and BCC theater director **Katherine Bacon**.

The play focuses on the highly controversial subject of fracking, a process that is involved in natural gas drilling. This issue is not only sweeping upstate New York, but is one of major concern all over the world.

Set in a bar in upstate New York, the play involves people who are on both sides of the fracking issue. Molly, a staunch supporter of the environment, opposes fracking, while Nozmo, the bartender, wants his land fracked for big bucks. Frick and Frack, welders for a drilling company, are just happy to have jobs and each other. Joe, Molly's significant other, may be getting fracked on the side while Charlie, a new comer to the area, knows nothing about the issue. Add fracking to this highly volatile mix of characters and you have a "highly combustible comedy."

Frack You! was performed as a staged reading at New York City's Robert Moss Theater as part of the "Planet Connections Play Festival" and at The Discovery Center in Binghamton this past June.

Laura Cunningham, the playwright, has authored several comedic plays which played to sold-out houses including *I'm Not Dead Yet*, at the Tri-Cities Opera last year and *A Date with Fate* which was presented by the Broome Community College Theater Department this past April. Recently, Laura wrote a screenplay based on the play that won first place at the West Fields Film Festival.

S.T.A.R. is a professional theater group based in Binghamton, New York. Its mission is to perform readings of both classic and contemporary dramatic works that are often not produced in the Binghamton area due to size of cast, content, or budget. Heidi Weeks and Bill Gorman were nominated for NY Emmy Awards for their work on *The Twilight Zone* for WSKG Public TV in 2009.

A large portion of the proceeds from the readings will go to benefit victims of the flood in the Binghamton area.

The Kitchen Theatre is located at 417 West Martin Luther King, Jr./State Street, Ithaca, New York. Tickets are \$11 if purchased in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchase by phone at the Ticket Center: 607-273-4497 or on-line at: www.kitchentheatre.org.

For more information, contact S.T.A.R. co-founder, Heidi Weeks at:

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