



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 10, 2016

SLEEPING WEAZEL LAUNCHES FIFTH YEAR WITH PREMIERE OF *CLEANLINESS, GODLINESS, AND MADNESS: A USER'S GUIDE*



Boston, Mass., August 1, 2016 — Multimedia theatre company Sleeping Weazel premieres *Cleanliness, Godliness, and Madness: A User's Guide*, a hilarious and searing new play written by Charlotte Meehan and directed by Robbie McCauley. Timed to open at the height of this exceedingly mad election season, the play stars Stephanie Burlington Daniels and Veronica Wiseman. *Cleanliness, Godliness, and Madness* runs September 15–24, 2016 (Thursdays through Saturdays) at 7:30 pm at Boston Center for the Arts, Plaza Black Box Theatre, 539 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116.

When Mary and Grace, two fundamentalist Christian homemakers, found MOTOREDE (aka, The Movement to Restore Decency), an “organization” devoted to family values, guns, and supporting your local police, they suddenly find themselves engaging in sexual escapades with each other. It's only the beginning of how far the devil will go to tempt perfectly decent citizens

into a life of sin. In a media saturated, Expressionistic setting, *Cleanliness, Godliness, and Madness* provides a tragi-comic view into the absurdity of far right Christian fundamentalism, Tea Party values, and the hypocrisy that lives just beneath the surface of a stringent system of beliefs perpetrated by some of this country's biggest hypocrites: our beloved televangelists and politicians going to any lengths to win over their believers. Not to worry. Salvation arrives when the real God, a black woman (played by Robbie McCauley), sets the record straight. But will we really be saved? Stay tuned.

Tickets: \$35 general, \$15 seniors, and \$12 students. Box office: 617.426.5000 and www.bostontheatrescene.com

\$10 tickets for groups of 10 or more. Call the box office: 617.426.5000.

AT A GLANCE:

Sleeping Weazel presents:

Cleanliness, Godliness, and Madness: A User's Guide

written by Charlotte Meehan
directed by Robbie McCauley

starring Stephanie Burlington Daniels and Veronica Wiseman
with Steven Barkhimer* and James Barton (onscreen)

Scenic design by Sara Ossana
Video design by Mathew Provost
Lighting design by Colin McNamee
Sound design by Oliver Seagle
*appearing courtesy of AEA

Dates

September 15–17 and September 22–24, 2016, at 7:30 pm
**Press nights: September 15th and 16th*

Boston Center for the Arts
Plaza Black Box Theatre
539 Tremont Street
Boston, MA

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Contact

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ABOUT SLEEPING WEAZEL

Sleeping Weazel explores and engages novel approaches to developing, presenting, and exhibiting new art—multimedia theatre, interdisciplinary performance events, music, poetry, and video/audio. Hailed by *The Boston Globe* as “strikingly original,” Sleeping Weazel’s experimental, politically progressive work crosses and confounds the boundaries of “mainstream” and “avant-garde” as well as boundaries between art forms.

Based in Boston, Sleeping Weazel projects include individual and multi-genre theatre and performance productions. Since September 2012, the company has presented ten premieres — at The Factory Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston Playwrights’ Theatre, and ArtsEmerson. Beginning in fall 2016, Sleeping Weazel will have a three-year residence at Boston Center for the Arts, and is currently a member of the Resident Lab at Charlestown Working Theatre. www.sleepingweazel.com

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Charlotte Meehan is Artistic Director of Sleeping Weazel and Playwright-in-Residence/Professor of English at Wheaton College (MA). Her experimental stage works include *Real Realism*, *27 Tips for Banishing the Blues*, and *Sweet Disaster*, a trilogy called *The Problem with People*. *Crazy Love*, *Looking for George*, *ceci n’est pas une piece (this is not a play)*, *Beesus & Ballustrada*,. Ms. Meehan is the proud 2016 Playwright Laureate of Roxbury Repertory Theater. She has received a Howard Foundation fellowship in playwriting, and has had artist residencies in HERE Arts Center’s HARP program, Perishable Theatre’s RAPT program, and at the MacDowell Colony. Among the theatres that have presented her work are Dixon Place, The Flea Theater, The Culture Project, Perishable Theatre, and the Alma Theatre (Bristol, UK). Since 2012, she has produced twelve shows through Sleeping Weazel with her producing partner Adara Meyers. Ms. Meehan holds MFA degrees from Brown University and Brooklyn College, and a BA in French and Comparative Literature from SUNY Binghamton. She teaches playwriting, writing for performance, and Modern and Contemporary drama. For more details, please visit: www.charlottemeehan.com and www.sleepingweazel.com.

Robbie McCauley, Co-Artistic Director of Roxbury Repertory Theatre, recently directed *Death of A Salesman* and *The Glass Menagerie*, performed in Sleeping Weazel’s BADASS, and is a two-time Eliot Norton Award nominee. She is a recipient of the IRNE (Independent Reviewers of New England) Award for Solo Performance for *Sugar* at ArtsEmerson. An active presence in American avant-garde theatre for several decades she was selected as a 2012 Ford Fellow USA recipient; was an early cast member of Ntozake Shange’s *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf* on Broadway; and she received both the OBIE and Bessie Award (Outstanding Achievement in Performance) for her play, *Sally’s Rape*. Widely anthologized including *Extreme Exposure*, *Moon Marked and Touched by Sun*, and *Performance and Cultural Politics*, edited respectively by Jo Bonney, Sydne Mahone, and Elin Diamond. Robbie went on to write and perform in cities across the country and abroad. Striving to facilitate dialogues between whites and blacks, she created the Primary Sources series in Mississippi, Boston, and Los Angeles produced by The Arts Company. In 1998 her “Buffalo Project” was highlighted as one of “The 51 (or So) Greatest Avant-Garde Moments” by the *Village Voice* -- a roster that included work by artists such as Igor Stravinsky, Pablo Picasso, and John Cage. Robbie McCauley is Professor Emerita of Emerson College, and the 2014 Monan Professor in Theatre Arts at Boston College.

Sara Ossana's previous scenic design credits include: *What Happens When* and *An Inspector Calls* for Wheaton College; *Blithe Spirit*, *These Shining Lives*, *The Illusion* and *Romeo & Juliet* for Providence College; *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Don Carlos*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Pillowman* and *Grounded* for The Gamm Theatre; *Ti-Jean and his Brothers* for Central Square Theatre, *Hedwig & the Angry Inch* for Trinity Repertory Company and Perishable Theatre; *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* for The Public Theater, *Punk Play* and *Indian Summer* written by Gregory Moss for *Brown University* and *Lend Me A Tenor* for Salem State College. Sara has also won two Motif Theatre awards in Scenic Design for *Sweet Disaster* (directed by Ken Prestininzi) and *Hedwig & The Angry Inch* both with Perishable Theatre. Sara received her Master's of Interior Architecture from RISD and has taught design there at both the Graduate and Undergraduate levels. She runs her design studio in Warren, RI, including her furniture line: O&G Studio. You can see her full portfolio at www.sossana.com.

Stephanie Burlington Daniels is a director, actor, and teacher, and Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Studies and Dance at Wheaton College (MA). She is also a proud Affiliated Artist with Boston's experimental theatre company, Sleeping Weazel. As an actor, she continues to work closely with director and playwright Kenneth Prestininzi on his one-woman lecture play, *Birth Breath Bride Elizabeth*, which centers around Mary Shelley's last lecture to young women on love, feminist theory, creation, monsters, and Princess Diana. In February 2013, she originated the role, to critical acclaim, as part of ArtsEmerson's inaugural *Next Thing Festival*. The following year, she was invited by the Mayor's office to perform it again at the Boston Hynes Convention Center as part of First Night Boston on New Years' Eve. In September 2014, she played the Astrologist in the Sleeping Weazel premiere of Charlotte Meehan's *27 Tips for Banishing the Blues* at Boston Playwrights Theatre. In April 2015, after a long development process funded by the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, she directed Charlotte Meehan's devised play, *What Happens When*, to address sexual violence and sexual misunderstanding in campus life. Professor Daniels teaches acting, directing, and Theatre and Social Change, a class she developed in 2002. She graduated from the Trinity Repertory Conservatory in 2000 with an MFA in Acting.

Veronica Anastasio Wiseman is an actor and a speech and language pathologist. Recent shows include *The Last Schwartz* (Gloucester Stage), *Mud Blue Sky*, *Salome* (Bridge Rep), *Speech and Debate*, *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?* – IRNE Nomination (Bad Habit Productions), *The Edge of Peace* (Central Square Theatre), *27 Tips for Banishing the Blues*, *Talk To At Me*, *Real Realism* (Sleeping Weazel), *Bully Dance* (Argos Productions), *The How and The Why* (One Bird Productions). Veronica received her BFA in Theatre from Boston University and her MA from UMASS Amherst. She produces and hosts the profile talk show "Wise Friends" for Sharon Community Television. Veronica is an affiliated artist with Sleeping Weazel. She serves on the Sharon School Committee and on the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Theatre Company.

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